Allotment Report April 2021

Due to the upheaval and uncertainty of the past year, this report covers the last two years.

The allotments remain an important part of the village and Covid restrictions have shown how vital getting out into an open space and having a purpose to focus on has helped with many people's wellbeing.

The year April 2019-2020 was a good mix of weather and at our annual inspection in June 2019, the plots looked both productive and in good order. One allotment had been let to slip slightly due to the plot holder waiting for two hip operations and so was unable to keep on top of things. The other allotment holders generously stepped in to keep on top of the maintenance of it for him. The best kept allotment was won by Kevin and Jayne Webster of plot 1B.

Last year proved both a godsend and a challenge for our gardeners. The weather started hot and dry as soon as lockdown began in March 2020 and carried on into the summer allowing the gardeners to spend many a happy hour tending their plots in the peace, tranquillity and sunshine. Rain came in time to avoid any drought issues and keep the plots productive.

Due to Covid, we could not meet as a Parish Council in person at all last year so our usual walk around of our areas of responsibilities could not take place. The allotment holders felt they would still like to vote for the best allotment as a reward for all the hard work that they do on them, so between themselves they voted and awarded the trophy to Nick and Becky Watkins of Plot 4. Well done to them as they are relative newcomers to the allotments.

Between March 2019 and April 2021, four plots have changed hands; Plots 1A and 4 and more recently Plots 7 and 8. It is Parish Council policy that residents of Loders parish are given preference to the allotments even if they are not at the top of the allotment waiting list. Out of our 12 plots, 9 are tenanted by residents of our parish and the current annual rents are £20 for a half plot and £30 for a whole plot.

Cllr Ros Newberry
Loders Parish Council
April 2021