

Chelveston Allotment Association - Opening Celebration 4th September 2010

Well 2 years since Mike McCormack suggested that our village should have an allotment, his wish was granted. In February this year the field behind Disbrowe Court was leased by the Parish Council from Stuart Carr and a previously unploughed field started to take shape as 16 Allotment Plots, with the knowledgeable might of Adrian, Fred, Cuffy & the team, the plots were marked out, fences erected, and gates installed. Since then the Allotment Holders, whose plots were chosen by lottery at the *Star & Garter*, have been very busy, erecting sheds, rotavating and now have a flourishing Vegetable & Flower haven, with even some chickens to keep us company.

NCC Cllr Derek Lawson provided a grant toward the fencing and a National Lottery grant was applied for to contribute towards the cost of the sheds and providing piped water to the site. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful, but with the support of the Allotment Holders, Parish Council and individual contributions we now have only the piped water to the site still to be provided - however, we were all given water tanks courtesy of Jo from the Village, and with regular top ups of water we can water our produce regularly and easily during some of our hot dry spells this summer. Although we were not able to get the Lottery grant we have not given up and are still pursuing grant funding from ENC.

In order to celebrate the achievements at the Allotment site, on Saturday 4th September we held an Opening Celebration. Flyers were posted through homes in Chelveston & Caldecott and a BBQ was provided in the Pub Garden, the weather was even with us on the day, and the ribbon cutting ceremony was completed by Adrian Dale, who provided all the Villagers and Allotment Holders who attended with a great tale of how this all came to be.

The Villagers were very complementary and impressed with how much we have all achieved, there were even the experts on hand to give some of us inexperienced Allotmenters some welcome advice. Also some of the produce we have (which we won't be using) we have been asked if we can keep for the Harvest Festival in October. Well after some enjoyable BBQ food (cooked by Fred) washed down with some drinks at the pub the event was concluded.

Many thanks to all those who came and supported the event, and we hope to see some of you again as you walk around the village and pass by the Allotments and see us all busy preparing for Autumn & Winter.

Janet McMillan
Allotment Holder.
8th September 2010