

Launton Plotters APM report 2022

Even despite the pandemic and the disrupting Network Rail works, plotters have been resourceful and cheerful. Many stating being able to get out to the allotments being a vital part of their day, giving them companionship as well as exercise. The subsequent tasty healthy harvests being a bonus.

The allotments are managed by a volunteer committee who meet every 3 months. We have 44 plots at the moment worked by 35 plotters, that's down over 40% on our usual number of plots due to works by Network Rail. We are hopeful to have the majority of them returned in good order in the near future. Network Rail have been helpful in trying to mitigate the disruption to the allotments by working with the Plotters committee and keeping us informed of developments. We have a short waiting list of 10, all from nearby Bicester.

Last year we were awarded a grant from Councillor Hughes of Cherwell district Council which went towards a compost toilet for the allotment. This was erected by volunteers and the subsequent Privy Party opening was a great success with homemade cakes and various homemade fruit wines being sampled. Unfortunately, the toilet was damaged in the winter gales and is 'out of order' until we can repair it.

We also applied for wildlife hedgerow saplings from the woodland trust to plant along the new access road. Over 300 whips were planted over a few days by volunteers, they are all doing well so far and will make a lovely boundary hedge in time.

We held our AGM outside last year in May which was a success, turning into a convivial get together afterwards. We intend to do the same this year on 25th May.

Thank you

Jackie Hackett Chair Launton Plotters