

“2015-2016”

There are 14 half plots at Whilton Allotment Gardens which this year were not all taken up and once again some of our members were incapacitated through illness or other pressures, being unable to take full advantage of this valuable village amenity. However, as we enter another growing season at least three of last year's 'novices' go into 2016 with fresh hope but we need to persuade other villagers to take up the challenge of an allotment.

Weatherwise the last season was inconsistent though soft fruits did well and Winter greens coped well with the relatively mild temperatures and lack of snow. The Summer months were not too dry and hopefully water consumption was lower. WAG appreciates the fact that the Parish Council allow for a notional 12 Cu metres consumption per year which appears to be a reasonable estimate. I hope this was the case since we have had no adverse reports of over consumption.

The boundary fencing on the Southern perimeter has looked in a good state since it was repaired in 2015 and the adjacent landowner has taken steps to keep the hedges to a reasonable height. Similarly the overhanging conifer hedge has been substantially reduced letting in more light on the Eastern margin. District Council contractors have recently trimmed the high hedges to the Western boundary which is a substantial improvement. WAG members had a concerted effort last Spring to keep this in check and improve the rose planting and shrubbery adjacent to the roadway.

Allotment holders continued to mow and trim between plots, taking turns as much as possible and meeting the cost of servicing and petrol from the group members. The ex-parish council mower just about meets the requirements but some prefer to bring their own petrol mowers when taking their turn.

The members of this group (WAG) have met throughout the year and held small celebrations on the plots from time to time. The group is affiliated to the National Allotment Society which offers advice on horticultural and contemporary issues and also provides Public Liability insurance at a reasonable cost.

In 2016-2017 WAG looks forward to working with Whilton Parish Council in maintaining this valuable local resource as an attractive part of the environment. Members do hope that Daventry District Council will be favourably disposed to renewing the lease for a further substantial period.

Brian Melling

Chairman

Whilton Allotment Group