



Please reply in no more than 500 words, why you believe this entry should be a winner:

Over the years, Layton allotment site has been both cultivated and neglected, depending on the prevailing trend. In more recent years, having an allotment has become more popular and we have increased the number of plots to 57. There are a number of young families with many of the younger children becoming great friends, 'on the plot' is a safe environment for them. Some have their own small gardening area, which of course, is great, it enables them to learn about nature in a hands on way.

The past twelve months has seen many changes in the way allotments are managed, with the council moving towards 'self management'. This means that each site has more responsibility for the running of the site. We have subsequently formed a new committee which is very actively working to improve site facilities. The site, like many others has a tendency to flood, and the water system is ancient, so we have a project in hand to instal both, new drainage and water supply. In an effort to encourage water harvesting, we have, with the help of a grant, supplied each plot with a 200ltr water butt. We had great fun rolling them down the site! (see pictures) There is generally, a great sense of 'belonging' on site with plot-holders looking out for others, and helping where they can.

Each year, we hold an open day, when people are invited to visit the site, we sell fresh veg crafts, home made chutney, jam and cakes. It is always well attended, and once again, it's a great opportunity for the children to get involved. A percentage of our takings is always donated to charity.

We have some very keen growers on site, and this year, one has produced a pumpkin in the region of 400lbs! We are actively looking for some charitable use for it.

Each year Blackpool council holds an allotments competition, this involves seven sites, (approx 500 plots) and the past three years one of our tenants has won the certificate for best in Blackpool. Also, at this years Blackpool Federation Produce Show, two of our tenants won seven of the ten trophies. Between us, we grow a great variety of fruit, veg and flowers.

But, generally, the site is all about community, wildlife, and growing. I have enclosed a number of pictures which I hope will support our application.

Please attach additional sheets if necessary