

Villagers on track for their own Good

Life

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YAXLEY residents keen to grow their own food had an early Christmas present in December when they were awarded nearly £10,000 to help them reclaim an ancient village allotment field.

For several years, a growing number of residents have expressed interest in joining the nationwide groundswell of people who want to grow their own food.

The Yaxley Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Association (YALGA) was formed in the summer of 2008 and spearheaded the funding application.

Villager Karen Staples wrote the Lottery application on behalf of Yaxley Parish Council, requesting cash from the Awards for All Lottery Fund for fencing, hardstanding and a water supply to make the old allotments field a 21st century facility for the villagers.

Plants have been ordered and seeds have been sown by enthusiastic gardeners expecting to see the fruits (and vegetables) of their efforts later this year. In the expectation of plenty and working in the footprints of gardeners who cultivated this ground long ago, Yaxley parishioners are delighted with their new amenity, planted in an ancient allotment field.

With the help of the Lottery Awards for All money, the 21st century gardeners will have access to water, fencing and firm ground for vehicles and deliveries..

John Hawes, Parish Councillor, said that ancient maps of the village show that there have been allotments in Yaxley since at least 1839. After the second world war, interest in growing food waned and the field was let by the parish council for farming. Now YALGA members want to regenerate the allotments and return this amenity to the villagers so that residents can have their own bit of The Good Life for the foreseeable future.

The Yaxley Allotment and Leisure Gardeners' Association is planning cooperative facilities, social events and will encourage young people to have-a-go at growing.

Media organic gardening celebrity Bob Flowerdew will help YALGA launch additional fundraising activities when he returns to Yaxley on 14 June to host a gardeners' question time event during the village fete.

There are still a few allotments available for Yaxley villagers.