

Grocott Community Garden

2018 Update

Gardener numbers have swung wildly from 1 to 10 in the last couple of years. Encouragingly, this spring, interest is evident and five people have already done work at the garden. It is also heartening to see heads bob over the fence as passers-by pause for a chat.



We have a “Growing Cycle” erected on our north fence which is one of several bikes with quirky titles to be placed around the township.

When numbers were down we decided to move towards more permanent

plantings. Three apples and a gooseberry bush were placed in the south bed, and with thick mulch this eased work. Two of the apples - a Bramley seedling and Belle de Boskoop are giants and fruited from their first season.



A bee bed planted with flowering plants that attracted nearby honeybees became a feature, but through not disturbing it and encouraging self seeding we also allowed couch (twitch) to encroach through the sleepers surrounding the raised beds. Now we are experimenting with non chemical means to restore it to weed free production.

Pumpkins produced well last season and the shallots were the best we have ever seen. There is always the dilemma, how many do we eat and how many do we keep to plant in the next season. We continue to take surplus crops to food banks, but more is being used locally. Those without gardens, particularly senior citizens, are encouraged to help themselves.