Living the good life

By Paul Sanders



Next year (2021) will be the 10th anniversary of the launching of Dunchurch Allotment Association, an organisation formed by tenants on the allotments on Coventry Road. The site is believed to be the original Poor Plots and has been an allotment location for hundreds of years – the occasional discovery of the remains of clay pipe parts would confirm that. With over ninety plots and associated paths, two communal greenhouses and communal sheds, members of the Association work hard to maintain and improve the site in addition to providing services to members.

Each year the Association engages its members in projects which develop a greater sense of community, ranging from building bird boxes to publishing an allotment cookbook. The Association is also active in the local community, raising funds for the Dunchurch Festival Group, delivering excess produce to people in need and giving talks on gardening isues.



It is noticeable how the demand for allotments has increased over the last six months with requests for a plot being received almost every fortnight. In April there were two people on the waiting list; this has risen to nineteen in October. This is reflected nationally where applications for allotments in England have soared during the coronavirus pandemic as consumers seek to embrace 'the good life' and grow their own fruit and vegetables during lockdown. It is also noticeable how those enjoying an allotment have changed in the last decade; allotments are no longer the preserve of retired men but we now have a diverse community including many families who have taken on a plot to work together in an endeavor and teach their children about food, a healthy diet and lifestyle.

For more information see **www.dunchurchallotments.org.uk**

