

An Allotment of Health and Friendship

The growing season is here again and allotment holders have ordered seeds, chitted potatoes and are preparing the soil for planting. After a wet winter with few opportunities to turn over the soil, they are dreaming of a nice dry spell to sort out weeds and get the seeds in. Judith and I are anyway! (See Photograph)



hadn't time to work a whole allotment. Sharing makes a lot of sense and is becoming more popular. Judith and I pay £5 per year for our half, which must be one of the best bargains anywhere.

It's also a very sociable thing, as you'll see if you stroll across the field in the summer, as people chat while they dig, ask advice or receive it sometimes without asking!

A Great Bargain

We took over an allotment two years ago and have planted all sorts of vegetables - a lot of them worth eating. We're still learning what grows well and what doesn't and how to avoid everything coming in at once.

The allotment field is a lovely site on the edge of the village, on the Swinbrook Road if you've just arrived in Shipton, and it's a great feeling to be working there and, in our case, having a good chat too. We found a full - size plot too much to handle and so last year we began sharing with another gardener, who also

Lovely Veg!

And then there's the taste of lovely new potatoes, broad beans, peas, beetroot... Can't wait!

Are you interested in having an allotment? Speak to **Jill Mavin** on: 01993 831091 or **Alice Burns** (Clerk to the Shipton Parish Council) on: 01993 832216.

Jill Mavin

Witney Older People's Information Fair

Leader of WODC, Councillor Keith Stone, will be opening the **Age Concern Oxfordshire's Information Fair** for older people at the Langdale Hall, Witney, at **10:00am on Thursday April 19th**. The Fair will run until 2:30pm. The Pension Service, the District Council, the NHS and the County Council's Trading Standards department, alongside Age Concern Oxfordshire have

been working to put together a first rate programme, informative and fun too! The event will cover a wide range of issues of importance to older people - health, independence, safety, leisure, transport, finance and much more. Many experts will be on hand to provide information and answer questions. If you are over 50 do drop in during the day.
Mary-Ann Shaw