

Alwoodley Allotments; Water, water everywhere but not a drop to use!

I have had involvement with this association since its conception a good number of years back when I was an Allotment Advisor with the nationwide project, the Allotment Regeneration Initiative. It has now got a brand spanking new allotment site with 70 plus full size plots in NE of the City of Leeds following years of negotiation.

The site was full the minute it first opened. It is situated just up the road from a very large reservoir but had no mains water supply near it. So some funding was sought to drill for water. It wasn't cheap but it was decided to go ahead.

Two huge wagons arrived, one to do the boring and one with a huge power generator and the drilling equipment. It would take 4 days once set up, but with all that valuable equipment security would have to be supplied. This was provided in the form of two plot-holders staying all night in their cars one either side of the trucks.



On the chairman's night on watch there was a massive lightning storm and he really enjoyed the spectacle but was just beginning doze when all of a sudden there was a huge bang and his car fair jumped in the air. His colleague in the other car came running over to ask if he was ok saying he thought the lightening had struck him. It turned out there was a scorch mark on the ground a metre behind his car.

The drilling proceeded day after day until finally on the fourth day and after drilling down 48 meters water was struck.

The well has a pump fitted and has been capped. All that remains now is to fit a large holding tank at the head of the site so a gravity fed supply can be installed.

Phil Gomersall



