

A silver medal for allotments!

Allotment gardeners from Leeds in Yorkshire, UK, proudly bring back home silver medal from world famous Chelsea Flower Show.

Following many other previous successes creating demonstration allotment gardens at show's in Yorkshire, a team of six volunteers, on behalf of the Leeds and District Allotment Gardeners Federation, created a 'Techno Allotment Garden' at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

The team were overjoyed and extremely proud when awarded a silver medal for their first attempt at creating a garden in the Discovery section of the Chelsea Flower Show and even more so considering they were competing with some professionally backed organisations.

The Federation hoped the garden would create a good image of allotments not only in Leeds but Nationwide and even internationally and encourage others to grow their own vegetables with all the benefits growing your own food can bring.

Another aspect of the garden was to demonstrate what technical and other innovations could be created quite cheaply to assist with the growing of vegetables and make the vegetable garden a more efficient and very attractive place.

There were so many good and positive comments about the garden from so many people from all walks of life and so many different countries, it was most gratifying, and made all the hard work in creating the garden worthwhile.

Even the High Commissioner for the Bahamas was collecting ideas from the garden to apply to his garden back home in the Bahamas.

Planning for this started in October last year and as no artificial means were applied to the growing of the produce on display, this took a lot of nurturing to get the plants in good condition for the show. A lot more organisation was needed to take the garden to Chelsea however, which made it quite an onerous task.

Assistance was obtained in the form of insurance cover by the National Allotment Society, transport and printing costs by the National Allotment Garden Trust, compost from Gro-well Horticultural Supplies, Derbyshire, use of an unheated greenhouse by Greenscapes Nurseries, Leeds and a wheelbarrow supplied by Pleveys Horticultural Supplies, Doncaster. Accommodation and living costs were covered by the volunteers themselves and many of the sundries to create the perfect garden. Phil Gomersall the Federation Publicity Officer said the volunteers felt privileged to be even going to Chelsea and regarded it as a holiday, despite being costly and extremely hard work.

The team are now back home in our beloved Yorkshire and reflecting on the many memorable moments and the honour of obtaining a silver medal for the Leeds and District Gardeners Federation and our City of Leeds.



The award



The build up of the garden



The plants arrive



*Front row L-R Mary Dwight, Phil Gomersall, Gill Walsh, John Dwight
Back row L-R Ian Wood, Paul Lattimer*