



Hope allotments blog – October 2020

September started off as what is known as an Indian summer, ie hot and dry not with sightings of native Americans! Although the term does relate to the weather conditions in north America rather than the Indian sub-continent!

Towards the end of the month it started to get wetter and we have had some stormy weather with localised flooding although not on our allotments.

We are still harvesting our main crop potatoes and will definitely grow 'Picasso' again next year as they coped with the drier conditions very well. We are not allowed hoses or water pumps of any kind on the allotments and all watering has to be done by hand using watering cans as we are supplied with mains water. This means that we have a guaranteed supply but it means a lot of work considering that we have almost ½ an acre of land. We are considering building a water tank on plot 170 as it is at the top of the hill and we could use the natural gradient to irrigate the lower plots. We will keep you posted on this project.



View from plot 170 running down to plot 155

We have been given permission to build another shed which we will use as a classroom/meeting area for Sonia, our Eco-therapist, to cater for our service users and clients. Sonia has now started and we welcome referrals to her project, especially from older, more isolated people who want something to do, and would welcome a couple of

hours out in the fresh air. Do contact us if you know anyone who could benefit. We will do a feature on Sonia in due course

Looking forward to November, we have taken receipt of the wood to build a pergola over the patio which will be part of our therapeutic garden that we will be building over the winter. Again watch this space for updates.



Joe & Robin (our CEO) posing in front of the patio/therapeutic garden. (Photo courtesy of Julia)

Finally, I was searching through the sheds for some garden twine and saw something on the top of one of the shelves.

'Are you a piece of string?' I asked.

'No' came the reply '*I'm afraid not*'

Have a happy gardening month and see you in November.

Joe - the Hope gardener