

Right plant, right place

Many residents have been disappointed this year with the temporary closure of the Kitchen gardens.

Sadly, Pobl had to do what was best and close them to help keep residents safe and, yes, we do agree it's a shame to take something away that, in these difficult times, is so therapeutic. The kitchen gardens' first year was a booming success and so popular that we did think it would run for ever.

But with the Covid pandemic wreaking havoc and misery round the world, it makes the sacrifice of not being able to grow one's own veg this year, seem a little trivial in the grand scheme of things.

In situations like this we always try to find some sort of "silver lining". So, we thought you might like to know that your plots have not sat there idle. Some of the kitchen garden beds have been put to good use this summer as nursery beds.

This time last year we took advantage of a bargain offer in a gardening magazine. 100 creeping Phlox plugs plants for the price of what four or five mature plants in a garden centre would cost. They arrived through the post as delicate but perfectly formed baby plants.



All it took was a bag of compost, the recycling of some old plant pots, and a couple of hours work to pot them up. They stayed in the pots for about 4 months and we then planted them in the raised beds of the kitchen garden to grow on until big enough to plant out. Now they are finally ready we have been transplanting them into their final positions around Loftus. October is the perfect month for this job as the ground is warm and moist which will get the plants off to a good start before winter sets in and the plants become dormant.



You might have noticed that the gravel pit has been looking pretty “sad” this Summer.

The Heathers we planted around the edge of it two years ago to replace the grass border, have nearly all died so we are now trying again with this Creeping Phlox.

It’s a beautiful, low growing evergreen plant with flowers in white, pinks and blues throughout summer but it’s notorious for taking over. It is classed as a thug and not suitable for your average garden.

However, every plant has its place and so here in the gravel pit, where it can’t escape, we are hoping it will do it’s triffid thing and fill the space quickly. Fingers crossed.



Jo has been helping to plant these new plants out and we are so pleased to get the job done and dusted in the nick of time as the weather has since turned very wet with Autumn setting in.

Some of the plants have also been planted alongside the path in front of the pond, another



troublesome area where certain plants struggle to thrive.

An important part of any gardener’s tool kit is patience and perseverance. If a plant dies where you plant it, don’t give up just try a different one in its place.

Eventually you will find the right plant that will be happy to grow there.