

I dreamed a dream!

I have arrived at the allotment site & been told that I can choose whichever plot I want.

So I ask the question ... which plot has not been used before? And there it is - I'm standing in front of it, with grass & weeds inches high & not an inch of bare earth. But I can see beyond the weeds & waste ground – I can see the dark rich unused fertile soil, ready to be productive & fruitful. It'll need lots of hard work to make it a growing area but the bounty of the earth will make it worthwhile.

I knew that the other allotment owners were looking at me as if to say “Do you know what you are taking on?” but that just made me more determined to make it work. Their advice to take on an easier plot & make it less troublesome for myself fell on stony ground. This was going to be my labour of love. I had a vision and I had a dream.

So over the next few weeks, I visited my plot & spent every moment I had clearing the weeds & getting it ready for growing. I would leave it after a two or three hour session exhausted but feeling like I had given everything. I couldn't wait to get my hands in the soil again.

At work my head was doing what had to be done, but my heart was visualising how I wanted the allotment to look & be. I knew it would take many hours of physical effort but I knew I could draw on my spiritual strength, strength given to me from the soil, the fresh air, the sun & the rain, God's creation at my fingertips. These moments made me feel energised, made me feel ecstatic, brought me to a place of delight & joy. When the barren land turned into a garden of hope, I was heartened & invigorated.

It's amazing how physical toil can enrich our mental & spiritual state. We can take a lesson from nature and relate it to our everyday living. In life we need to see beyond the barrenness of the unused plot to what can be - to understand that with hard work, nurturing & "prayer", the possibilities are endless - that "dreams" can come true, that seeds can grow.

