

News

Growers' joy with water on tap at last

Supply to community allotment will help project beat drought

BY ANDREW GOLDMAN

A COMMUNITY group in Pennington is gushing with delight after a water tap was unveiled at its allotment.

The big turn-on was held at the Pennington Community Allotment, a plot built on previously unused land.

However, since being founded in December 2015 by Gill Hickman, it has produced an abundance of fruit and vegetables with apple trees, strawberry plants, raspberry bushes, rhubarb, vegetables and wildflowers, with a large shed donated by neighbours.

Gill said: "A year ago, in the drought, I was carrying 120 litres of water a day down to the plot. Installation of a water supply was essential, and we marked it with a celebration



and children's workshops. We work here with all sorts of needy people in a hugely successful project."

Town mayor Cllr Anne Corbridge attended the event, along with more than 40 invited guests including 12 children from the Little Wrens Pre-School, local town and county councillor Michael White, and Anthony Woolhouse and Cathy Cook, chairman and director respectively of West Solent Solar Community Cooperative.

They, together with Cllr Corbridge, made donations to finance the water supply.

Using a grant from Tesco Bags of Help, the entrance path has been extended and flattened to enable wheelchair access. Raised beds have been created to provide easy access.

Workshops for the children included a session by volunteer Roy Kallow Wood, who demonstrated how to use live slugs to grow roundworms, which in turn kill slugs without the use of chemicals.

