

Inspirational Middlewich neighbour could carry Olympic torch

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By David Morgan

A MIDDLEWICH man who has battled cancer for five years could soon be carrying the Olympic torch after creating a garden paradise for his neighbours.

Retired mechanic David Green, his wife Joyce and four friends cleared away years of rubbish, cut down overgrown bushes and planted flower and vegetable beds in Chadwick Fields.

David put in a lot of the hard work despite suffering health problems including cancer of the jaw and MRSA, which destroyed a bone graft.

The 61-year-old even built gates so that his neighbours can access the new garden from their homes as well as archways and a shed.

In gratitude, he has been nominated as an inspirational torchbearer when the Olympic flame travels through Cheshire.

He is due to find out if he has been successful before the end of the month.

David said: "It's brought people together - and we've become self sufficient for our vegetables and even have three chickens and fresh eggs each day."

Neighbour Nigel Johnson added: "Having this lovely place has really made a difference to my life."

"I can't work because of ill health and was spending my days lying in bed watching telly and feeling miserable until David got things going.

"It's given us all something to be proud of and to get enjoyment out of."

The six friends now put in £2 a week to maintain the garden, which is only for use of residents whose properties back on to it.

They have also been given a cash boost of £1,200 from housing association Plus Dane for garden furniture.

David's wife Joyce said: "David does this because he wants to help other people, he's a very sociable man and despite his ill health wanted to do something that would bring neighbours together and get them talking.

"It's given people here a new lease of life.

“Almost everything in the garden was scrounged, recycled or donated, someone gave us six tonnes of horse manure the other day – we were nearly up to our necks in it!”

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