

Chef and neighbours build 'new generation' of allotments

Green-finger gourmet and his garden

BY ALEXANDRA RUCKI

RESTAURANT chef Connaire Moran has built a new communal allotment with his neighbours.

The allotment is managed entirely by tenants who live and rent work space together at the sustainable housing development Greenhouse, in Beeston, Leeds.

Mr Moran, who is chef de partie at Anthony's restaurant in Leeds, joined 30 budding gardeners to make the allotment.

He said: "It's great to be part of something with other residents at Greenhouse. It really feels like we are part of a com-

munity both internally and on a wider, local scale."

The Greenhouse residents built the communal allotment on Ladypit Lane.

They cleared overgrown land, planting vegetables and decorating a shed.

One seasoned grower from a neighbouring allotment took some time out to give tips to the residents on how to cultivate different fruit and veg.

Mr Moran served leek and potato soup to keep everyone refreshed and later marinated meat for a barbecue using herbs grown in the Greenhouse courtyard.

All of the waste was composted to ensure sustainability ran throughout the day.

The allotment was created

as part of the Growing Green campaign, a community project set up by sustainable developers Citu.

Citu provided the tools for the day and hope that the allotment can be maintained for future Greenhouse tenants to enjoy.

Its director, Fraser Stride, said: "The atmosphere was fantastic with a massive turnout and a real sense of coming together as a community, something you don't always see in city centre living.

"It really connected the residents and offices who worked together to ensure the allotment area was ready for planting and maintaining, it's hitting home how much we can engage the local community."



GROWING ENTHUSIASM: Connaire Moran