

# Gardeners have eye on prize



Green-fingered Alma and Alan Kimber who are looking forward to taking part in the Best Allotment competition

## Hunt grows for top allotment

Keen gardeners have been busy tending to their patch in the hopes of scoring the title of Best Allotment.

The Wolverhampton Allotments Association is running the annual competition, which now funds itself after city council budget cuts, and judges have been visiting the 31 allotment sites throughout this week.

Alma Kimber, social secretary for the Boundary Way Allotments and Community Garden, said they had been getting ready for the competition since February plantings.

It had been hard work, she said, but they had to ensure they met a range of

**By Kimberley Crayton-Brown**  
*newsdesk@expressandstar.co.uk*

criteria including succession planting, crop rotation, and composting.

Her husband Allan, aged 80, has been a keen allotment gardener for 40 years, and has claimed a number of best allotment crowns, from the best in Wolverhampton and the Black Country right through to national titles.

Mrs Kimber, aged 75, said they had left their previous allotment in Fordhouses when they moved to Kingswood Gardens, Penn, and the Boundary Way allotment had been one of the big draw

cards. "It is right on the boundary and it is a beautiful site, it overlooks a field to South Staffordshire and you can even see the Clee Hills on a good day," she said.

The couple head to the allotment every day, and said the Boundary Way site is every busy - Beacon Centre for the Blind had a plot, as does the young offenders programme, and there are raised beds that are used by a disability group.

She said working the allotments was 'good therapy', and also a chance to get out in the fresh air and live a healthier lifestyle.