I guess we are going to have to start this off with how things used to be. The vegetable patch here was rather productive, and then real life happened. Rather like the lost gardens of Heligan, everything got overgrown and neglected. As you can see in the picture on the right, the raised beds had started to disintegrate.

After some serious thinking we decided to spend quite a bit of money making the site more level, and suitable for us. The plan was to create a seating area, that caught the evening sun, and also a more level vegetable patch.

The job was taking forever using a spade, shovel and wheelbarrow. It was fairly obvious that while I could achieve the desired result. It wasn't going to be in any sort of satisfactory timeframe.
It was the summer of 2018, and we called in the professionals. Not Bodie n Doyle, my local landscaper and builder. Who having listened to the vision, said no problem, I will drop you a quote round. As you will see from the images that follow, It was pretty full on.

This image gives you more of a sense of the slope involved. You can see here the site beginning to be dug out ready for the footings.

At the end of Day 1, we were well on the way to seeing some shape of things to come. The digging was almost complete, tomorrow would see that job completed, and the arrival of a tracked wheelbarrow.

These images show more of the digging out, just a small section to complete in the right hand image.
I have to admit to getting excited at this stage, you could really see the whole space starting to take shape. As for the block walls, they were sat on proper concrete footings, and were going up like nobodies business. The progress was staggering, to say it was a one man band. Of course he didn't have the interruptions and distractions that I would of had.

The retaining walls going in, we deliberately chose hollow breeze blocks. The plan being to plant them at the end, to add to the visual appeal.

The first level is complete, and now we are building walls to hold the second tier.

The next image shows the lower level, which was to become the seating area, nicely finished off with the pea gravel. It was at this point that I found and ordered the new rattan furniture to go in this space.
We jump a little into the future, 28 hours into the future to be precise, and the bulk of the job was finished. Or at least the builders work. Yes, it cost a bit, but oh my, has it proved to be worth it since then.

Looking from the top of the newly formed second tier back down to the seating area. Low and behold, the builder has all cleared up. This lovely patch of bare earth is where the new raised beds will be.

Handily enough I still had just over a ton of pea gravel sat at the bottom of the drive, but boy was that going to take some shifting. As for the new raised beds, I had purchased the supplies from a local timber merchant. The initial plan was to have 6 square beds, but in the end, I settled for 4 square and 2 rectangular beds.

The raised beds under construction although you can see the design here, of having the beds divided up into 12 inch squares.

To be continued!