

Cripley Meadow Allotments Newsletter October 2016

2nd Audit is October 2nd

Plots must be open. Please make sure you have taken action on any previous reminders. Everyone has a 1st audit letter. Not everyone has an Oct one as this is generally a follow up unless a plot is observed to have problems since the last audit and we have not been informed of any difficulties. Do remember to let us know if you are having problems. Unfortunately, the amount of weed and waste members leave on plots for others to clear remains excessive! With such a large site and so many members the committee cannot step in to manage member's plots but if aware we can do our best to be supportive where we can and give time for work to be caught up.

October working party is on Sunday 9 October 10.30 to 12.30.

Members attending will also be able to do some fruit picking and sharing as there is fruit ready.

OCC/ODFAA Allotment Competition Celebration of Awards and Certificates Took place in the Town Hall on the Town Hall on Tuesday September 27.



Entrants in this year's Allotment Competition enjoyed the presentation to the award winners by the Cllr Linda Smith, the councillor with

responsibility for allotments, at the Town Hall on Tuesday 27 September.

This is the ninth year that Oxford's Allotment Competition has been organised jointly by the Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations and the Parks Department of Oxford City Council. The objective of the competition is to celebrate the achievements of Oxford's allotment gardeners. The judges look for plots that grow a wide range of vegetables all year round, together with seasonal soft fruit. The emphasis is strongly on the quality of the crops and the overall productivity of the plot, and not on having immaculately manicured plots, although winners have very few weeds!

There were 56 entrants from 11 different allotment sites across the City. In addition, the judges, Tina Mould and Helen Prower, judged entrants in the Best Kept Allotment Site Competition, which 8 of Oxford's 36 allotment sites entered.

The winners of the Challenge Trophy, the overall award, were Ian and Helen Matten from the Lenthall Road Allotment Association. Second was Deisa Holden from the John Garne Way Allotment Association and third was David Allen from the South Ward Allotment Association. Eleven entrants were highly

commended in this category. These included Anna Benn and Miranda Carnegie Plot 144/145



and Judy Cook, Natalie Symchych and Alison Scott on Plot 51



John collected Judy's certificate and he will shortly be joining her back in Melbourne.

The Alderman Knight Shield for the Best Kept Allotment Site was won by us!!! Cripley Meadow Allotment Association. Emilie and Killian, two of our youngest members, collected the certificate and the shield and the £150 cheque. Well done everyone.



The winners of the under 35 years category were

Killian Garrec and Emilie Clauzier from Cripsey Meadow



They came second last year having just reclaimed their plot and this year it was much more productive.

Six new ploholders, who had started their plots in this year, received awards for special effort. They included Rosanne McEwan-Smith (Cripsey Meadow), Plot sf4



Electric cable survey

We have a major electricity cable under our site by the Castle Mill fence. This has been mapped previously but the map cannot be found so it is being done again. They will be on site for a day and will mark it with flags, paint, etc. as appropriate. This will be on the 11th or 12th October. This time we should receive a copy of the map for our records.

We had more deliveries of **wood chip** and it went within a very short time. We will keep trying to attract more

Castle Mill Consultation - part 2

Following our first public consultation event in July, the University and its design team have now reviewed all feedback received and have progressed with the design development for the exterior of the Castle Mill site.

We would like to invite you to our second consultation event where you will have the opportunity to review and comment on the developed design proposal that the University is intending to submit in a planning application to Oxford City Council. As before, the sessions will provide an opportunity to meet members of the University and its team of consultants as well as to give your feedback. The public consultation sessions will take place as follows:

Day 1: Friday 14 October 2016 between 4.00pm and 7.00pm

Day 2: Saturday 15 October 2016 between 10.00am and 12.00pm

Venue: St Luke's Chapel, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ), Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG. Members of the University and its design team will be available to answer any queries you may have. We would welcome further feedback on the developed proposal and hardcopy feedback forms will be available at the consultation sessions. An online feedback form will follow on the University's website together with an electronic version of the display information at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/news.

The University will review all feedback and will take it into account before the revised designs are developed into a planning application.

If you have any queries regarding the event please do not hesitate to contact the University at the following email address: public.consultation@admin.ox.ac.uk.

We look forward to seeing you in October.

Bonfire and willow fire



We had a fire in one of the willows by the firepit recently. It was not a large fire but the tree is badly layered and hollowed and it spread through the trunk. A small specialist fire engine from Kidlington dealt it quickly and the tree is due to be managed asap by Parks. Meanwhile we are moving the fire pit away from the tree line. This was caused by the state of the tree rather than the fire but please always take care to follow the bonfire code and ensure fires are out before you leave them.

**ODFAA talk on
You are invited to an
O&DFAA TALK
Organic MATTER
Chris Bird, M. Hort (RHS)
Lecturer in Horticulture
Sparsholt College,
Hampshire
On Tuesday 15 November
at 7.00pm
Old Library at Oxford
Town Hall
Free All welcome**

growing. Please do not let seeding weeds blow all over. Site mowing is planned soon. Follow the link for **October in our [Gardeners Year](#)**.

Thanks for reading and good growing /Wendy

Badger fencing and water butts and pumps



We are hoping to complete this work in October. The badgers are still accessing Cripsey Meadow and we are actively mapping this and resolving issues where we can. It has been a major commitment of time and Jeremy has done a great job, working for the association. We would not have managed it without him.

A Water Butt Mystery!

One of the large water butts by the orchard was reported as spouting water Saturday Sep 24th during the morning. The tap was found unscrewed alongside the tank! It must have been removed that morning as the water was still exiting. We lost all the harvested water. If anyone can shed light on this please do?

Growing stuff

It was warm at the end of September so weeds are still