

## Cripley Meadow Allotment September 2016 Newsletter

### Next Working party is Sunday 11th September 10.30 to 12.30

As usual meet at the shed. Please make sure you wear suitable clothing and footwear for strenuous work. Do come and join us to learn more about the site and meet and work alongside other members.

**Orchard Fruit.** We will be looking to see **if there is fruit ready** so if you want a share come along and help. Members should not pick fruit outside of working parties or picking days ...unless it is a windfall or the odd one as you pass.

Despite the very slow start this year things have caught up. The trees on Cripley Island Orchard trees are true survivors but have struggled with the last 4 years of strange weather. There is little fruit here but some on the new orchard... If ripe we will do some picking and sharing.

**Trading shop is open again** Following the August break, the Trading shed is open again on Sunday mornings. Our regular hours are 11 - 12 noon. Email Sarah for a one-off sale if you can't do Sunday mornings - [sarahjehome@aol.com](mailto:sarahjehome@aol.com).

**Audit.** Thanks for all your positive responses and actions. The audit is a big commitment of time for the committee but now largely well understood as being the way we keep the site within our lease and rules ...and most importantly fair for all. The next audit is on October 2nd so if you had a reminder of something to do please follow up so the reminder does not escalate.

**Please remember** Parking is only allowed when members are present and never overnight. Members are asked to use cars as little as possible, generally for deliveries and never when frosty or wet as our paths will not take the strain. No one should park on paths or on green spaces. There is a space for a car by the gate, adjacent to Plot 54c, by the green association shed or adjacent to plot 107.

### Headlands and fruit

Please remember that blackberries and other fruit on plots and headlands belongs to the member ...whether fenced or not. It is never ok to take other people's crops without permission and that includes blackberries on

plot headlands. A committee member has reported comments from members who having waited to pick a good crop find it gone. Someone may assume it is going to waste, but going on others plots and taking without consent is not allowed. None of us like to see food wasted, so if you will be away during a harvest period, you can invite members to pick your produce by putting a notice on the member's board or putting excess crops under the board.

### Woodchip

We have had a few deliveries by the green recently.

### Farewell to Judy



Judy Cook has returned to Melbourne after having made a magnificent and clearly enjoyable job of breathing new love and life into Plot 51 with the help of Maggie, Natalie, Alex, Ingrid and Myoungshin's team on Plot 11. We have had some memorable celebrations on site and all basked in the glow of Judy's infectious warmth. Many of us will miss her but I can look forward to seeing her again in Melbourne in January.

**Our mowers** were here in early September and the site looked great. The **second competition judging was on Sunday 4th September. The site is entered as usual and the site prizes are £150, 100 and £50 for 1/2/3 places.** Generally, we enter to ensure that the benefits of allotments stay in the eye of the council but these are also significant sums to contribute to the site. We had 5 entrants for the plot competition. The awards evening is earlier this year on September 27th at the Town Hall. All entrants are invited and results are available after the awards evening. We will report on this as usual in the next newsletter.

### Castle Mill and Badger fencing

Presently Eco-Consult are doing some badger tracking prior to any further work on Castle Mill to make sure the present badgers are ok. **Meanwhile** we are making progress with this and gradually working to close off any access or egress spots.

Good gardening, Wendy