

# Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Newsletter January 2018

## Happy New Year to all members



**Our first Working Party for 2018 is on Sunday January 14.** As usual we meet at the shed at 10.30am. We will be filling a few potholes and as always clearing and covering plots. This is one of the last opportunities for you to do your working party commitment for 2017 before invoices are raised at the beginning of February. If the WP is not done the WP donation will be included on your next invoice. Our last working party was in November and we worked on the island repairing trees and coppicing some hazel.



We also had a lot of willow pollarding in November along our boundaries with Fiddlers and Castle Mill streams. The OCC tree team also did some work on the huge willow in Badger land and some safety management on the sycamore by the gate. There are some willow logs available for wood burners opposite the Green Association shed. Help

yourself but take care as the pile is no longer well stacked. Willow is not allowed to grow on plots.



Please do not use on plots for structures or beds. Willow will root if the bark is in contact with the ground.



There is still some coppicing and pollarding to do on the island before Spring, but this will have to wait until the it dries out a bit. A little water came up in late Dec. Not much so far, none reported on plots.

**These are our remaining dates before our new Gardening year begins on March 12th 2018**

- 10 Jan Weds CMAA committee meeting
- 14 January Working party 10.30 to 12.30
- 11 February Working party 10.30 to 12.30
- 14 February Weds CMAA committee meeting (AGM admin)
- 4th Mar OXCLEAN WP 10.30 to 12.30 and subs day at the shed 11-12
- 7 March Wed CMAA committee meeting (AGM prep)
- 12 March AGM St Barnabas 6pm for 7pm

**Do let us know asap and before the end of January if you have an item you wish to be discussed by the membership at the AGM. After this it will not be possible to put on the agenda. We are always looking for more help on the committee so do let us know if are interested.**

**In early February** we raise the invoices/AGM invitations and deliver to members asap. **Where a plot is shared the invoice only goes to the nominated member so please make sure you inform any plot partner(s) and remember**

**working party commitments are costed per member not per plot.** We deliver the invoices mostly by hand so **please make sure Sara/Manda have your current address. Contact Sara on [allotment@gtg.org](mailto:allotment@gtg.org) if you are a lead member and you do not get an invoice.** The AGM material including the letter and agenda, the Annual Report and Budget and Accounts will be sent to all as usual by email. This is easier and greener. **If you do not wish to renew your membership do let us know asap.**

**Subscriptions for our next Gardening Year March 2018 to March 2019 remains the same.**

### **The trading shop report from Sarah**

The shop/trading shed is closed for the winter, as usual. But if you need something you are welcome to contact Sarah to arrange a visit to the shop at a mutually convenient time: [sarahjehome@aol.com](mailto:sarahjehome@aol.com) or 07960 352787 (text is best). We will re-open for regular Sunday morning sessions at around the beginning of March, depending on weather and site conditions. Now we do not have many second-hand tools, but we have everything on the price list and a few other items e.g. some containers that could be used as water butts.

If you have not already ordered your seeds do look at [www.pennardplants.com](http://www.pennardplants.com) and possibly wait until

**Thursday 22nd February 2018**  
**Pennard Plants**  
will be at  
**West Oxford Community Centre**  
for their  
**First Oxford Potato Fair**  
**Botley Road,**  
**Oxford OX2 0BT**  
**2pm to 7pm**

There will be over 90 varieties of tubers to choose from alongside lots of seeds and plant stuffs. You can order and buy from their catalogue online and have this delivered or pick up your order on the day at WOCC.

The day is organised by Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations and has FREE ENTRY. The Community Centre has a good cafe for refreshments. Pennard Plants is a company based in a Victorian Walled Garden, in the heart of rural Somerset, which grows and sells one of the largest selections of Edible Plants, Heritage and Heirloom Seeds, Fruit and Herb plants to be found in the UK

Since our last newsletter in November Jeremy has been working for the association

- cutting down old heras fencing,
- building a rubble bin,
- building the BBQ on the green,
- building a Fire Bin
- installing a petrol store.

The Fire bin is for use by members but please take your stuff and burn straight away in accordance with OCC rules. Please do not dump weeds and other stuff in here. Eventually we may have a storage bin for wood to be burnt? Unfortunately, when we have done this in the past some members leave the work to the committee fairies! Soon there will be an incinerator here for use by members for small burning jobs. Always make sure all material is DRY and follow the code. Several allotment sites this year have had to restrict burning on plots due to complaints from neighbours. This is an AGM item this year.



**Skip use!**  
We have had 7 skip so far this year! Still members are bringing on site and dumping! This material can and should go in

your domestic recycling. During 2018 we aim to install a camera to monitor skip use as the frequency is just too much.

I am still digging and using my mulched and covered carrots, beetroot and celeriac as well as stored potatoes and onions and yacon. A variety of brassicas and leeks are being picked and the chard keeps refreshing itself. The snow and frost did not affect the crops. I did leave a bale of straw in the shed and came back to find it liberally strewn all over the floor where the rats had had a field day unpicking the very tight bale. They also made short shrift of a pumpkin I left well covered but unprotected.

For more to do in January follow the link to CMAA web site  
[http://www.cripleymeadow.org.uk/Thegardenersyear/Things to do in January](http://www.cripleymeadow.org.uk/Thegardenersyear/Things%20to%20do%20in%20January)