



Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Christmas Newsletter

Can I wish all members  
a Happy Christmas and  
a Peaceful New Year

My winter vegetables are amongst my best ever, with celeriac the size of footballs, ....albeit small footballs. My raised beds have so far kept their feet out of the water. I hope all members can include some home grown produce or decoration in their holiday celebrations or at least be planning for them next year. 'Local food' has seen a remarkable upsurge in 2008 and I am feeling very fortunate to have space to grow my own. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Here is a reminder of some dates for 2009.

The Committee **try** to have a Working Party and Committee Holiday in December .....so please take note of the dates of committee meetings if you have tree or shed requests.

- **Sunday January 4** next Working party (10.30 to 12.30 ) There is always work to do. Please bring rakes, shears, forks, spades, wheelbarrows, strimmers, mowers if you have them .....and work off some of that holiday excess.
- **Monday 12 January** is our Next Committee Meeting.
- **Sunday 19 February** is your final opportunity this gardening year to fit in your **members contribution of 2 hours working party work before you are charged for this year on your next invoice.** We know some members cannot do Sundays and/or prefer to pay the £10
- **Monday 16 February** is our last committee meeting when invoices and AGM material will be raised and sent out. Most members now have email which is easier and ...and greener and pay by post with SAEs.
- **Tuesday Mar 10th** is our AGM at St Barnabas School.
- Most members now pay by cheque by post but we still have a Subscription Day at The Shed on **Sunday March 16th**

### **24% Subscription Increase in 2009**

As you know our rent to the council goes up by 24% from March. As agreed at the AGM in 2006 this increase will be passed onto members as will the Federation fee increase from 20p per member to 40p per member. We will always need support from our members and OCC and in the present financial climate OCC help is getting much harder to obtain. The council is pushing for allotments to be more financially self sufficient and this year -due to credit crunch and 'Oxford money' being in Iceland Banks- all OCC allotment grants were frozen just before they were about to be paid. We have done the majority of the rubbish removal and most places have had at least one overhaul but we still have paths that need work and too many weedy headlands and boundaries which allow the bramble stock to keep growing. Your committee members are most generous in their commitment to working parties ...but **please do your bit. We know everyone cannot make working parties so if you have not done your 2 hours this year..... start saving for your £10 donation.**

**Have a good holiday  
wendy**