

September 2008 Newsletter

Members' Lunch on The Green Sunday September 21 from 12.30

This will be our third annual member's lunch. Members **bring finger food and drink to share and celebrate the season**. It has grown in number each year but we now have so many members we hope everyone will be able to come and meet one another. This year we hope members can be encouraged to **bring a harvest basket** so we can all see what everyone is growing and share our experiences. David (Plot 78), Jeremy (Plot 91) and Jamie (Plot 63) are all kindly working on getting some B-B-Q facilities onto the green ...so watch this space. If anyone else has any ideas for this please let members of the committee know. They can be found as follows: **John Plot 46; Alison Plot 13; Sheila Plot 12; Tony Plot 124; Alex Plot 81/82; Jamie Plot 63; Bernie Plot 62; James Plot 73; Donna Plot 105.**

Open Day Report

Our first Open Day was a **great success with 60 visitors**, some of whom had known Cripsey Meadow in the past and were very impressed with the transformation into a working allotment site. We also welcomed a number of visitors from other sites in the city as we are trying, through the Federation, to share experiences across sites. I have since had many emails and these couple represent the general opinion of the day.

We 'were very taken by the care with which the allotments have been developed and the warmth of the welcome by members of the Association'. 'Thank you very much for taking the time to talk to us, we're very excited about joining what is obviously a hard-working, friendly community'. Next year we hope we will have even more members on site with more plots marked as open as visitors were genuinely interested in talking and looking at what was growing. Our waiting list has subsequently grown.

Waiting List and September Audit

We have placed 13 people on plots in the last few weeks and still have a **waiting list of 14** to accommodate. Lots of people want to grow their own vegetables, fruit and flowers and many sites across the city have waiting lists. Members of the committee will do the **September audit** on September 7. This audit is to spot problems and to try to resolve them before they become serious, so that all members, plot neighbours and the site as a whole benefit from the security of the agreed rules of our association. With the present demand for plots (we still have some that not suitable for cultivation as too low or too much buried rubbish) please let us know asap if you cannot manage your plot.

Working Parties

The next working parties are: **Weds 3rd September** which will be on the island. We will be raking and burning willow 'striking' and moving logs between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. On **Sunday 7th September** we will be reclaiming plots from 10.30am to 12.30pm. We had an accident at the last working party with a large piece of broken glass left out on a plot, buried in undergrowth. The cut needed hospital treatmentbut the patient is now healed and back on his plot. It reminded us all of the care needed with glass and we **would advise all members not to bring glass on site**. We have cleared so much broken and shattered glass from plots..... often clearly still where it arrived! It is nigh impossible to remove from the soil. Broken glass must not be left around but stored carefully until it can be taken away. After such an accident it is a good time to remind all members of the **need for caution on the site**. On the brighter side we showed our combined first aid skills off to good effect and members rallied round to help with great efficiency and care.

Our next committee meeting is Monday 29th September and I will be back for **Lunch on The Green** and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. It has been an exceptionally busy year with new members but a delight and reward to see such renewed interest in allotments and growing produce.

best wishes for a continued good harvest,

Wendy Skinner Smith
Chair Cripsey Meadow

www.cripseymeadow.org.uk

Chair Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations