

Cripley Meadow Allotments November Newsletter 2011

Next working party is Sunday November 13th 10.30 to 12.30. We shall be moving tarps, raking willow and moving logs as well as continuing work marking out the south field. Please bring rakes and wheelbarrows. The next one is January 8th.



Castle Mill stream has finally had some clearance of cracked willow and debris. It is still much narrower when compared to previously but it is a great improvement.

Permissions and deliveries

For those of you with deliveries please note you need permission to build before bringing any material on site. Any deliveries in vans over 2.1 m need a committee member to open the barrier. Please contact Sheila by email nick.allen98@hotmail.com to organise permission and when the committee are available for delivery. These are working party hours or Tuesday is after committee meetings. We all have a holiday from meetings in December so last now will be 10-12.30 Nov 13/Nov 22. We do not have a postcode but the nearest one is OX2 6ED.

The Committee have a holiday in December so there is no working party after November 13th until January. Please make sure any requests or queries re buildings /trees go to Sheila well before our next meeting on November 21. After Christmas we start on the paperwork and invoices for the next year. **If you would like to join the Committee in 2012 please talk to Wendy, Alison, Sheila, John, Tony, Jamie, Jeremy, Alex, Claire, or Richard.**

A CONTRACTOR IS WORKING FOR THE NEXT WEEK AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE SITE TO RE-POSITION THE FENCE TO INCLUDE THE DISUSED LAND. THIS WILL THEN AGAIN BE USED AS ALLOTMENT GARDENS. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE CRIPLEY MEADOW LEASE. THE ALLOTMENTS WILL BE MORE EXPOSED UNTIL THE WORK IS COMPLETED. PLEASE REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS TO THE JERICHO NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM - PC 804 LINDSEY OSBORNE. TEL **07967 056306**/OR 101 OR IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

New South Field nearly there OCC Tree team pollarded the willows to the west of the South field in



the last week of October. These were pollarded as low as possible so we can help manage

them and of course we do not have to avoid cows eating them, which was the reason for the traditional height. The self seeded ash and sycamore will be managed by coppicing. The new plots and those at the south end now have more light again. The palisade fence is being and badger proofing added around the east and south of the field. The plots are being marked out.

We have a waiting list tour after the working party on November 13th after the working party at 2pm. Meet at the gate. If you have a communal plot and want more space do come along and have a look. We meet 2pm at the gate. All new members have to do an introductory tour of the site before they can be offered a plot. Our waiting list is presently c20.. but these figures are always slightly variable as people can be on more than one site list! We think there will be about 30 plots of varying sizes.

Plot Numbers

Many thanks to all those members who are delighting members passing by with inventive numbers. If you have not done yours please put clearly so can be seen from



headland. This one made me smile. If you still have not

clearly numbered your plot on the headland please do so we do not have to remind you (again!) Contact Wendy if you are not sure what it is.



Green waste
There is wood chip on Plot 109 and some composted green waste. Please do not use

these plots for your own plot green waste. This must be managed on your plot.

What to do now

Do remember to check the web site for what to do over the next few months but here are a few tasters. Apart from the early frost overall it's been the warmest October on record in the UK. The poor plants don't know if they're in winter or summer. However remember last winter when the snow hit - so when you get chance, get the winter preparations underway. If you've a greenhouse or a polytunnel, check it over and give it a good clean. Rips in the plastic can be easily mended with tape when small but once the wind has ripped them right across it is more expensive.

Few of us enjoy hard work if it can be avoided, and many on site use the variations of dig and no dig management but if you have yet to fully cultivate rough digging in the autumn exposes the pests and pest eggs, allowing friendly birds to help with pest control.

The leaves are starting to fall fast now so it is the time to make leaf mould. Leaf mould is a great soil conditioner and can form the basis of good homemade seed and potting composts. We usually benefit from a good supply on St John's plot 56 in Feb/March but you can also make your own. All you need to do is gather them up and put them in a bin or wire cage and leave them. Or pop them into a black plastic sack with a few holes pierced in, water the leaves if dry and tie the sack up. Place somewhere out of the way and in 6 months to a year or two, depending on the type of leaves, they will have magically changed to wonderful leaf mould.

While you are clearing up do remember to leave a heap of leaves or a pile of prunings in the corner to provide a home for wildlife like hedgehogs and somewhere for pest-eating insects to over-winter. Here is Gabi's prize winning plot to inspire you.

Plot Transformation



Welcome and well done Amanda! We know lots of members have transformed plots from all sorts of unlikely states but a lot of members and the committee thought we should give a mention to this plot. Amanda

took over Plot 54b in the summer and we knew it had a rubble problem but as she unearthed increasingly huge rocks and rubble (now some still by the association shed) and liberated this particular growing space we looked on with amazement. Some of the rocks were barely movable. Come the AGM we shall be celebrating this and other heroic feats.

