

## **Cripley Meadow Allotment Association**

### **Newsletter January 2012**

**Happy New Year to all with a few reminders of dates for your new diaries.**

**There are now only 2 opportunities for you to do the working party commitment that is part of your membership before this is included as a donation on your 2011 invoice.**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 10.30 to 12.30 working party.** Meet at the shed. Weather permitting we shall be clearing the route through to Castle Mill Stream between plots 6 and 7 and doing some Island work stacking wood and re-staking trees and working on the South Field

**Monday 16 January** is our Next Committee Meeting.

**Sunday \*12 February 10.30 to 12.30** is the last opportunity 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 prefer to pay the £15

**Monday 13 February** is our last committee meeting when invoices and AGM material will be raised and sent out. Most members now have email which we use as it is easier and ...and greener.

**Sunday Mar 11 10.30 to 12.30** is the First opportunity to do your **members contribution of proposed 3\* hours for 2012**

**Saturday Mar 4 10.30 to 12.30** Join us for our **OXCLEAN contribution.** We will be doing the car park area, cycle path and the port meadow footpath by Castle Mill Stream as well as the boundaries of our site. If you do at least the Oxclean community work you can then use the sacks for appropriate material on your plot. **This will only apply 'til 1pm.**

**Tuesday Mar 20** is our AGM at St Barnabas School Hart Street, Jericho. Meeting starts at 7pm but members of the Committee will be present from 6.0pm for you to pay your subscription.

**Sunday March 25 is subscription day at the shed** Most members now pay by cheque by post but we still take subscriptions at the shed between 11am and 1pm. All subscriptions must be paid by the end of March. After that there is a late charge of £5.

**Working Party Work and donations** is the way most members contribute directly to the site. This applies to all members rather than plots. The vast majority of our members do this and quite a few do a lion's share. Subsequently we have been able to reclaim the site and manage it. Without these contributions we would have increase subscriptions.

**If you missed it here is Alison's letter Oxford Times December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Celebrating opening our South Field Sir** – In the last week the first of 30 new allotment holders were able to start work on their plots at Cripley Meadow Allotments.

New members of our association, and those members who have been patiently waiting for a full-size plot, will now be able to enjoy the benefits of growing their food — something that's good for both them and the planet. These 30 new plots have been restored with the help of an Awards for All grant and by the hard work of volunteer members, who over the last few years have already brought back into use 120 plots at Cripley Meadow. They are all on land that has been allotments since it was created for that purpose in the 1890s. Some became overgrown 25 years ago when gardening was less popular. Many people walking along the Thames towpath between Osney and Binsey have stopped to look at these restored allotments taking

shape, talked to our members, and appreciated that there will be productive allotments rather than buildings and we hope that some of them will want to join us.

Our association has also created, with the help of many volunteer hours and funding from the National Lottery, the Cripley Island Orchard where more than 80 fruit and nut trees, many of them rare local varieties that you will never find in shops, have been planted.

Allotment sites have a huge variety of wildlife living on them and make a major contribution to the local environment as well as to the health, well-being and happiness of their members. Cripley Meadow, like many other sites across the city and county, welcomes visitors to our open days. So come and see what volunteers like us have been able to achieve and perhaps you might be inspired to pick up a fork and grow your own food in the fresh air of an allotment.

**Alison Campbell, Treasurer, Cripley Meadow Allotment Association, Oxford**

**20 of these 30 plots (varying sizes) have been allocated and we have still not worked through all on our waiting list!**

**There has been lots of activity on site already using the wood chip which arrived in late December on and plot 56 and has now all gone. 84 and 109 still have available rough compost and leaf mould.**

If you have not already ordered your seeds check our web site for codes to give you discounts or maybe organise with your neighbours to share plants and seeds. This is a good time to have an activity that pays for itself. Our member's notice board will help with finding partners or members can put out any spare plants.

Good growing to all Wendy