

## Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Newsletter

# Feb 2012

[www.cripley Meadow.org.uk](http://www.cripley Meadow.org.uk)

**The Cycle track on Roger Dudman Way was closed on Mon 23 Jan 2012. Notices and Maps were posted en route by OU**

**Next working Party is Sunday Feb 12**

10.30 to 12.30. We are looking forward to seeing more members this Sunday for the working party. We shall be moving tarps, weeding tumps, pruning on the island, moving compost and generally being good eggs! Soon things will be warming up and every day it stays light for another 2+ minutes! **This year to date members have contributed about 400 working party hours.** Many thanks to all.



**We have registered again to contribute to OXCLEAN from 10 til 12 on Saturday Mar 3**

Here is the crew from last year. We meet by the gate at 10.

**Changed AGM This is now on Monday March 26<sup>th</sup>** at St Barnabas School Hart Street, Jericho. Meeting starts at 7pm but members of the Committee will be present **from 6.00 pm** for you to pay your subscription.

There will be nibbles/drinks from then so that you can chat to us and other members. Andy will be there again selling fruit and we shall bid Sheila and John farewell as committee members. Your invoice contains details of how to pay by cheque or online.

This year we have renewed and revised our **rules and constitution** to comply with our lease and the law as well as put together all the agreed practice previously notified in newsletters and reported to AGMs. This takes account of 6 years of reclamation and responds to members who were finding it difficult to find information. Now more in one place. We presently have **275 members!**

**From Alison, our treasurer**

We will be sending out subscription invoices during this month, either hand-delivered or by Royal Mail and we need your present address. If you have moved email your new one to the treasurer: [alison@oxford-canal.demon.co.uk](mailto:alison@oxford-canal.demon.co.uk). Our gardening year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April **so if you are not planning to work your plot this year** please tell us now and remove anything on the plot by the AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> March. The plot will then be available for a new member after 1<sup>st</sup> April or before if you let us know that. It was agreed at the AGM in 2010 that late payers would be charged an additional £5. Late payment will be any time after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.

**Sunday March 18** Most members now pay by cheque by post or online but we

have a **Subscription Day** at the Shed from 11am to 1pm. If anyone has difficulty paying their subscription please be in touch with Alison or Wendy.

**Birds...** on a very cold February morning we spotted linnets, redwings, thrushes, goldfinches, red kite and a cormorant.

**....and bees and other insects**

Many Cripley Meadow members grow lots of flowers to support insects, aid germination and pest management. Now we have finally got most of the bramble, nettle and thistle rootstock under control we can afford to mow some areas of the grass less? As we will lose the meadow that had occupied the Castle Mill site temporarily maybe now is time to look at planting up a wild flower strip here by the east fence and on the Green? Come to the AGM and let us know if you think this is a good idea. Other plans for the future include more work on the paths and eventually a shredder for managing more green waste without burning.

Just when we thought we'd got away with it winter has arrived! If you are an optimist you will be grateful as it helps to keep the pests down. The following link will take you to the web site and some **things to do in Jan /Feb** once this weather has warmed up a bit.

<http://www.cripley Meadow.org.uk/Thegardenersyear/Things%20to%20do%20in%20January%20and%20%20February.pdf>

Good gardening to all.