

Cripley Meadow May Newsletter 2012

www.cripley Meadow.org.uk

Dates for this year are attached with committee responsibilities and contacts.

Please contact relevant committee members if you have queries or requests. We all take queries to our monthly committee meeting so it is never long before you get a response.

A personal note Many thanks for all the kind enquiries about Rodney. After his heart attack on the towpath on April 15th he is recovering well. He has been back on site, as yet mainly as an observer and sleeper. His many years of rheumatoid arthritis have taken their toll but continued healthy eating and living will hopefully keep us both going strong. So much good will is really appreciated.

Next Working party is Sunday May 12

We have a really grotty job of re greasing the fence so you will need old clothes and an old paintbrush if you are up for this. Other jobs include tarp moving, bonfires. Island work includes working tumps, weeding, replacing wire guards and general housekeeping.

Driving on site If you must bring your car on site Please DRIVE SLOWLY. 5-10 miles per hour is the only safe speed when there are so many concealed entrances and children. The site must not be used for joy riding for children and driving practice. This is not safe for people, plots or the site. We have had to issue warnings about this recently. The committee consider that it is so dangerous it comes under our rule 5.5 for immediate removal of membership if repeated.

Weeds No weeds must go in the skip, nor other stuff which can be composted on site like cardboard. Do read the notice. Non seeding annuals are fine on the compost heap. Perennial or seeding annuals can be managed by Drying and burning, drowning (keep a covered weed dustbin full of water) or put in a plastic bag and leave sealed until rotted. Both of the last two are very smelly but and the rot can be composted.

The Weather What can we say! We will always be flood plain but we keep doing our best to grow on top of the water. We bring on as much green/compostable material for members as we can and there is still rough compost and leaf mould available on 84, 109 and 57. When we are not deluged members can take water from Castle Mill Stream and Fiddlers Stream and the member's access points are between plots 6 and 7, between plot 9 plots 30 and 31, and the paths by SF1 and SF13 as long as fiddlers drain recedes. Please do not use other member's plot paths.

Architecture Sans Frontiers

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/9690495.Allotment_holders_to_star_at_flower_show/

Good write up here. Shame about the photo. I thought they were coming to photo the food! Do contact Andy on 07710626718 Or ASF-UK [a.edwards@asf-uk.org] asap if you can help with plants. He has ex-mushroom baskets you can plant up. Perhaps afterwards they can go the June Fair?

May 11th Entry deadline for City

Allotment Competition. Entry form and details are on the board and web site. Please

let Wendy know if you enter directly. The first judging a little earlier than usual on May 28/29 due to bank holiday changes. There is a new polytunnel section this year. The major point of the competition is to celebrate allotments and growing local food. We are entering for the site competition again this year.

June 10th is our first audit for 2011 Our priority this year is invasive weeds like ground elder and horsetail. Please make sure plots are open as required. Our new constitution and rules were adopted at the AGM so now would be a good time to check them. Audit reminders will be on the web site and notice board. Plots are inspected regularly and audits take place twice a year in June and September. The main purpose is to keep all our members growing fruit and vegetables successfully. Membership is conditional on keeping our rules and they are sent a reminder letter if a problem is identified. These are prompts or queries to see if there is a temporary problem. We have helped many members overcome problems. However if the problem persists members risk losing their plot.

Jericho Street Fair June 4 Cripley Meadow

Stall It has been a rotten start to the season? This year we are going to need everything available so don't forget our plant stall whilst splitting up garden perennials, potting cuttings or pricking out seedlings. Leftover seeds and onion sets can always find homes. Please bring your offerings between 11 and 1pm and you can buy from 12. This is our 7th year at this important community event.

Good Gardening ..Wendy
Cripley Meadow Allotment Committee