

Cripley Meadow May Newsletter 2013

www.cripley Meadow.org.uk

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

Please remember all the committee are elected volunteers working for the benefit of the allotment site and its members. We do our best to keep the site thriving and take queries and requests and problems to our monthly committee meeting so it should never be long before you get a response.



Next Working party is Sunday May 12

We still have lots of jobs so do come along and help if you can. It is a good way to meet and work with other members. Jobs include tarp/plastic moving, bonfire, island work (including weeding tumps and moving brushwood, checking wire guards and mulch mats) ,building a pallet bin to collect brassica stalks and other material for the shredder trial at the next working party in July. See below. Please make sure you wear suitable protective clothing and take care to work with others so that you do not hurt anyone.

More photos from the last working party are as usual on the web site. It makes an impressive record of all

our hard work in reclaiming Cripple Meadow

Shredder Trial

Hopefully this weekend the working party will make a bin for collecting shredder material so that we can trail a hired machine. The bin will be behind the Green Association shed, next to the wood pile. Material can include brassica stalks and other woody plant material. No weeds or rubble here please. Based on the trial we will then consider buying a shredder and organising regular working party training and use. This should reduce the need for bonfires.

Weeds Please remember no weeds or rubble must go in the skip.

The allotment fairies are still having to pull out weeds but we cannot get to the rubble when it is between everything else. Please check the notice. **Plastic, glass and metal are the only allowed material** otherwise we will be charged and you risk us not being able to keep ordering them. **Many thanks** as we have not had food waste in there this year as members are using a take on/take off policy. Sadly the foxes and badgers pull any food waste it out of the skip. It can go in the car park bins which are emptied daily.

Weed management Weeds are valuable bulk for getting out of the water so aim to manage them on your plot wherever possible. 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 most easily just keep

in a plastic bag and leave sealed until rotted. This works with dandelion heads too! Drowning is the smelliest method so please consider your neighbours when you tip it. Best to bury the material in a trench mixed with other compost or it will stink for days.

City Allotment competition

Due to the late start to the season the first judging will now take place on **Monday and Tuesday 15 and 16 July and the final date for entries is extended to Monday 3 June.** **Entry form and details are attached** and will be on the board and web site. Please let Wendy know if you enter directly. The major point of the competition is to celebrate allotments and growing local food. Our members have proved very good gardeners over the years with a host of high awards and certificates recognising their gardening skill and the fantastic variety of food grown on Cripple Meadow. Last year Jake and Ria won the Standingford Shield for under 35s with Plot 116. We have some great new younger gardeners again this year working hard at



transforming plots so hopefully they will enter as will everyone who fancies having their plot recognised. Entry is free and we organise the judges to come round. You just have to garden as usual. Richard and Jean came 4th in the Challenge Trophy overall and hopefully will try again now the water has receded. We are entering the site competition again.

Similarly our **first audit** will be delayed to July as everyone is busy trying to catch up now the warmer weather has finally arrived.

Jericho Street Fair June 8



This will be our 8th **Cripley Meadow Stall** at this important community event. It has been a rotten start to the season so again 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 to the stall between 11 and 1pm and you can buy from 12. It is usually a good way of sharing plants and seedlings at minimal cost and in all money raised is used on developing the site in an environmentally friendly way.

Path maintenance

We managed to get hoggins onto more paths in April but there is still work to do after another £2,000 worth of work this year, making about 5,000 so far. **Please help by never driving on site in wet or frosty weather.**



After sulking in March through the Arctic conditions our forced pink rhubarb suddenly took off under the cover and we had two clumps like this. We made 12 pots of Rhubarb and pink grapefruit/orange jam to make a change from the usual rhubarb and ginger.

The committee has co-opted Sarah Edwards to explore deliveries and trading. Sarah is new to the site and will be looking at whether we can take this idea forward, particularly with regard to bulky items that need transport so that we can reduce our food miles and carbon footprint even further. Meanwhile I have attached attached **their trading information sheets** promised but not delivered last month. Sorry, the brain is willing but riddled with holes! Trap Trading and Osney and St Thomas Shops are both available to our members. Good Gardening to all
Wendy