

## **Cripley Meadow Allotment September 2013 Newsletter**

### **Next Working party is**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 to 12.30**

As usual meet at the shed. Please make sure you wear suitable clothing and footwear for strenuous work. Jobs to do include clearing a shed, plots, island boundaries and making a new path by Fiddlers Drain. Do come and join us to learn more about the site and meet and work alongside other members.

### **Lunch on the Green Sunday**

**September 15 From 12.30**

**The association organises the BBQ and supplies**



**some barbeque food and drinks (wine, beer and juice**

**etc.). Do bring along food and drink to share and family and friends to celebrate your allotment year.**

### **Headlands and fruit**

Please remember that blackberries and other fruit on plots and **headlands belongs to the member ...whether fenced or not.** Members were reported picking **punnets** of fruit (not just one or two to taste!) from other's headlands. Also a badger cam on site last month 'caught' a pair of small legs next to a plum tree. The plum tree was then found to have no plums! Please make sure you know where your children are and that they are supervised and do not trespass on others plots

**The flats** are almost completed and residents move in during September. Recently there was a spate of incidents on the building site resulting in some minor damage. They have now have increased security on site, both overnight and during the weekend. They hope this will help minimise any future damage to the fabric and fittings of the buildings without inconveniencing local residents.

We already have some applications for plots from residents. The cycle track should be open again in early October but we will let you know when there is a set date.

### **Water report From Emily Green OCC Environmental Sustainability Officer "**

'We (OCC) are currently working on finalising a legal agreement with the University to secure

the long-term monitoring of groundwater (from 3 wells on their site and 4 from your allotment site) for 18 months. We have agreed remedial target levels for the water quality. A contingency plan will kick in if levels go above these. None of the samples to date have been over these target levels and it still appears that there is no significant risk to allotment holders."

### **Rainwater butts and planting**

The committee are working with OU to install water butts for rainwater harvesting and fruit tree planting on land next to the fence. Our crack willow on the Castle Mill stream boundary is due for pollarding but we are working with OU to possibly replace some of these trees with other trees. These will require less management (and so be a benefit to the allotments) **and** continue to grow up (so help with softening the effect of the buildings on Port Meadow.)

### **Tom Wilson Horse manure/Compost**

Sarah Edwards has been working for a while on the developing Cripley Trading and as a start the committee plans to make a large bulk order of bags of organic horse manure/compost this month. We should be able to offer this to members at a very competitive price. As soon as we have confirmed the order, we will let you know the times when you can buy it at the allotments and the price per bag.

### **Fruit.**

Despite the very slow start this year things have caught up. It seems to be a good year for fruit. We have a bumper crop of apples and grapes if they ripen. The returns from a blackcurrant bush or a run of raspberries can be very worthwhile. Many allotment sites do not allow fruit trees. We do as long as members get permission, use dwarf stock or step overs and keep to limited height and number.

If you find yourself with a bumper crop of apples or pears do think of juicing them? Like most home-made things, it will also be free of additives.

### **...and a site press/crusher**

We intend to purchase a fruit crusher which will then be available at WPs for members to use for their own fruit. We have no running water so members will need to bring clean water for washing.

Remember you can share extra crops by putting them by the member's board.

Good gardening  
Wendy