

Cripley Meadow Allotments Newsletter October 2014

October working party

Is Sunday 12 October 10.30 to 12.30. We still have plots that need a lot of work clearing and the island tumps and boundaries need their autumn prep for the winter months.

Cripley Meadow trading



Bumper season

What a wonderful September and growing year. The sun following a wet August

meant many members have reported fantastic crops. A lot of members now grow borlotti /cannellini beans for drying for the winter. Hopefully this year's crops will inspire you to give it a go if you have not done it before. Some find climbing beans a little difficult to get going and you may need to sow twice but these are my saved seeds and I had enough. They need a good, humous rich soil to retain moisture (remember I do not water my plot other than if sowing when there has been no rain) but then they require no attention other than picking, shelling and drying. Do the prep so that beans are coming up after then end of frosts otherwise you will need to protect them. The climbing frame needs to be strong.

Site Wheelbarrows Jeremy has upcycled a number of wheel barrows for communal use. They have CMAA painted on the side and after use must be returned to to either association shed area

immediately after use. They cannot be kept on plots overnight.

2nd Audit is on Sunday October 26th

Plots must be open. Audit reminders are on the web site and noticeboard. Please make sure you have taken action on any previous reminders so that we can all continue to work together in accordance with our agreed rules and advice. Everyone has a 1st audit letter but the second is generally a follow up or new observation. Do remember to let us know if you are having problems. We have not had time to help individualas much wit the level of maintenance and clearance this year but we hope to look at this in our membership fee proposals for next year.e the capacity to

Fruit

Our orchards are developing but the island one has been slow to establish given 2 years of drought followed by being under water for over 80 days over a second winter We have not lost any trees and clearly they are hardy but there are not enough apple crops to share as yet. Please remember picking from communal areas is only allowed on specified picking and sharing days except for the apple trees on The Green where we hope members will help themselves to one as they pass rather than take the whole harvest

OCC and ODFAA Allotment Competition Celebration of Awards and Certificates takes place in the Town Hall in the Town Hall on Thursday October 30th at 7pm. The judges will be there and John Alcock, a judge for many years will present the prizes and certificates. Cripley Meadow entered the site competition and 6 members entered the individual classes. All will be invited to the wards evening. Please let me know if you do not get your invite.

West Oxford's next Bring and Take is on Saturday 10.30 to 12.30. See posters for information.



Bring & Take poster
Oct 2014.pdf



Poster seeking
surplus produce.pdf

ODFAA's GARDENERS Question time
Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations
A Gardeners' Question Time

For all allotment holders in Oxford

Tuesday 25th November

7.30pm to 9pm

Oxford Town Hall

Steve Brookes

BBC gardening presenter and author of
"The Greatest Gardening Tips in the World"
is our guest speaker

There will be a talk followed by Q&A session and
books will be available. Come along and
Meet other city allotment holders

Admission FREE



Lunch on the Green was our quietest ever. We



had about 20 people which is not really enough people to welcome new members and share stuff. Cripley Meadow was lively that day as we had

another celebration on site on the same day. Richard's grandson was welcomed with a family party. At the next AGM bring along your ideas for

a better time/different event to share with your allotment neighbours.

Follow the link for October in our [Gardeners Year](#). Also do look up ODFAA's web site which has lots of photos of plots on other allotments.

It has been so warm the weeds are still growing apace. Please do not let seeding weeds blow all over. Dandelions and thistles are a pain for all and if you let them seed you might as well just go and scatter seeds all over your neighbours plots.

Garlic It's time to think about ordering and planting your garlic.

Thanks for reading and good growing Wendy