

## Cripley Meadow Allotments November Newsletter 2014

**Next working party is Sunday November 9th 10.30 to 12.30. Meet at the shed as usual. We have lots of plot clearance jobs so wheelbarrows and rakes will be useful. Please wear strong clothing and footwear suitable for heavy work.**

**The committee have a holiday in December. The next committee meeting after November 6<sup>th</sup> is January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Amended dates for 2015 are on the web site.**

### Cripley Meadow Trading

Trading

The 'shop' will open as usual this month, but **closed during December**. This is when the committee has a holiday.



At the moment the 'shop' has a wide range of second hand tools and equipment - some of which are in these photos. This follows a clear-out of the association's main shed where we store tools left by members. Thanks to Jeremy for cleaning up the tools. We sell them for under

£5 and the price of other equipment varies. Our opening hours and the price list for other goods are on our website 'trading' page and the site noticeboard. We have plenty of bags of composted horse manure and black polythene to use as ground cover. We've sold out of canes, but still have a small quantity of Enviromesh. We'll reorder both before spring. Unfortunately the permeable ground cover fabric that we ordered initially proved ineffective. We've had a refund from the supplier and Sarah has offered refunds to members who bought some. December opening

### Metal clearance

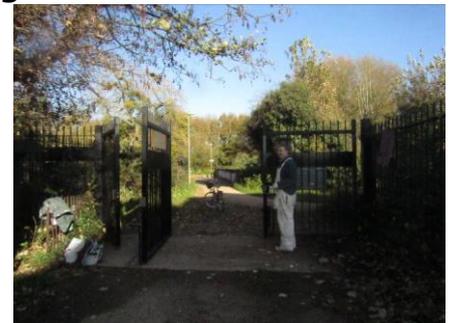


The metal pile has been cleared and the skip is planned to go on Friday so please do not leave any more metal by the green. Many thanks to Alex on Plot 142 who put us in touch with the donor of the skip. Jeremy is to be congratulated for getting it onto the site. It is now full and will be leaving the site soon. Metal will then go back to being in the skip. Please try to take as much stuff home for recycling as possible.

### Gate painting

The gates were painted on Monday Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Stuart, the painter, opened and closed them for anyone who wanted to come in while he was working and he put up a wet paint sign. It dried well. Sorry we did not have enough notice to warn members.



This is part of the work donated by OU to members in recognition of the inconvenience and disruption involved in building Castle Mill. The work was ongoing while the builders were here but a lot was left unfinished. OU has picked this

up. They re-hung the gates early in the year and remedied the main posts which were leaning. They have been badger proofing in a series of works over 2 years around the gates. They re-did the grease proofing some time ago but have only just been able to fit in the gates. Also included in this work was the orchard and the extended water butt provision.

This is on top of work agreed with OCC during discussions (as agreed and minuted at AGMs) before and after planning permission was granted by OCC.

### Castle Mill ES

This work is referred to in part of the Castle Mill Environmental Statement which was published on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. There were notices on the gates about this which had to be moved to the notice board during painting. It is available online at <http://public.oxford.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=NE98CHMF0TQ00>. The committee are working their way through the extensive documentation and will be meeting with Pearson Associates again. **We will send members a copy of the committee comments asap after that.** Everyone is invited to comment until December 19<sup>th</sup>. **The development and the protest have both effected Cripsey Meadow and all the options for mitigation will affect us again.** There is a short executive summary but if you have time, Appendix 7.2 is a critical one. To paraphrase the two most important mitigation options for us that they tested:  
Option 2 - planting in the badger run. A 'low retaining wall' - 1.2m in height - to be built on the outer edge of the badger run to create a 'planter' the full length of the fence, with a 1.5m fence on top of it. Trees to be planted. This would lift up the badger run to nearly the height of the rest of the development. Trees would be 8-9m high, so not as high as the buildings. Clearly it entails removing the existing badger fencing and replacing it with this wall/fence combination. This option is recommended by the EIA.

Option 3 - a 'fabricated green screen' between the buildings and the allotments. Essentially a massive trellis with climbers. This is not recommended in any of the potential solutions by the EIA.

They also tested various options to do with changing all the materials on the facades (which they recommend) and changing the rooflines,

removing a building and removing floors (which they don't).

The previous plans for substituting willows for other trees on our boundary with Castle Mill stream (as shown at the AGM) are no longer applicable.ber 19<sup>th</sup>. MEETING to answer queries?

We did the **second audit** of the year on October 27 so letters will be out soon. We were amazed at how much produce was still being picked. We do not send a letter to all for this second one as we do for the first audit. Please make sure you keep adjacent fences and paths maintained in accordance with our rules as this is an area of growing concern in the spread of invasive plants and weeds. [Click here to remind yourself of our agreed rules about plot boundaries and cultivation](#)

### Fiddler's stream

We are working on trying to get some clearance of this stream. Between EA, Parks and OCC it is a long winded business! Unfortunately there are now access tracks (animal/Human) across the stream in at least two places so it compromises our security.

Cripsey Meadow is a member of the **Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations**. O&DFAA is the main way allotment sites across the city work together. There is an open **web site** where committee members and plot holders can catch up with allotment information. Go to

[www.ODFAA.com](http://www.ODFAA.com)

### A [GQT] Gardeners' Question Time.

*For the second year running we are holding an evening meeting in the Town Hall on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm for any allotment holders in Oxford to come along and ask a question about a horticultural issue that they would like to be given some advice about. It is also a chance for allottees to meet others from other sites, and share ideas.*

*We have a visiting speaker this year, Steve Brookes who is well known by two of the city*

allotment sites. His talk will focus on many of the items featured in his book - that will be on sale - it could make a useful Christmas gift for some. We hope of our members will be able to join us.

### 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**

### City Allotment Competition

The competition award evening was held in the Town Hall on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Photos of all the presentations and plots will soon be on the ODFAA web site. As usual all entrants were invited and every association is invited to see a slide show of all the participating members and sites. Many appreciate being able to share their experiences and knowledge and the participants go back to their associations rewarded pass on good practice

We had talks from one of our judge Mike Kent and our invited presenter **John Alcock**. **John shared some snippets from times past when allotment rules were very different. For eg all tenants could only work plots after their day's work** Mike Kent focussed on companion planting and flowers as a means of encouraging biodiversity and healthy vegetables and encouraged everyone to be brave about trying out new things.

**Eden Drive Allotment Association** won the highly coveted Alderman Knight Shield for the best site and David Porte of John Garne Way won the Challenge Shield.

**Congratulations to Rob and Louise Bruce from Plot sf19 and 20 as they won the 20Cripsey Meadow** won the trophy for the 35 to 59

class. Rob and Louise's plots were underw ater form



October to March but still managed to make excellent progress with cultivation and crops. Stefan and Tom on Plot 3 were awarded a certificate for

outstanding effort in the newcomers class. ...

### Look out for events for the Good Food Pumpkin festival

[www.goodfoodoxford.org/oxford-pumpkin-festival](http://www.goodfoodoxford.org/oxford-pumpkin-festival)

Are you 50+

### Opportunity to Volunteer for a research project.

Ealish Swift is an undergraduate medical student at Oxford, and is currently looking to recruit participants of age 50 and above for a research project at the Department of Experimental Psychology in Oxford (the text advert for recruitment is included below, and there is a flyer and poster attached. Members over 50 and preferably located in Oxford, would be ideal for the study.

#### Stimulating the brain during cognitive training

We are recruiting participants (aged 50-80 in good health) for a study that assesses that effect of mild, painless transcranial current stimulation on cognitive abilities during a fun and engaging cognitive training programme. This study will take up to 5 hours over 3 days within a week. All participants will receive £50. For further information, please email [brainfhsproject@gmail.com](mailto:brainfhsproject@gmail.com) or phone 07546366555 (Charlie).



study advert.docx



Flyer-v2.docx

### What to do now

Well September and October were warm and lots of things started or continued to grow including weeds! . November has cooled so do earth up and cover vegetables you are leaving in the ground like celeriac and carrots.

Do check the web site for what to do over the next few months, weather permitting! [The Gardeners Year November December](#) and remember to oil any tools you will not be using for a while.

- Here are some other tips If you've got potatoes/apples in store, it's well worth checking and removing any going rotten before it spreads
- Start collecting leaves for leafmould

Good Gardening