

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Newsletter March 2014

www.cripleymeadow.org.uk

Saturday Mar 8th is OXCLEAN

OxClean is an Oxford Civic Society initiative.

Oxford City Council supply sacks and bins – and

collect the filled litter sacks and boxes.

We clear the car park, willow walk and that side of Port Meadow and our boundaries. Please read attached advice re health and safety



Trading Sarah writes It's too wet to allow a lorry on site this week for delivery of trading materials, so I propose postponing next Sunday's trading day (9th March) until **Sunday 23rd March, 10.30 - 12noon**. By then we will have some ground cover, insect mesh and canes and we still have plenty of bags of composted horse manure and some second hand tools for sale. Details and a price list will go up on the members' noticeboard and website in advance.

The Trading shed will also be open on **Saturday 29th March, 10.30 - 12noon**. Further trading dates will be advertised on the website and noticeboard. Please note that we may close in bad weather.



Sunday March 9th is

Working party 10.30 to 12.30

We have a long back log of jobs we have not been able to do over the past months so do come and help if you can. Bring wellies

Subscription Day at The Shed from 11am to 12 noon. You can still pay by cheque to Cripley Meadow Allotment Association c/o the Treasurer (address above) cheque or cash at 6.00 pm St Barnabas School before the AGM on Monday, 17th March or bank transfer, quoting a plot number and surname as the reference to: Barclays Bank, Sort Code 20-65-18 A/c No 90304328 A/c Name: Cripley Meadow Allotment Association. (Send confirming email please.)

If you have difficulty in paying your subscription please contact the treasurer (alison@oxford-canal.demon.co.uk) as we do not wish to lose any active member because of this. **A surcharge of £10** is made on any subscription **not received by 31st March**,

unless there has been agreement about late payment. **Failure to pay by 30th April** will result in the automatic termination of your membership. **Your payment renews your membership and gives you use of this plot until March 1st 2015 as long, of course, you keep to your membership agreement.**

Our AGM is Monday 17th March at 7pm in St Barnabas School, Hart Street, Jericho.

You should have received your invoice, invitation and agenda in the post in February and the annual report by email. The accounts and minutes of the last meeting will be available but generally we only print a few of the other papers so please bring your own. We aim as usual to have the AGM material on screen. Members of the committee will attend from 6pm to 7pm for you to pay your subscription and this is a good time to meet other members, share a glass of wine/ nibbles and talk to the committee. **Andy Howard of The Heritage Fruit Tree Company advised and supplied us with fruit trees for Cripley Orchard. He has been with us at AGMs since we developed the orchard selling fruit bushes and dwarf fruit trees. He will be there from 6 until 7. I have attached his catalogue.**



Andy Howard writes please email

[<johoward@metronet.co.uk>](mailto:johoward@metronet.co.uk) if you want to reserve a specific tree as I only have so many of each and they are selling out fast, so its first come first served at this time of the year- when they've gone they've gone! (Plus I can only fit so much into the van!) Most on the list are suitable for allotments as they are on the smallest rootstock i.e. Cherry Gisela 5 or Colt, Pears on Quince and Plums Gages , Damsons, on Pixy. Some of the apples are on M106 which is good for step-overs, cordons or espaliers. The Plums, Gages, Damsons or Peaches on SJA are also good for fans and I will also bring some dwarfing M27/M9 apples, and some non chemical products to stop fruit pests. They can also reserve other stuff from the sundries list as well i.e. stakes guards etc.....

Wendy will share news of OU work on site. New fruit planting by Castle Mill and possible other replacement planting on our Castel Mill boundary. Alex and Jeremy will help us share what to do with flooding Tony and Alison will update us on the shredder Sarah will report on the development of trading,

We hope to see you on the 17th. A good turnout is not only essential for the fair management of the site but reassuring for the committee and always more enjoyable.

REMINDER about cars

Please only bring cars on site when necessary and keep to the 5mph limit. While the land is so wet, please be

sure not to let any vehicles off the main hard core paths. Some of the site paths are still too soft to drive on due to the floods. After the water subsides the land will still be saturated and extremely soft. Vehicles not only damage the grass paths but can easily get completely stuck! You'll see under "trading" that we postponed the delivery lorry this week because of the conditions. We'll definitely take delivery of the new trading materials later in the month - if necessary by barrowing goods in from the car park."



Do you want to be on BBC2

The Big Allotment Challenge

Silver River TV are looking for people to take part 'A new series planned to follow a handful of talented amateur kitchen gardeners as they transform a plot of earth into a patch of beauty and reveal all the wonderful possibilities that can be unlocked from allotment growing..

We are looking for contestants to feature in the series, those who have the skill and

dedication and who could dig their way to victory and be crowned the winner of The Big Allotment Challenge. People who can cultivate the perfect carrot, make their green tomatoes into award winning chutney and turn their dahlias and sweet peas into floral arrangements fit for a Queen.

So whether you're an allotmenteer, a city living window box grower, or a gardening enthusiast, we want to hear from you. To apply; all you need to do is email grow@silverriver.tv for an application form. '