

Cripley Meadow Newsletter July 2014

Next Working party

Sun 14 July 10.30 am-12.30.

Digging out old fences. We will need lots of pairs of hands.

As requested at the AGM we have a Weds evening working party next month as well as the usual Sunday 10th there will be another on August 13th.

July 17th 10am to 12.30am

Oxford University Endowment Office have asked if they can do their annual voluntary workout on our site this year. We have agreed a programme for 17 people on site. We shall be attempting to clear the path behind plots SF1 to SF13 by Fiddlers Drain on the South Field. Do come and join us if you can. Bring loppers and wheelbarrows. We could not establish this path earlier and it is very overgrown. If possible we aim to mow it regularly so there is a break before Fiddlers Bow. (This is what we call the strip of land between us and Fiddlers Stream). If you have a plot on this side of the south field please make sure you clear anything that has crept behind the markers.

Jericho Street Fair



Many thanks to Alex, Annalisa, Tony Claire, Rodney and Wendy who managed the stall. We raised about £225. Again we had a great variety of plants with vegetable seedlings, flowers, shrubs and

fruit trees.

Many thanks to Sheila, Claire, Gabi, Wendy Rodney Alison, Tony Annalisa, Alex, Jeremy, Wendy Ball, Jane Wilson, Doke, Hedi, Nicole, Judy, Louise and Rob, Emma and Amy who donated plants. I hope I did not miss anyone out! Again Chloe took our remainders for the Phil and Jim fete the following week. The money raised will go to the association's work in communal planting.



This year's first AUDIT was on July 8th from 9 until 1pm. This was later than usual to take account of the slow start to the season.

As reported in the last newsletter **paths between plots, adjacent fences and headlands are priorities this year. We are still trying to limit the spread of perennial weed.** If you are keeping your fence please make sure it is kept clear of perennial weeds. There should be no invasive plants on adjacent fences and any planting on these boundaries should be equivalent to path height only. We are also looking at storage on plots... please do not store rubbish or **glass...** if you bring stuff on it must be used. We know that some historical examples remain but we are constantly working on this. As plots are vacated we always aim to return them to within the present rules or specify this in the new plot offer. The site only began to emerge from being mostly overgrown in 2004 and we now try to ensure all plot holders can work together to grow food and flowers. As with the climate this is always in a state of change. Our constitution requires that we manage the site sustainably so that it is there for our children's children. **Please look out**

for your email. All

members get one.. and respond to Alex if there is a query or problem. We are happy to come and talk it through with you.

We still have a few spaces

available. Enquiries and new plot holders are steadily coming in. Some plots will be covered to try to remove problems before passing on.

Clearing plots

Unfortunately **all** our working party time has been spent on clearing plots left full of rubbish and/weeds! **This is taking all our site time and lots of resources** leaving little or no time to support members or improve the site. We will raise the issue of plots left in terrible condition at the next AGM as this affects our finances dramatically...it is also a bit depressing to clear plots for a second and third time!

If you need temporary help on your plot to solve a plot problem or to tide you over a busy patch or just to water and cut the grass while you are on holiday, our Field Secretary, **Richard Haigh on plot 15** is available. He charges £10 per hour and is very experienced. He now cuts the grass on a number of plots regularly so if you want to hire him the contact is now **richard@aloveraexpress.com** He will work out a price based on materials/time taken.

Lots of Good news

Sara Jones plot 71 has been co-opted to the committee. She is working with Alison Campbell on finance and membership and she helps Sarah in the trading shop. After 10 years on the committee Alison is intending to retire from the committee at the next AGM.

More Wood chip on Plot 57.

We have again found a more

plentiful supply of this which is by The Green. There is also some wood which you are welcome to take.



Our bee box is filling up and flowers are overflowing.

It seems to be a good year for growth if plants survived the flood.

In June we had our first new potatoes... and this year (finally!) we have some



strawberries again. However as usual win some lose some... my garlic had terrible rust!



New well digging
After all that winter water many members are again realising we also need to vigilantly

harvest from all roofs and lean to's as much as possible for dry summer weather where wells can run dry.



Here is a new well in the



making. Well digging is hard work and can be dangerous so please take care and ensure all wells are safely raised and securely covered. Wells must not be dug on paths. We have a map of wells on the site so please let us know if you want to dig a new one.

Do attach guttering and water butts to any sheds you have and harvest water.

Please note

With the set of 3 large water butts the side ones will only fill if the middle one is left to fill!

New Shed



This shed has already attracted interest from members and after a lot of delays, (including a broken leg and flood 1 after which it needed to be taken down and raised and then another flood it is almost complete. Just the door to be done. Well done Simon. I think this is the first shed with integrated guttering. Well done Simon ...and Jill who has kept up with the gardening whilst Simon builds.

Not so good news
The skip has again been subjected to unacceptable imported waste.

Oh dear. Just after a thanks you to all for the better use of the skipsAgain we have an imported shower cubicle and the bonfire had two lengths of plasticised kitchen surface which is fill of glue and a box of ceramic tiles. If members are seen dumping like this they risk losing



being a member. Please do not abuse the site and waste facility. We will have to cease to have skips if they used for



dumping. Please keep an eye and report any dumping.

On the other hand here is a really lovely use of our past!
Congratulations Karen.



If you have gained a number plate say thanks to Jeremy who is starting to produce ones we can use across the site. They are small but easier to find as all in the same place.

For more info on crops and jobs go to the web site

<http://www.cripleymeadow.org.uk/Thegardenersyear/Things%20to%20do%20in%20july.pdf>

Good gardening...Wendy