

## Thurs November 5th

Join us for

### Bonfire on the Green

We will have the BBQs stoked up on Plot 62 next to the Green and a bonfire to keep us warm **from about 6pm**. Please join us and bring along some (hot) food, food to cook on the BBQ and share along with something to drink and plate/cup/eat with. We have no provision for a 'firework night' but if you want to bring some to safely light on 'your Green' that will be your Responsibility.

**Next working party is Sunday November 8th 10.30 to 12.30. Meet at the shed as usual.** We have work to do on the Orchards and some plot clearance jobs so wheelbarrows, rakes will be useful. Please wear strong clothing and footwear suitable for heavy work.

**The committee try to have a holiday in December so any requests that are not in for the next committee meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> will not be dealt with until after January 13<sup>th</sup>. Dates until March 2016 are on the web site.**

### Apple Harvesting October Working party



**This year we finally had some harvest from the orchards and members shared the pickings.**

**Remaining apples in a wheel barrow was put by the green shed. Next year we will put these in the usual sharing place under the members' notice board.**

**Rodney Smith has done a lot of work on the orchard including summer pruning of Castle Mill and mapping this orchard.**



You can see a copy of this on the web site. Eventually we hope to have a notice board here to tell you more about the apples. Rodney is working on labelling for this and completing the apple map of Cripley Island orchard. He will also be helping Jeremy manage the orchards by managing a regular working party commitment. The large tump areas are being eroded so Richard had part seeded them but they need weeding and some of the stakes and wire need maintenance. Due to this commitment of work **Rodney has been co-opted to the committee as assistant orchard manager** to Jeremy. Jeremy attends our committee meetings and Rodney will write regular orchard reports for committee meetings.

### Castle Mill ES addendum

The committee posted their submission on our web site on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Our major concern remains the impact this and other buildings on the embankment have had on badgers. Five members sent comments on the impact of the buildings.

### Badger fencing ... we are awaiting for news re funding

### Weed/Waste disposal and management

We have made some changes to this over the years and some members have told us they are now a bit confused about where to put stuff. Apologies. We try to keep notices updated but have decided it is time we put together a separate paper on this and circulated it to all members as an update.

## **Audit**

We did the **second audit** of the year on October 18<sup>th</sup> and are processing results. We do not send a letter to all for this second one as we do for the first audit. We remain concerned about the increasing spread of invasive weeds along fence boundaries so please keep managed. [Click here to remind yourself of our agreed rules about plot boundaries and cultivation](#)

## **Fiddler's stream**

Is blocked again so the clearance earlier in the year had little lasting effect. It really does need a proper dredging! It is blocked around the orchard by falling willows from Fiddlers Island and this just slows up all movement! Parks have been informed.

Cripley Meadow is a member of the **Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations**. You all pay your ODFAA membership of 40p. O&DFAA is the main way allotment sites across the city work together and 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)

## **ODFAA talk**

**2015 is the United Nations Year of Soils**

**You are invited to  
An O&DFAA TALK**

**Understanding Your Soil:  
Formation, function & fertility**

**Chris Bird, M. Hort (RHS)**

**Lecturer in Horticulture**

**Sparsholt College, Hampshire**

**On Tuesday 24 November 7.00pm**

**Old Library at Oxford Town Hall**

**Refreshments from 6.30**

**Free All welcome**

## **City Allotment Competition**

The competition award evening was held in the Town Hall on October 29. 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 All our plot entrants were well placed and reflect the many plots on Cripley

Meadow which are great at growing food and flowers and fruit.

**Lenthall Road Allotment Association** won the highly coveted Alderman Knight Shield for the best site. Cripley Meadow came second and Spragglesea Mead Third.

Thanks to all our members as this includes looking at the standard of cultivation and management across the site. Headlands are always a bit of a challenge for us due to having fences.

Our evening at the Town Hall was packed. Colin Cook, the Deputy Lord Mayor, presented the prizes and recognised our lively allotment community. In these days of local government cuts he commented on our remaining working together. He asked associations to talk to their local councillors about how they could help.



**Richard and Jean Haigh plot 15 and 16 won the over 70s class for best allotment.**



**Killian and Emilie came 2nd in the Under 35s.**

We were delighted to see a lot of younger members at the allotment evening, All the ODFAA award holders in this class were students and we were pleased to see representations from many countries. It is good to see allotments in yet another generation of safe hands.



**Miranda Carnegie and Anna Benn and Bel Crewe had worked hard this year on**

rejuvenating plots 144/145. This was their first time entering the competition after just this year of a major transformation. To be awarded a Challenge Trophy Highly commended certificate was a great achievement. This is another plot to add to the many on Cripsey Meadow producing more great food and with some interesting

planting combinations. I always recommend new members walk around Cripsey to see a plethora of different allotment management methods. There are not many where there is just waving grass and seeding weeds. A full list winners and photos will be on the ODFAA web site shortly.

Our second in the site prize brought us £100. We propose to spend this on work to complete the raised beds on plots 64 and 65. These are on plots that are reasonable level with our main paths and the raised beds will be available, if needed, for members with some mobility limitations. We had some of the raised bed grant money left so Jeremy is doing some work on them already so this will add to the time he can spend. **Do contact Jeremy [jeremy.hyde@myphone.coop](mailto:jeremy.hyde@myphone.coop) if you have projects where you want paid work/help.**

#### **What to do now**

- Nearly November so I am covering my carrots, beetroots, celariac and getting them earthed up. I find this works better than lifting and storing. Witloof Chicory has also been dug up to dry and will be planted indoors in a warm and dark place and forced as chicons.
- Do oil tools you will not be using.
- If you've got potatoes/onions/apples in store, it's worth checking them regularly.
- Collect fallen leaves to make leaf mould

Do check the web site for more of what to do over the next few months, weather permitting!  
[The Gardeners Year November December](#)

Good Gardening

Wendy