

## **Cripley Meadow Allotment Association AGM 2016 –**

### **St Barnabas School, 7 – 9pm.**

- 1. Introduction by the Chair.** Wendy began with a farewell to Tony who has had a plot at Cripley Meadow for 40+ years and is retiring today.  
Tony has been a committee member since 2007, became a Trustee in 2009 and was Vice Chair from 2012-2014. During his time on the committee he looked after the gates and fences and advised on the safety of sheds and wells on site. He supervised the shredder and attended numerous working parties. From 2007 he played a major role in the reclamation of Cripley Meadow, helped clear Cripley Island and establish the orchard there, and contributed to the clearing of the South Field and the installation of the fence to deter badgers. Although Tony is retiring he wishes to retain his key as he would like to contribute to working party activities. This proposal was unanimously agreed by the members present and he is now an honorary member of the Association. In appreciation of his contribution to CMAA Wendy presented him with a book of photographs documenting his varied activities on Cripley Meadow over the years.
- 2. Members present and apologies for absence.** Present: Jamie Forbes 63 Keith Holton 131,132 Jeremy Hyde 91,92A Annalisa Cecchi 59A Emma Delap 1A, Claire Pike 48B, EmilieClauzier 97 Rodney Smith & Wendy Skinner Smith 40,41 Sara Jones 71 Andrew Lindridge 141 Mark Huber SF 18 Bill & Sue Johnston 127B Alex Hollingsworth 81, 82 Cezar Campuzano & Viri Lizardo 68D Sarah Edwards 120 Henry Bagnall 138, 139 Ignatio Schiappacasse 3A Richard Sims 102 Tim Bone 99 John Nguyen 50B Juliane Borchert 147D James Campbell 88B Virgil Clarke 111 Dot & Godfrey Stone 46 Christine Long 7A, 8A Wendy Ball 159A Jane Eagen & Andrew Honey 5B David Bastard 47J Jo Zhao 47I Sedhar Ball 94, 95 Alison & Godfrey Campbell 13 Kiri Summers 99,100 Richard Haigh 15,16 Sheryn Simpson 133 Joely Kellard & Susanna Pressell 147C Carl Hodgetts & Emma O'Connor 7B Daniela Petrovic & Dragan Matijevic 83B, 84B Sarah Sheldon 9B George Burnett-Stuart 33 Reneth Schoete (48) Apologies Sheila Allen 12 David Feeny 76.
- 3. Minutes of the AGM of March 2015 and Matters Arising.** The minutes were accepted as correct. No matters arising.
- 4. Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report.** Copies of the accounts, which had been inspected by Ken Jones as independent auditor, had been circulated previously and copies were available at the meeting. Sara explained that the favourable picture reflected the delay in pollarding the willows last year, the shop income being greater than anticipated, two successful grant applications and a £100 allotment prize. There were no queries regarding the accounts for 2015 which were accepted as correct. The Budget reflects this years increased subscriptions but Sara noted the increased costs of site maintenance, and the anticipated cost of pollarding round the island. The Association will make a further grant application to the Federation this year. The budget was accepted and Sara thanked for her work.
- 5. Annual Report 2015.** This had been previously emailed to members and some copies were available at the meeting. There was a question about the frequency of shredder activity. Wendy explained it had been used at 4 working parties and on 4 other occasions but that regular use at working parties was not always possible for safety reasons. The importance of all plots being clearly numbered was again highlighted. The report was accepted.

6. **Welcome from Susanna Pressel.** The committee and officers stood down. Susanna thanked the committee and Wendy in particular, for their hard work during the year. She proposed Wendy as Chair. There was no other nomination and Wendy was elected unopposed, unanimously. Subsequently the following officers were also elected unopposed and unanimously, - Alex Hollingsworth as Vice Chair, Sara Jones as Treasurer and Claire Pike as Secretary. Other committee members were unanimously retained – Jeremy Hyde, Richard Haigh, Jamie Forbes, Annalisa Cecchi, Sarah Edwards, Keith Holton, and Emma Delap. Two members – Anna Benn and Emilie Clauzier were elected to the committee unanimously.
7. **AGM items. Item 1. Badger proofing fence progress.** Wendy noted that preparatory work for fence installation has started. The agreement with the University to fund the work was signed in February; OU is paying for the installation of a badger proof fence from the South Field, along the Castle Mill stream, to the main gate. The fence will be reasonably discreet and 1.3m high. Nigel Fisher from Wytham Wood has been very helpful in providing advice for the project. The OU Parks team is currently clearing the area round the back of the plots and moving sheds has started. Wendy noted the co-operation of plot holders affected by this work. Weather permitting the fencing will start on 31/3 and is likely to take 2-3 weeks. Jeremy is being paid to take a major role in organising the work.  
Questions were asked: it was confirmed that the gates through the fence will be locked and the intention is that the island ones will be opened by code, which will be available to members. It was acknowledged the fence will not act as a deterrent to muntjac deer and foxes, and rabbits are likely to be able to get through it.  
**Item 2. Castle Mill update.** Wendy attended the West Area Planning Committee meeting in February when Option 1 in the Environmental Assessment was accepted in mitigation. At the meeting the buildings were signed off. The CMAA committee opposes the proposed tree planting in the badger run and thinks the original suggestion for native tree planting, in place of some willows, along the Castle Mill stream would be more effective in screening the buildings from the Meadow. Wendy and Emilie will attend the meeting called by Lord Krebs on March 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss further the screening of the flats.  
**Item 3. EA proposed flood channel.** Wendy was concerned that the Oxon Flood Alleviation scheme did not fully take into account the needs of various local allotment sites, many of which are sited on flood plains. Following a meeting between the ODFAA committee group and the Environmental Agency she felt the needs of allotments were better appreciated by the EA. The comments from this meeting were submitted to the formal consultation on behalf of ODFAA members (c.2,500) .She will circulate this in the next Newsletter.
8. **Any Other Business.** No items

Andy Howard from the Heritage Fruit Tree Company then gave an excellent talk on Pruning Fruit trees. Two main conclusions were:

Get good sharp tools for the job.

Summer pruning to produce fruiting buds is more appropriate on Cripsey Meadow where vigour is not necessarily needed; greater growth is produced by winter pruning.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.