

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association January Newsletter

Dates

Apologies but please make the following **corrections** to the dates in your diary.

- **Monday 12 January** is our Next Committee Meeting.
- **Sunday *1 February 10.30 to 12.30** is an opportunity to fit in your **members contribution of 2 hours working party work before you are charged for this year on your next invoice**. We know some members cannot do Sundays and/or prefer to pay the £10
- **Monday 16 February** is our last committee meeting when invoices and AGM material will be raised and sent out. Most members now have email which is easier and ...and greener and pay by post with SAEs
- ****Sunday Mar 1 10.30 to 12.30** is the First opportunity to do your **members contribution of 3* hours for 2009/**
- ****Saturday Mar 7 10-12** join us for our **OXCLEAN contribution**. We will be doing the car park area but we are also going to extend the area to the allotment site. If you have rubbish you want the council to take away come and pick up sacks, sort and fill them and it will all be whisked away on the day. **This will only apply to these times. If you can help Contact John Sivell on sivelljohn@googlemail.com**
- Tuesday Mar 10** is our AGM at St Barnabas School Hart Street, Jericho. Meeting starts at 7pm but members of the Committee will be present from 6.30pm for you to pay your subscription
- Sunday March 15** Most members now pay by cheque by post but we still have a Subscription Day at The Shed. Please make sure you pay your subscription by April 11 or your plot could be relet.

Subscriptions

We have now had figures and agreed the Subscription Increase of 25%
E.g. A 10 pole plot is £20 now and will be £25. We will not be changing communal bed prices by this amount. As we will be raising invoices at our meeting on February 16 if anyone knows they will have difficulty in meeting the increase in subscriptions please let us know now.

To help you with winter digging your plot ...

I have ... finally....managed to get some green waste/compost from Parks and it was delivered on Wednesday 8 January. It was their big tractor and trailer which can only unload onto **Plot 109**. This is at the far end of the site. I did try to get this material delivered onto Green Waste Plot 84 or 91, which are more central, but the driver would not attempt the manoeuvre and drop from the path even with the hard frost. He got stuck on Trap Grounds that week so he was wary. This is green waste from Parks and although the composting has started it is not complete and it has weed seeds, is a bit woody and has easily identifiable long thick bindweed roots.

If you pull these out as you collect the material **please put them on the top of the Dry Weed Pile** on the back of Plot 126 opposite. Please shake out the soil so

we have a dry weed pile which we will periodically burn. This pile is intended for communal plots that do not have room to leave weeds to dry out and burn. **Please do not put wet weeds and soil clumps** here. It is not the fairies that do the burning and we leave a mowing strip around so that we do not impose on neighbouring plotsso keep to the pile.

Phil Shefford, Head Gardener at St John's is also due to deliver leaf mould to St John's Plot 157 , which is central, sometime around the beginning of February. This plot replaced the leaf mould site that was on plots 76 and 77 for many years.

I am still chasing a delivery from MandM of reclaimed soil from a green waste site. I hope to get this onto either Plot 10 or 84 but it is proving extremely difficult for us to coordinate soil availability, transport and suitable ground conditions.

There is a map on the Noticeboard if you are unsure of what number is where.

Please make sure you are using your plot

It is proving difficult to keep up with demand so if you have a plot please make sure you use it in accordance with the rules or you could lose it! Potential new members quite rightly query how uncultivated plots can be in use we explain that reclaimed plots must be showing progress. This must be significant as many sites are now operating a $\frac{3}{4}$ cultivated rule at Invoice day in order to qualify for renewed membership. Given that allotments are now much in demand we must be seen to be managing the limited availability fairly.

Happy New Gardening Year to our 190 named members.

Wendy

Chair Cripsey Meadow

www.cripseymeadow.org.uk

Chair Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations