

Cripley Meadow Newsletter

July 2011

Diary Dates: Working parties

Sun 10 July 10.30 am-12.30

We will be clearing plots 17,19 and 93

Jericho Street Fair Saturday 11 June

Alison, Alex, John, Tony, Richard and Claire managed the stall and we raised £276.50 which is £40 more than last year - so a very good result despite an imperfect pitch on the end of street. Izzy and Martha Hollingsworth were a great help - putting out the plants on to the stall. This assistance was much appreciated because our pitch was at the very end of the street, outside the now closed Bookbinders. Wendy and John supplied most of the plants with other committee members contributing and thanks were sent to James, Gaby and David and Sedhar for plants and Aja who helped on the stall. We were repeatedly asked if we had any squash and we could not supply all the demand so we will try remember that for next year. Sedhar's plants in flower proved an attraction.

Cripley Island Orchard and Open Day

As usual we had leaflets on our Cripley Island Orchard project which has now been signed off as a successful National Lottery Local Food project. This will be open for visitors during National Allotment Week, when we have our annual **Open Day which is Sunday 14 August 2011**

11:00 – 15:00. Do put this in your diary now!

It would be great to see as many ploholders and open plots as possible. This is a great opportunity for all members to discuss gardening with visitors, invite friends and family and visit one another's plots.

If you haven't already done so please send in your responses to the Preferred Option consultation on the development of the Castle Mill site (Ref Site 46)

www.oxford.gov.uk/sitesandhousing before July 22nd. There is a model letter and info on our web site under a new heading Planning.

Web site has been updated with newsletter and photos

Lottery Application

We are putting in another Lottery application for funds to open up our disused area which is now clear but needs some structure to bring it into line with the rest of the site. There is room here for about 20 x10pole plots. Many thanks to Alison and Tony who have written the bid. Tony will be project manager for this development if we are successful.

Audit and Bamboo

We have had many positive comments back from the audit so thanks for that. We included a note in audit letters to the handful of members who had planted bamboo. As the AGM called for bamboo to be banned the committee are working with members to implement this.

Please note too the increase in ground elder and horsetail on the site particularly in boundaries, fruit areas and paths where they are not regularly weeded or cut. These weeds can have terrible consequences for plots and sites so we ask that members are aware and set to work to remove them immediately. They are difficult to dig out as they have a resilient root structure but constant mowing/weeding will eventually work to limit them. We are having to reclaim 2 plots as after neglect they have bramble boundaries, ground elder and bindweed and another has horsetail.

City Allotment Competition

First Judging was Monday 6 June. We entered the site and we have 4 individual entrants. The judges were impressed at the increasing number of productive plots. Sadly it was a day when our skip was overflowing and food rubbish was all about!

Recycling

Please remember: **NO FOOD WASTE IN THE SKIP. ANIMALS PULL IT OUT. TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU PLEASE.** We are not replacing the skip immediately due to misuse but nothing should be dumped by the shed. Waste must be stored in bags on your plot when there is not a skip. When there is a skip it should not be used for weeds, soil or wood which must be composted/dried and burnt. No Asbestos or electrical stuff is allowed.

Lunch on the Green....with music.

The community brass band 'Horns a Plenty' have been booked again for Lunch on the Green on 25th September. Two prizes for the best new numbers at audit will be presented to Plot 91 and Plot 43/44a.

Communal plots get clippers!

Our communal plots have been a great success. They can be the most productive on the site! Their paths and headlands have to be managed co-operatively, which can be a problem so we have put a pair of shears into each communal shed for internal paths and headlands where our mowing contract cannot access. Communal plot members can use Association machinery to cut all of a communal plot BUT ONLY at a working party time if the machinery is not being used and if trained and dressed appropriately. ..

I hope you are enjoying abundant fresh produce now... see you at the working party.....wendy