

Cripley Meadow
Allotment Association
12 January 2011
Newsletter 1

We have had to change the AGM date to **March 22nd** This effects some other dates so these are included here.

I also made an error in my reminder sheet! I did not amend an old one properly. So much for saving time!

It should have said 'the 3 hours working party commitment' that we expect of all members as part of their membership. Therefore, the donation, if you cannot do this, is £15. This has always been clearly identified on the invoice as a donation

I have had an email from a member asking me to remind you this is a donation. I am sorry if anyone else is in doubt about how we organise the maintenance and community work on the site. All membership details include this expectation and our past newsletters and annual reports are all on the web site if you want to see how we use the time and money. All the latter is spent on the site. We could never have managed the regeneration and maintenance of the site nor the development of the orchard without our member's contributions.

As I am sure you all know for the past 5 years the main priority has been reclaiming Cripley Meadow. Here are plots



site they were just bramble.

19 to 21 in Feb 2005. Like most of the



This is plots 93 to 91 in Feb 2005 when first cleared. The trees behind were on plots. Plot 91 is now Jeremy's prize plot. Behind

The first plots (83 to 85) were cleared on December 1st 2005.



and it is due to this ongoing work and audits that we now have 268 members where we had 70 many of whom were largely absent! This is no longer so. In the last year we have been working on reclaiming the last



section of the site. This was a huge job after 30 years of neglect and abuse. It still needs rubbish picking, mowing off and marking out and we need to move the present fence so it is included in the site as it used to be. Alison and Tony are busy working on a new a new lottery bid so that we can move the fence. We have to complete the Island lottery reporting first and of course nothing is certain!

Also members have contributed c.500 hours to establishing the

communal

orchard.



More photos of this are on the web site where the project is well documented.



Working party time was also spent on clearing plots and supporting members and on maintaining the main site.



Last year we mended one of the main paths that had



collapsed and put in the large water butt by the shed for new



members with no collected water/wells.

Our successful lottery bid for the island was based on the inclusion of member's voluntary contributions. The committee have always seen this community commitment as a vital part of the successful regeneration of Cripsey Meadow.



The expectation has worked very well, (without making it compulsory) and all but a small



handful rises to the occasion and contributes. **We all**



benefit from a site that is now a joy to work on. Thank you for all your help. There was no intention to mislead.

Sunday 9th January The photos are of some of the 17 strong January working party where we managed to get all the apples planted on the island. John gave us a lesson on how to plant in a slightly cold tump. It was a beautiful

sunny morning and a great activity for the new year.

Monday 17 January Next Committee Meeting.

Sunday 13 February 10.30 to 12.30 is the last opportunity to fit in your members contribution of 3 hours working party work before we raise invoices and it is there as a donation. Here are working parties..



in 2007 clearing plots 69 and 70



...in 2008 clearing plots 75 to 78

Many now beautifully worked plots owe their start to the working parties that went before.

Monday 14 February The committee raise invoices and AGM material is sent out. Most members now have email which we use as it is easier and ...and greener.

Saturday Mar 5 10.30 to 12.30



Here is some of the 2010 Oxclean group so do join us for our OXCLEAN contribution. We will be doing the car park area, cycle path, Port Meadow

Footpath by Castle Mill Stream and our site boundaries. If you do the Oxclean community work you can then use the sacks to remove any appropriate material on your plot. This will only apply 'til 1pm.



Sunday Mar 13

10.30 to 12.30 is the first opportunity to do

your members contribution of 3 hours for 2011.

Tuesday Mar 22 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 (please do it by post or online if you can ...but not if that stops you coming to the meeting!)

We would like to encourage all members to come to the AGM to show your support.

Sadly AGMs can be seen as only necessary for members who want to complain. We do want members to come and share their views but this year we also want it to be more representative of the membership as a whole and so drinks and nibbles will be available before the meeting. Do come from 6.30 to chat other members. The meeting will start promptly at 7 and we aim to be done by 8.30.

Sunday March 27 ..we still take subscriptions at the shed between 11am and 1pm

wendy