



July 2007 Flooding

COMMISERATIONS to all who have seen their vegetables and fruit drowned. I know many of you will have a lot to clear up. The Environment Agency advice is that anything that has come in contact with flood water should not be consumed as there is a risk that the water was contaminated.

Most of you will already have realised what a smelly thing a rotten potato is!

This is the first time in my memory (30 odd years) that the site has been flooded in summer so there is little experience of what to do. It is very depressing but everyone has been very positive in realising that as we are **flood plain** the land will be used to manage holding back water. However I have renewed my efforts to raise the issue of river/water course management courses properly managed as clearly this affects drainage.

I know it is hard not to be depressed but everyone I have met has been very stoical and commented that it is better for this land to flood rather than peoples houses. If you have **any damage** that needs drying out let a committee member know and we will try help. Also it would be worth collating the damage so please let me have an estimate of losses so we can use it to press for action on managing the water courses and banks better. Send to **webmaster@cripleymeadow.org.uk** or pass the written info to a committee member.

We had a **working Party on Sunday** and cleared the front green and fence to show we are still in business and hope you can weather the storm. Unfortunately the mower could not get on as planned last week and the earliest he can come is Saturday August 11 so please keep paths clear or be prepared to move cars as needed. WE will not close the car park and cross fingers we can get in and out. If he does not do something soon it will be too long to cut.

The Oxford City Competition is going ahead and Mike assures me they will find some way of balancing out marking between flooded and unflooded sites.

It is terribly disheartening particularly given we have more members/let plots than at any time in our records. I hope all of you will not be too discouraged even though almost everyone suffered to some extent. The railway and far end plots were obviously less affected than those directly alongside ditches and streams.

We have **cancelled the proposed Open Day** but hope to see you all for **LUNCH ON the Green 12.30 onwards September 2nd**

We were going to have a vegetable basket competition but that now seems untimely so we will just have the lunch. **Bring along food and drink that can be shared** and we can drown our sorrows and plan for next year.

By the way if your ground is out of water **you could still sow**

Chinese greens, cauliflower, lettuces, spring onions, beets and carrots for baby veg. and other quick catch crops. Autumn onion sets may bring onions closer as many have lost theirs either to mildew or flooding and new potatoes planted with protection will give you spuds for Christmas.

Best wishes

Wendy Skinner Smith

Chair of Cripsey Meadow Allotment Association