

## Cripley Meadow Allotments November Newsletter 2017

**Next working party is Sunday November 12th 10.30 to 12.30. Meet at the shed as usual.** Please wear strong clothing and footwear suitable for heavy work.

The committee have a holiday in December so any requests that were not already in for our next committee meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> will probably not be dealt with until after January 4<sup>th</sup>. Dates until March 2018 are on the web site. The provisional date for the AGM is on March 12<sup>th</sup>. We will let you know for certain as soon as we book St Barnabas School Hall.

### Some Photos from our harvest BBQ



We had about 45 people, great allotment food and lovely sunshine. Our new event shelters proved easy to erect and

much more spacious than the previous pergolas. More photos are on the web site.



### Some photos from October Working party

Members moved a pile of concrete blocks from a badly



managed plot. We now just have to fill in the ditches he dug and we are still working on the rampant nettle!



The final apple harvest was put by the association shed for members who were not at the working party to help themselves.



**The final stage of 2017 willow tree work** is booked for the week beginning November 13<sup>th</sup>. If you have any queries

contact Wendy. Please do not disturb or try to negotiate with the ranger team individually. We also should have some pollarding on Cripley Island over the winter. Wood chip from these activities will produce some wood chip. We have also just rearranged terms with Sylva trees so we should again get their regular wood chip when they are working in the area.

### Compost

Over the winter we will move the compost on Arcadian plots 109 and 84. The eventual rough compost is available to members

to use when ready but **not for members to add waste too.**

**Also members must STOP ADDING PLOT WASTE to Plot 66.** This is the plot near the communal raised beds with a small orchard. We cannot cope with the number of members who are now using it as the sole composting for their plot! It was intended for the odd brassica stalk! **It is closed to members.** You should be managing your own plot waste in your own compost bin.

Cripley Meadow is a member of the **Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations.** You all pay your ODFAA membership of 40p. O&DFAA is the main way allotment sites across the city work together. There is an open **web site** where committee members and plot holders can catch up with allotment information. Go to [www.ODFAA.com](http://www.ODFAA.com)

There is a free November talk on Companion Planting organised by ODFAA. The poster is attached. Please print and out in your window as it is open to all and we want as many people (and beneficial insects) to benefit from companion planting as possible!

Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations

You are invited to an  
O&DFAA TALK

Companion  
Planting

by  
Chris Bird, M. Hort (RHS)  
Lecturer in Horticulture  
Sparsholt College, Hampshire

On Thursday 30 November at 7.00pm  
West Oxford Community Centre Hall

There is limited parking at the centre  
There is a good bus service and nearby stops  
from the city centre.

Free All welcome

## Trading shop

Unfortunately our useful green trolley broke some while ago. A metal strut has sheered. Do any members have the skills and equipment to do welding? Please contact Sarah sarahjehome@aol.com if you might be able to help. It would be great if we could get it fixed.

The shop will open as usual during November, then closed until late winter. Members will still be able to contact Sarah to make an appointment to buy something.

We have few second hand tools at the moment, but lots of containers that could be used as water butts. All the price list items are available, including plenty of bags of well composted manure.

## Castle Mill

### **We are still working with OU on the final details of the changes to the badger run.**

We have met the contractors, Beard, and we should get more details about work before it starts. The start date is now more likely to be late December/January. We will as always keep you informed.

**We are due cold snap** so I have just finished **earthing up my carrots, beetroots, and celeriac** and adding 2 sheets of environmesh.



I did once dig up and store in peat as recommended but I did like the changed taste. This method has previously got me

through even cold winters. The only problem was once the rats found the carrots and tunnelled under!

Do **oil tools** you will not be using.

If you are storing produce like potatoes/onions/apples in store in a frost free place **do check stores regularly.**

Collect fallen leaves to **make leaf mould**

**Harvest water**...If you have a shed and it does not have gutters and water butts.. do something about this this winter! It takes us a lot of time to fill up the storage butts so it will never be done often. Many of you are missing out on much more readily available water.

Do check the web site for more of what to do over the next few months, weather permitting! [The Gardeners Year November December](#)

There is only the Nov, Jan, and Feb working parties left for you to get in your 3 hours for this working year. That is one and a half working parties! We usually send invoices out mid February and if you have not done your WP commitment this will be reflected in the invoice. Remember working party commitment is per key holding member, not per plot.

Good Gardening.  
Wendy