

Cripley Meadow Allotments Newsletter October 2010

Allotment competition

All the committee and members who entered the competition are invited to the allotment evening in the Town Hall on Thursday November 4 at 7pm. Do note this is a change of date. The judges will be there and the Lord Mayor is presenting the prizes and certificates.

Next working party is.

Sunday 10 October 10.30 to 12.30

We meet at the shed as usual. Please bring spades, forks, rakes and wheelbarrows... and loppers if you have them. We have 60 new trees to plant so shall be tumping and clearing some metal into the skip.



**Some September workers
Stripping the willow**

Chilli..i Lunch on the Green

It was a slow start due to chilly north east wind and as the band arrived they outnumbered us! However we grew nicely in numbers and ended up with a good crowd. We missed the sunshine that has always accompanied this event but we staved off the rain and Jeremy moved his mobile fire grate so had a lovely (non smoky) fire. It was the year of the chilli to warm up a tomato soup starter along with courgette/chilli soup, yellow tomato flan, spicy apple cake, spicy samosas, local cheeses, delicious crackers with rocket as well as sausages, veggie and beef burgers. Delicious pears and apples from what has been a bumper fruit years abounded and we were all well fed and warmed up. Thanks to Jamie for supplying the BBQ, Cathy for doing the shopping, Sheila, Aja, Wendy and John for erecting the pergolas and bunting and Karl for doing the BBQ. There was great music from 'Horns of Plenty which helped warm us all up more.



We gave them a small donation and hope they will join us again next year to help eat up our lovely grub.

The September Audit

Took place on September 19th and yet again the audit committee were very impressed as the site looked wonderful. There are very few ongoing problems and we continue to go to great lengths to be as fair as possible to all. There is a much greater level of vegetable, fruit and flower growth than ever before. No access, persistent perennial weeds, insufficient cultivation and or regular attention, inappropriate growth and rubbish are remaining problems on just a handful of plots.

Leek Moth and /or Alliums' Leaf Mining Fly.

This was an unusual growing season with a hot and dry June and July and a wetter August and September. However many members report good crops, particularly of fruit. However we do have to report the arrival of Leek Moth and /or Alliums' Leaf Mining Fly. This has been a growing problem on other city sites and it has now arrived here. Sadly it is likely this has already damaged your whole crop! Dig up and bag or burn when dry. We have posted an info sheet on the web site and the only good news is that environ mesh may be a possible way forward!

Reclamation

We plan eventually to move the fence to include our reclaimed area but we need first to raise some money for this. We have installed a temporary electric fence. These have been shown to have shown some success in managing to limit the animal population?



Future events

We have had a request to provide a communal bonfire on Fri November 5thweather permitting. Jeremy is happy to organise and build a non smoky fire on the green. If we do this please do not add to it so he can manage it. I think the South Parks do is on the Saturday? We could possibly provide a BBQ so let us know if you are interested. Otherwise it will be a select few.

Cripley Meadow Allotment Committee