

Cripley Meadow May Newsletter 2012

www.cripleymeadow.org.uk

Early May's dreadful persistent rain brought a **little flooding** to some Fiddler's Stream plots but it was short lived..



The sun has been glorious and finally things have started to grow

The Gate

Many thanks to Tony for dealing with the gate lock replacement so promptly. This lock has been in continuous use since 2006 so has done well.

Jericho Street Fair MONDAY June 4

We hope you have not forgotten our **Cripley Meadow Stall** whilst you have been splitting garden perennials, potting cuttings and pricking out seedlings. Leftover seeds and onion sets are welcome too. **Please bring your offerings between 11 and 1pm and you can buy from 12.** This is our 7th



year at this important community event. The committee and members contribute plants and work the stall and the proceeds this year will go towards establishing new bee friendly planting..

Next Working party is Sunday 10th

June from 10.30 to 12.30. Meet at the shed. Jobs include: Island tump weeding and clearing; managing the rubble pit on the south field. The photo is Martha and the WP March pit digging team



Big Lottery Fund and The South Field

We had a letter from the Big Lottery Fund that congratulated us on completing our latest project...the reclamation of the South Field and told that our end of grant report met all the Fund's requirements and our Awards for All grant file is now closed. We were wished every success in our future work. Well done to everyone who contributed through working parties! This is developing very well. The main problems were digging out rubble and keeping



goose grass down. This hoes off very easily but it seeds very quickly. Here is a recuperated Rodney, in front of our new view of the South Field, building a pea frame from stripped willow

rods. We have lots on the island to cut so do see Jeremy if you want willow rods.

Audit is on June 10th Our priority this year is invasive stuff like ground elder and horsetail. There is an information sheet attached with information on their removal. Our new constitution and rules were adopted at the AGM so do check them. **Audit reminders are on the web site and notice board.** Plots are inspected regularly and audits take place twice a year in June and September. The purpose is to ensure that all our members can grow fruit and vegetables successfully in accordance with our rules and that we ensure the land is well used for its designated purpose. As you know membership is conditional on keeping our rules. Members are sent a reminder letter if a problem is identified. These are prompts or queries to see if there is a temporary problem. We have helped many members overcome problems. However if problem persists members do risk losing their plot.

Chelsea Flower Show



Many thanks to all who contributed, even if it was just with encouragement Wendy and Gabi visited the stall at the show. It was a good example of how one can recycle and re

use material to make growing spaces in urban environments. It reminded me how lucky we are to have a large designated allotment space like Cripsey Meadow.

It is amazing what can be grown in a very small space.

Their stand got a silver medal.

Well done Andy and his team.



We still have a few beds available for newcomers on our 7 **communal plots for newcomers or those that want a small space to grow.** Communal plots are more expensive than plots as they

take more membership work and they have shared facilities. From the beginning of May the communal internal paths are included in our communal grass cutting. Arcadian Living will now be cutting their paths on the green waste Plots as requested every two weeks.

Between plot paths All members should be working to keep and manage the **buffer path between plots.** This should be kept cut and weed free and must not be used as a compost area as this compromises the adjacent plot.



Badger defence work continues on the east fence but it is still not quite complete round the gate.

The Competition first judging was on Tuesday 29th. We entered the site as usual and had 3 individual entrants. Thanks to Hannah for showing the judges round. It was an unusual year as such a slow start. The Federation runs this competition so that members across the city can participate and we showcase sites and good practice to OCC. This is important in these days where designated public space

can be threatened. We need to show that allotment space is well used for its designated purpose when there are so many other claims on the use of land. We had again some excellent entrants. Including 2 plots from the South Field.

Great crested Grebes



Although they initially got washed away by the flooding we have two grebes nesting again at the fork of Castel Mill and Fiddlers Stream.

Max speed of 5mph on site

We have put up a 5mph speed notice as a stone from the path hurtled 30ft into a plot at the weekend and nearly hit a member. The car was going too fast.

Good gardening (and fresh eating) to all.
Wendy