

Cripley Meadow June Newsletter 2013

www.cripley Meadow.org.uk

The last weekend's sun has been glorious and finally things are growing. Please keep grass cut on plots and get on top of the weeds before they seed. The sun will mean everything will grow like mad to catch up.

Last year was the year of the slug but this year seems to be the year of the snail. To catch them you can put a board down on the ground raised about half an inch with a few stones. Turn it over in the day and they're all there in hiding. Ducks love them so I sling them in the river on my way home. If you must resort to pellets use the Growing Success ferric phosphate slug pellets which are wildlife and pet safe.

Jericho Street Fair Saturday June 8

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 8th 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 bee friendly planting.

The SKIP was replaced this week.....**and already there is a pile of weeds in there!!** Please **do not use for weeds. If misused we shall stop skips.**

Please Keep **gate locked at all times.** This week members have reported car owners leaving gates open while they visit plots.

Next Working party is Sunday 9th June from 10.30 to 12.30. Meet at the shed. Jobs include: Island tump weeding and clearing; managing the rubble pit; moving plastic and some mowing.

The rubble pit on 119 is now full so please keep rubble on your plot until we can extend

We still have some space available for newcomers. Communal plots are more expensive than plots as they take more committee work and we mow the internal paths as well as providing some shared facilities.

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. **The next audit is on Sunday July 7. Audit reminders are attached.**

We have entered the site for the City Allotment Competition. The first judging is not till mid-July this year due to the late start. The Federation runs this competition so that members across the city can participate and we celebrate sites, members and good practice to OCC. This is important in these days where designated public space can be threatened. See John Harris article in The Guardian this weekend <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifea>

[ndstyle/2013/may/31/turf-war-escalates-britains-allotments](http://www.cripley Meadow.org.uk/ndstyle/2013/may/31/turf-war-escalates-britains-allotments)

We all 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.

As agreed at the AGM we are working with Oxford University on mitigation planting.

Potato Tips

At last they are growing. If you did not get a good pile of compost or manure underneath give a nitrogen feed now. Generally the more foliage, the better the plant is able to produce tubers

Sweetcorn Tips

If you want to brave sowing and risk badger visits (they seem quiet at the moment?). We should be safe from frosts. My latest ever record of frost on Cripley was June 6. Sweetcorn really doesn't like it cool. Plant out under a cloche or the ever popular enviromesh.

Carrot Tips

If the early ones failed you still have plenty of time to sow more carrots. You can use an early variety like 'Early Nantes' or a maincrop one. Early varieties are full size in just 12 weeks unlike maincrops that take 16 weeks, although they grow bigger.

June drop

Thin apples to one every 4 to 6 inches if nature does not do it for you and pears to 2 per cluster

Correction to Trap Trading open times

Trap Sat 11-1, Sun 2-3

There is more gardening info on the web site

<http://www.cripley Meadow.org.uk/Thegardenersyear/Things%20to%20do%20in%20June.pdf>

Good gardening..Wendy