

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Newsletter Feb 2015

www.cripley Meadow.org.uk



The next WP is on Feb 11. We had a great turn out in January with 31 members working together. There is still lots to do so do join us if you can. We hope to



have the shredder in operation again and make progress with reorganising the shed area and clear another plot!



We have registered to contribute to OXCLEAN again. We will meet from 10.30 to 12.30 on Saturday Mar 7. This can be counted as a working party contribution. Here is the crew from last year. We meet by the gate.

ODFAA is hosting
**BBC Radio 4's
Gardeners' Question Time
Monday March 9th
Wolfson College
Oxford
Linton Road
OX26UD
Doors 5.30pm.
Recording starts 6.30pm.
Hosted by The Oxford and District
Federation of Allotment Associations
O&DFAA
Tickets are £4.50
Including refreshments
Available from Tim at
treachers@phonecoop.coop or on
01865 248577**

From Alison and Sara, our treasurers:

If you're not planning to renew your subscription to work your plot, please let us know so that the plot can be made available for a new member. Your invoice and invitation to the AGM should arrive in the next few days if it hasn't already. Only one invoice and invite is sent per plot, so do check with any other members on your plot. If your plot has not received an invoice in the first few weeks of February, please email Sara allotment@qtg.org including your plot number in the email.

Our new Gardening year starts on March 1st so please pay promptly. Do remember that there is a late payment surcharge of £10 which will be any applied after 31st March 2014. Most members now pay by cheque by post or online. There is a **Subscription Hour** at the Shed on **Saturday March 9** from 11am to 12pm. If anyone has difficulty paying their subscription please be in touch with Alison or Wendy.

Our 2015 AGM is on Monday March 16th at St Barnabas School Hart Street, Jericho. Meeting starts at 7pm. Members of the Committee will be present **from 6.00 pm** for you to pay your subscription and there will be nibbles/drinks/slides so that you can chat to us and other members. Do come along if you can. The main item this year is to agree our new subscription for 2016. If you want to raise an item it will now go into AOB as the agenda has been printed

and circulated. [The 2014 annual report is attached with a copy of the invitation to the AGM and agenda.](#)

Follow the link [things to do in Jan /Feb Outdoor Sowing and Planting](#)

If you are going to plant out or direct sow into the ground in early spring, try putting a cloche up or covering the ground with horticultural fleece a couple of weeks before hand. It will warm the ground up a couple of degrees.

Broad Beans and Shallots Once this cold weather has passed, you can start sowing your broad beans and put in Shallots. **Some people find them easier than onions and they** have the advantage of storing for longer. It is not unusual for them to keep 12 to 18 months.

Chitting Potatoes

If you are chitting your potatoes in a shed or garage, watch out for mice and very cold nights. If they get frosted at this stage your chances are pretty slim for a good crop. Covering with fleece or newspaper is usually enough for the frost but not the mice!



Pruning and Clearing

Don't forget January/February are the best months for pruning apples and pears and removing any self-seeded saplings that have grown on boundaries. Next month the sap will start moving and before you know it, they'll be in leaf. It is also the time to cut autumn fruiting raspberries down to the ground to stimulate the new canes and don't forget the blackcurrants.

Good news on Fiddler's stream Clearance.



Cripley Island was **very briefly underwater** in mid-January and a few puddles

appeared on site. The wells are quite high again but as yet there are no warnings of flooding. As usual now as soon as we have heavy rain Fiddler's Drain fills but the good news is OCC started work on removing fallen trees from Fiddler's Stream on Friday 30th. We are still awaiting news of the Probation service

stream clearing beginning. Hopefully this will be the only watering this spring.

Winter trading 2015

The shop was not open on a regular basis in January, but members are very welcome to make contact to arrange one-off sales Sarah sarahjehome@aol.com or 07960 352787 and Sara sara@qtq.org This could be weekday or weekend. Depending on weather and conditions, we will re-open in February/March. Please see notice board for updates and times.

Please remember to leave vehicles in the car park when it is wet or frosty as both conditions just churn them up. Our paths need constant work to maintain.

Two Small sheds on site for sale



We have two small pent sheds with paving slab standing on site which are available to members to buy. We suggest £75 each ono. They are 5 years old but in reasonable condition and have some insulation. Email if interested?

Good gardening Wendy