

Cripley Meadow May Newsletter 2015

www.cripley Meadow.org.uk



Next Working party is Sunday May 10 We will be working on building more raised

beds, plot clearing, shredding and organising around the shed so do come along and help if you can. It is a good way to meet other members. Please make sure you wear suitable protective clothing. **Thanks to Tony** for sorting out the delivery of the boards and soil. This has been bought with grant money to improve our inclusive access so please do not use.



PLEASE PLEASE NOTE Glass is not allowed on site. DO NOT BRING on window frames, shower cubicles, double glazing units etc. They are almost always broken, sadly before use, and once the glass is in the soil there is no getting it out! Please try to replace existing glass structures before they break with plastic or polycarbonate.

Links here to [2015 Dates](#)
[Committee contacts and responsibilities](#)

The committee are volunteers elected by the members to

manage the site in accordance with the lease, [constitution and rules](#). AS you have now renewed your annual membership based on these please remind yourself of them so we all help one another. The committee work hard to make the most of opportunities for the site and whilst we know we cannot please everybody all of the time, we do our best.

The SKIP is there for old carpet plastic, glass and metal from the site. No imports please and no rubble, soil, weeds, electrics, asbestos or rubber otherwise we can be charged even more and you risk us not being able to keep ordering them. **Please use a take on/take off policy** as much as possible and use the car park bins which are emptied daily for any foodstuff. **We WILL NOW BE REDUCING the number of SKIPS** And remember **do not place anything around the skip. When full please keep waste on your plot or take it to Redbridge.**

Weed management

Weeds are **valuable** bulk so aim to manage them on your plot. Remember the Green waste plots are **NOT FOR MEMBERS WEEDS**. Non seeding annuals are fine on the compost heap. Perennial or seeding annuals can be managed by drying and burning (if dry and wind in right direction), drowning (keep a covered weed dustbin full of water) or most easily just keep in a thick plastic bag and leave sealed until rotted. This is a great way to reuse the bags we sell compost in. This works with dandelion heads too! Drowning is the smelliest method so please

consider your neighbours when you tip it. Best to bury the material in a trench mixed with other compost or it will stink for days.

"Our shop is open Sundays 11 - 12noon, apart from Working Party days, when it is 12 - 1pm (so members can come along after the WP). At Easter we opened on Saturday, instead of Easter Sunday. But for the May bank holidays we will stick with Sundays. We may close in bad weather. Remember that if you cannot get to the shop at the normal time, you can contact Sarah by text or email for a one-off sale: sarahjehome@aol.com or 07960 352787.

Please look at the members noticeboard for updates" Thanks to the team now helping Sarah with the trading: Emma, Sara, Annalisa, and Niharika

Our two orchards are in blossom and whilst it is still early days we will let these stay this year.



There are 107 fruit trees in the Oxford University Orchard and 100 on Cripley Island so we hope this year we might have to organise our first cropping and sharing working parties. Please remember members cannot pick the fruit as individuals, (other than one as you go by) as this would be unfair. There are cooking and eating apples as well as pear, quince, plum, and

cherry. These are large trees which went in relatively late so we will may need help with watering when a week is dry. Please let us know if you can help with the watering schedule. When the time arises, as with our other orchard, we will organise fruit picking and sharing days.

The water butts have hit a problem as when the gutters were cleared they were tipped the wrong way. This should be resolved shortly. Watering cans and buckets should be used for collection so that we do not have more transport moving around. Absolutely No hose pipes please.



Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations
working with
Oxford City Council
2015 Allotment Competition

Details are available here or direct from Tim Treacher at treachers@phonecoop.coop or on 01865248577

- **Final date for entries: Friday 15 May**
- **First round of judging: Sat and Sun 13 & 14 June**
- **Second round of judging: Sat and Sun 5 & 6 September**

- **Presentation of prizes and awards in the Town Hall Thursday 29th October**
All entrants and partners are invited

- [click here for entry form](#)
[Judging criteria](#)

Please enter as the competition and share in the celebration of allotments and growing local food. Our members have proved very good gardeners over the years with a host of high awards and certificates recognising their gardening skill and the fantastic variety of food grown on Cripsey Meadow.

In 2014 Rob and Louise Bruce from Plot sf19 and 20



won the trophy for the 35 to 59 class. Rob and Louise's plots were underwater from October to March 2014 but still managed to make excellent progress with cultivation and crops. Stefan and Tom on Plot 3 were awarded a certificate for outstanding effort in the newcomers class. ... We are entering the site competition again. The prizes for this have been significantly increased so that associations can do something useful for their site.

Our Fiddlers stream Clearance time is now over and the welfare unit will be going off site soon. We are hanging onto the stream clearing equipment so if you want to clear near you let us know and we will loan it and

account this as WP work as it benefits us all. We could not get to the back of all plots and we will have to wait and see what impact this work had.

Jericho Street Fair is June 13 This will be our 10th **Stall** at this important community event.



We are going to need lots of plants so please think of Cripsey when you are splitting up garden perennials, potting cuttings or pricking out seedlings. Leftover seeds and onion sets can always find homes. Please bring your offerings to the stall between 11 and 1pm and you can buy from 12 until 4.30. It is usually a good way of sharing plants and seedlings at minimal cost and in all the money raised is used on developing the site in an environmentally friendly way.

[Don't forget you can follow this link to find what to sow, plant, harvest and do on our web site in The Gardeners Year page](#)

Good Gardening to all Wendy