

# Cripley Meadow June Newsletter 2019

[www.cripleymeadow.org.uk](http://www.cripleymeadow.org.uk)

Our next working party is Sun 9<sup>th</sup> June 10.30 to 12.30, meet at the green association shed. Do come along, we have lots of jobs and it's a good opportunity to meet others and get to know more of the site. Remember, [working party dates for the whole year are on the website](#).

The OCC/ODFAA Allotment Competition first judging visit will be in the week of June 17<sup>th</sup> for our 6 individual entries, plus the whole site, so we wish all well. Please do your best to make sure the site looks good, in particular, your headlands.

Jericho Street Fair Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June



Emma is managing our **Cripley Meadow stall** this year. All the stalls are taken so it should be a lively affair. We hope you have been busy collecting and potting up perennials, self-seeded plants, cuttings and pricked out seedlings; packets of seeds or leftover onion sets are welcome as are allotment produce (bunches of flowers, rhubarb...) plus jams, chutneys, cakes etc. made from allotment produce. **Please bring your offerings to our stall in Canal St between 11 and 12.30. You can buy from 12 to 3.30/4pm. Please do not bring after 1pm.** This is our 12<sup>th</sup> year! The proceeds all go to the

site; last year we took over £300. Members can also bring contributions Emma's plot 1A before 9am Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> by **arrangement only** ([emmadelap@outlook.com](mailto:emmadelap@outlook.com)). Transporting from site to plot is already a big task so only do this if needs must.

## Oxford Big Green Day Out Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 10am -5pm

Wendy must be elsewhere this year as Chair of Oxford & District Federation of Allotment Associations. ODFAA was founded on August 21st, 1919 so 2019 is its centenary and it was invited to have a stall at Oxford Big Green Day Out in Broad Street.



There will be information on Oxford allotments sites and ODFAA's history. A small book will be published shortly. This is an account of 100yrs of the Federation working with allotment associations and Oxford City Council. It is inevitably a tale of ups and downs - Oxford has (we think) the oldest Allotment Federation in the country and the best ratio of plots to population. All 35 Oxford Allotment sites are members of ODFAA.



As part of ODFAA's 100yrs, and of 30 yrs of Grenoble-Oxford twinning, Wendy and Bob Price planted an apple tree on Eder Stubbs Restore.

**Website overhaul** – we'll be transferring our website to a new platform and giving it an overhaul in the next few weeks; do forgive us if there are glitches.

## Benches

New recycled plastic benches for the Green arriving shortly - designed for easier access for all.

**Castle Mill update** from Beard's Paul Renton-Rose is circulated with this newsletter.

**Rain** At last we have had some and more is forecast... so do get set up for harvesting. Some members have suggested adding water harvesting and composting to our audits (for advice only) and having a working party day devoted to installing guttering. We hope to have more recycled waste bins as water butts but Sarah is doubtful- do note a water butt can be bought locally for just £20. **Should we stock guttering and water butts in the shop given this would produce less traffic? What do you think?**

**Seed Saving** - Booking has just opened for CMAA Member Dr Ada Grabowska-Zhang's [one-day course on seed saving for gardeners](#).



### John Sivell visits

Former CMAA member John suffers with Parkinson's disease and his mobility is now very restricted. His friend, Wendy Stone, managed the car journey for a short visit on Sunday 26th. Godfrey, Dot, Rodney and the two Wendys were on hand to manage the wheelchair over bumpy ground.

John visited Cripsey Island Orchard, which he helped establish. Here he is on a willow-whipping day.



We must do this again one day as it is great fun and surprisingly easy when done at the right time of year. He also visited 'his' grape vine on Godfrey and Dots plot which they took over from John. A final visit to Wendy and Rodney's plot and he was bushed. He sent us all his very best wishes.

### Water Harvesting

Thanks to Doke, Robin, Christine, Amanda and Barry for volunteering to fill butts by Plots 6 and 9 and to Rob and Louise to fill those on the South Field. Alison and Richard remain volunteers for the water butts by the association shed and by site path 17/18. We are still looking for someone NEARBY to manage the butts by the path between 30/31. You will be trained, and this will count as your working party commitment. Do reply to Manda, our secretary. Communal tank supplies are intended for dry periods. We are keen to conserve natural resources and we encourage everyone to increase their rainwater harvesting and storage. **Rainfall** is simple to collect but can be unreliable, so you need larger storage volumes necessary to cope with drought. It has few if any energy costs as it usually relies on gravity. Look at this info about how much you could collect. [ODFAA information on rainfall harvesting.](#) **Groundwater or river harvesting are** more reliable sources (for now) but start-up and maintenance costs are much greater and require energy to pump water for storage.

Rodney has completed the VERY lengthy set up to drip-feed stream water to a set of water butts, funded by a grant from



ODFAA. The trial was on the water butts with the longest distance from source. The first 'turn on' was disappointing as the distance proved too far and there was a problem with 'voltage drop'! It was tweaked to reduce wiring and it works! It will be turned on when needed.

### Cars on site

The committee continue to work on this. Meanwhile we have had complaints about -

**Parking on the Green** - there is a nearby 'car park', next to plot 54 by the wooden shed. This is mostly rubble and sub soil so cannot be plots. It is near so please use it. You may NOT park on the Green itself.

**Speeding** a few members are doing an estimated 20mph rather than the required 5mph. The Castle Mill builders have commented on how fast some cars travel on site. Unfortunately, most members cannot recognise who the cars belong to. Maybe we need to have all car users register their numbers? Meanwhile sorry to nag but **PLEASE limit your car use** as much as possible and **ALWAYS keep to 5mph limit.** I am told this means **that you can't come out of first gear, that a person on foot can easily keep up with you and any bike can easily go faster! We'll issue warnings where we are informed of drivers exceeding 5mph.** NEVER use a car on the tracks when frosty or puddled. If you **have to come in a car regularly,** [apply to OCC for a £20 annual season ticket for Walton Well Rd car park.](#) If you have mobility issues and do not have a safe, off track spot to park near your plot, do talk to us.

Good growing to all,  
**Wendy**