

Cripley Meadow Newsletter July 2019

Our next Working party is on Sunday, 14th July, 10.30am-12.30
Meet at the green Association shed, NW corner of the site.

Do come - Member participation in Working Parties is by far the most effective means of keeping up with site work. We are a big site and it is great when more people do their bit. Read our [health and safety policy](#) (also printed on the notice board) beforehand, and wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

We really need some regular help with the shredder at WPs. If you are prepared to be trained and can make at least 3 WPs this year, please [let us know](#). It is a powerful bit of kit that needs lots of respect. Shreddings are great for getting compost heaps moving, as is the grass on plot 109.

We always have plots to clear - sometimes the wind lifts the covers. If you pass one with lifted plastic, please help by re-covering. Sometimes the pegs need help with extra weight on the body of plastic to keep it down.



Jericho Street Fair

Many thanks to: Emma, Sara, Wendy, Rodney and Alex, who managed the stall; Emma and Jeremy for transporting plants and to Jeremy, Emma, Wendy B, Manda, Tia, Anna, Christine (for the very special Cripley Meadow Honey) Wendy, Keith, Rob and Louise, Philippa, Sheila and Ada for the plants. Let me know if I missed anyone out as my memory is no

longer what it was! I was able to help as the Green Fair was cancelled due to wind. It was windy in Jericho and at times we all needed to hold the stall down, but thankfully the rain held off. This year we we ran out of squashes, we had no beans - and everyone wanted beans!

We took **£431.50** (plus a 2 AUS\$ coin and a dodgy looking £5 note) which is our best sum for this event! The money will go to the Association's site work. We had a few plants left which were left at the shed area next day and taken by members.

One new bridge to Cripley Island is completed. We sub-contract Jeremy to do a day's work per month and this was his magnificent June work.



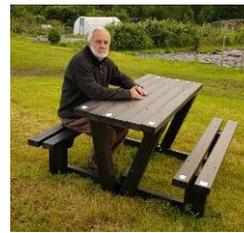
The second will be done asap. Meanwhile we have to move asbestos and gas canisters that members had left by the shed, instead of taking to the Council's waste centre at Redbridge. Rubbish left on plots remains a big source of additional cost, and work for the VOLUNTEERS that make up your Committee.

It is also sad to find recyclables in the skip - whose contents go to landfill.



Take it home and recycle it. **Please do your bit and remind yourself of [The Good Waste Guide](#).**

New benches



Thanks to Jamie for sourcing and ordering the new benches. The design is more accessible than the previous style. The

committee opted for recycled plastic on the basis of their long life and useful recycling of some of that dreaded material. One drawback... they will melt if you put hot stuff on or near them.

Jamie and son Aiden assembled two.



Castle Mill progress – see report circulated separately.

Audit

Our Spring audit took place on Saturday 11th May, thankfully a sunny day and the audit team were pleased to see the generally high levels of cultivation across the site. Most plot holders are good neighbours and comply with [our community's rules](#). As announced in our previous newsletter, we are trying a different way of doing things this year - with emails/letters going only to those with problems. So, if you didn't get any communication from us, well done, and thank-you. The vast majority of letters we did need to write were about things that plot holders can readily put right, with only a few plots having serious or persistent problems of real concern.

Audits are a big job, and it was heartening to receive some appreciative feedback from members thanking Emma (May audit lead) and team.

The next major audit is in the autumn, but we shall be carrying out a mini audit towards the end of July/beginning of August to check that follow-up from May has been done, and that there are no runaway plots.

Do remember that **seeding grass and weeds, lack of cultivation and unmanaged permanent planting affects all plots around you** as well as yours.

On the **much bigger plus side** we have far more plots that are just bursting with bountiful growth of fruit, flowers and vegetables and are a joy to see. Do take a walk round. The variety is impressive, and it is better than any book or web site for ideas and advice.

Please check your fruit trees and paths before the autumn audit. From a recent walk round, it is clear we have a number of trees on site over the 10ft limit and out of rule in being too close and high in relation to adjacent paths/plots. They would benefit from summer pruning. Please check the rules on trees and adjacent boundaries and ensure that you are working to keep all plot paths on site clear and maintained. We know some are in the process of being re-established and progress is ongoing in these cases. **All** adjacent plots must have a 2'6 to 3ft path between them. Originally the paths ran across the site and many still line up but there have been changes over the years. Plot paths are only for the use of plot member (with occasional committee access as needed). They act as buffers between plots, and they are important for the sustainability of the site.

Summer Solstice Some members managed to celebrate the summer solstice in style.

The shop is open as usual on Sundays during July from 11-12noon, but, as in previous years, it will close for August. We find that most members have what they need by then and many are away. Feel free to contact Sarah to request a one-off sale if you can't get along on Sundays or need something during August: Text 07960 352787 or sarahjehome@aol.com

Gates

The large gate lock was reported as not working reliably and we are having to replace some parts. When it starts to stick sometimes it helps to open and close it from the other side. Please report problems to [Keith Holton](#) who looks after our gate. Do not just leave it open. And **please do not oil...** it does not like it.

Cars

Sorry to go on – but **climate change, pollution and air quality are high on the agenda.** THANK YOU to those members who have recently taken to their bikes. Every car means CO2 emissions, and the site and every plot you pass suffers from pollution. **Please use your car only when it is a must.**

We are drafting a questionnaire about members' car use... more soon. Meanwhile, we continue to receive reports of 'speeders' and 'green parkers' (members have sent us photos).

Remember: Our rules do not allow for parking on communal areas and paths other than occasional access for loading and delivery. We have some small car parking by the Green (but **not ON the Green** please). You can park

- **by Plot 54d**, other side of the path from the top of the Green, adjacent to the shed
- **by the gate** (1 space)
- **by the green Association shed.** (1 space)

All members can [apply for a £15 annual parking permit for Walton Well car park](#) (valid only whilst using

the allotments). With regard to **speed**, as well as the damage to the tracks, there's the obvious risk to safety. Members have been heard shouting at cars - many of our plot entrances are hidden by growth. Dogs (always on a lead please), children and adults can do unexpected things, and the difference in outcome between a car going at 5mph and one at 20mph is huge.

Robin has kindly reduced the hedge and trees on the corner to give better visibility.

Gardening in July



If you have some spare space – mine is waiting for winter brassicas- try some summer green manure. This is buckwheat which has a very bee-friendly flower. The seed was just broadcast and came up after a shower within a few days. It grows and flowers within 6 weeks so can be a quick summer manure and it is relatively easy to chop and dig in. DON'T let it set seed.

For more info on [what to do in July](#) go to the NEW web site (Your plot → The gardening year). Many thanks to Manda.

Good gardening...Wendy