

# Cripley Meadow April Newsletter 2019

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

**Our next Sunday Working Party is on 14th April 10.30 to 12.30.** We meet at the green association shed as usual. Do come along if you can, wearing sturdy footwear etc. As always, we have lots of jobs and it is a good opportunity to meet other members and get to know more of the site. We have some plot clearing and covering to do.

Following our **AGM** on 11<sup>th</sup> March, this year's 'Dates for your diary' and the draft minutes will be on the website asap, as will an updated committee list. We said our farewell to Emilie and Kilian with photos of their marvellous reclamation of Plot 97 and



welcomed three new committee members, Phyllis Starkey from Plot SF7, Tia Sedley Plot 32 and Christine Melia Plot 5a.

Our **Spring Audit is fixed for Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.** Now is the time to [refresh your memory of the rules](#). And please **ensure your plot is clearly numbered** – as you can imagine, it's a huge job for the team to go round a site as big as ours, and it saves a bit of time if plot numbers are clear (and also helps YOU if your plot needs to be identified quickly in an emergency).

This year, we shall only be writing to Members with problems on their

plots, so if you do not receive any communication after the Audit, you can assume you have no major problems.

When you are growing seeds or taking cuttings, we would appreciate a few extra ones for us to sell on our stall at **Jericho Fair (8<sup>th</sup> June)**. Also, any spare seeds can be donated to our Shop which is now fully open every Sunday, 11-12 (and by appointment) - plenty of supplies of manure, netting etc. And free donated seeds, come and see what others have donated!



**Site grass cutting** started on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will cut the paths on small plots 68, 69, 86, 106, 107, 146, 147 but we can only do this if there are no stones, waste and objects on the paths.

Dixey, an old Oxford City Council Parks department friend of Cripley Meadow, brought his new OCC tractor on site to turn our green waste on plots 85 and 109. This cost is covered by Arcadian Living as part of our contract with them. There are now two impressively large piles cooking on 85 and 109. **Please leave these to cook...** and take care, they are unstable and loose when first formed. **There is still rough compost**



**available on plot 66.** Please place litter in a bin and pile brash separately.



We continue to encourage members to [compost all your green waste on your plot](#) and do your own [water harvesting](#). There are information sheets on the web site. This is about sustaining our site through the impacts of climate change and recently-reported water shortages. **We now have more water butts and working compost bins on our site – well done.** Castle Mill brings us pallets and pallet boards as often as possible which can be used to make compost bins. Help yourself: they may be stacked by the Green, or at the edge of plot 131/132 (please don't take anything that is actually on the plot). Sarah is still working with OCC to re-use their waste bins as water butts; drop her an email if you wish to join the 'interested' list.

Plot 159, which is the only plot directly next to Castle Mill (the one opposite you to your left as you come in the main gate), is now vacant and has some free



**raspberry canes and rhubarb to dig up** – do help yourself, leaving the ground good enough to sow grass in the area under the trees. This will not be used as a plot again and the adjacent

covered plots await decisions about their next site function.

There is some **free wood chip** on



Fiddlers Bow. You will need to use the gates and cross what remains of Fiddlers drain. Please do not block the drain area and you must close the gates. More wood chip has since been and gone from the Green.

We are working on replacing the rotting benches on the Green and the bridge between plot 17 and 18 - meanwhile please do not use them. They will be moved asap. The other bridge is ok for a while, thought it will also soon be replaced.

Information from Paul Renton Rose on Castle Mill work in April is attached.

### **On my plot**

Spring did sprung as we passed the Vernal Equinox and the clocks went forward. The rain was welcome but not so much the bitter cold. It's an important point in the growing year, with many things to be sown and planted. We've had a cold March, so my sowing timetable is about a month later than usual.

I have seen the first pinkish asparagus spear and broad beans and peas have broken ground. We have fresh white sprouting, sorrel and lots of lettuce. It went out as small plantlets in late October and was kept under fleece. It has grown really well. And across the

site, the forsythia, daffodils and tulips have been a delight.

**Good growing to all,  
Wendy**