

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Newsletter March 2019

www.cripley Meadow.org.uk

Reminder: there is no WP on 10th March.

OxClean - The weather turned out much better than expected.



Because we do it every year, litter picking the car park and entrance to Port Meadow and Willow Walk did not take long (though we got quite a haul!) and we managed to fit in an hour of working party on site



as well. We got 2 small plots cleared and the huge fire pile burnt off. It was far

too high but the dry material, damp day and wind in the right direction made it possible. (Someone is still dumping bindweed and soil on there! Please black bag it where it will rot to a black sludge).



Invoices for 2019/20 Your invoice (lead member only) and invitation to the AGM (plus annual report) should have arrived in February. If you did not get these please contact cripleysecretary@cripleymeadow.org.uk

If you are not planning to renew your subscription, please let us know so that the plot can be made available for a new member.

Our new Gardening year starts at the AGM so please pay promptly.

Payment is due on or before the AGM. After that there is a £10 surcharge. If you do not pay and we do not hear from you, the plot will return to CMAA at the end of March.

Our 2018 AGM is on Monday March 11th at St Barnabas School Hart Street, Jericho. The meeting starts at 8pm

Members of the Committee will be present from 7.30 setting up chairs, taking subs and there will be nibbles, drinks, and photos. As usual we aim (projector willing) to have the papers on screen.

Our member and garden designer Anna Benn, will be giving a talk on the Anton Chekov Garden Project.

Do come along if you can. It is important that we have a good turnout as, constitutionally, this is our decision-making body. We have 3 new members standing for the Committee, Phylis Starkey Plot SF7, Tia Sedley Plot 32 and Christine Melia, Plot 5a. We are losing Emilie and Kilian. Emilie has been our Castle Mill representative and Kilian was co-opted to help with

site work. We have said our sad farewells already as they have moved to London. Both have been fantastic gardeners and members and we shall miss them.

We are looking for another **resident of Castle Mill to be a committee member.** The major requirement is that you attend committee meetings which are generally held monthly (except December), 6-7:30pm, on the Wednesday before the second Sunday in the month (i.e. the Wednesday before working party Sundays). Even if you can only offer to serve for a year, we would be grateful. We think it is important that Castle Mill resident members have a voice on the Committee.

Plants for Jericho Fair - We need your seedlings and cuttings! CMAA always has a stall at the Jericho Fair in June. We sell our spare plants to raise funds for the Association. Over the next few weeks, please raise a few extra seedlings, and take cuttings to donate for the Fair later. Flowers as well as veg welcome. Don't forget, free plant pots are always available in the plastic box beside the shop.

There is still no access for over-height vehicles through the car park barrier until further notice.

Oxford City Council have been mending the barrier since the post rusted and broke in January. We will let you know as soon as it is back in action. Please remember you need to contact the committee in advance to organise access for overheight vehicles (e.g. deliveries).



We have had 5/6 large loads of woodchip by The Green, one by the green shed and now another at the top of the

south field. We distribute around site this when we can, but choice is constrained as the tracks can't always take it.

There are also some free pea sticks available by the woodchip site, next to the Green. Please share.

You can take rough compost from the turned areas on plot 66, and the back of 84. Please keep it level – do not dig holes.

Allotment shop reopens Sunday 10th March

Following the winter closure, our trading shed shop will be open again on Sunday mornings, 11 - 12 noon (we may close in bad weather). We have plenty of bags of composted horse manure. We are ordering more canes, but also have some home-grown hazel poles for sale. If you can't manage Sunday mornings, contact Sarah to agree another time sarahejehome@aol.com or 07960 352787



Spring, (maybe even summer) seemed to have sprung in February and we could see lots of plots waking up. There are

more cold snaps on the way but I often taking a risky punt at early sowing!

Tree work on Plots

There are a number of fruit trees on plots that have not been pruned and will be well over our 10ft rule by the May audit. Do get it done before all starts to surge.

Plots, Paths and boundaries

Please remember that you cannot grow anything on your plot **higher than the width of the path. i.e. 2.5 to 3 ft. either** next to paths or boundaries (i.e. where plots back onto one another). This is not just because of blocking light but also due to root spread. You can grow up to 5ft on a boundary next to a site path /headland.

Tree work

As usual Wendy has been working with Oxford City Council to ensure this year's tree work is completed as agreed. The helpful rangers' team have completed some pollarding on the south field and have cut back growth coming over the fence from badger land. There is still some work to do on the island and on cutting back the growth on the tree opposite our main gate (so there is a clearer view when using the bridge and Roger Dudman Way cycle track- the latter needs particular care due to the ongoing work).

Bridges to the island

The island bridge that runs from between plots 17 and 18 is still unsafe and awaiting replacement. Do not use. Also, the benches on the Green are no longer safe to sit on.

We will remove and replace asap.

Beard Construction Allotment News

Spring has arrived and we are progressing forward with the planned works as expected.

*The **Painting of the facades** on block 6,7,8 are all well advanced.*

***Brise Soleil** to the block 7 are 50% complete and by the time of your meeting will be completed to this block. Block 6 has also progressed with the same.*

***Windows changes** to the elevations on blocks 7,6,8, are completed with Block 5 being complete next week.*

***Temp mock-up** of the silt pit we are planning to install on the castle mill site just to prove the (water butt) system works – we will keep you updated and hope to plan this work into the schedule in May.*

***Brickwork** to the lower portion of Blocks H&L (5&8) complete,*

***Regular inspections of the badger run** are continuing with the Eco consultants and we must leave works in the run until April as to not unsettle the badgers during this period.*

Paul Renton-Rose

Good gardening. I am looking forward to seeing you at the AGM Wendy.