

These are some of the trees ordered to date. Blenheim Orange Cambridge Queening Deddington Pippin Eynsham Challenger Holbrooke JenniferWastie Lord Lambourn Nuneham Courtney North Aston Oxford Oarsman Oxford Beauty Oxford conquest Peggy's Pride Wytham Old Tree Yarlington Mills Aynho Scarlet. Unfortunately "Hens Turd" has sold out so we are getting another good cider apple "Captains Kernel". We are also getting three trees from Iffley Marsh. These are grafted from really old trees growing in very wet conditions. The varieties are unknown but Andy, from MSOG and our fruit supplier and apple tree guru, says they would have been esteemed as they were part of a planned orchard.

Educational Visits

The island can be booked for community group work and educational visits. St Clare's



have been involved with us for a number of years due to our links

through Caroline Crook, a teacher at the school and a member of the association. The Association contributes project time and information to students and they can complete their community service and work with the land and seasons. We all benefit.

Anne Dawson, another member, organised an educational visit in spring 2010 for her Dragon School Gardening group and we have had 2 Summer School visits organised



by Carlos Gonzales Sancho, in July 2010. Wendy gave a talk and

tour and we discussed climate change, local food, low carbon and community action.



Wildlife We are a valuable, varied bio diverse area for a great variety of wildlife. We have many songbirds and frequent



sightings of red kites and buzzards. Grebes, great and little, kingfishers, coots moorhens, herons and mallards are seen regularly on

Castle Mill Stream. The thrushes (missal and other), starlings and linnets are back on site. The island plant life is more varied as light, glades and coppicing have allowed for greater diversity. Most members have seen



the new litter of foxes, which are fearless and seem to command the whole site! We hope they

are putting paid to the few rabbits that have been seen on the island.

For more info go to

www.cripleymeadow.org.uk

2010 Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Cripley Island Orchard



Cripley Island is a small island that was for many years unknown in the locality. It is adjacent to, and only accessible through, Cripley Meadow Allotments. It is an island by virtue of the surrounding waters of Fiddler's Stream, Castle Mill Stream and Fiddler's Drain. The latter only has water after heavy rainfall. Cripley Island has been part of our Allotment Association lease since March 2009. We have worked with Lottery 'Local Food' funding to establish it as an orchard.



The 2009 pollarding of the crack willow that surrounded Cripsey Island was part of a programme of renewal. Working with Oxford City Council's Tree team we brought much needed light to both the island and the allotment site.

We have continued to work with The Mid Shires Orchard group and with members we have selected 90+ local fruit varieties. This will help restore the local cultural heritage.

The Orchard will give Cripsey Island a vibrant new lease of life and is accessible to local schools for visits. This year our largest pumpkin was the centrepiece at Phil and Jim's harvest festival! We hope more school groups will come and use the island and experience the development of the orchard.

The tree work was finally completed in February 2010 when Castle Mill Stream was cleared of a huge fallen willow. This had stretched almost across to Port Meadow and had been there many years.



The tree team take to the water!



Cripsey Meadow Allotment Association Committee

has benefitted greatly from the experience and guidance of the island project manager, John Sivell. He joined the association in 2006 after a lifetime of working in many parts of the



world in farming, forestry and gardening. He quickly became a guiding light and joined the committee. He has led the programme of

work on the island. Wendy Skinner Smith, chair of the association, made the bid for the Local Food Lottery funding and has managed the reclamation of Cripsey Meadow Allotment site and the integration of the Island into the association using working parties. Alison Campbell, our treasurer has managed our finances and we are all supported by Sheila Allen, our secretary. These four officers are trustees of the Association and are responsible, with the rest of the committee for managing the site.

The committee meet monthly and all are involved in hands on working on the site. Wendy, John, Alison and Sheila along with Tony Clear, Alex Hollingsworth, Jamie Forbes, James Allen, Gabi Topliss, Cathy Ferreira, and Aja Hanson have all put in many hours of voluntary service to the association. They have been responsible, with the help of many members, for the reclamation of Cripsey Meadow Allotments, ongoing since 2005 and the establishment of Cripsey Island Orchard.

Our members support the association through a regular programme of working parties. These are an integral part of our membership and are vital to the sustainability of the Orchard. A summary of working party work is included on another leaflet and a fuller tribute to our many helpers can be found on our web site. Over 600 hours of voluntary work have been used to date on establishing Cripsey Island Orchard

Orchard Planting



John did the first of the fruit tree orders with member consultation in November 2009 for 2010 planting.