

Cripley Meadow Allotment Association Newsletter Oct 2021

The next Working Party (WP) is Sunday 10th October, meet 10am at the green Association Shed on the NW corner of the site. WPs are usually the second Sunday in the month, except December when the Committee has a holiday. All dates for this membership year (i.e. to March 2022) are on the [Diary Dates page of the website](#).

The September WP was very well attended so we



were able to get a lot of jobs done. We made further inroads into clearing the brick bin – one more heave this time and it should be done – checked the whole boundary for badger incursion and repaired a gap, cleared prunings from Castle Mill Orchard, cleared and covered another plot that has come back to the Association, strimmed and moved some rubbish from two other plots recently taken on by new members (much appreciated by them), and burnt the communal bonfire.



Group membership of National Allotment Society (NSALG) membership ceases

CMAA took out group membership of the National Allotment Society when we thought this would help us become incorporated. This has not proved the case, so we have decided not to

renew. If you wish to support the NSALG, receive the magazine and the benefit of their plot-holder insurance, you will now need to join as an individual (www.nsalg.org.uk/join-us/).

Communal fruit harvest



The sun shone on the communal harvesters, Saturday 18th Sept.

I was away on holiday so missed it, but noticed there were still a few apples left in wheelbarrows by the green Association Shed a week later.

While on the subject of orchards, you may soon see Ilias, our Orchard Lead, spraying our communal fruit trees – he will be using minimal doses. This is against fungal and bacterial disease.



Audit - 10th October

The Autumn audit takes place on Sunday 10th Oct. Thank-you to the vast majority of members who have a plot number visible.

After the audit, all the results are collated and emails written to plot-holders who have things to address. These emails will be coming out later in October and in November if the committee needs to discuss first.

A few people who have been experiencing difficulties have already been in touch to explain. We really appreciate it. If you have problems managing your plot because of temporary health / family issues etc, please get in touch so we know you have not just given up!

Call for volunteers to help manage Cripsey Meadow

Every March, we hold an Annual General Meeting where members review how our allotments are managed and vote on the volunteer committee who run the Association on members' behalf. In March 2022, four committee members will be standing down: Christine, Emma, Sarah and myself.

Helping to run the allotments is often personally rewarding and interesting, occasionally challenging! And of course supporting the growth of local food is something practical you can do to make the World a better place. If you could contribute your skills in any of the following areas, please do speak to one of us, or to our chair, Alex – chair@cripleymeadow.org.uk.

- Managing applications from new members, doing site tours and allocating plots
- Co-ordinating audits and their follow up
- Managing the site shop and its stock (Sarah can still assist if wished)
- Keeping the website up-to-date
- Running projects – for example, our move to become incorporated, or to improve communal water harvesting on site
- Negotiating with members when there are problems
- Writing and editing communications – newsletter, annual report...

- Handling member requests for structures, new trees etc
- Keeping track of our assets and their maintenance
- Organising working parties and social events

Committee members meet once a month (day/time will be set once new committee in place next March) and all contribute to decisions on individual cases and general policy, running our social events, doing audits etc.

Although March seems a long way away, finding new volunteers now will help smooth handover. So if you have a bit of time to spare and skills to contribute or learn, please get in touch.

Communal wheelbarrows

We are in the process of replacing as many of the pneumatic tyres as possible with solid ones. Not an easy job as the axles are not standard and some need adaptation.

Our stock appears to be diminished. It is the lesser evil if these are lurking somewhere on a plot rather than spirited off site. Please return. We have decided to acquire a few more barrows but if they disappear again, they won't be replaced.

At this point I cannot resist a little William Carlos Williams.

The Red Wheelbarrow

BY WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS

so much depends
upon

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens

On the plot

It's all change in the polytunnel this month. I have a few seedlings ready to put in over the winter, once the tomatoes are completely finished.

Rats and wasps are ahead of me in judging when melon and grapes were ready to harvest. I was away one week and..!



I adore pots of tulips – the bulbs have arrived but I won't be planting them until late this month as the cooler weather then deters disease.

Good gardening,

Manda, CMAA Secretary and Vice-chair

secretary@cripleymeadow.org.uk