



# SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk  
email: [info@sunnysideallotments.org.uk](mailto:info@sunnysideallotments.org.uk)

No: 3 July 2017

## Editor's note

As I write this, it is a fabulous day for gardening, or just for being alive (but by the time you read it, who knows?)

This issue covers everything from the regulations for tenants in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the responsibilities of tenants today, along with the procedures that the Council has established for monitoring our good gardening activity.

But I do hope that it is just an enjoyable sense of purpose, and sheer enthusiasm, sometimes in the face of adversity, that keeps most of us busy on our allotments.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy this issue. If not, or if any thoughts come to you as you are reading it, do just jot them down and let me have them, at any time. I have a little file for squirreling away good ideas for the next issue!

Lin Phillips, Editor [linphillips@sunnysideallotments.org.uk](mailto:linphillips@sunnysideallotments.org.uk)

## Chairman's notes

Now is the time to start the harvest and enjoy the fruits of all that effort. Unfortunately, weeds and insect pests are also at their peak, so carry on the fight. There is still time to sow seeds - or re-sow if pests have had the first attempt.

A number of tenants are being sent letters to remind them of the need to prevent weed seeds from spreading to neighbours and/or to keep their plot in reasonable order. If this applies to you, and there is a reason why you cannot manage your plot, please contact a member of the Committee.

Bonfires are a useful way of getting rid of uncompostable waste, but please do not have frequent, slow, smoky fires. We want to remain on good terms with our neighbours, so bonfires should be quick and hot, and the wind should carry smoke away from neighbours.

The allotment waiting list is quite short at the moment and there are some vacant plots, so if you know anyone who would like one, please encourage them to apply to the Council.

A number of tenants on SSN have suffered from deer problems. It is obviously very frustrating to have crops browsed away - even by Bambi. The Council is looking into the case for deer fencing.

Good gardening  
John Eaton



### Reader feedback

"Thanks for the latest newsletter. The allotments seem to be ticking along perfectly, as always. I can't help but think that some day someone is going to write a murder mystery, lifting the lid on the seedy underside of this exemplar of village life."

### Untidy gardens and reminder of eviction process

The terms of our tenancies require us to keep our plots in a tidy condition. The Council requires plots to be inspected three times every summer by representatives of the Committee, who must report any plots where there appears to be no evidence that it is being cultivated. The council then sends a first warning letter to those listed, and if necessary a second letter following the next inspection. If after the third inspection there has still been no improvement, the Council sends a letter terminating the tenancy. Often, tenants may have been under some temporary difficulty and, following receipt of the first letter, they are at least able to make a start. In other cases, the letter may prompt tenants to make a decision which perhaps they had been considering, ie. that it is time to give up their plot, or to take on a smaller one. Do speak to a member of the Committee if you are having such difficulties.

Be a good gardening neighbour -

- Keep weeds down to prevent seeds spreading on your own plot and those of others.
- Cover any sharp metal stakes, ragged sheets of corrugated iron or other potential hazards to people walking by (or to yourself!).
- Keep stones off paths to prevent damage to mowers, and keep your paths mowed and edged. Keep nettles from growing onto public paths.

### Tenancy changes

Goodbye to:

A15	Gavin Stark
B12A	Emma Norrington
B29	Freda Earl
C7A	Robert Blackmoor
N3	Katie Hobster
N54	David Boxall & Tracey Jenkins

### Your current committee members

<b>Chairman:</b>	John Eaton	865307
<b>Vice Chairman &amp; Newsletter Editor:</b>	Lin Phillips	862882
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jenny Sippings	865890
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Andy James	865061
<b>Minutes Secretary:</b>	Cynthia Fulks	879410
<b>Other members:</b>	Wendy Calder	767289
	Angela Wheeldon	874440
	John Goffey	864967
	Kate Rankin	

You can email any member of the committee by putting their first name in front of:

@sunnysideallotments.org.uk apart from John Eaton who is: johne@ and John Goffey who is: johng@



### Seed orders

If you are a paid up member of the Sunnyside Allotment Society, you will be receiving the King's seed catalogue in September. You will be able to order your seeds at a much discounted price through our bulk order, while making some money for the Society. As well as offering a wide range of seeds and other gardening items, the catalogue is full of handy tips for successful sowing and growing.

**Please Note:** To offset rising printing costs, an electronic version of future editions of the newsletter will be sent to all those people that supply an email address to Jenny Sippings – ([jennysippings@virginmedia.com](mailto:jennysippings@virginmedia.com)).

### Sunnyside gardener scoops international prize

Congratulations to Sarah Marshall, SSN 6, who won the Ladies World Blind Bowling Championships in Cape Town, South Africa, in March. Sara competes in the B1 category, ie for contestants who are totally blind. She is currently trying for selection for the Commonwealth Games in Australia next spring.

Good luck, Sarah!

### Those were the days!

These were the regulations for tenants of local allotments in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, under the management of Sir John Hobart Culme-Seymour, owner and rector of the parish of Northchurch:

- The land is to be cultivated by spade.
- Not more than 2/3 of the garden is to be sown yearly with potatoes.
- Half a load of manure is to be laid on every five poles.
- Rent – a penny per pole, to be paid punctually, half in June and half in September (out of this rent, the poor rate, tithe and other charges to be paid by John Hobart Seymour, landowner).
- No part of the land is to be underlet.
- No tenant is to work on the land on Sundays or at hours belonging to his master without his leave.
- Every tenant is expected to attend Divine Service regularly.
- There must be no trespassing or encroachment on each other's land.
- Tenants must agree to protect each other's property.

If any of these rules be broken or a tenant be guilty of drunkenness, dishonesty or other misconduct, the land will be forfeited.

(Ed: I believe the Parish of Northchurch included Berkhamsted at that time. Information kindly provided by Jenny Sherwood, Berkhamsted Historical Society)

### New Facebook group

Please join our new group for allotment gardening chit chat.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1466477513362340/>





# Sunnyside Allotment Society

## OPEN DAY SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2017

This year our Open Day takes place on 13<sup>th</sup> August from 11.00am to 5.00pm. It is an occasion for local residents to visit and enjoy the allotments with us. There will be refreshments, plants, produce, preserves, gardening books and old tools for sale. Depending on the weather, a guided walk through the allotments will take place at 2.00pm, starting on B Road.

We would like the allotments to look as attractive as possible; scarecrows and other bird scarers are very popular with visitors. It would be good if you could spend some time on your plot during the day to give visitors a warm welcome and talk about your garden. The contractors will be cutting the main roadways during the week before Open Day. Please could you cut back your paths so that they are tidy and bramble-free and accessible to the public, and to allow the contractors to do a full width cut.

### VOLUNTEERS

Even if you can only help for an hour or two, this is a good opportunity to be part of the festivities and to get to know fellow gardeners. There are a number of jobs that need doing in the **week before** Open Day: cleaning furniture, displaying signs, mowing and strimming paths, and generally tidying up communal areas and entrances.

- **On the day**, we will need volunteers to help with the setting up in the morning, manning the stalls and helping with refreshments and meet and greet, and lastly clearing up afterwards.

### DONATIONS

- This year we are hoping for the following donations: plants, seeds, cut flowers - especially lavender - cakes and biscuits for refreshments, raffle prizes, fresh produce, preserves, small tools and gardening books.
- Plants can be delivered at any time to the **top of A16**, where Lin has volunteered to look after them until Open Day.
- Preserves, seeds, lavender, raffle prizes, small tools and gardening books can be left at the **Tea Hut (B15)** in the **week before Open Day**.
- Fresh produce, cut flowers and cakes should be delivered to the Tea Hut before **10am on Sunday**.

If you can help please complete and return this form by **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August** to Wendy Calder at 8 Ellesmere Road or Tea Hut (B15) or email to [wendy@sunnysideallotments.org.uk](mailto:wendy@sunnysideallotments.org.uk). Any questions, please do not hesitate to call me on 767289.

Thank you  
Wendy

Name:..... Plot No:..... Tel:.....  
Email:..... Mobile:.....

**Pre Open Day** I can help with.....  
I am available to help on.....

**On Open Day** I can help at the following times (please tick the box):

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9.00-11.00am (setting up) | <input type="checkbox"/> 11.00-12 noon | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 noon to 1.00pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.00-2.00pm               | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.00-3.00pm   | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.00-4.00pm       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4.00-5.00pm               | <input type="checkbox"/> 5.00-6.00pm   | <input type="checkbox"/> Anytime           |

**I can provide:**

- |   |                                       |                                      |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cakes/biscuits | <input type="checkbox"/> Produce      | <input type="checkbox"/> Preserves   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seeds          | <input type="checkbox"/> Raffle Prize | <input type="checkbox"/> Small tools | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Books |