



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk
email: info@sunnysideallotments.org.uk

No: 2 April 2018

Editor's Note

What a spring it has been! If you are anything like me, you have hardly got started on preparing beds and sowing seeds, such has been the cold and rain. Let's hope for kinder weather from now on.

But despite the weather, there has been quite a lot going on in and around Sunnyside, as reported in this issue; I hope you enjoy reading it.

Lin Phillips, Editor

Chairman's Notes

Winter seems to have been with us for too long, but now the weather has changed (maybe) and seeds are shooting. However, this includes the weeds - so be quick!

The AGM of the Sunnyside Allotment Society was held in January this year, and attendance was up. Two tenants volunteered to join the Committee, so welcome to Geoff Halls and Diana Ball.

There are now three First Aid kits available on Sunnyside. These are located in the SAS loo, in the Tea Hut, and in the new community shed.

As you know, the Tenancy agreement stipulates that we all keep our plots in good order. This requirement is enforced by inspection by myself and another member of the Committee, and if necessary Council warning letters and then termination. If there is any reason why you are not able to maintain your plot (eg illness) please mention it to one of the Committee so that due allowance can be made.

Good gardening,
John Eaton

Ashridge Estate Plant Fair

Sunday 20 May 2018, 11am – 4pm
Plant donations wanted; please contact John Cartwright, A42 or 01442 864984 for details of how to contribute.

Pruning Workshops

Two very successful winter pruning workshops were provided to Sunnyside gardeners in February. Paola Andreoni, an allotment holder and qualified horticulturalist, met with the groups, and after laying out the basic principles of pruning, she demonstrated these in practice using several apple trees, quince bushes and other shrubs which had been offered up for the workshops by other tenants.

Paola explained that a pruner needs to understand not only how a plant grows as a member of its species, but how it will grow in a specific setting, as plants adapt to their situation.

Those who attended said these workshops were very informative and helpful, so a big thanks to Paola for sharing her expertise. Paola says that tenants can always talk to her about pruning when she is on her plots. (SSN 12 & 13).



Photo—Clive Smith

Verve Weed Control Fabric for Sale

One roll 1m x 27m, was £25 at B&Q, now selling at £15.
Contact Robin Wiblin at robin@wibdesign.co.uk

The Winter Working Parties

The working party season started a bit late in 2017, but the working parties were well attended and the amount of work achieved made up for the late start. Much of the work has involved preparation work for the base of the second new SAS shed to be erected on the western boundary of SSO, above the car park. We are grateful to the band of volunteers who dug and levelled the base, and to everybody who salvaged usable wood from Ted's old wood pile before the plot was cleared in an epic bonfire. The usable wood, plus the collection of plastic rain-water goods, are stored tidily in racks by the new SAS shed for allotment holders' use.

Volunteers also coppiced the lower half of the Jubilee coppice, producing a good supply of trimmed bean-poles and pea-sticks. Tenants who wish to make use of any of the available wood, plastic pipes and fittings, or bean-poles and pea-sticks are asked to make a donation to SAS funds.

The ground to the left of the road up from the Grantham Mews gate has been cleared; we look forward to seeing an explosion of wildflowers there again this year. Unfortunately, the "Beast from the East" put paid to the last working party of the winter on March 4th, when the ground was covered in snow.

Although some work was done clearing paths and around the car park area on SSN this year, most work took place on SSO. It is anticipated that more work will take place on SSN next season, starting in October.

John Goffey, B18



Things to do with Coppiced Hazel

Will Facey (C17 etc) says: "I made this from the hazel coppiced by the working party in January. I bought the stakes from Manning's. They're sunk 2 feet into the ground, as they have to withstand quite some sideways pressure during the early stages of bending on the hazel. A hazel fence is a thing of beauty, and I look forward to making some more in due course".



Photo—Will Facey



Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| A36B | Tom Raftery |
| A44A | Anthony Brown |
| N1C, N1D | Lucy Palmer |
| N11 | Stephen Gilbert |
| N68, N69 | Paul Baylis |

Goodbye to:

- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| A1A | Kate Badham |
| A40 | Simon Hyde |
| N38 | Catherine Bennett |

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).

Sunnyside Photography Project

If you have seen a photographer roaming around the allotments looking for good shots, it's likely to have been Colin Drake, local amateur photographer and local resident. A member of the Royal Photographers' Society, he has done work for the Chiltern Society and The Chiltern Conservation Board.

This year he has embarked on a personal project, building a portfolio based on Sunnyside. He says his aim is to capture a range of unusual images of plants, sheds, scarecrows, and people at work on their plots (after approaching them and obtaining agreement). He is thinking of submitting a selection of this work to the Royal Society in order to reach the next level of associateship.



Photo—Colin Drake

Your Current Committee Members

Chairman:	John Eaton	865307
Secretary:	Jenny Sippings	865890
Treasurer:	Andy James	865061
Minutes Secretary:	Cynthia Fulks	879410
Newsletter Editor:	Lin Phillips	862882
Other members:	Wendy Calder	767289
	Angela Wheeldon	874440
	John Goffey	864967
	Kate Rankin	
	Diana Ball	
	Geoff Halls	

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@

Allotment Information Pack

Have a Look!

Just to let you know that our website contains a lot of useful information for tenants:

<http://www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk/about/allotments=information-pack>

Also, check out our own Facebook page, where members are increasingly posting great photos and comments on their successes (and challenges) on their plot.

Please join our group for allotment gardening chit chat.

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



Sunnyside Open Day 2018

Please put Sunday 12th August in your diaries and keep the day free. Last year's Open Day was one of our most successful, and hopefully we can better that this year.

As usual, we will be selling produce, preserves and plants, so, when you are making jams and chutneys, please include an extra jar or two for the stall.

Also, please sow a few more seeds than you need, and keep any extra clumps of perennials, and pot some up for the Open Day, labelling them with as much information as you have. If you have nowhere to keep them, bring them along to A18 and Lin will be happy to look after them.

Takings for the raffle for the Hospice of St Francis have dropped off in recent years. Does anyone have any suggestions on how we can increase takings? Do you have any prizes you can donate? The form for registering your availability to help on the day will be in the next issue.

Finally, is there anyone who could help by producing a plan of the allotments showing points of interest and suggested walks?

Many thanks

Wendy Calder, N4C&D. Tel:01442 767289

Maintaining Paths

Despite the inclement weather, the grass is shooting up by the day. Do remember that we each have a responsibility to keep paths mown and edged. Also, please make sure to keep stones off the paths, as they can damage mowers.

Gardening Help is at Hand

Sam Barley, our youngest Sunnyside tenant, is willing and able to help you out on your allotment, mowing paths, weeding, digging, clearing plots, and watering crops when you're away. His rates are reasonable, and he is a good worker (recommended by Lin, Editor). He is available for work after school hours and at weekends. You can reach him on 07594 625651, or by email on sambarley15@gmail.com.



Considerate Bonfire Burning

Don't forget that bonfires are potentially socially and environmentally unfriendly, and pose a health hazard to some people. So please:

- Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp days, still days and in the evening. If it is windy, smoke may be blown into neighbours' gardens and across roads.
- Avoid burning at weekends and Bank Holidays, when people want to enjoy their gardens, and only burn dry material. Avoid burning when air pollution is high.
- Never burn household rubbish or anything containing plastic, foam or paint - these all produce highly poisonous compounds. And don't use old engine oil, methylated spirits or petrol to light the fire.

Finally, never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smoulder - douse it with water when you leave it.

A Load of Old Rubbish

There is a quantity of assorted junk collected while clearing allotments, which is currently piled up by the SSO car parking spaces at the edge of B Road, below the new community shed and wood-store. There is too much for any one person to take in a load to the recycling centre, but if several people would just remove a bit of it, it would eventually be gone! If you are off to the tip yourself, please remember to stop by and take some away.

Please do not take the scrap metal as this will be weighed in separately.

Thanks!

Membership of Sunnyside Allotment Society

If you haven't paid your £4.00 Sunnyside Allotment Society subs yet this year, please do so as soon as possible. In order to be included in this year's membership, payments must be made by May. Either give it directly to Andy, our treasurer, or leave it in an envelope for him in the tea hut (B15).

NEW: Allotmenters' Liability Insurance

SAS is a member of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (their website contains a lot of useful information for gardeners – contact Jenny Sippings for the password.) Membership of the NSALG now includes allotmenters' liability insurance, so all paid up members of SAS are eligible to contract in to the free allotmenters' liability insurance scheme. This scheme offers £50k liability cover to any member plot-holder accused of accidentally causing injury or damaging property.

This cover is well worth the cost of SAS membership in itself. In addition, SAS members can participate in our autumn group seed-ordering scheme with King's Seeds, which offers considerable savings on the annual cost of seeds.

The Sunnyside Allotment Society works on your behalf, co-ordinating work to maintain the communal areas of the site and hosting the annual Open Day and other events. SAS is also required to report to the Council on matters of vacancies and waiting lists, and represents the interests of tenants at regular Council meetings. Members also receive this exclusive quarterly newsletter! So, if you haven't yet sent your subs in for 2018, this is your final reminder.

Subs for 2018 (4.00) can be sent with this slip to Andy James (4 Field Way) or left at the tea hut on B15. (Cheques payable to Sunnyside Allotment Society please).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Plot Number: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ cash/cheque (please circle)