



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 3 July 2018

Editor's Note

We have all been struggling with the heat, and so have our crops. Despite this, we will no doubt have a glut of courgettes, as usual!

In this issue, Wendy outlines the plans for the Open Day and makes a plea for more helping hands, both in the run-up to the day and on it. Please offer her whatever help you can, as Open Days are dependent upon plenty of people to muck in and make it a success. And if you are going to be away, please ask someone to pick your produce and donate it to the produce stall.

In addition, John Goffey reminds us of how we can keep our plots watered while using water sensibly.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Lin Phillips, Editor linphillips@btinternet.com

Chairman's Notes

The weather has been surprisingly hot for a few weeks, so watering has been necessary. Please make sure your hosepipes and connectors don't leak, and be careful to turn off taps and direct water at the roots rather than spraying widely.

The Town Council has put notices around the allotments to let us know that bonfires must not be lit while the weather is so dry. A neighbour of Sunnyside had his shed and hedge burn to the ground last week, so this is essential advice.

As well as harvesting fruit and veg, please keep weed seeds under control as far as possible.

A number of tenants, particularly on SSN, have suffered from deer problems, and the Council is still looking into the case for deer fencing.

Good gardening

John Eaton



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. Our bulk ordering system means that you will get your seeds, etc., at a much discounted price, as well as making some money for the Society. The catalogue is full of handy tips for successful sowing and growing, as well as offering a wide range of seeds and other gardening items. Andy, our Treasurer, manages the order and delivery process – the details will be tucked into your copy of the catalogue.



RAF Centenary Flypast over Sunnyside - Jo Banks

Edible Flowers to Grow

You can give your summer dishes a dash of colour and flavour by adding flower petals. Do wash the flowers to remove bugs before adding them to your dish, and harvest them young to capture their most delicate flavour. Pick the flowers when you're about to use them for maximum freshness and taste. In general, the base of the flower is bitter, so just pick off the petals - and make sure you haven't sprayed them with insecticide or any other chemicals before picking!

Why not try some of the following?

- Chive flowers – they have a much stronger taste than the leaves, but pick them young
 - Lavender – dry some flower buds, rub them through a sieve, and add to a jar of sugar
 - Rocket – don't worry about the plants going to seed, because the white flowers have the same peppery taste as the leaves
 - Courgette flowers – you can fry the male ones, or add them fresh to salads for colour and sweet taste
 - Pea flowers – if you can spare any!
 - Rosemary flower buds – petals are sweeter than the leaves, and can be infused in olive oil
 - Fennel flowers and seeds have the same aniseed flavour as the stems
 - Day lilies have fabulous, crispy petals which add vibrancy to any salad, but make sure you are using day lilies and no others
 - Borage flowers go well with cucumbers, in salads and Pimm's!
 - Hollyhock petals add a dash of elegance, and are plentiful at Sunnyside
- Calendula flowers have a bitter taste, but are useful as a brilliantly coloured garnish
- Nasturtium flowers add a peppery taste and look fabulous in any salad, especially if you grow a mix of colours together
 - Rose petals - highly-scented roses have the most flavour, with a hint of Turkish delight
 - Violas – used by bakers to decorate cakes, fresh or crystallised.

Jam-jars, please!

The fruit harvest is good this year, and the jam makers amongst us are already running low on jars. If you have any spare jam-jars with lids, please recycle them by bringing them (washed, please) to the Tea Hut at B13 on Sunnyside Old and putting them in the black box on the table under the awning. If you need any for your own jam- or chutney-making, please help yourself! And do please make a few extra jars for the produce stall on Open Day.

Thank you!

Angela Wheeldon, B13



Photo—Jo Banks

Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

C27B Will Facey

Goodbye to:

A34 Joan Earle

C27B Adam Stout

N31A James Moffatt

N40 Emma Jolly

N43 Michelle Howard

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).

Untidy Gardens and Reminder of Eviction Process

Tenants are required to keep 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 plot where there appears to be no evidence of it 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 experiencing 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 a tenant to make a decision which perhaps they had been considering, eg. 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.

Sunnyside Facebook Group

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 chat.

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



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	866827
	Diana Ball	875277
	Geoff Halls	878176

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@

Watering Wisely

The longest heatwave since 1976 reminds us all of the need to use water sensibly on our allotments. Our water supply in the UK comes from underground aquifers which are replenished by winter rains, so supplies are not often affected by summer dry spells. However, in some areas demand may exceed the water company's pumping capacity, and then hose-pipe bans can ensue. The terms of our tenancies require us to install guttering and a water butt, if there is not already one on your shed. (One water butt going free, see Lin on A18).

There is quite a good supply of used plastic rainwater pipes and fittings available to tenants for the price of a donation to SAS; you can find these on the racks by the SAS Community Shed on SSO, halfway up the road which leads from Grantham Mews.

So far there is no hose-pipe restriction this summer, but we all need to take extra care when using water on our allotment gardens. The big danger is from unnoticed leaks - last summer, at least 50 tonnes of water were lost in one month from a small leak in a hose that had been left permanently under pressure and unattended. Such a practice is not permitted by the Council - who pay the water bill. Remember that you are only entitled to use a hosepipe if you have paid the extra premium along with your annual rent, when you would receive a key for the tank.

Even a dripping tap can lose a lot of water if it goes unnoticed for a week or more, so please make sure you always turn taps off firmly when not in use, and report leaks to anyone on the Committee. Some of the older taps leak slightly around the spindle when in use with hoses connected; such a leak must be reported if it continues when the tap is closed. However you water, it is most effective when done in the cool of the morning or evening, avoiding the heat of the day, and directing the water right to the roots (I'm afraid to say that I water my plants whenever I can, but they seem to be flourishing anyway).

John Goffey, B18





Sunnyside Allotment Society

OPEN DAY SUNDAY 12th AUGUST 2018

This year our Open Day takes place on 12th August from 11.00am to 4.00pm. It is a chance for local residents to visit and enjoy the allotments with us. There will be refreshments, plants, produce, preserves, gardening books and tools for sale.

We would like the allotments to look as attractive as possible on the day. Scarecrows and other bird scarers are very popular, and 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 mowing contractors will be cutting the main roadways during the week before Open Day, but please could you cut back your own paths beforehand so that they are tidy and bramble-free and accessible to the public, as well as allowing the contractors to do a full-width cut.

VOLUNTEERS

Open Day will not function without volunteers, and an hour or two from lots of volunteers will make all the difference. There are a number of jobs that need doing before Open Day, eg: cleaning furniture, mowing and strimming of paths, and general tidying-up of communal areas and entrances. **If you are not going to be around on Open Day, please would you allow us to pick some produce from your plot?**

On the day we will need help with the setting-up in the morning, manning the stalls, helping with refreshments, meeting and greeting, and finally, clearing up afterwards.

DONATIONS

This year we are hoping for the following donations: plants, cut flowers, cakes and biscuits for refreshments, raffle prizes, fresh produce, preserves, small good quality tools and gardening books.

Plants can be delivered to **A16 or A18**, where Lin has kindly volunteered to look after them until Open Day. Preserves, raffle prizes, 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 Open Day**.

If you can help please complete and return this form by **Friday 3rd August** to Wendy Calder at 8 Ellesmere Road or Tea Hut (B15) or email to 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"/> Anytime | |

I can provide:

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

You may pick the following produce from my plot:

Please return this form by **Friday 3rd August** to Wendy Calder at 8 Ellesmere Road or the Tea Hut (B15) or email to wendy@sunnysideallotments.org.uk. Thank you.