



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 4 October 2019

Editor's Note

What a mixture of weather we are having, with golden autumn days and sudden winds and downpours. Hopefully you have been able to get to your allotment, pick your remaining veg, and enjoy putting the plot to bed for another year.

This issue has a nice variety of pieces penned by Sunnyside members, including, for the first time, a poem! (I did rather ask for it, in my invitation for contributions, this month).

Anyway, I hope you enjoy reading it,

Lin Phillips,

Editor, A18 lin@sunnysideallotments.org.uk 07835 623981

Chairman's Notes

Another gardening season is nearly at an end, so we can enjoy eating the fruits of our labours and clear the plots for possible manuring. Before the weather changes, let's cast our minds back to the summer Open Day, which proved so successful, and especially thank Kate Rankin for coordinating all the activities.

During the winter there will be five working party days, so please come along and spend whatever time you can. Thanks to John Goffey for coordinating the work.

Two points from the Council's rules:

If you must have a bonfire, make sure that it is short-lived and hot rather than slow and smoky. Our neighbours have complained, and there is the possibility that the Council will impose more restrictive terms, so let's be careful.

As well as keeping plots cultivated, no rubbish should be brought onto plots. At the end of tenancies, the Council does not wish to be faced with clearing junk, and may choose to recover the costs incurred.

And a reminder that the Society AGM is on **Saturday 18th** January in the Sunnyside Rural Trust premises, Ivy House Lane (near the church car park), so please try to come along and make your views known.

Good gardening,
John Eaton

A year of hard work, of labour and toil
Delivers rewards, with fruits from the soil
There's nothing quite like getting up before dawn
To find that the badgers have had your sweetcorn

Jane, A12



"Well, that's my sweetcorn destroyed" Steve Atkinson.

Winter Working Parties 2019-20

Autumn sees the start of the working party season, so once a month on Sundays from October to March (with the exception of December) we will be undertaking communal tasks on a voluntary basis on Sunnyside, both Old and New. The are jobs for which neither individual allotment holders individually nor Berkhamsted Town Council are responsible. For example, the Council are responsible for the wide main green 'roads' and individual plot-holders are responsible for keeping the paths clear between plots. Occasionally a working party may clear paths between un-let plots, or around the wildlife area or the central path on SSN, which is too narrow for the contractor's mower but where regular access is needed to the water tanks.

The wood-chip and leaf piles are also part of SAS communal facilities, and have been abused in the past by contractors dumping. But this year, this has been better controlled by the Council and we hope to use future working parties to clear these areas and extend car-parking facilities on SSO. Hopefully we can do the same on SSN, but the accumulated chip heap (which is riddled with bindweed) is now beyond the scope of a working party. So, we await the Council's intervention there before we can start. Wood-chip will still be available from Sunnyside Rural Trust's chip piles.

This year, we will be looking at the Tea-hut area, finishing off the area around the green shed and workshop, also building a better storage facility for recovered timber. In January, we will be coppicing Jubilee Coppice West (N49) and producing pea and bean sticks available for plot-holders' use (a donation to SAS is expected for these, waived for those who joined in the coppicing working party).

Any plot-holder believing they know of work needed that falls into the 'communal' category should bring it to the attention of a member of the Committee.

NB: This year's dates for your diary:

10th November

12th January

9th February

10th March

Meet at the Tea-hut at 10am, soup and lunch included!

John Goffey, B16 (Organiser of Working Parties).

Your Current Committee Members

Chairman:	John Eaton	865307
Secretary:	Jenny Sippings	865890
Treasurer:	Andy James	865061
Newsletter Editor:	Lin Phillips	862882
Other members:		
	Angela Wheeldon	874440
	John Goffey	864967
	Diana Ball	875277
	Geoff Halls	878176
	Kate Rankin	866827
	Jeanne Woodcraft	872852

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@



Rain by Jeanne Woodcraft

Sunnyside Tea Hut and Area

Many Sunnyside allotment-holders have long enjoyed the facility we have of the tea-hut and covered seating area, which is found on Plot numbers B15, B17 and B19. Several times during the day (roughly at 11am, 1pm and 3pm, announced by the sounding of a horn) we can meet for a cup of tea or coffee and cake and biscuits, chat about the progress (or otherwise!) of our crops, or simply pass the time of day with friends.

This amenity was established some years ago on plots rented by Angela Wheeldon, who has kept the tea-hut tidied and well supplied, and welcomed us all, year in and year out, for a drink and a chat.

However, from 1st October 2019 Angela is relinquishing the top halves of each of these three allotments. The SAS Committee will be taking over responsibility for the top ends of these plots, which house the tea-hut and associated facilities. The middle part of each plot, amounting to about a quarter of a plot each, will be rented out in the usual way.

Over the next few months, the Committee will be deciding how best to upgrade the tea area, for example by installing new roofing to the seating area, and any other suggestions from allotment tenants are welcome.

Please remember that all Sunnyside allotment tenants, whether from Sunnyside Old or New, are welcome to use these facilities: the more the merrier!

Geoff Halls, A31

Christmas Drinks at the Tea-hut

Sunday, 15th December, 12-2pm

Bring a plate of savouries to share and enjoy a glass of mulled wine or juice

(If you wish to donate a bottle of red wine for mulling please bring it to the tea hut during the preceding week, so that it can be mulled the night before!)

A Date for your 2020 Diary

The AGM of Sunnyside Allotments Society will be held on Saturday morning, 18th January 2020, from 10.30am, in the Sunnyside Rural Trust building. Coffee and tea will be served from about 10.00, so come early and catch up with friends. Also, Andy our treasurer will be on hand to receive your annual membership subscription of £4.00 to the Society.

King's Seed Orders – a Reminder

Full paid up membership of Sunnyside Allotment Society entitles you to take part in the seed order scheme, which is operated through King's Seeds. This offers seeds and garden sundries at greatly reduced prices. I've recently sent out the catalogues to all tenants who are full members of SAS and asked that order forms are returned to me by 31st October. This is to give me time to collate the orders and send them to King's in time to get an additional discount on our order. This discount is added to Society funds, enabling us to carry out improvements around the site. The King's orders are delivered to my home – seeds in December and potatoes in January, usually, with fruit plants sent direct at the appropriate time. I'll let you know when they arrive, so you can then collect them.

Do remember that SAS subscriptions run from January to December, and you need to join before the end of May in order to participate in that year's seed order scheme. The easiest way to pay is at the AGM (which is on January 18th next year) when I will be there to accept payments.

Andy James, Treasurer



Rosie by Kate, A9

Mud and Manure

Firstly – mud: please avoid driving on the allotment roads when they are sticky and muddy, as the grass gets ripped up and cars have been known to slide off the road into someone's manure heap!

Which brings us to manure:

If you are about to start preparing your ground for next year, you might like to know that the following local farmers have supplied manure to tenants in the past. I haven't tried them this year, so please let me (Lin, Editor) know if any of them aren't doing manure any more, or if you know of another good supplier who will deliver to Sunnyside:

Dave Burgin 01442 832997

Phil Marks 01442 823357

Nigel Durrant 01442 403351

Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

N11 Mark Grego

Goodbye to:

A5A Joe Tattam

A5B Josephine Waterman

A14 Brett Bates

A17C Susan Hall

A25B Richard Paynter

N2 Thomas Grange

N50 John & Franki Knowles

N60 Sam Mathewlynn

Keeping the Sunnyside Toilet Fresh!

Firstly, a big thanks to Cynthia, Fiona and Philippa for their sterling work in keeping the Sunnyside toilet nice and clean; and then, to invite a few more volunteers, to share the rota. At present they each do a weekly clean for one month at a time, so their name comes round every three months. If you are sometimes very grateful that we have such a facility on the allotments, would you consider doing a stint? Please contact Cynthia on 01442-879410.



Autumn harvest by Steve Atkinson

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).

Open Day

Each year Open Day, Sunnyside Allotments welcomes the people of Berkhamsted (and anywhere else) to visit and explore one of the loveliest green spaces in our town. With a chance to buy plants, tools, produce, preserves and much more, a place to relax with a cuppa and a piece of homemade cake, and maybe even win a raffle prize, what could be more pleasant?

This year, the sun shone until the last gazebo was stowed away (and then the heavens opened!) There were more visitors than ever, resulting in a very enjoyable and successful event. The raffle alone raised more than £170 for the Hospice. No doubt a few prospective allotmentees will have been encouraged to get a plot; all helping to keep this beautiful place prospering and a part of our lives.

Naturally, this was only made possible by the goodwill and hard work of volunteers, many of whom not only helped on the day but had put in a great deal of time preparing ahead. Huge thanks and congratulations to each and every one of them.

Kate Rankin, Open Day Co-ordinator, A9

A Fond Farewell

October is going to be my last month on the Sunnyside allotments. Unfortunately, I only got to be here for one growing season, but it has been one of the best experiences in my life so far. To be able to go through the process of growing my own food and it actually being delicious has been wonderful, but above that have been the friends I have made here. Since taking on the plot at the beginning of this year, everyone I have met has helped me in one way or another, from making me feel welcome at the tea-hut to how to get tomatoes to grow outdoors and in abundance. I cannot thank you all enough; I don't want to name names and forget someone, but if you have had me pestering you all year then please know I will be ever-grateful for the knowledge you gave, and will pass it on when I manage to get some more soil to place seeds in.

I will have a little more time before my notice ends, so hopefully I will get to see many of you and say goodbye in person. If not, I hope it rains when you need it and the sun shines when you don't.

Thanks,

Brett Bates (A14)



Parental permission granted



Open Day photos by Jeanne Woodcraft