



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 3 Summer 2022

Editor's Note

High summer, and the best time of the year – but all that watering! As ever, some crops are doing marvelously while others are a big disappointment – plus, of course, the weeds are growing apace – don't forget to pull them up before they flower and set seed all over your plot and your neighbours'. Anyway, lots to see and read in this issue of our newsletter, so I hope you enjoy it.

Lin Phillips

Editor, A18 lin@sunnysideallotments.org.uk

Chairman's Notes

Where is the good news, you ask?

Well, Covid seems to be fading, if not gone; we had a successful Jubilee celebration, and now look forward to an Open Day on August 7th. Sounds a bit like normal to me.

The weather has been rather dry, so watering has been helpful. My broad beans have gone well, but it is too soon to rate the season as a whole. As well as harvesting fruit and veg, please keep weed seeds under control as far as possible.

A word on hose protocol: if you pay to use a pressurised hose, please disconnect it from the tank tap after use, and do not leave your hose lying across paths. Also please remember **not to use your hose as a sprinkler or leave it to spray: you must hold it in you hand.**

There have recently been a number of shed break-ins, but fortunately nothing seems to have been taken. So, a reminder not to leave anything of value in your shed, and if you are a victim you should report it to the police directly – they do not accept a 'bulk' report.

Good gardening
John Eaton



Who is on the plot near to me?

Over 150 local Berkhamsted residents work on our allotment plots - across both Old and New sites. That's an awful lot of characters; experience to learn from; stories to share. This new series is therefore about us - a chance to get to know just a little bit more about each other.

Getting to know ... Penny Macgregor

What number is your allotment plot ?

A37

Where were you born ?

Locally, near Amersham.

What was your first car ?

A very elderly Morris Minor which promptly failed its MOT.

Why did you take on an allotment ?

I've had large gardens for many years and when I moved to Berkhamsted I was looking for an easier small town garden. However shortly after moving here in February 2020 I realised how much I missed the space so applied for an allotment.

What year did you take on your allotment ?

2020

What is your most successful crop so far?

What, apart from courgettes? Florence fennel, planted as soon as I'd dug enough space in July 2020, did really well.

What is your most unusual crop so far?

Salsify – doesn't taste of much but has really beautiful flowers in its second year.

What three words would you use to describe your plot?

Can I have three phrases instead? Wildlife friendly. Work in progress. Satisfying.

What advice would you give any newcomers to Sunnyside?

Sunnyside Rural Trust were invaluable and I couldn't have cleared my overgrown plot without their help.

In a few words how would you describe Berkhamsted.

The perfect town – within easy reach of London and open countryside with the added bonus of The Rex.

What is your favourite garden centre?

Tring.

What shop would you like to see added to the High Street ?

White Stuff would fit nicely into the space left by Laura Ashley.



Penny amongst her amazing Californian Poppies and we love

Getting to know ... Puri Lopez-Carballo

What number is your allotment plot ?

SSN5

Where were you born ?

A Coruña, Spain.

What was your first car ?

VW Golf, red.

Why did you take on an allotment ?

To grow vegetables and fruit, my garden doesn't get enough sun.

What year did you take on your allotment ?

January 2021, I share with my friend Julie, she grows flowers.

What is your most successful crop so far?

Onions and tomatoes.

What is your most unusual crop so far?

Cape gooseberry and jostaberry.

What three words would you use to describe your plot?

Piece of heaven.

What advice would you give any newcomers to Sunnyside?

Keep trying, don't despair every year is different.

In a few words how would you describe Berkhamsted?

A quiet place to live, close to amazing countryside.

What is your favourite garden centre?

Any where you can find unusual plants.

What shop would you like to see added to the High Street?

One that sells anything sewing related, fabric, tools...



Hello from Puri ... planting new trees having just taken on her shared plot

Meet the Committee

An opportunity for new tenants to meet members of the SAS committee was offered at a coffee morning one Sunday in May. Meeting at the new Tea Hut, a few new and newish members came along, and various lively discussions took place over drinks and a very nice selection of snacks. It was agreed that the idea was a success, and that further Meet the Committee events will be held occasionally, as more new tenants join Sunnyside.

Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

Chloe Dorrington	A28
Aron Best	N51
Lorraine Golder	N56A

Goodbye to:

Tim Stiles	A19B
Ben Goodman	N9
Jacqueline Harrison	N51
Ali Cameron	N56A
Tom Vila	N64A

Sunnyside Allotments Open Day

You should by now have received notification and information about our Open Day (Sunday 7th August); I hope you are busy making jams and chutneys for the produce stall, potting up plants for the plant stall, and rummaging through your sheds for surplus tools, etc., as well, of course, as tending your fruit and veg. Let us hope for good weather on the day so that visitors and plot-holders alike can make the most of this lovely site.

PS: Cash only!

Kate Rankin, A9

Sunnyside Allotment Society

Allotment OPEN DAY

Sunnyside Allotments
Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted
Sunday 7th August 2022
from 12 noon-3.30pm

Come and have stroll around
Everyone welcome

- Refreshments all day
- Produce, preserves, plants, garden books and tools for sale
- Donation to local charities

Berkhamsted's contribution to:
National Allotments Week 9-14 August 2022

Car parking at Sunnyside Church car park, Ivy House Lane or why not walk?

Stars of the Sunnyside Toilet Cleaning Rota

You may not realise it, but here at Sunnyside we are really lucky to have a toilet on site - not every allotment site is so well provided - and it is down to a group of volunteers that ours is kept in such good condition.

But now it is time to thank Philippa, Charley and Fiona for their sterling work in keeping our allotment toilet in a clean and tidy condition, and to wish them each a long and happy retirement from the role!

And welcome to Allison, who joins Cynthia and Juliet on the rota. With a group of 3, it only comes round every three months that each member will take responsibility for keeping the toilet clean for that month.

This is not a high-profile duty, but it is an essential one, and without enough volunteers, the toilet would have to be closed. So if you and your family value this amenity, perhaps you would like to do your bit; if so, please get in touch with me.

Lin Phillips (Editor) 07835 623981



Alfie, properly tied up, by sunflowers

Water Conservation

It's that time of year when plants are thirsty, and we spend much of our time giving them a drink. Do please remember that water is a precious resource, and here are some tips for using it wisely:

- Water early or late in the day where possible, to give a chance for the water to soak into the ground and avoid evaporation
- Using watering cans is a good way of ensuring you water just those plants that need it.
- If using a hose (having paid the premium to the Council), direct the water right onto the roots of plants; if you spray all over the place, you not only waste water but this can result in scorching of leaves, when the sun then sends its burning rays onto them.
- If you have a shed or greenhouse on your plot, you are required to fit guttering and rig up a downpipe to direct the runoff from rain into a water butt or two.

Socks on Sweetcorn?

With the hope of a good sweetcorn crop this year, I will be trying the suggestion from Gardeners' World a few weeks ago, of putting old socks over the heads to stop the rats and badgers getting there first. I will let you know if this idea works out!

Debbie Crooks, A 38

Your Current Committee Members

Chairman:	John Eaton	865307
Secretary & newsletter layout and production :	Jenny Sippings	865890
Treasurer:	Andy James	865061
Newsletter Editor:	Lin Phillips	862882
Other members:	Angela Wheeldon	874440
	John Goffey	864967
	Diana Ball	875277
	Kate Rankin	866827
	Jeanne Woodcraft	872852
	Steve Atkinson	

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 2022

If you are a full paid up member of Sunnyside Allotment Society, you will soon be receiving details of the Discounted Seed Order Scheme for this year.

For those who have not participated before (and a reminder for others), I will be distributing the 2023 Seed Catalogue from Kings Seeds – along with details of how to place an order and an Order Form – sometime towards the end of August. You can then spend many a relaxing evening planning your next year's crop before returning the completed form to me before the end of October. I will then collate the orders and send them to Kings; Seeds and Sundries are normally delivered before Christmas, with Seed Potatoes following in January (any live plants such as fruit or asparagus will be delivered directly to you at the appropriate time). I will let you know when orders have arrived, and you collect them from me - it's as simple as that!

I look forward to receiving your orders – remember that as well as offering gardening supplies at a discount, this scheme also raises money for the Sunnyside Allotment Society Fund.

Andy James, N57

News from Sunnyside Rural Trust

We were thrilled that Arit Anderson (Gardeners' World presenter, writer, RHS Ambassador and garden designer) visited three of our sites a few weeks ago. We spent a day immersed in talking about and seeing the benefit of horticulture as therapy for wellbeing, and working with adults with learning disabilities. Arit spent time with the teams at Hemel Food Garden and at Northchurch, and with Tom & Sue Stuart-Smith at the Orchard Project at Serge Hill as well. Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for more information on the follow-up to this in the next few months:

<https://www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk/sunnyside-plants/>

<https://www.facebook.com/sunnysideruraltrustcharity/>

Sunnyside Plants

We have a select range of plants now available at Hemel Food Garden. Open Monday to Saturday, 10.00 until 3.00pm.

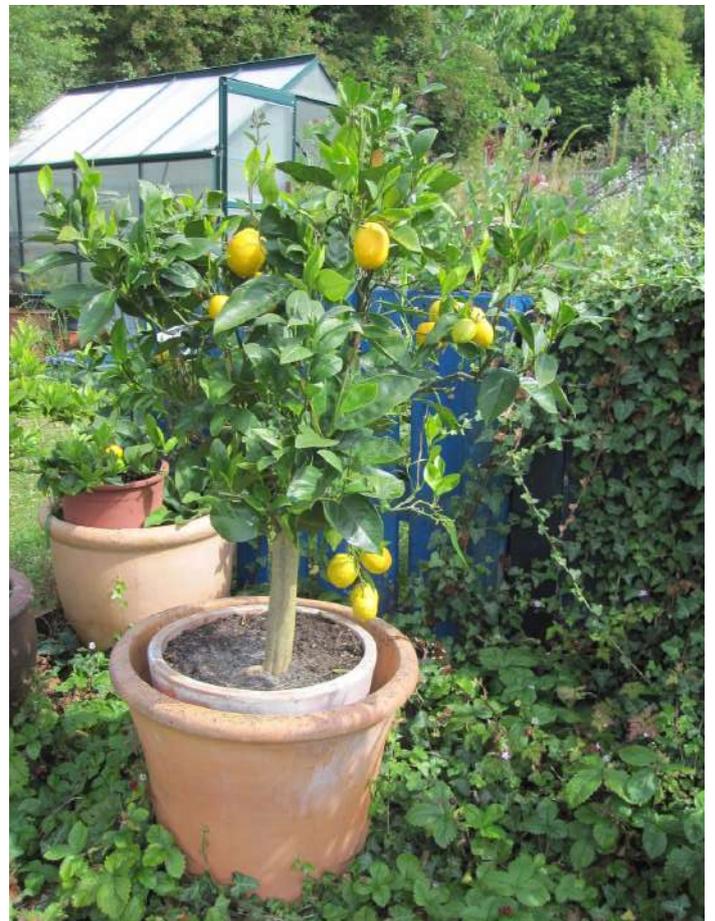
Dawn Watson, Publicity & Communications Officer,
Sunnyside Rural Trust.



A taste of Provence?

Will Facey sent us these lovely photos - Marsha's herb garden (C17): box hedges replaced with pittosporum, euonymus and veronica Ulster blue.

Also, Will's oranges and lemons (C37).



Moody sky over Sunnyside



Platinum Jubilee Picnic, 12th June

To mark the Platinum Jubilee, it was decided to hold a picnic for allotmenters, families and friends. It was held a week later than the rest of the country's celebrations, and we were lucky with the weather. About 85 people turned up to be welcomed with a glass of Sangria or wine. Food was also provided, and others brought food to share. We really were spoilt for choice!

The afternoon ended with a toast to the Queen and a slice of Jubilee cake (thanks to Chris O'Callaghan) and a good time was had by all. Maybe we should make a Summer Picnic an annual event on the Sunnyside calendar. Let us know.

Kate Rankin, A9





Beautification of Sunnyside





Sunnyside Allotment Society

OPEN DAY SUNDAY 7th AUGUST 2022

This year our Open Day takes place on 7th August from 12 noon to 3.30pm. 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, fresh produce, preserves, good quality gardening tools and gardening and cookery books.

Plants (**these should be labelled**) can be delivered to **A9** (opposite Ted's bench) where Kate has kindly volunteered to look after them until Open Day. Preserves, gardening tools and paraphernalia 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 **11am on Open Day**.

If you can help please complete and return this form by **Friday 29th July** to Kate Rankin at 7 Bedford Street or Tea Hut (B15) or email to katerankin39@hotmail.co.uk. Any questions, please do not hesitate to call me on 866827.

Thank you
Kate

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):

- 10.00-12.00 noon (setting up) 12 noon to 1.00pm 1.00-2.00pm
- 2.00-3.00pm 3.00-3.30pm 3.30-4.30pm
- Anytime

I can provide:

- Cakes/biscuits Produce Preserves Plants (clearly labelled)
- Gardening tools Gardening/cookery books

You may pick the following produce from my plot:

Please return this form by **Friday 29th July** to Kate Rankin at 7 Bedford Street or the Tea Hut (B15) or email to katerankin39@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.