

SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1/2000

AGM REPORT

The AGM held in the Gable Hall on 27th November was well attended and it was a pleasure that so many tenants were able to give up their valuable time to be present!

The meeting re elected your existing Committee and two new Committee members both from Sunnyside New, were elected, Rod Cottrell and Ian Stowe. For your information your Officers and Committee are now as follows:-

Chairman	Ted Dyer	872684
Treasurer	John Savage	873877
Secretary	Jenny Sippings	865890
Committee	Peter Chapman	871470
	Rod Cottrell	384963
	Fiona Duck	874334
	Ken Harbord	865757
	Ian Stowe	876815

Peter Chapman was also elected Vice Chairman.

There was considerable debate on the Society's membership of the National Society of Leisure Gardeners and the view of the meeting was that the benefits of membership were such that the SAS should join the National Society. This means that we are required to provide a nominal role of our members to the National Society together with a payment of £1 per member.

A number of tenants have still to pay their subscription to the Society, which remains at £2 per annum, and is now due. Membership of the National Society will be progressed at the end of March to allow time for SAS Subs to be paid. These can be paid direct to John Savage, Vaucluse, Gravel Path (next door to Grantham Mews formerly Netherfield) or to any Committee Member who will pass your Subs on to John.

So far as the Henry Doubleday Research Association is concerned the meeting decided that the Society would not join but of course individual tenants can do so if they wish.

The 1998/9 accounts were approved by the meeting and a copy of the audited accounts is enclosed with this Newsletter for your information. A copy of the minutes of the AGM is also enclosed. There was also considerable debate on what to do about tenants who do not cultivate their plots or take the trouble to keep their garden tidy which creates a nuisance to other tenants. Last summer tenants were plagued by wind blown seeds from untidy gardens. The Society aims to encourage Allotment use and it is key to our success that we keep our sites as tidy as possible. It is important that Sunnyside Allotments look attractive to encourage new tenants and gardens (with tenants) which are left rough do not help our cause.

We also need to show there is a demand for Allotments to avoid claims that the land is derelict and surplus to requirements. Tenants are, of course, tenants of the council so the Society is not able to take direct action against those who do not abide by their agreement with the Council. However your Committee feel that in view of the strength of feeling expressed at the AGM we must draw the Council's attention to tenants who are not cultivating their gardens, or, keeping them tidy. This could result in the Council terminating tenancies but will certainly result in warning letters being sent out by the Council.

We are aware of problems of a short term nature which some tenants have experienced due to family or health problems in the past year and hopefully normal service will be resumed on the plots concerned shortly.



HAZEL COPPICE

Subject to ratification by the Full Town Council a partnership has been proposed with the costs of establishing the Coppice being met by the Council with the Society being responsible for maintenance and cropping in due course. The Councillors on the Allotments Management Committee suggested the Society consider expanding the area planted for coppicing and if the initial planting goes well your Committee will consider the suggestion. Our success will depend on there being sufficient tenants prepared to give time on a periodic basis to ensure the trees get established without competition from the undergrowth. Subject to the Councils decision on Monday 24th January, preparation work may start on Saturday 12th February with planting on the 18th March.

RUBBISH CLEARANCE

The dumping sites on Sunnyside Old and New are now closed and arrangements are being made for the rubbish collected to be removed by the Borough Council. We will be arranging further clearances in due course but for the present no further items should be deposited at the designated sites.

CLEARANCE OF UNTENANTED GARDENS

Notices have been posted on Notice Boards at Sunnyside announcing clearance days on **Saturdays 22nd January, and 12th February** and your committee hope these will be successful. These occasions very much depend on the support given by tenants and many hands really do help.

The more we can do by way of self help will aid our submission for improvements to water supplies.

HIRE OF A DIGGER

In December a digger was hired by Angela Wheeldon to carry out a job on her garden.

The Society Committee decided to contribute towards the cost to enable further tree

stump removal to take place on both Old and New sites. The opportunity was also taken to clear some rubble on the New and to work on the centre roadway.

Our thanks go to Fred Jackson for giving up his time to operate the digger for us. Without his expertise we would not achieve anywhere near as much as we did.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

The Society holds address details for all tenants to enable us to communicate with you. It is not our intention to supply this information to any other organisations except for Society purposes e.g. National Society of Leisure Gardeners.

You do, of course, have the right to withhold your address from the Society but this would not allow us to keep you informed.

TENANCY CHANGES

Sunnyside Old

Out

Mick Lowen	B29/31
Rachel Scott	B11A

In

Peggy Picco	B11A
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Sunnyside New

Fred Jackson has relinquished half of Plot 54, which has been taken over by Clive Weakley.

We extend a warm welcome to both Peggy and Clive.