



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

1/2005

2005 is upon us and at present the weather is good for gardeners, with excellent conditions for digging and manuring, hopefully heralding a season of bumper crops. It is hard to believe that there won't be snow and ice within the next few weeks, 'as the days lengthen, the cold strengthens', the old saying tells us. Whatever befalls, a happy and productive New Year to all tenants.

I hope you all have your allotment calendar hanging upon the wall and have tried out at least one of the many recipes. If not there is still a chance to obtain one as Jenny still has a few left. We must thank her for all the time and effort she puts into the creation of this calendar which is entirely for the benefit of our society.

Christmas was celebrated on a lovely, cold, sunny Sunday morning by over thirty tenants. Mulled wine, nettle wine, mince pies and other festive contributions were shared. It could not have been a better way to have brought this year to a successful conclusion, a year which has seen our society expand considerably.

Annual General Meeting - 27th November 2004

This was well attended and our Chairman Bruce Jones gave a very upbeat report on the year's activities. He was pleased to tell us that the present relationship with the Town Council was more positive than it had been for a long time; that the plans for the toilet were well underway and that it would be built by the end of the summer. He thanked Ted for his constant collection of recycled materials and his instant repairs which saved money for both S.A.S. and the Town Council. Most importantly, he felt that the society was in very good shape, that the allotments were in a tidier state and that we had been good at flying the flag for allotments generally.

It was decided that there should be only one Open Day in 2005 and that it should be held during National Allotments week, which will be in the second week of August.

Possible future projects were discussed; that we might keep bees; that we should consider a shop for growers supplies; that 'best buys' for products should be published in the Newsletter (If you have any, please inform the Editor).

The Treasurer's report was not presented at the meeting but is published at the end of this Newsletter.

Allotment Strategy

At the meeting of the Berkhamsted Town Council on 6 December 2004, the Council approved a Strategy Document. The minutes of the meeting record that the Council 'agreed that the document provided guidelines for the Allotment Management Team and the Town Council'. We now have to work on developing the detail beneath these strategic objectives. A copy of the Strategy follows:-

Berkhamsted Town Council Allotment strategy

- The Town Council recognises the great value of the Berkhamsted Allotments to the people of the town and accepts its duty to provide sufficient allotment gardens to meet demand. It re-affirms its commitment to Local Agenda 21 relating to nature and water conservation.
- It will take steps to identify potential demand and will actively promote the occupation of all the currently available allotments gardens. It will encourage allotment gardening by all, including those with disabilities and special needs.
- It will encourage the allotment movement by helping allotment garden holders to form active site associations which would manage the allotments through the Allotment Management Team. The AMT reports and is accountable to the Council.
- It will safeguard vacant allotment land and ensure that it is available to satisfy future demand for allotment gardens.
- It will maintain the allotment land and provide and maintain defined boundaries, internal roadways and water supply.
- It will maintain and improve the facilities available to reflect the current needs of allotment gardeners including those with disabilities.
- It will promote environmentally friendly gardening methods to accepted standards *(to be specified) and regulate activities likely to cause discomfort or annoyance to neighbouring residents and plot holders.
- It will review this charter at least once in four years.

Right: The clearance day in December proved to be a productive day.

Far right: The Christmas drinks afternoon was very popular and a good time was had in the winter sunshine.



Clearance Days

Three very successful clearance days were held in November and December. They were supported by several stalwart members, who with diggers, wheelbarrows and plenty of muscle managed to renew Middle Road on Sunnyside New and it is now ready to be levelled and sown with grass in the Spring. It was good to see new faces working on this project and it is a splendid example of what can be achieved by communal effort. The Council kindly helped us by paying for the diggers.

The next clearance days are on **SATURDAY 5th FEBRUARY** and **SATURDAY 5th MARCH** when the objective is to carry out tree planting and clearance on Birchnell's Copse, as well as other allotments on Sunnyside New. Please come along and have a day of hard work and fun. A light lunch, with hot soup, is provided, to keep up the energy levels.

Patchwork

Most of us know Peter Block as the tenant who grows beautiful dahlias, but Peter and his wife, Jean, also have a lovely garden in Hall Park Gate called Patchwork. They open their garden regularly for charity and this year they will be open on Sundays 1 May and 14 August on behalf of NGS & Lions and on Sunday 19 June in aid of the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. Any help, in the form of homemade cakes or serving teas, selling plants or dismantling, would be much appreciated by Peter and Jean.

Future Events

Environment Fair.

Saturday 12th March. This will take place in the Old Town Hall, and as it lasts all day, Angela would be grateful for volunteers to help her man our stall. She will be setting up a photo display as usual.

Barbeque

Saturday 25th June from 3pm. All members and their families are welcome.

Tenancy Changes

IN

Beth Bailey	B10B
Ann Obee	B10B
Gerry Rooke	N34A
Michael Barwise	N58 & N57
Paul Nuttall & Jenny Flower	N42
Simon Bird	A44
Ann Griffiths	C3

OUT

Anna Armitage	B10
Colin Hawkes	B32B
Mary Bannister	B12B

We are pleased to welcome so many new members.

You may find it helpful to visit our website:-

www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk
to consult the article by Clive on breaking new ground.

Sponsored Run

Daniel Bartlett, our Treasurer, is running for charity and would like our support....

On May 1st I will be running a marathon in memory of my Mother

who died a year ago. Having failed to gain a place in the London Marathon for Cancer Research, I shall be running instead in the Neolithic Marathon between Stonehenge and Avebury for the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust - which she would have appreciated. Every extra penny of sponsorship will help keep me motivated whilst training on these cold, dark and wet days, and in those final 25.2 miles (the first mile is easy!). Also Network Rail are matching any funds raised, so contributions count for double. If you would like to sponsor me, please let me know by mail (14 Bridge Street), email (daniel.bartlett@networkrail.co.uk), phone (01442 877109), via my website (www.justgiving.com/danielbartlett) or through the Tea Hut. *Thank You*

Gardeners clippings

FOR SALE: 2 garden loungers with cushions - £3.00

Hand lawn mower - £4.00

Please contact the Tea Hut for these items.

WANTED:

A tenant on the New site is looking for a green house for his plot. Please contact the Tea Hut for more details.



Below you will find an intriguing article, by Michael Barwise, about growing roses as a crop, rather than for just ornamentation. If you would like some rose wine or face cream, now is the time to start planting!

Roses as a crop Part 1

by Michael D. Barwise

Although almost everyone likes roses, many remain content with the garden centre range of hybrid teas and modern floribundas, unaware of the variety and wonder of the old fashioned roses, and the wide range of uses to which they can be put. The magnificent colours and scents of these roses are, however, gradually becoming more well known, and with this comes increased interest in roses as a crop, rather than just as ornament.

Roses have been used to produce perfumes, confectionery, cordials and wines for thousands of years. Rose petals were strewn at Roman feasts, and there is clear evidence of medicinal uses from medieval times in, for example, the name of *Rosa Gallica officinalis*: the ancient French Apothecaries' Rose. Although no longer used in medicines, roses (notably *Rosa damascena* Kazanlik) are still grown by the acre in such places as Bulgaria for the production of perfume. However, such vast quantities are required for this due to the tiny amount of rose oil in each flower that perfume production is not really practical for the smaller

grower. Nevertheless, even on the allotment, a sufficient crop can be obtained for the production of cordials, wines and confections, and even simple cosmetics.

The best roses to choose are of the old fashioned kinds: gallicas, centifolias, albas, musks, and some of the Portland roses. These flower once only per year, in June or July, but so profusely if well tended that this does not limit their utility, or indeed their beauty. They are generally easy to care for, requiring negligible pruning except for the cutting out of dead wood and overcrowded stems, and are in general pretty resistant to the diseases that beset the later continuous flowering hybrids.

Contrary to popular belief, you are not restricted to red roses. The extract, even of white roses, is red, and its colour is not significantly influenced by the colour of the flowers. Your roses must, though, be selected for strong perfume. This is not difficult as the old fashioned roses surpass all others for scent. The most important consideration has to be the ultimate size of the bushes, as some of the finest old fashioned roses will happily grow to more than ten feet high by eight or ten across. Roses I have found suitable for cropping in a small space include *Rosa alba* Felicite Parmentier (light pink), Bourbon rose Boule de Nieve (white, patched red in bud), *Rosa damascena* Kazanlik (carmine), *Rosa damascena* Madame Hardy (white flushed pink), *Rosa gallica* Alain

Blanchard (magenta), *Rosa gallica* Belle Isis (pink), *Rosa gallica* Duc de Guiche (magenta), *Rosa Gallica* Tuscany Superb (deep crimson, sometimes almost black), *Rosa gallica* Versicolor (also known as *Rosa Mundi*, the ancient magenta and white striped rose), *Rosa centifolia* muscosa Capitaine John Ingram (violet), *Rosa centifolia* muscosa William Lobb (magenta), and the Portland roses Jaques Cartier (pink) and Rose de Rescht (pink). All of these are small shrubs no more than about five feet high by four across, and they are among the most sweetly scented of the old fashioned Roses. I must emphasise that my colour descriptions do not do them justice either!

Next time I will describe how rose petals are used. Until then, why not plan your rose garden?



The Sunnyside Allotment Society

Account for Financial Year ended 31 October 2004

2002/03 Income	2003/04	2002/03 Expenditure	2003/04
479.62 Seed Order	725.67	418.01 Seed Order	638.49
123.00 Subscriptions	118.00	72.00 Subscriptions - NASLAG	85.75
362.13 Sales (BBQ, Open Day, Wood)	631.85	0.00 Cost of Sales	183.27
120.50 Donations	184.21	88.34 Donations	0.00
3.08 Interest	7.26	0.00 Interest	0.00
0.00 Reimbursed Expenses	14.20	33.43 Expenses - Miscellaneous	128.97
		40.00 Expenses - Hire of Hall	20.00
		73.14 Expenses - BBQ and Open Day	177.50
<u>1088.33</u>	<u>1681.19</u>	<u>724.92</u>	<u>1233.98</u>
		<u>363.41</u> Excess of income over expenditure	<u>447.21</u>
	2003 Balance Sheet as at 31 October		2004
	£		£
	648.90 Deposit with Nationwide Building Society		986.23
	0.00 Cash in hand		109.88
	<u>648.90</u>		<u>1096.11</u>
	Represented by		
	285.49 Accumulated fund at beginning of year		648.90
	363.41 Excess of income over expenditure		447.21
	<u>648.90</u>		<u>1096.11</u>

I certify that the foregoing statement of accounts is correct

Hon Treasurer

November 2004

I certify that the above accounts are in accordance with the books of account and the information and explanations given to me noting that receipts have not been given for income items. The paperwork for one item of expenditure at £20 for hire of SSRT hall for AGM on 24/11/03 has not been located.

Hon Auditor

November 2004