

SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2/2000

HAZEL COPPICE -

A SOCIETY SUCCESS STORY

On the 12th February there was a magnificent turnout of members to complete the planting of the Hazel Coppice. Some preparation work had been carried out in advance to ensure completion of the planting on the day. Some 44 trees were planted after the initial work was completed and tree protectors, stakes and plastic mats installed. Wood chips supplied by Patrick Stileman were tipped over the mats as a mulch.

The Town Council were represented with the Mayor John Brookes carrying out a ceremonial planting with the Beadle Peter Wheeler (a tenant on Sunnyside Old) in attendance. The Gazette sent along a photographer to record the occasion and a report with a colour picture appeared in the paper.

This was useful publicity for the Society and demonstrates once again our ability to manage and complete a project in a competent manner. However, we need to continue to demonstrate our ability to successfully maintain the coppice through to production of pea sticks and bean poles in future years. Volunteers will be needed to keep the grass down, water in dry spells and replenish the wood chips from time to time. Anyone prepared to help with the ongoing maintenance should provide their name and telephone number to any committee member.

Our thanks go to all who took part in the successful day and particularly to Patrick for his valuable expertise and guidance.



Top: Patrick gives the volunteers instruction on planting

Middle: Mayor John Brookes plants the first tree

Bottom: The finished job!

SAS contact numbers

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

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ALLOTMENT CLEARANCE

Our thanks go to those tenants who gave their time on allotment clearance days to clear the jungle on untenanted gardens. On the 22nd January three gardens were cleared on Sunnyside New and on 12th February as well as the Hazel Coppice work a further garden was cleared.

On the 18th March four more gardens were cleared. Of the eight gardens cleared four have subsequently been let and are now under cultivation which proves the value of our clearance work.

Further clearance days will be organised next winter and we hope we shall be as successful with our working parties as we have been this year so far.

ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

This committee was formed by the Council on an experimental basis last year, and has been judged to have been a success, which is good news. As yet the councillors who will sit on the committee has still to be determined and the date for the next meeting is awaited. An additional water tank is to be provided on Sunnyside Old and will be installed on Plot A3, hopefully in the next four weeks.

The Council have also purchased two rolls of black plastic to place on cleared gardens to suppress weed growth. The plastic remains the property of the Council and will be recovered and relocated as gardens are tenanted and cultivated.

The next project requiring funds from the Allotments

BERKHAMSTED TOOL HIRE Discount for members

We have negotiated an arrangement for members hiring items from them to reduce a 10% discount on the hire charge. It will be necessary for members to produce proof of identity at the shop when seeking to hire equipment. The shop staff are being provided with a list of tenants names for their use in administering the scheme.

We hope you will find the scheme useful and please provide feedback on your experiences to Fiona Duck (Tel 874334).

budget is the relocation of a water tank at the top of Sunnyside New. This will involve the laying of water pipe to service the tank at its new site and it may be necessary for the Society to take part in the work to get it done as speedily as possible.

USE OF PRESSURE HOSEPIPES

Consideration is to be given to the installation of taps on water tank feed pipes. This would enable tenants to couple a hosepipe and take water at mains pressure. If this comes to fruition it would be necessary for tenants wishing to use the service to pay a water levy possibly £5 to £7 per year in addition to the plot rental.

It would still be possible to syphon water from the Councils water tanks to water tanks on tenants plots.

Would tenants please contact Ted Dyer or any Committee Member to pass on your views on this possibility.

ABSENT TENANTS

The gardening season is upon us again but unfortunately we still have a number of absent tenants. It is to be hoped that the tenants concerned will appear shortly and tidy / cultivate their gardens which

will significantly improve the appearance of the allotments.

If there is anyone who does not feel able to continue with their tenancy would they contact Committee members in order to receive a form from the Council to cancel the tenancy.

SECURITY SUNNYSIDE NEW

Following thefts of tools from Sunnyside New it has been proposed that the gates to this site should be secured with padlocks and chains.

Obviously there would be a need to ensure tenants still have access at all times. it may be necessary to provide individuals on the site with keys.

No discussion has taken place at the Allotments Management Committee on this issue as yet and it would be appreciated if tenants on the New site would contact their Committee members (Rod Cottrell and Ian Stowe are your representatives) and their telephone numbers are given overleaf.

CAR PARKING - SUNNYSIDE OLD

Tenants are requested not to park in Grantham Mews but to use the car park inside the Allotments (Plot A2).

TENANCY CHANGES

Since the last Newsletter there have been a number of tenancy changes and these are as follows:

Sunnyside Old

Fiona Gates	A4
Charlotte Seeberg	B16
Mick Lowen	B29/31
Melissa Sargaison	C1
Jane Miller	C3
John Driver	C33
Brenda Baynes is sharing	B27
with Rosemary Burnett	

Sunnyside New

Bob Lathwell	30/31
Simon Lawes	32
Harvey Gosling	33
James Barnes	34
Dennis Fruin	35(b)

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS

One of the benefits of membership is for the Society to administer a seeds purchase scheme on behalf of members. Would any tenant be able to spare the time to collate orders receive payment, submit bulk orders, to the supplier and to break down the bulk supplies to individual tenants. If there is anyone who wishes to volunteer please contact any of your committee (numbers listed on front cover).

Only those paid up members of the Society will be able to use this facility.

DELIVERIES TO THE ALLOTMENTS

Recently problems arose due to deliveries to a tenant being put in the wrong place. This has demonstrated a need to be present where possible to receive deliveries or to ensure

that clear instructions are given to the person making the delivery. Would tenants please bear this in mind.

TOWN ANNUAL MEETING

The Society have been invited to mount a display of photographs depicting members activities on Sunnyside Allotments. This will be an opportunity for the Society to gain publicity and therefore become wider known. There will also be Allotment publicity on display which will hopefully encourage new tenancies.

SUNNYSIDE CHURCH CAR PARKING

The Church are seeking to extend their car park in order to accommodate the large number of cars used by their parishoners. Discussions have taken place with Church representatives and they will be communicating with the Town Council when they have considered their position. The sites for car parking under consideration are

- (a) Extension of existing car park
- (b) Two vacant plots next to the top gateway on Sunnyside New

Your committee is against any further loss of Allotment land to car parking and the Town Council will be informed accordingly.

MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

This year grass cutting and hedge trimming will be carried out by Sunnyside Rural Trust. The grass will be cut Seven times this year as against six cuts in previous years. The hedges will be trimmed twice, in July and October.

SRT can provide an

Allotment clearance and rotavating service with the price for these services being negotiated with Tenants requiring their services. Please contact SRT directly for information/site visit, on 878659.

RUBBISH CLEARANCE

For the time being the usual dumping points are closed. Please keep your unwanted metal, glass or plastic on your plot for the time being until later on this year when further collections will be arranged on your behalf.

PLOT NUMBERING

There has been a considerable improvement in the display of plot numbers on tenants gardens but there are still some unmarked gardens. Please help by displaying your plot number.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

From the August Newsletter Brenda Baynes will take over preparation. Our thanks go to Brenda for agreeing to take on this role for the Society. She can be contacted at 51 High Street if anyone has any items/articles for inclusion in the Newsletter.

LOST PROPERTY

A few weeks ago a pair of spectacles were found on Sunnyside Old on 'B' road. If any tenant has lost these they can be claimed by contacting Angela Wheeldon on 874440.

GARDENERS CLIPPINGS

A Calor Gas Heater is available to any tenant who may be interested. Please contact Ted Dyer to arrange to view or to take it away.