

SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2/99

WATER SUPPLIES

Our last Newsletter made reference to the excellent work carried out by members to provide new water supply pipes on Sunnyside Old site.

As a new venture with the Newsletter we felt members would wish to see the photographs of the pipe laying taking place, we believe this work was a demonstration of the Society's ability to manage its affairs in a satisfactory manner.

Members will, we are sure wish to know that the donations received covered the cost of the digger used on the day, without which we would have had a very arduous time. Our thanks go to all those who kindly donated money to the society.

As a bonus whilst we had the digger we were able to excavate a number of tree roots from gardens cleared in 1998.

CLEARANCE OF RUBBISH

Once again a quantity of unwanted items have been gathered and by the time you read this arrangements will have been made for it to be collected by the Borough Council. We must be winning the battle against rubbish, because the amount collected this time has reduced. If you still have unwanted metal, glass or plastic please let your Committee know to enable the need for a further collection to be assessed. In the meantime the dumping points are closed.



Many hands make light work – especially if you have a digger!

SOCIETY MACHINERY

Sadly the strimmer donated by John Wood to the Society failed on its first outing, due to the engine seizing. For the time being it is not available for use.

Due to insurance problems the Society is reviewing its position on the use of Machinery and a further announcement will appear in the next newsletter.

UNTIDY GARDENS

There are still a number of gardens whose tenants are rarely seen. Since Summer is approaching it would be helpful if the individuals concerned could make efforts to at least tidy up their plots.

If anyone finds that they no longer have the time to work their plots and wish to give them up, would they please notify the Town Council as soon as possible.

GARDENERS CLIPPINGS

Clive Smith (01442 864865) has some strawberry plants available without charge. Please contact Clive if you wish to take up his offer.



TOWN WARDEN

Andy Rolls left his job as Town Warden on 28th February and we wish him well in his new role as a Civilian Enquiry Officer with Herts Constabulary at Berkhamsted Police Station.

During his time as Town Warden, Andy was very helpful to the Society and is sorely missed. We hope that his replacement will be as helpful, but only time will tell. We understand an appointment has been made and an announcement will be made in the local press soon.

PLOT NUMBERS

Our appeals for tenants to number their plots has met with some success but there is still some way to go. Please help us and potential tenants by numbering your plot(s) to aid identification of vacant gardens.

TENANCY CHANGES

A number of tenants have relinquished their plots for various reasons and details are as follows:-

Sunnyside Old

A6 Christine Newell
A17 Geoff Hart
B20/22 John Wood
B35 Steve Turner

Sunnyside New

35 Andrew Newland
117 Stephen Halliday

On the plus side there has been a number of new lettings on both sites and we extend a welcome to the following:-

Sunnyside Old

A6 'TC' Thomas
A38b /C1 Peter Ross
B4 C.A. King
B20 Kathy Collins
B22 Joan Lawler
C26/28/30b/32/34
Chris Hawkes

Sunnyside New

9&10 Ian Stowe
26 Martin Rochford
David Neale has increased his holding by taking on A17 on Sunnyside Old

It is heartening that further gardens cleared by Society Members have been let which makes our efforts worthwhile. Please do what you can to encourage friends and neighbours to come and join us. There must be people out there who wish to grow organically or who have concerns over Genetically Modified Foods, who could be persuaded to join us.

We believe in making new tenants feel welcome but we recognise that the task of clearing and cultivating some plots is arduous work which needs dedication.

HAZEL COPPICE

A suggestion has been made that the Society should take on an allotment and plant Hazel trees for coppicing to provide bean poles and pea sticks. What do you think? If there is enough support for the idea the Society will need to approach the Town Council for permission. Whichever site was chosen, regard would have to be given to avoiding problems for other tenants by shading or tree roots.

Please let your Committee have your views favourable or otherwise as soon as possible.

ARTICLES & NOTES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If anyone wishes to contribute short notices or articles to the newsletter would they please pass them directly to Fiona Duck at 29 Shrublands Avenue or to any Committee member.

For the benefit of new tenants a full list of your Officers/Committee is as follows:-

Ted Dyer	872684
John Savage	873877
Jenny Sippings	864865
Peter Chapman	871470
Fiona Duck	874334
Ken Harbord	865757
Graham Hall	873408

Your representatives on the Town Councils Environment Committee are as follows:-

Sunnyside New

Spiros Taylor 862614

Sunnyside Old

Peter Chapman 871470
Ted Dyer 872684

Our next Newsletter will be produced in July, so you have a couple of months to produce any notes or articles for inclusion.

CLEARANCE OF UNTENANTED GARDENS

This years allotment clearance days resulted in the clearance of 4½ gardens despite the inclement weather on the second Saturday! Our thanks go to those members who assisted with the clearance and burning of the rubbish. We plan to repeat the exercise next winter.