



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 3 July 2012

When 11 of my 12 Purple Sprouting plants were devoured while under netting I felt particularly hard done by. When my first and second planting of nicely developed beans was sheared off and pigeons trampled my peas I decided that we would just have to make do with chard and potatoes. My strawberries (netted) have also fallen victim and in all cases I strongly suspect rats, though the reported invasion of 4 inch Spanish stealth slugs could account for the strawberry damage. Yet more illegal immigrants.

Chris Locke

From our chairman:

In my last report I talked about how to save water in your newly purchased water butts and the horrors of a drought ridden season. But I did say that it might all be changed by the time you read it. Perhaps it will work again – if I tell you how to setup water powered generators and converted bicycles to power full daylight lamps for your cold frame. How to find a use for the slugs and snails growing to huge size in the rains and eating all our plants faster than they can grow, and say “perhaps it will all have changed by the time you read this” – it just might work again and we could have some sun and warmth. If it does I shall give up the day job and set up as a witch doctor. Is it coincidence that the new entries on the waiting list are fewer than in previous years or are the howls of rage over little bare stalks been putting people off?

We had a brilliant **Jubilee Party** with over 120 people as far as we can tell from the plastic spoons and cups we washed up and recycled. Many thanks to Angela and Jenny and helpers. What shall we do next year? Ted's birthday party was a great success so maybe we should celebrate someone else's birthday. The only trouble with that is that the chairman will be 75 in May and Angela has a significant birthday in June so we may need another idea to prevent an unseemly struggle over whose party it would be. The barbecue and the picnic are not a big enough draw and although pleasant and enjoyable. And to celebrate 60 years since the Coronation is probably overdoing it.

How do you feel about your **hose licence**? The view of the Town Council looks like being that buying a hosepipe licence is a gamble and if there is a hosepipe ban that's your risk. I shall propose at the next AMT that when the figures for actual water use come in we should be allowed to carry over at least part of our fees from this year to next if it turns out that the Council's water bill is much lower. Obviously a refund is not possible as it would cost a fortune in clerical costs.

However the hosepipe ban with Veolia Central has just been lifted, so you may get use of your licence this year after all.

We found a hibernating snake during works on the back way between A and B roads on Old. We did not know if it was alive or not so we tucked it up again. It seems it was very dead and still is. But the lizards we disturbed were ok. Sunnyside Rural Trust has entered an arrangement with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to **survey wild life** on their part of the site. We have offered to join in.

Usually because we are on the edge of the town we get very little in the way of **vandalism and thieving**. Unfortunately over the last few months there seems to have been quite a lot of low key trouble: glass broken in greenhouses, relatively small quantities of crops being stolen, water butts being either robbed, sabotaged or the taps turned on.

Ideally everyone who has a problem should report it to the police. Not because you are going to get your gooseberries or broad beans back but because we need to know what happens up there when we are not around. I would like to set up a register of occurrences – no matter how small.

Email me: freda@sunnysideallotments.org.uk or phone if you have any problems or send a letter to me care of the Town Council or through the Tea Hut door. If you can take photos without endangering yourself please do so but do not accost anyone if you are on your own. Please tell us what has happened and most importantly **WHEN** so that we can see what is happening. There was a time in the past when a group of people used to come regularly to the site on Friday evenings. They were spoken to and once they realised they were being watched they went off to do some other mindless mischief somewhere else.

Alles in Ordnung!

Next door to my nephew's apartment in a suburb of Munich I recently visited a site of over 300 allotment gardens – the one pictured below is typical with most having a chalet with living and cooking facilities (although overnighting is not allowed). As far as I can remember gardens are meant to have at least 70% edible produce but that seems to have been overlooked in many cases.

A notice warns allotment holders that no petrol driven power tools are allowed to be used, only battery operated machinery; any disturbing work such as hammering or sawing may be carried out only between 9 and 12am and 3-6 pm and never on Sundays.

There is also an excellent bar/café on the site which is open to the public. Is this the future of Sunnyside Allotments?

Chris Locke



Sunnyside church extends a very warm welcome to all allotment holders and their families to come to the **Harvest Festival Songs of Praise Service on Monday 1st October @ 2pm**, followed by a lovely afternoon tea in the church hall.

The service will be a traditional one with hymns and readings familiar to most of you. It would be particularly appreciated if allotment holders could provide some of their harvest produce for this service, which will go on display in church during the Harvest Festival service, and can be left at the Tea Hut on Sunnyside Old for collection before mid-day on Monday Oct 1st.

After the service, all donated produce, will be parcelled up into gift boxes for the elderly and needy in our parish. Sunnyside church very much hopes you will be able to attend the service and looks forward to seeing you there if you can make it.

John Driver

Working Parties

Our next working parties will take place on:

Sunday 7th October and Sunday 4th November. More details will follow in due course.

Please Note: To offset rising printing costs, an electronic version of future editions of the newsletter will be sent to all those people that supply an email address to Jenny Sippings – (jenny.sippings@ntlworld.com).



Sunnyside Allotment Society

OPEN DAY SUNDAY 12th AUGUST 2012

Our Open Day takes place on Sunday 12th August from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., to enable local residents to visit and enjoy the allotments, with sales of produce, preserves and refreshments. There may be a guided walk around the sites at 12 noon, depending on the weather.

Please try to cut your paths so that they are tidy, bramble free and accessible to the public. The contractors will be cutting the main roadways during the week before Open Day; to enable them to do a full width cut, please ensure the end of your plot bordering the roadway is cut back as far as possible. We want to make the sites look attractive, and it would be nice if you could spend some time on your plot during that day to give visitors a warm welcome and talk about your garden. We are also looking for people to meet and greet on the day.

PRE-OPEN DAY JOBS

There are a number of tasks which need doing before the day: cleaning furniture, displaying signs, mowing and strimming of paths and general tidying up of communal areas. Any offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

We will also need volunteers to man the produce and refreshment stalls, meet and greet at the gates and the raffle. Please return the completed form to Freda Earl (32 Trevelyan Way or B15) or email to: freda@sunnysideallotments.org.uk. We can then draw up a rota to share the tasks out. Could you also let us know if you are able to provide any contributions (see form below). Plants and preserves need to be delivered to B15 on Friday or Saturday and fresh veg/cakes **before 10.00 a.m.** on Sunday.

✂-----

Name: _____ Plot No: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____ Mobile: _____

Pre Open Day help:

I can help with: _____ Please let us know when: _____

I can help at the following time(s) on Open Day (please tick the box).

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9.00-11.00 a.m. (setting up) | <input type="checkbox"/> 11.00- 12 noon | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 noon - 1.00 p.m. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.00- 2.00 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.00- 3.00 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.00- 4.00 p.m. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4.00- 5.00 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> 5.00- 6.00 p.m. (clearing up) | <input type="checkbox"/> anytime |

I will provide:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> cakes/biscuits for the refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> produce/preserves to sell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> plants/flowers to sell | <input type="checkbox"/> other |

Please return this form by **Friday 3rd August** to Freda Earl (32 Trevelyan Way or B15) or email to: freda@sunnysideallotments.org.uk. Thank you.

Your current Committee Members

Chairman:	Freda Earl	865661
Vice Chairman:	John Eaton	865307
Secretary:	Jenny Sippings	865890
Treasurer:	John Powell	878640
Minutes Secretary:	Lin Phillips	862882
Newsletter Editor:	Chris Locke	877326
Other members:	Simon Weightman	877607
	Annick Mulcahy	862572
	Andy Walker	07966245732
	Angela Wheeldon	874440
Associate member:	John Driver	862734

Tenancy changes

Goodbye to:

Old

Anna Dolan A12A

Susie Longboy C5A

Seed order

If you are a paid-up member of the Sunnyside Allotment Society you will be receive the Kings seed catalogue in September. This will give you the opportunity to order seeds at a preferential price, as well as raise money for the society.

Photos for 2013 calendar

We haven't decided on a theme for next year's calendar, but we would like to start collecting photos to be included. If you have any nice shots of your allotment, the sites or events such as the Jubilee Party, please send full resolution versions to: jenny.sippings@ntlworld.com



Jubilee Party



Untidy Gardens

The allotment reps inspect allotments three times a year. We are sympathetic to problems. A list of those needing warning letters is handed to the council. No one likes being inspected. We do not want the plots to be highly manicured but they cannot be allowed to go back to 'rough', **paths must be cared for and weeds must not be allowed to seed all over neighbouring gardens.**

If you are finding it difficult to cultivate the whole of your plot you can reduce your holding. Please talk to the council about it or Freda Earl or John Eaton on our committee. Until now some tenants who have started the year enthusiastically and then find the pressures of work too much have had a council letter but then have managed to tidy up sufficiently to avoid eviction and can carry on without worry. This will not continue in future. If the same happens the next year, the next letter will be cumulative.

This is the Town Council's agreed process:

Letter 1. A warning; stating that the plot is not being kept in a "good state of cultivation and fertility" in accordance with the contract and must be brought up to a suitable standard within one month to avoid eviction.

Letter 2. A second warning after one month; stating that there has been failure to reach the required standard so far and if there is no improvement within one month, steps to eviction will take place.

Letter 3. Eviction letter after one month; stating eviction will take place in 30 days and all equipment must be removed.

Remember the letters are cumulative from year to year.

Seeding weeds

Please remember to cut down seeding weeds such as thistles and grasses, so that they do not upset your allotment neighbours by seeding everywhere.



Sheltering from the rain!