

SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

3/99

ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT

The new Town Council elected in May has decided to change the way the allotments are managed on an experimental basis for one year. The composition of the new Allotments Management Sub Committee is as follows:-

- 3 councillors
- 3 allotments representatives
- 1 Dellfield
- 1 Butts Meadow
- 1 Sunnyside

It was therefore necessary to hold an election to determine who would be the representative for Sunnyside on the committee and the result was that Ted Dyer was elected to represent our interests.

Unfortunately the turnout for the election was low due in part to the difficulty in arranging publicity and the short timescale before the first meeting of the committee on 23rd June.

The agreed aim and objectives of the committee are as follows:

- To maintain all allotment sites in good order within the budget allocated by the council.
- To make all allotment plots available for rent.
- To review allotment rents and make a recommendation to council.
- To promote and publicise allotment gardening.
- To promote, maintain and improve the existing allotment sites, whether tenanted or not, and to manage them for the benefit of both the tenants and the environment.

The committee also proposed that there should not be any rent increase from October 2000 and this was subsequently accepted at a meeting of the Full Town Council.

A fundamental change from the previous Council is the decision to allow Sunnyside Rural Trust to quote for work on the allotments.

It is to be hoped that the experiment will result in real benefit to tenants but only time will tell.

SOCIETY MACHINERY

Enquires continue to be received about the availability of the society's strimmer. It is still out of commission and should it prove possible to effect a repair it will be offered for sale to tenants to raise funds for the society. Problems with insurance risks have resulted in your committee deciding that it would not be wise for the society to own and loan equipment to tenants.

UNTIDY GARDENS

Unfortunately there are still a number of plots whose tenants are rarely seen with the result that other tenants are being discouraged by the spread of rubbish through wind blown seeds. We would remind people with rough gardens that the conditions of tenancy require that gardens be maintained in a good state of cultivation.

Would the tenants concerned please show an

interest in their plots which will improve the appearance of the allotments.

TOWN WARDEN

The new Town Warden is Tony Dunn who has met a number of tenants during his weekly visits to Sunnyside and I am sure we all wish him well in the job.

PLOT NUMBERS

Our thanks go to those tenants who have now numbered their plots. Those of you who have not done so would you please help us by numbering your plot(s) as soon as possible.

TENANCY CHANGES

We wish to welcome the following new tenants:-

Sunnyside Old

B4	Jan Woodcraft
B6/8	Matt Goodliffe
B33/5	Alison Gudgeon
A39	Rose Scarborough
A41	Jackie Wharam

Sadly the following tenants have left:-

A39/41	Peter Kohn
B34	Elaine Lavery

GARDENERS CLIPPINGS

In the last Newsletter an advert was placed by Clive Smith advertising the availability of Strawberry plants but unfortunately the telephone number quoted was incorrect. The correct telephone number should have been 865890 and we apologise to Clive for the error.

Cont'd

ARTICLES & NOTES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Our last appeal for contributions sadly drew a blank. Surely there is someone out there who could put pen to paper and tell us about their gardening year, successes and failures, tips and details of garden trips etc. It would help to make the Newsletter more interesting.

HAZEL COPPICE

Comments received from tenants on the idea were mainly favourable and your committee continued to examine the idea in more detail before raising the issue with the council although it seems the councils reaction would be favourable. Only one person has to date offered to assist with the work which would be involved to get the Hazel Coppice up and running and subsequently maintained.

If there is anyone else prepared to put time into the idea would they let members of the committee know as soon as possible.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ALLOTMENT & LEISURE GARDENERS / THE HENRY DOUBLEDAY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Details of the benefits of membership of both these organisations will be put before you in the next Newsletter and you will be asked to vote on the society joining either organisation at our next AGM.

PRODUCE STALL

Allotment members may have seen the recent publicity for the Environment Committee Produce Stall that is being run by Betty Patterson

The stall is sited outside the old Waitrose store on Thursday mornings and it is going to sell organic and allotment produce. So, if you have surplus produce that you would like to sell in return for a cash percentage on sales or if you are interested in helping out on the stall, then please call Betty on 866491 or pop along to the stall.

COMMITTEE MEMBER VACANCY

Graham Hall has been a Committee Member since the inception of the Society. Sadly, pressure from his business commitments has led to his resignation from the Committee. We thank Graham for his contribution to the running of the Society.

If there is any member, particularly on the new allotments, prepared to fill the vacancy, it would be appreciated if he or she would contact Ted Dyer on 872684.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will this year be held on **Saturday 27th November** and it would be appreciated if you would note the date in your diaries and make an effort to attend. The attendance last year was the best so far and it would be nice to see a further improvement. Is your committee meeting your needs? The AGM is an opportunity to air your views.

