



# SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

4/2004

Another end of the season, another harvesting of produce, another reviewing of varieties, some successes, some failures. As it has been said, "a garden is always a series of losses set against a few triumphs". The very dry spring and early summer contributed to the losses but the autumn rain has brought it's triumphs. What a pleasure it has been to see fat bulging squashes and melons and runner beans hanging in their profusion. We have several new members and we hope they have enjoyed a productive season and the relaxing atmosphere of Sunnyside.

The A.G.M. takes place on Saturday 27th November, details of which you will read below, and we hope that as many of you as possible will find the time to come to air your views. There are several projects which would benefit from your support or comments. Not least among these is the annual calendar, which our secretary, Jenny Sippings has produced. It is full of interesting recipes, using home grown produce. It will be on sale at the A.G.M. at £3.50. So count it among your Christmas presents!

## **Recent S.A.S. events~ Angela reporting.**

### *14th August - Art Exhibition*

An exhibition of paintings by Sarah Moruzzi's students was held in the SRT building to celebrate National Allotments Week. The pictures demonstrated a wide range of styles and techniques and showed us scenes of the allotments in a new light. There was also a display of photos of the artists at work and some cartoons drawn by Freda Earl. Refreshments were served on the lawn and produce was sold.

### *30th August - Lion's Fete.*

This popular event, held at the Cricket Club, is a good chance to tell local people about the allotments on offer in the town. We put on a display of photographs and ran a raffle of allotment produce, with proceedings going to the Lions. The new gazebo which we have acquired for such events stood up well to the gusty winds funnelling down Kitchener's Field.

### *18th September - Autumn Open Day*

This proved to be rather a washout! Uncertain weather meant our visitor numbers were down on last year but, thanks to your efforts, the allotments looked good, and tenants who had not met before, got to know each other under the gazebo! There was an excellent display of produce, cakes and preserves. The proceeds from their sale, and from the refreshments, added another £130 to society funds. We are grateful to those who gave their produce and time.

### *9th October - Lion's Community Exhibition*

We took a stand again at this exhibition and mounted a display of photographs showing S.A.S. activities and produce. Our themes this year were the physical and mental benefits of allotment gardening and developing a sense of community.

We feel it is important for us to be represented at these events as it is good to tell people what we are doing and what benefits we get from doing it and we hope that this will attract new tenants. It also gives us the opportunity to emphasise the positive value of the allotment sites to the town, providing as they do areas of green open space and wildlife havens in an increasingly built up environment.

*[As you read Angela's report you will realise how much work all this involves. We are very lucky to have her commitment and she deserves our thanks-Editor]*

## **Future Open Days**

The committee feel that in future we should concentrate all our efforts into one Open Day to mark the now established National Allotments Week in August. This will be discussed at the A.G.M. and we would like to know what you think about this.

## **Widening of Middle Road Sunnyside New**

We hope that by the time you read this the restoration of plots 1, 2 and 3 will have been completed and it is planned that the work to widen the Middle Road will take place on the first clearance day, Saturday 6th November and will extend into Sunday 7th November. A mini JCB and a small dumper are being hired to help with the work.

Clive Weakley is the project manager and Fred Jackson will drive and operate the digger in his usual professional way. Volunteers will be needed to spread and rake over the top soil which needs to be transferred from the top to the bottom two thirds of the road. Once the labouring is completed the area will be sown with grass seed and returned to its usual rural appearance. WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR THIS PROJECT. It has taken a few years to achieve this road widening and we hope that it will benefit the tenants and attract more people to the site.



### **Manure Deliveries**

If anyone is planning manure deliveries in the lower part of Middle Road, it would help if this was before 6th. November, to avoid spoiling the surface layer once it is laid. John Driver has given us this information about manure he has had delivered from a farmer called Phil at Dunsley Farm, Tring.

- Small trailer - 1.5yds for £ 16;
- large trailer - 5yds for £40 (very good value).

It is very well rotted and weed free. Contact Phil 01442 823357 (best time between 5.30 & 6.00pm each day).

### **Clearance Days**

All start at 10.00am till dusk.

- Saturday 6th November and Sunday 7th November: Widening of Middle Road, please bring rakes.
- Saturday 4th December: Clearing plots on Sunnyside New
- Saturday 8th January: Clearing plots on Sunnyside New
- Saturday 5th February: Clearing brambles & planting trees in Birtchnell's Copse.
- Saturday 5th March: to be arranged.

Soup and light lunch is provided, fresh air and exercise is guaranteed, PLEASE PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

### **Disposal of unwanted metal and glass**

There seems to be an increasing pile of unwanted items on the bottom car park on Sunnyside New. A small pile always seems to attract more in no time at all. We would like to remind tenants that it is their responsibility to take such rubbish to the tip in Northbridge Rd.

We used to be able to arrange for the Borough Council to remove rubbish at no charge to the Town council. This is now no longer possible, and the removal of dumped items becomes charged as allotment expenditure. This makes the possibility of a rent increase more likely as the Council does not want to see the allotments run with a subsidy.

### **Black Plastic**

We understand that there has been some difficulty in getting this from the Town Council. We can confirm that this can be obtained from the top floor office in the Civic Centre. The cost for a full roll, 25x4 metres, is around £46.

### **Water**

Sadly, we have experienced an act of vandalism. The arm on the ball valve on the 'B' road tank at the church end was broken off and once again we have lost water unnecessarily.

The S.A.S have managed to repair the damage. We have also had a leak in the main supply along C road and this also we managed to repair after some time. Thank you to those who

excavated the holes and filled them in afterwards.

Tenants should know that all new water tanks have their own stop-cocks and can be turned off should a problem arise. If there is trouble elsewhere, the water should be turned off, as follows

Old site and bottom road on New: Stopcock outside 5, Grantham Mews. New site (other than bottom roadway): Stopcock outside gateway to Birtchnell's Copse.

Please notify Bruce Jones 866078, or the Town Council 228945 of any problem

### **Toilet Facilities**

Little progress has been made but it is hoped that Thames Water will soon visit the site and provide the town Council with a quote for the connection to the main sewer. Construction should then start before long.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will take place on Saturday 27th November 2004 at 10.30am at the Training Centre of Sunnyside Rural Trust, Ivy House Lane. We are grateful to the Trust for making this facility available to us again.

The agenda is attached to this newsletter and should be brought along to the meeting.

The AGM is your opportunity to say what you think about the way the Society is run and what we are trying to achieve.

All of the members of the



**Far Left:** Despite the rain the produce stall proved popular.

**Left:** The calendar makes a perfect christmas gift.

committee are happy to continue to serve if that is your wish, please let Jenny Sippings have any other nominations in writing, no later than 15th November.

The audited accounts will be available for inspection at the meeting and it will be possible to pay your £2 subscription to the society for the year 2004/2005.

### **Your Committee Members**

Bruce Jones	<i>Chair</i>	866078
Site Representative	Bruce Jones	
Ted Dyer	<i>Vice Chair</i>	872684
Jenny Sippings	<i>Secretary</i>	865890
Daniel Bartlett	<i>Treasurer</i>	877109
Brenda Baynes	<i>Editor</i>	865853
Fiona Duck		874334
Graham Hall		873408
Patrick Stileman		874457
Clive Weakley		875373
Angela Wheeldon		874440

### **Allotment Rents – note from the Chairman of SAS**

I should update you on what has happened since I wrote to you all on 24th July 2004.

At the Allotment Management Team meeting on the 4 August, the allotment representatives were unanimous in their opposition to the proposal that the rents be increase to £1.70 per pole and that the rents be combined with the hose charge. (Most plots are 10 poles) The meeting recommended that the rent be increased to £1.30 per pole and that the separate hose charge be raised from £0.50p per pole to £0.80p per

pole to reflect increasing water charges.

The Council Meeting on 10 August agreed the Allotment Management Team's suggestion for the rents and the separate water charge, but with an amendment, raised during the meeting by Councillor Betty Paterson, to remove the present 12 months notice of rent increases. I wrote to the Town Clerk objecting to this amendment and the way in which it had arisen.

The Council Meeting on 4 October agreed that the part of the resolution to remove the 12 months notice should be deferred to enable discussion at the next Allotment Management Team meeting.

On 6 October the Allotment Management Team recommended that the tenancy agreements should retain the 12 months notice of rent increases and that a review of the rental levels should take place each year to be completed by the 30th July.

If this is accepted by the Full Council, it will be a satisfactory outcome for both allotment tenants and the Town Council.

### **Some new tenants**

#### **Sunnyside Old**

A3B	Judith Stringer
A4A	Amanda Montague
A32	Vicky Kidney
A44	Simon Bird
B12A	Phil Salkeld
B14	Freda Earl
B35A	Pru Scofield
C1	Barbie Warren
C3	Anne Griffiths
C35B	Karin Huber

#### **Sunnyside New**

6	Sarah Marshall
48	Penny Hamilton
50	John Knowles
51	Penny Marshall
52	Peter Robinson
53	Adam Stokes

### **Christmas Festivities.**

Christmas drinks and mincepies will be served from 12.00 to 3.00p.m. at B15. on Sunday 19th December. Everyone is welcome and please bring a contribution with you.

# **Sunnyside Allotment Society**

**Agenda for the eighth Annual General Meeting to be held on  
Saturday 27th November 2004  
at the Sunnyside Rural Trust, Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted at 10.30am**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approve the minutes of the last AGM
3. Chairman's report
4. Consider and approve the Society's accounts
5. Open days and barbecue
6. Future projects
7. To receive any nominations for officers/committee members
8. Election of officers and committee:
  - Chairman
  - Vice Chairman
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Committee members
9. Election of Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotments Management Team
10. Any other business