



# SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

4/2007

**Sunnyside Up!** If anyone wants to be enthused about the pleasure of having an allotment on Sunnyside, they have only to read the excellent informative article in the Autumn issue of Berkhamsted Living. Aims, achievements and history, are all there in a nutshell. We allotment holders are described as resilient and cheerful, spanning the generations, liking simple pleasures; we give the hillside, "a pleasing look of an irregular and occasionally disorderly patchwork". We express our individuality in our plots. What better publicity can we have than this for a pleasant way of life?

But allotments have to be managed and developed and the present plan for renewing the water supply about which you have already been informed, will demand a lot of effort on the part of our chairman and her team and needs the support of as many energetic volunteers as possible. Work starts the first weekend in November. This is a major undertaking from which we will all benefit.

It's AGM time again. Saturday 24th. November is the date for your diary. We shall have to elect a new Chairman for, sadly, Angela is standing down after a year of very hard work on our behalf. She has accomplished much and we need someone to carry on her good work. If you think you could contribute in this way or know someone who might be persuaded, please come forward. There is still much interesting and valuable work to be done.

## Rabbits

These remain a major problem. We are planning to bring in cats which will be provided through the Cat's Protection League. A 'des-res' is being prepared for their arrival on Sunnyside Old after the water project and we will be looking for volunteers to feed them. Also the Council has given permission for a local ferreter to work the green roadway on the east boundary of Sunnyside New. Over time, it is hoped that the cats and the ferrets will help to reduce the rabbit population. It is important that all tenants are aware that the Council will not allow shooting on any allotment site and that there have been some incidents and local residents have called in the police. On the lighter side of this subject, we have heard that some of the top chefs are treating rabbit as the latest 'must-have' food!

## Council Notices

The Council has commissioned the following notices.

- 1. Rights of Way.** There are no public rights of way on the sites other than the public footpath on 'A' road.
- 2. Dogs.** Dog owners must keep their dogs under control, clean up after them and keep them from straying onto gardens.

These notices will be installed when the waterpipe renewal work is finished. With the Rights of Way notice, the Council is acting on legal advice in order to maintain control over it's land by preventing the roadways from becoming public, through usage. The Council therefore, could take action should public access become a problem in the future.

**But the purpose is not actually to stop members of the public walking the sites.**

## Unpleasant Items

### Produce Thefts

Unfortunately the produce thieves are about again, so we are all asked to keep a vigilant eye for suspicious looking strangers. Ask them if they have lost their way and hopefully they will know they are being watched and not succumb to temptation!

### Fly Tipping

Not only do people want to take our produce, they also want to leave us with their rubbish! Fly tipping near the railway bridge in Ivy House Lane has been reported to the police and the Council. Hopefully the offending items will be removed before too long.

## Your current Committee Members

### Chairman :

Angela Wheeldon 874440

### Vice Chairman:

John Driver 862734

### Secretary :

Jenny Sippings 865890

### Treasurer :

John Powell 878640

Fiona Duck 874334

Patrick Stileman 874457

Brenda Baynes 865853

Ted Dyer 872684

Anna Dolan 870918

Prue Schofield 878559

## Events

### Pot to Plate

SAS represented the town allotments at this event which was held at the Monument at Ashridge in September and we organised a raffle of a hamper filled with allotment produce. Organised by The National Trust to tie in with British Food Fortnight, this event highlights the importance and benefits of growing your own or buying locally produced seasonal food reducing air miles.

There were stalls selling local lamb, eggs, honey, preserves, cakes etc. and it was interesting to talk to other allotment holders from Rickmansworth, St. Albans, Leighton Buzzard as well as those closer to home in Potten End and Northchurch.

Thank you to all those tenants who helped with transportation for this event.

### Baptist Church Toddlers

At the beginning of October about twenty toddlers, their parents and helpers, walked up from Ravens Lane to the allotments. Having previously been to the supermarket to see different kinds of vegetables on the shelves, this was the opportunity to show them the vegetables actually growing! They were fascinated to see carrots and beetroot dug up, leeks growing in neat rows and sweet corn still growing on the plant. They also enjoyed stuffing their pockets with conkers, and having their elevenses under the awning.

Hopefully a visit like this will help adults of the future reconnect with the soil and the seasons. Again many thanks to those who helped also with this project.

### New Additions

Congratulations to Anna and Kieran Dolan who had a son, Thomas, a brother for James and Jessica, in September and to Daniel and Kylie Bartlett who had their first baby, Michael, weighing an impressive 9lbs, back home in Australia. Many of you will remember that Daniel and Kylie were very enthusiastic gardeners on plot B31 and Daniel was treasurer of SAS.

## Future Events

**Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday, 24th. November**  
**10.30 am. Sunnyside Rural Trust**

Elections will take place for Chairman, Site Representative and Deputy, and two committee members. Any volunteer for any of these posts, from Sunnyside New would be especially appreciated.

Nomination should be given to Jenny Sippings before the AGM, if possible.

SAS subscriptions can be paid at this meeting.

The annual Calendar will also hopefully be on sale at this meeting. Jenny and Angela are working hard to produce it. The theme this year will be storing and preserving and if you have anything appropriate for this title please email it to Jenny as soon as possible. The cost of the calendar will be £5 and those of us who have bought it in previous years will be queuing up to buy it again.

### Christmas Drinks

The usual Christmas gathering will take place on Sunday 16th December from 12-3 ish at the tea hut on B15 Sunnyside Old.

This is a festive sociable alfresco occasion with mulled wine and snacks. All are welcome.

## Tenancy Changes

Goodbye to:

Nicola Fulcher	N4
Mr Alan Hordle	N55
Mr Patrick Stileman	A30
Mr Stephen Massey	A4
Mr James Barnes	N34B

Welcome to:

Ms Helen Gray	B11C
Mrs Zelda Carding	N13
Mrs Susan Holmes	A44
Mr Philip Parnell &	
Mrs Claire Befroy-Parnell	A4A
Ms Sue Barnard	N26
Mrs Elsy Ambrose	N56B
Mr Jason Rainbow &	
Ms Helen Franklin	N57B

## Water Supply Pipe Renewal

All members should have received a letter explaining this project. It is an essential task that will give us a much more reliable water supply.

The more help we can get the easier the project will be. So please let the organisers know if you can help out, even if only for a short time.

Light refreshments will be available

The timetable of works is as follows:

**W/c 29th Oct:** Holes dug

**3rd & 4th Nov:** Trench digging, pipe laying and back filling

**W/c 5th Nov:** Plumbing work starts

**10th & 11th Nov:** Trench digging and backfilling continues.

**W/c 12th Nov:** Finishing off.

## Replacement water pipes – Your help is needed

Saturday and Sunday 3rd-4th November

Monday 5th to Friday 9th November

Saturday and Sunday 10th-11th November

Please report to the Tea Hut on these days



**Left:** Proud parents Daniel and Kylie with Michael John Geoffrey Bartlett. Born 26th September weighing 9lb and 54cm long!



**Left:** Our stand at Pot to Plate Day at Ashridge.

**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](mailto:jenny.sippings@ntlworld.com)).

# SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

## AGENDA FOR THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 2007 AT THE SUNNYSIDE RURAL TRUST, IVY HOUSE LANE, BERKHAMSTED AT 10.30 A.M.

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. Future of Open Days
6. Rabbits
7. Resolution to change constitution for increase subs
8. To receive any nominations for officers/committee members
9. Election of officers and committee:
  - Chairman
  - Vice Chairman
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Committee members
10. Election of Allotments' representative on Town Council's Allotments Management Team
11. Any other business

---

There will be an opportunity to pay Society subs for 2007/2008 at the AGM but if you are unable to attend the AGM then subs can be sent with this slip to John Powell (20 Castle Hill Avenue) or put into the post box on the tea hut on B15. (Cheques payable to SAS please).

Name: .....

Address: .....

Plot Number: ..... Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Amount enclosed: ..... cash/cheque (please circle)