



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk
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Thoughts on winter indoor gardening

NASA (yes, the space agency, apparently) has tested indoor plants for their ability to purify home air by effectively removing volatile chemical vapours given off from furnishings and bioeffluents produced by the human body (sounds nasty) from the air indoors.

Examples of effective plants are:

the Dendrobium orchid; the Weeping Fig (*Ficus benjamina*); the Gerbera daisy (*Gerbera jamesonii*); Florists' Mum (*Chrysanthemum morifolium*); the Kimberly Queen fern; the Boston Fern; the Peace Lily. Some, for example Dendrobium, release oxygen at night and are suitable for bedrooms.

Chris Locke

Chairman's Report

Those of you who remember the arrival of **Stripey the cat** will remember his much more feral companion in the cat shelter, Bob. Both cats were lighter in colour and less wary by the time they had served their "quarantine". We were warned that as soon as they were set free they might vanish. Stripey by then was allowing Angela to stroke him but Bob would have none of it and the last we saw of him was when he left the shelter and walked into the bushes. We looked last winter in the snow for footprints but we had to accept that he had gone and just hoped that a spell of good food and a warm bed had given him a bit of a leg up.

In September we were phoned by Cats Protection to say that he had been found, alive and well, identified by his microchip. He had made his way up Ivy House Lane to the Common and then to the centre of Potten End where amazingly our "Keep your hands off me" cat had made friends with the local children and was being fed by half the population of the village judging by the size of his waistline. Somewhere along the line were too many bits of cake and Cats Protection have taken him into care to have his teeth sorted out and they hope to find him an indoor home.

Stripey and his colleague Tilley have been hard at work on the vermin. The rabbits, thanks to strenuous efforts by all parties seem less of a problem but the rats have wrought their customary havoc on sweet corn crops. A really large rat is too dangerous for most cats and Stripey won't tackle anything above the human equivalent of a 14 year old..

Has anyone any suggestion for **keeping sweetcorn safe**? I did wonder if a bottomless lemonade bottle with the top and bottom filled with a little screwed up wire netting as soon as the kernels set might keep them safe. It seems that the rats (like the badgers in previous years) only eat the crop when it has reached perfection- usually the day before you were planning to eat it yourself. Is anyone willing to try this next year? Or any other ideas. The Desperate Dans among us might like to knit jackets of wire netting to act like chain mail.

Allotments are all the rage in the press these days. there have been feature articles in the Gazette and I have been supplying "Ten things to do..." for our excelling quarterly

Berkhamsted Living. Angela and I went to Chalfont St Peter in the summer to talk to their gardening society about our famous allotments.

We ask anyone who can remember numbers to take note of any **unfamiliar vehicles** on either site. We have had a bit of fly tipping and some problems with unauthorised vehicles on site. **ONLY TENANTS** have the right to drive (carefully) on the allotments. We do NOT want people taking short cuts or delivering things via the site or using shed roofs for some of the sillier forms of late night entertainment. Obviously do not tackle any intruders but if you see anyone who ought not to be there report the numbers to the tea hut or the local PCSOs who are keeping an eye on us.

Tools have been stolen from our companion site at Butts Meadow. No shed break-ins but good quality tools stolen from their hiding places under tarpaulins and behind compost heaps. Rubbishy tools have not been touched so it looks as if these things are ending up at car boot sales.

The AMT (Allotment Management Team) is to have another try at the perennial problem of **how to charge fairly for water**. I personally think that what we have is as near as we can get. The water supply is metered so to keep use within reasonable limits is good economically and ecologically. The siphoning system whereby water can be siphoned free as part of the rent into a butt or butts on your plot and then taken from the butt by watering can keeps the use about the same as taking the water from the tanks by can or bucket. It is just a lot safer than tottering up and down steps from the roadways. If you want a power hose you will presumably use more water in the half hour you spend watering and therefore should pay for the privilege. That seems fair until you go to sites like Dellfield where half the plots are above the water tanks and therefore siphoning is impossible. Certainly for Sunnyside the present system works well and I shall be supporting it in any future discussions.

Open Day was a great success as usual. If you count the wasps attracted to the home made cakes the attendance figures were astronomical. All the money raised goes to the SAS except for the raffle we always hold in aid of the Hospice.

Freda Earl

Dates for your diary

AGM. This will take place on Saturday, 27th November 2010 at 10.30 am in the Sunnyside Rural Trust building on Sunnyside Old.

Membership subscriptions will remain at £3.00 so please bring cash to the AGM and also for SAS calendars which will be available at the meeting. The theme for the calendar is fruit and copies will cost £5.50.

Our treasurer, John Powell, asks members to suggest any improvements to the allotments which involve expenditure. Could members pass their ideas to John Powell or bring them to the AGM.

Christmas Drinks will be on Sunday, 19th December 2010 between 12.00 noon and 3.00 pm at the tea-hut B15 on Sunnyside Old. Everyone is welcome to come along. Please bring a contribution of food and a bottle. Mulled wine will be served.

Working Parties will take place on the following Sundays:
January 9th
February 6th
March 6th 2011.

We really need your help for various communal tasks and the events can be good fun (and the lunchtime soup excellent).

Summer Picnic

It has been decided not to hold a barbecue in 2011 but to have a tenants' picnic instead, when those attending can bring their own BBQs if they wish.

November 5th – fireworks, yes, but also the deadline for paying your allotment rent. After that you will receive only one reminder before your tenancy is terminated.

Goodbye

We are sorry to say good-bye to Rachel Lyon from the committee (but not from the allotments) as she has taken on duties with Thomas Coram Friends. Thanks, Rachel for all your help.

Your current Committee Members

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Chairman: | Freda Earl | 865661 |
| Vice Chairman: | John Eaton | 865307 |
| Secretary: | Jenny Sippings | 865890 |
| Treasurer: | John Powell | 878640 |
| Minutes Secretary: | Prue Schofield | 878559 |
| Newsletter Editor: | Chris Locke | 877326 |
| Other members: | Nick Hood | 878331 |
| | Annick Mulcahy | 862572 |
| | Andy Walker | 07966 245732 |
| | Angela Wheeldon | 874440 |
| Associate member: | John Driver | 862734 |

The following report was sent by Aimee Pegram, Fundraising Coordinator of Sunnyside Rural Trust

"THE DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES..."

Sunnyside Rural Trust celebrated its 20th year Anniversary last month with a outdoor event for all the service users, their carers, staff and supporters appreciating and crediting the support and effort that has gone in to make all their achievements possible, and enable them to *"meet the challenge of change"*.

With grateful support from local businesses in the community kindly donating auction items, catering and refreshments it was an event that shone and elevated how they work as team. The town council were also valuable supporters of the charity and were on the guest list at our fundraising event.



The Mayor of Berkhamsted – Julie Laws cut the cake and hopes to enjoy her restaurant vouchers at the Michelin guide restaurant 65 which she happily won whilst bidding in the Auction fundraiser.

Live music was supplied by the talented Laura-Jane Campbell And a wonderful organic BBQ supplied by UK's award winning butchers EASTWOODS went down like a treat.

All of the local individuals and businesses kindly donated their hard work and products which helped make the day special. Sunnyside's CEO Keely Charlick says *"We are proud to be based in and part of such a fantastic and persistently supportive community."*

Based in Berkhamsted SRT provides a service for adults with learning disabilities which has a main focus around horticulture enabling them to grow and sell a wide range of naturally grown produce.

Compared to the blank canvas it was those 20 years ago, the acres of empty land have been dramatically developed into beautiful, organic and sustainable environments. The hard labour gone in to enable this has not gone unnoticed with help from dedicated members of staff and focussed service users.

To find out more on the charity visit
www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk

New uses for old tools? (thanks to John Driver)



Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| John W Cartwright | A42 |
| Andy Dolwin | B27A |
| Iain Jackson | B20A |
| Gary Elkington | C33A |
| Darren Flint & Donald Green | B20B |

Goodbye to:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Anna Thomas | A9A |
| Bert Roberts | A18 |
| Sarah Priggens | B27A |
| Lisa Hartley | SSN3B |
| Justina White | SSN9 |
| Samantha Hukins & Rebecca Gee | SSN63 |

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).

Lost Property

We have two items of lost property

1. A coat in the Tea Hut (left at Open Day)
2. A beige cardigan also left at the Tea Hut (Sept)

Please contact Jenny Sippings if you have lost either of these items



Right: Open Day raffle prize

All proceeds from the raffle were donated to the hospice



**AGENDA FOR THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO
BE HELD ON SATURDAY 27TH NOVEMBER, 2010 AT THE SUNNYSIDE
RURAL TRUST, IVY HOUSE LANE, BERKHAMSTED AT 10.30 A.M.**

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

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Please send in any nominations for officers, the committee and allotments site rep to Jenny Sippings, 82 George Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 2EQ or email to jenny.sippings@ntlworld.com. Please make sure your nominee is willing to stand.