



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 4 October 2012

In the face of this year's meteorological challenges I have no advice at all – others are more experienced than me (though I will perhaps observe that chard is a survivor). My attention was recently caught by a letter on the subject of slug warfare: "To stop slugs eating my produce, I take a sharp metal rod and scrape a circle in the soil round each plant. I do this twice a week and it takes about five minutes to do each bed. The slugs never cross this circle." Wonderful, if true.

Chris Locke

From our retiring Chair:

A warm welcome to John Eaton who has taken over from me as Chairman of the SAS and Allotment Rep on the Town Council's Allotment Management Team

I have been warning for some time that the time would come when I could no longer take any active part in Sunnyside Allotment because of my husband's worsening health. That time has come. I am very sad about it but I know that, with your support, Sunnyside will go from strength to strength under new management.

I have enjoyed my job for the last years and I appreciate the support I have had from so many tenants. I shall be continuing with my plot and a half as soon as I have put in place care arrangements for Victor which will allow me to leave him in safe hands.

Talking of safe hands, my friend Stripey the cat needs someone to replace me on the cat feeding rota. I hear that he has been bringing home rats and mice as usual this autumn as well as his arduous duties as cats-as-therapy to tenants who cannot have a cat of their own. He is very appreciative of anyone who looks after him. If you would like to get to know him better apply to Angela or Ted at the tea hut.
Freda Earl

Deputy Chairman's notes:

You may already know that Freda has decided to stand down as SAS chairman and committee member so that she can spend more time looking after her husband Victor. We wish them well for the future and thank her for all her work for the Society. Freda will keep her allotment and continue to help us where she can. The picture shows Freda enjoying the card and turned bowl presented by the Society.

To other business:

I'm sure some gardeners have done well this year; it's just that I haven't met them. So, better luck next year.

Most people seem to have had low yields, non-germination, weeds winning again.

The council is taking an interest in **Trees on allotments**. The rules (Allotment Tenancy Agreement) say that only fruit bearing trees and bushes will be permitted and they should be kept in manageable condition. Where non-fruit trees have grown tall they can become a nuisance to neighbours and expensive to remove (the council is reluctant to spend money). Can I ask that if you have non-fruit saplings you remove them before they reach un-manageable proportions? The committee will be carrying out a tree survey to see what actions might be required.

Grass on the main paths is cut by council contractors so would you please keep the boundary between path and plot clear so that the contractor can mow properly.

We tenants have an obligation to **keep our plots clear of refuse**, apart from compost, so if you have rubbish that you cannot remove please tell a member of the committee. A previous rubbish collection using a skip yielded a lot to take away but skips are expensive so let's try to prevent a new build-up of rubbish.



There have been a small number of **vandalism incidents** and some have been resolved with suitable restorative justice. Would tenants please tell the police if they suffer any incidents and keep the committee informed of progress.

On a cheery note; the **Open Day** was enjoyable as always and we raised money for the Society and for charity.

John Eaton

Annual General Meeting

To make sure you know what you need to know about Sunnyside matters and have your say, come to the AGM, date and Agenda on the back of this newsletter.

Many of the committee members are willing to stand for election again, but there are vacancies on the committee so please feel free to nominate tenants (with their permission) or self nominate if you prefer.

The calendar will be on sale at the AGM at the same price as last year: £5.50.

Also Sunnyside subs (£3) for 2013 can be paid at the AGM.

Allotment Rent

Please remember that allotment rent payments are now due; you should have received an invoice from Berkhamsted Town Council. Rents can be paid at the Civic Centre, by post or by bank transfer.

If you have moved please inform Berkhamsted Town Council and Sunnyside Allotment Society so we can keep our records up to date.

We extend a warm invitation to everybody at Sunnyside Allotment Society and Tenants to our **Christmas Carols of Praise Service on Monday 10th December 2012 at 2pm at Sunnyside Church** followed by afternoon tea and cakes in the church Hall.

Our service will be a traditional one with Carols and Readings familiar to most of you.

We very much hope you will be able to join us and looking forward to seeing you all there.

John Driver

Working Parties

Seven of us turned up (only myself from New)! As it was a dry day we were able to get on with rubbing down and painting the office - painting the windows of the summer house. John and team completed phase 1 (as he called it) of Grantham Mews gate drainage. We could not do more as we were short of people to complete the tasks laid down for the day.

Thank you to Nanette and Hazel for providing lunch - much appreciated!

Our next working parties will take place on:

Sunday 4th November 2012

Sunday 13th January 2013

Sunday 3rd February 2013

Sunday 3rd March 2013

More details will follow in due course.

Annick Mulcahy

Tenancy changes

Welcome to:

A12A	Frances Maslen
A25A	Richard & Jenny Hackworth
A25B	Richard Paynter
A36	James Priestley
B28	Tabatha Gravener
C5A	Will Thurley
C35B	Natalie Bear
N1C	Sonja Durrant

Goodbye to:

A1A	Anne Wilbeforce
A13B	Peter Phizackerley
A25A	Nick Hood
A25B	Ken Sands
A34A, A36	Peter Chapman
B20A	Iain & Lauren Jackson
N9	Samantha Rycroft
N48	Penny Hamilton
N7B	Douglas Piddington
N56A	Maurice Winfield
N66	Kevin Bownes

Free to a good home: Chris Locke rescued a large plastic cistern for water storage (approx 2foot x 4 ft 6 inches) but can't find a way of using it. Currently sitting on B31 Sunnyside Old. Good for water, a pond perhaps or growing carrots...

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).

Your current Committee Members

Acting Chariman:	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
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Potato Tasting event September 2012

It started out as a dry if cloudy Sunday morning in September. But by the time we had erected the gazebo, it was pouring with rain! Nevertheless ten hardy tenants turned up with their potatoes and we set about sampling them. In spite of a mostly disappointing potato harvest this year due to the poor summer, we had a good variety of potatoes to taste; about twenty of them. Not surprisingly the distinctive taste of Pink Fir Apple was very popular, with a waxy texture which is good either hot or cold. It keeps well. Nicola is sometimes described as the "allotment" potato. It is a good general purpose maincrop potato. The flesh is a pleasing yellow which looks good in salads, and in a wet year the potatoes can get quite big. We also tried Sarpo Miro which is a second early or maincrop potato. It proved its resistance to blight here this year, gave a good yield and slugs don't like them. We all retired under the awning for delicious homemade savouries and hot drinks and looked at the bewildering variety of seed potatoes being offered in the seed catalogues for next year.

Angela Wheeldon

SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

All tenants are invited to

Christmas Drinks (mulled wine, mince pies etc)

on

Sunday 20th December

12.00—3.00 ish

at the Tea Hut B15

Please bring a contribution.



Open Day 2012





**AGENDA FOR THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 2012 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.