



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 1 January 2014

I have to admit that I'm rather glad not to be tied to the regular visits to my allotment that the growing season imposes but I do find myself drawn to Sunnyside around 11am at brewing time. The tea hut is always a sociable spot when the hooter goes (and the cakes are excellent). Newcomers should not be deterred from joining the old-timers for tea or coffee, morning or afternoon. Just make a contribution to the cooking gas fund and take a seat under the awning. If we seem terribly knowledgeable it's because some of us have more experience of bluffing.

Chris Locke

Chairman's Notes

Well, it's the start of a new year and time to plan the new planting campaign. Armchair work with seed packets, reference books and the web (including www.nsalg.org.uk and www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk). If the weather is not too bad and the ground not sticky it's just the time to dig - warm work and a way of shedding the seasonal pounds.

In the next month or so, I expect that the Council will remove or prune some non-fruit trees that have become diseased/dangerous or are overshadowing allotment areas. The contractors doing the work will need access to the relevant plots and tenants will be notified accordingly.

At the moment there are no vacant plots on Sunnyside Old; there are a few on Sunnyside New; so please invite any likely gardeners to apply.

John Eaton

Seeds of Italy Events

There are some Seeds of Italy events that they mention in their catalogue. They do an interesting range of seeds and plants (and preserving equipment and all sorts of stuff) and I guess they are well worth a visit as they are not that far away. From Piedmont to Sunnyside – not that far in our imagination!

They have an Allotment Veg Open Day on Sat 8th March 09:30 to 15:00. 'Veg growers at all levels welcome' it says, which sounds like us! Intriguingly it says 'With allotment discounts'

They also mention a Preserving Day on Saturday 7th June 09:30 – 15:00

Seeds of Italy
Al Phoenix Business Centre
Rosslyn Crescent
Harrow
Middx
HA1 2SP

Tel: 080 8427 5020

Offers

Free to a good home – offered by Jane Dickenson A 2-stroke Mantis tiller plus accessories to give away – yes, free, but "buyer beware". It worked last time I used it, but it has been in my shed since (for a couple of years). I can transport it to the allotment for viewing/ collection. Email jane@dudswell.net

Also free to a good home: a small, upright 'greenhouse' with plastic tubular framework and plastic, zipped cover. It has a couple of shelves but these can be removed if you want to grow taller plants. Used only one season by a friend of mine.

Chris Locke christine@locke.gotadsl.co.uk or 877326

Compost Bins

We have several round plastic compost bins available for any tenants who would like one for their plot or for use in their garden at home. They are quite good at containing & rotting down your green waste. They are £3 each and the money will go into Society funds. Please ask at the Tea Hut on B15 if you are interested.

Plants Required

You may be dividing up plants in the next few weeks. If you have any to spare, allotment tenant John Cartwright could make use of them for the annual Ashridge Spring Plant Fair on May 11. Please pot them up, label them and contact John on 864984.

Working Parties

At our recent working party on Jan 12, we completed several useful jobs to help maintain the sites. We created a cold compost bin for weeds from the leaf & wood chip store on SSO. Signs for the Millennium Coppice & car park were repaired and re-erected. Work also continued on the 'middle pathway' project on Old, stabilising the baulk timber retaining wall below plot B23.

We also pruned the brambles overhanging the car park on SSN, & cleared the edges to maximise parking space. At one of our next working parties, we are considering tackling the wood chip/leaf area on SSN. The remaining material is now well rotted & can be very beneficial as a soil conditioner or mulch round fruit bushes, or just added to your compost bin. So prior to future work we would like to encourage all tenants to make use of as much of this free resource as possible to help clear the area.

We also enjoyed a very sociable lunch of home-made & needless to say home-grown squash soup & savouries, so why not make a date in your diaries of the next 2 working parties and join us for an hour or two?

Our next working parties will take place on:
Sunday 2nd February 2014
Sunday 2nd March 2014

More details will follow in due course.



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).

Christmas Drinks

We held another enjoyable al fresco Christmas drinks party on 22 December. Sunnyside once again lived up to its name; after seemingly endless rain, the clouds rolled back to a clear blue sky & we were able to spread out on John Goffey's lawn (thank you John) in the sunshine. Thanks too to Trish & Neil Kennedy for providing another Ashridge log candle to gather round.

There was a good turn out; long established gardeners & new tenants, young & older, councillors & friends. It is one of our most sociable events. Our sincere thanks are due to David Lassman for again mulling the wine, & making it so good that we managed to empty about 20 bottles! Thanks too to everyone who brought other delicious contributions. As well as discussing last year's successes & failures, tenants were able to collect their seed orders & start looking forward to the new season.

Advance notice: This year's Christmas Drinks will be on Sunday 21st December, so make a note in your diary & come and join us!



Your Current Committee Members

Chairman: John Eaton 865307
Vice Chairman & Minutes Secretary: Lin Phillips 862882
Secretary: Jenny Sippings 865890
Treasurer: John Powell 878640

Newsletter Editor: Chris Locke 877326

Other members: Wendy Calder 767289
Cynthia Fulks 879410
Andy James 865061
Adrian Scarborough 384974
Angela Wheeldon 874440

You can email any member of the committee by putting their first name in front of:
@sunnysideallotments.org.uk apart from the two Johns who are: johne@ or johnp@

Paths

Mowing of paths between plots: some people find it difficult to keep their paths mown and would welcome help. Gardeners on neighbouring plots are often helpful but this is not always possible. Is there anyone with a suitable machine who would be willing to offer occasional or regular help either free or for a small consideration? Or willing to lend their mower to other tenants?

Another Request

Please avoid driving on the roadways when they are wet and muddy as this can undo a lot of the hard work that goes into keeping them useable.

Plot Numbers

your plot should have a visible, weatherproof number. Some are either absent or elderly. John Powell, our treasurer and wood wizard, has offered to make one at cost (£5-£7) for anyone who would like one. Contact him on 878640.

Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

Steven Gibson	A7
Jane Dickenson	A12A
Robin & Victoria Lowth	B20A
Brian Jackson	B22A
Stephen Johnston	B30A

Goodbye to:

Brian Jackson	A7
Frances Maslen	A12A
Holly Bowyer	B22A
Jason Rainbow & Helen Franklin	N57B

Annual General Meeting 2013

Thank you to all who came to the AGM. If you weren't able to make it you can read the Minutes (which include the annual accounts) on our web-site:

<http://www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk/about/forms-and-documents/>

For sale

Second hand 2-stroke petrol strimmer available for £15.00. Ask at Tea Hut on B15 if interested.

Sunnyside Allotment Society subs of £3 are now due. Of this, £2.25 is paid to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners and members' names are registered with them. The seed scheme is one of the benefits of membership and also the quarterly magazine which is available in the tea hut. Their website www.nsalg.org.uk has a range of interesting topics.

Sunnyside Allotment Society Subs

Subs for 2013/2014 (£3.00) can be sent with this slip to John Powell (20 Castle Hill Avenue) or left at the tea hut on B15. (Cheques payable to Sunnyside Allotment Society please).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Plot Number: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ cash/cheque (please circle)