



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 1 January 2015

I have no words of wisdom for January 2015 but wish you all a Happy New Year. I received one moan only from Debbie and Simon on SSN70: Can it stop being so windy? We keep on having to rescue the panels from the greenhouse. ☺

Sorry I can't help

Chris Locke

Chairman's Notes

Once again, it's the start of a year and time to prepare for the new planting scheme. The seeds are available (thanks to Chris O'Callaghan) but it's probably too early to sow anything but the very hardy (follow the instructions on the packet). If the weather is not too bad and the ground not sticky there's still the time to dig - warm work and a way of shedding the seasonal pounds.

There is still plenty of woodchip around, especially on SSN - so please help yourselves.

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. Any potential volunteers for working parties please don't feel shy about coming forward. The next one is on Feb 1st.

Good gardening

John Eaton

Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

A35 Grahame Landers
N2 Sara Jefferson

Goodbye to:

N2 Andrew Walker
N12 Martin and Maya Moore
N36, 37 Graham and Carol Hall

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.

Volunteer needed

We are looking for volunteer(s) to join the cleaning rota for the toilet on Sunnyside Old. This is not too onerous a task as the existing volunteers clean the toilet weekly for one month in turn. Please contact lin@sunnysideallotments.org.uk if you would be willing to join the rota.

Plot Numbers

Your plot should have a visible, weatherproof number. Some are either absent or elderly. John Powell still has a few wooden blanks left so if you would like him to make a plaque for you please contact him on 878640.

Working Parties

We had a very wet start for the November working party but seven hardy volunteers turned out. The Jubilee Coppice had been strimmed in advance by the Chairman so it only took an hour or two to clear. The overgrown SSN Car Park was more of a challenge but many of the weeds and brambles were cleared and mounds of wood chip were moved. Corrugated iron donated by Clive & Jenny was given a new lease of life dividing the wood chip from the leaf piles. And then we saw a bit of blue sky.

And the blue sky must have lasted for a couple of months, because it was still sunny in early January for the next working party. Thanks to the many who showed up a lot of work was done. One team cleared the scrub along the NW side of SSO while the other put up signs on SSN Car Park and created a woodchip path up the hill. Work also continued on the middle pathway between A and B road plots. It was a good day for bonfires because there was a steady wind from the west blowing the smoke away from surrounding houses so all the non-compostable waste from the two working days was quickly burnt.

The SSN Car Park is improved and it is great to see that the nearby tenants have made good use of the woodchip and manure that has been dumped there. So if you are laying paths or mulching be sure to use up as much of the material as you want from the dumps on SSN or SSO.

The next working party will take place on Sunday 1st February. The main job will be to harvest the hazel crop from the Jubilee Coppice on SSN and bundle it into bean poles and pea sticks. Come along and have your pick of the straightest and longest bean poles, and of course, tuck into a generous lunch of soup and pies.

Neil & Tricia Kennedy, C23 (neil@sunnysideallotments.org.uk)



Annual General Meeting 2014

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 website:

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

Calendar 2016

Many of you will know that each year we produce a calendar with (hopefully) some interesting photos taken on both Sunnyside Old and New.

We print 100 copies and at £6.00 each (2014 price) the profit makes a valuable contribution to our revenue. To enable us to have a good variety of photos of the seasons we ask you all to send in some of your pictures which you take throughout the year so that we can consider them early for our 2016 calendar.

Please send photos in high resolution to Cynthia Fulks – email address Cynthiaf@btinternet.com



C17B - proud new owner! William and Marsha Facey



Christmas Drinks 21st December 2014

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

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|
| Chairman: | John Eaton | 865307 |
| Vice Chairman & Minutes Secretary: | Lin Phillips | 862882 |
| Secretary: | Jenny Sippings | 865890 |
| Treasurer: | Andy James | 865061 |
| Newsletter Editor: | Chris Locke | 877326 |
| Other members: | Wendy Calder | 767289 |
| | Cynthia Fulks | 879410 |
| | 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 John Eaton who is: johne@

Sunnyside Church extends a warm welcome to all allotment tenants for their annual Easter Songs of Praise Service, on Monday March 30th @ 2pm, the service will be a traditional one with familiar hymns and readings, followed by afternoon tea in the church hall.



The National Allotment Society
National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd

Sunnyside Allotment Society subs of £3 are now due. Of this, £2.50 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.

There is a very interesting section on growing advice: <http://www.nsalg.org.uk/growing-advice/> and this includes monthly tasks.

Here are some of the suggested tasks for February:

After the middle of the month it is safe to think about sowing the seeds of early vegetables. Prepare a seed bed and sow 'White Lisbon' Spring onion, early short horn carrots, early types of lettuce, try a cut and come again it saves on time waiting for a heart to form.

February is the best month to plant out garlic and shallots. Prepare the ground as you would a seed bed and plant using a trowel don't push the bulbs into the soil. Plant the garlic cloves about 2ins deep and leave the tips of the shallot bulbs just at the soil surface. The birds will pull one or two out leaving them lying on the ground. Replant them as soon as possible the birds will quickly lose interest!

Top dress all of the fruit trees and soft fruit bushes with a general fertiliser at the recommended application rate. At the same time top dress the rest of the plot with a general fertiliser as land becomes available.

Prune late/autumn fruiting raspberries down as low as possible and mulch around them. Tip back summer fruiting back to around 6ft/1.9mts to encourage the development of fruiting side growths.

Sunnyside Allotment Society Subs

Subs for 2014/2015 (£3.00) can be sent with this slip to Andy James (4 Field Way) 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)