



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 2 April 2015

Firstly, let me thank Chris for all her good work over the last 9 years as editor of the Sunnyside Allotment Society newsletter. I hope I can keep up her high standards. Next, hello to all readers and gardeners – I'm interested to know what you think of the newsletter; what do you like about it? For example, news and seasonal reminders, gardening tips, photos, recipes to use up all that extra fruit and veg.... I would really like to hear your ideas and suggestions, so that I can begin to develop the content accordingly. My email is: linphillips@btinternet.com, and my phone number is 862882. I look forward to your comments.

Lin Phillips

Chairman's Notes

Nature is up and running so it's up to us to keep up! This means removing weed seedlings before they establish domination and keeping going with planting seeds when the time is right.

For those wishing to construct things like raised beds, there are wood piles on Sunnyside Old B9 and B19 where you are welcome to select what you like - just speak to Ted for guidance and make a suitable donation to SAS funds.

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

This is Lin's first Newsletter as editor - so welcome, and thanks to Christine for her past editing. Good gardening

John Eaton

Lovely Job Offer for a Sunny Day!

Angela is looking for a volunteer with a bit of time to devote to finishing the job of repainting the summerhouse (on B 19, next to the tea hut). She has done the back and now the front needs rubbing down and painting. For someone who enjoys decorating, this would be a nice quiet job in a sunny spot, ideal for a bit of meditation! It could be done in bite-sized chunks, as and when someone has the time. Materials supplied. If you can help, please speak to Angela on 874440, or at the Tea Hut.

Maintaining Paths

As the days lengthen, so does the grass on the paths around our plots! A reminder that we each have a responsibility to keep them mown and edged. Also, please make sure stones are kept off the paths, as they can damage mowers.

Traffic Alert!

Building work is taking place for the next few weeks at 5 Grantham Mews, by the gate into Sunnyside Old. Vehicular access may be difficult along the lane due to deliveries of building supplies and parked vehicles.

Working Party Lunches

For the past few years, Hazel Grimwood prepared the very welcome lunches of soup, rolls, pasties, etc. for the band of volunteers on Working Party days – she did this efficiently and graciously. Sadly, Hazel died recently and will be much missed.

We are looking for someone to take on this role, for 5 Sundays during the winter – usually the first of the month. The food is provided, and it is a matter of heating it up, serving and clearing up afterwards. It is a sociable lunch, and the highlight of the day! So if you can't help with the working party itself but would like to make a contribution, please contact Angela on 874440 or at the Tea Hut.

Water Saving Tips

It's hard to believe we had so much rain over the winter as the ground already seems quite dry.

On our website we have some very useful water saving tips which you can find here:

http://www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk/Downloads/water_tips.pdf

Don't forget if you put a shed on your plot you are required to put up guttering to collect rain water. Run-off from shed and greenhouse roofs is a valuable source of water. You will need to acquire a water butt and it is advisable to keep the butt covered to prevent evaporation.

To increase the amount of water collected, run a series of water butts joined by pipes, so that once the first one is full, any excess water will run into the next butt and so on to the next.

Plants do better on rain water, taking up all the trace elements.

Acquire water butts from garden centres (expensive), the tip (cheap), skips (even cheaper), from drinks manufacturers. Councils often advertise availability of subsidised water butts – see local press. Other sources are car boot sales, garage sales, and eBay and Berko Freecycle on the Internet.

Your Current Committee Members

Chairman:	John Eaton	865307
Vice Chairman & Newsletter Editor:	Lin Phillips	862882
Secretary:	Jenny Sippings	865890
Treasurer:	Andy James	865061
Minutes Secretary:	Cynthia Fulks	879410
Other members:	Wendy Calder	767289
	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@

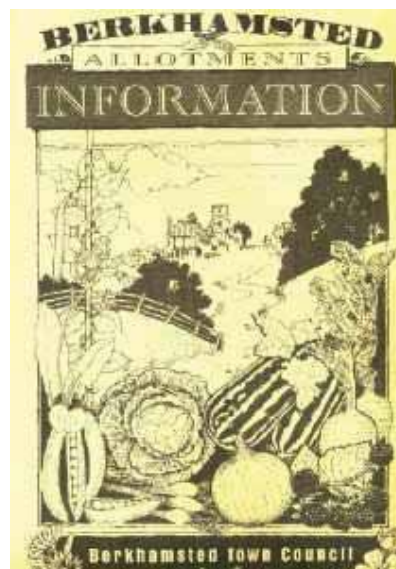


Apricot blossom

Allotment Information Pack

The Council should give all new tenants an Allotment Information Pack. You can collect this from the council offices, or view it on our own website: <http://www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk/about/allotments=information-pack>

It contains lots of useful information for tenants, both new and old.



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).



Some tenants are on their plots, whatever the weather!

West Watford Allotments Defence Campaign

Farm Terrace Allotment site has existed since 1896. It stands in the centre of Watford, an oasis in an urban jungle. Watford Borough Council intends to build housing on the site and the tenants have mounted a legal battle to challenge the plan. More and more councils see selling off allotment sites as a way of generating cash. Since 2007 there have been 132 separate applications to close down allotments under section 8 of the 1925 Allotments Act. Of these 132 applications, 97% were approved (128 cases) and only 4 cases refused.

The SAS Committee has made two donations to the fighting fund; for further information, look up Save Farm Terrace Allotments on your search engine.

Stones Stash on Sunnyside New

There will shortly be a new sign on Sunnyside New to indicate where stones gathered from allotments can be piled. These are used by working parties when mending the roadways, so if you are trying to de-stone your allotment (good luck!), then please dump them on the pile (likely to be by the top road, but look out for the sign).

Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

Ms Eva Reynolds	A1A
Vicki Daniels	N4
Ben Goodman	N9
Martin & Maya Moore	N12
Richard Harper	N37
Alison Down	N36

Goodbye to:

Helen Pope	A1A, B35B
James Priestley	A36

Untidy Gardens

Just to remind you that the Council requires plots to be kept in good order, and so the Chairman and another Committee member take a walk around the allotments 3 times during the summer in order to note any plots which show signs of neglect. John generally contacts the tenant, to find out if there are any difficulties which can be sorted out. He then sends a list of the remainder to the Council, who issue warning letters to the respective tenants. If you are having any difficulties in keeping up your plot, do let him or another Committee member know.



View across the valley



New compost heap

Open Day 2015

Our annual Open Day will once again be the last day of the National Allotment Week, and will fall this year on Sunday, 16th August – a date for your diary. Planning usually starts well in advance, with publicity all around the town from June onwards. Visitors to the Open Day enjoy seeing the allotments as well as talking to gardeners on their plots, A cup of tea and some homemade cake is always very welcome, followed by a chance to buy some freshly picked produce to take home.

Wendy and Angela, committee members, will be organising the day, and sending out a call for assistance, closer to the event.

Sunnyside Allotment Society Subs for 2014/15

If you haven't paid your £3.00 subs yet this year, please do so as soon as possible. You can give it directly to Andy, our Treasurer (4 Field Way), or leave it in an envelope for him in the tea hut. The benefits of belonging to the SAS are that, as well as receiving this newsletter, you can participate in the group seed ordering scheme with King's Seeds in the autumn. As of the AGM in December this year, subs will be increased to £3.50, to reflect the increase in the subs SAS pays to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG), of which we are members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Plot Number: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ cash/cheque (please circle)