



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 3 July 2015

Well, here we are in the middle of summer, bathed in sunshine – and sweat, even after a short spell of weeding! There has been a lot of good work especially on new plots, and it is good to see the progress being made by some of our new tenants.

Thank you to all of you who have responded to my plea for contributions – I have had lots of lovely notes, suggestions, and articles, making this a Bumper Issue! I am really delighted at the response, so keep them coming – they really help to liven up the newsletter.

Lin Phillips

Chairman's Notes

Now is the time to start the harvest and enjoy the fruits of all that effort. Unfortunately, weeds and insect pests are also at their peak, so carry on the fight – weeding your plot benefits not only you, but your neighbours, of course. And please water sensibly – see the tips in Adrian's article, below.

An exciting project is underway at Sunnyside, to renovate and reconstruct a large, donated shed on the western side of SSO between B and C roads. It will be used as storage for the various chairs, gazebos and equipment that the Society uses for Open Days and other events. So far, trees overshadowing the plots at the end of B and C road have been felled and the next stage is to remove the roots with a digger and to level the ground. The communal wood piles will also be moved to this new space, so that the wood becomes more accessible and the plots they currently occupy can be let. If you have shed erection skills and would like to help, please contact Adrian Scarborough on 01442 384974, or scarbs@gmail.com

Finally the allotment waiting list is quite short at the moment, so if you know anyone who would like a plot please encourage them to apply to the Council. Good gardening

John Eaton

Deer Damage on Sunnyside New

I've noticed increased signs of deer and deer damage on my allotment: they have pruned the lower branches and flowers of my pear & apple trees, eaten the tops of all my carrots, pulling more up and causing a lot of damage in process, eaten a row of potato flowers and trampled potato plants. Does anyone have any suggestions for natural deterrents?

Michelle, SSN 43

Photos for 2016 calendar

The 2015 calendar was a sell-out, and the preparation of the 2016 calendar will soon be underway, so photos are being requested. If you have any nice shots of your allotment, the sites or the Open Day, please send full resolution versions to: Cynthiaf@btinternet.com.



April's SAS Newsletter receives National and International Acclaim!

Thank you so much for sending your newsletter. It was lovely to see the photos and to remember past visits to your garden plots. You probably don't perceive this, but it has a very British flavour to it - all no-nonsense, with attention to the small comforts like the tea service. I mean, a photo of a compost heap? It is a little funny, I think, verging on Monty Pythonesque, and in the most delightful way! (from cousin Heather, in Canada).

Hi mum - a very impressive debut issue, and a lovely newsletter. I'm glad you are so happily involved with your gardening community (but I still imagine that the meetings are akin to The Vicar of Dibley!) (from daughter Sally, in Sussex).

Open Day 2015

Just a reminder that our annual Open Day takes place on Sunday 16th August, when we open the sites to the public and show off our plots.

On offer are refreshments, a raffle in aid of the Hospice, produce, a quiz for young kids and a walk round the sites.

Now that the soft fruit is ripening, I'm sure many of you are busy making jams and preserves. If you can make a few extra jars and spare a few for our produce stall, they will be eagerly snapped up.

Visitors always enjoy spotting scarecrows about the site. We're not holding a competition this year, but how about giving the children a holiday project to produce an imaginative scarecrow to decorate your plot?

Angela (at the Tea Hut, SSO)



Ashridge Plant Fair

We are delighted to report that the Ashridge Plant Fair raised £6,450 this year. The Plant Fair would not be successful without the generous support of volunteer growers, and your contribution helps make a big difference to the Ashridge Estate. Many thanks again for your green fingers. Please continue to remember us as you work and enjoy your own gardens over the coming year – and do try to pot up perennials in the autumn where possible, as this results in stronger plants for the sale in the spring.

Next year's event is scheduled for Sunday 20th May and this will be our 20th! We are always on the lookout for new growers and helpers, and welcome your ideas as to how we might enhance the event.

John Cartright, A42 and Organiser of Ashridge Plant Fair

Garlic Rust (or Leek Rust)

This is a disease caused by the fungus *Puccinia allii*; especially on **leeks**, but also affects **onions, garlic and chives**. Most attacks occur from mid-summer until late autumn.

Symptoms

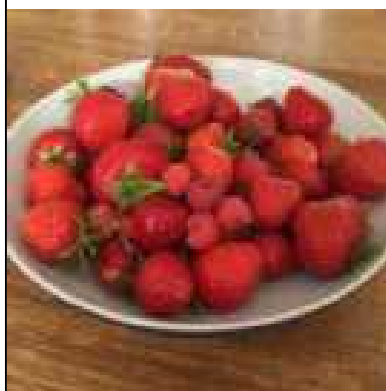
- **On leaves:** Bright orange pustules on both sides of infected leaves. These are initially enclosed by the surface tissues of the leaf, but break open to release dusty, orange, airborne spores
- Severe attacks may cause leaves to shrivel prematurely and will reduce vigour.

Control

- Infection is worse on nitrogen-rich soils with low potassium, so take care with fertiliser applications
- Do not crowd plants, as this raises humidity and increases the likelihood of infection
- Dispose of all plant debris at the end of cropping
- Suppliers sometimes claim a degree of resistance for certain varieties - check the latest catalogues for those currently available

There are no chemicals approved for control of leek rust for gardeners.

New Allotment Holder Delighted with Progress!



Only had my allotment since February and each time I go there it's full of surprises. I am actually growing produce and flowers!! My confidence is slowly growing too. I thought you might like these photos.

Alison Down, SSN 36

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).

L'Eau Down

Having spent from January to April of this year basking in 'The Sunshine State' of California, I have become starkly aware of the water shortages affecting this region. Very little rain and no snow run-off have led to four years of terrible drought. In the four months I was there we had about eight hours of rain! The rivers have been reduced to dribbles and the groundwater is being depleted by the constant tapping of desperate farmers. It is a major political hot potato.

Voters in Los Angeles get quite cross about being dictated to over their water usage. Adorning every front lawn is a rainbow of showering water with the nozzles frequently pointing in the wrong direction, overshooting the lawn and soaking the path. The lawn is often so dry that the water can't be absorbed and simply runs off into the gutter.

Finally in March a mandatory restriction was put in place to restrict landscape watering to two days a week. Alongside this was a restriction for restaurants not to offer customers tap water with their meals! Yes, they would rather water their lawns than keep their citizens hydrated.

But it's not all bad news. The Mayor of L.A. recently declared that citizens must realize that lawns were a thing of the past, and that it is every home-owner's responsibility to find an alternative. Some of the more forward thinking citizens have already done this, making fantastic use of cacti and sedum; perfectly in keeping with the surrounding desert landscape.

With water here in Hertfordshire a precious commodity, here is a reminder to allotment holders of some of the council rules regarding water usage on the site:

1. If you wish to use a hand-held watering hose connected to a tank, you **must** purchase a water licence and tank tap key by applying to Berkhamsted Town Council at the Civic Centre. There is also a form available on the Sunnyside Allotment Society website.
2. Please be sure that you have guttering on sheds and greenhouses connected to a water butt.
3. You may use a hose to siphon water from the tanks to fill your own containers. For those of you who have never siphoned before, here is a fun YouTube video link showing you how. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxElifwm1ws>

A brilliantly informative article entitled 'Watering Wisely' is available at the Sunnyside Allotment Society website. It contains many ways of preserving our most valuable gardening resource. Simply click on <http://www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk/about/allotments-information-pack/> and scroll down to Water Conservation Tips.

When the well's dry, we know the worth of water.
Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

Adrian Scarborough B34A



Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

A28B	Philippa Jones
C7B	Keith Shaw

Goodbye to:

A28B	Simon Howell
C7B	Tom Troughton
C25	Angela Freer

Keep those Gates Shut!

Just a reminder to close the gates to the allotments after use - a clear message to others that this is not public land, and particularly to deter dumpers. Thanks!

Working Party dates for your diary

On Sunday 4 October we need your help to tidy up the areas on the site which belong to no-one and everyone ... the car parks, leaf/woodchip piles, roads and hedges; details to follow closer to the time. Come for all or part of the day, whatever you can spare. It's always enjoyable to be part of the day's team, plus there is a yummy soup and bread lunch provided - very welcome! Meanwhile, if you have suggestions for jobs please email me, and do put the dates in your diary: 4 October, 1 November, 10 January, 7 February and 6 March.

Neil & Tricia Kennedy, C23 & B33B

neil@sunnysideallotments.org.uk



Seed order

If you are a paid-up member of the Sunnyside Allotment Society you will be receiving the King's seed catalogue in September. This will give you the opportunity to order seeds at a preferential price, as well as raise money for the society.



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@





Sunnyside Allotment Society

OPEN DAY SUNDAY 16th AUGUST 2015

This year our Open Day takes place on Sunday 16th August from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, to enable local residents to visit and enjoy the allotments with us. There will be refreshments, sales of produce and preserves, a quiz for kids and depending on the weather a guided walk through the allotments at 12 noon.

We try to make the sites look attractive, and it would be nice if you could spend some time on your plot during that day to give visitors a warm welcome and talk about your garden. Please try to cut your paths so that they are tidy, bramble free and accessible to the public. The contractors will be cutting the main roadways during the week before Open Day; to enable them to do a full width cut, please ensure the end of your plot bordering the roadway is cut back as far as possible.

PRE-OPEN DAY JOBS

There are a number of jobs which we need help with before the day: cleaning furniture, displaying signs, mowing and strimming of paths and general tidying up of communal areas & entrances.

VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

On the day we will need volunteers to help setting up, clearing up, manning the produce stall, refreshments and the raffle. We are also looking for people to meet and greet visitors.

Volunteers are needed. Even if you can only help for an hour or two. This is a good opportunity for meeting fellow allotmenters. The more people who get involved the better.

Please return the completed form to Wendy Calder at 8 Ellesmere Road or B15 or email to: wendy@sunnysideallotments.org.uk. We can then draw up a rota to share the jobs out. Could you also let us know if you are able to provide any contributions (see form below). Plants and preserves need to be delivered to B15 on **Friday or Saturday** and fresh veg/cakes **before 10.00 a.m. on Sunday**.

" _____

Name: _____ Plot No: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____ Mobile: _____

Pre Open Day help:

I can help with: _____ Please let us know when: _____

I can help at the following time(s) on Open Day (please tick the box):

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9.00-11.00 a.m. (setting up) | <input type="checkbox"/> 11.00-12 noon | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 noon - 1.00 p.m. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1.00- 2.00 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> 2.00-3.00 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> 3.00- 4.00 p.m. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4.00- 5.00 p.m. | <input type="checkbox"/> 5.00-6.00 p.m. (clearing up) | <input type="checkbox"/> anytime |

I will provide:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> cakes/biscuits for the refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> produce/preserves to sell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> plants/flowers to sell | <input type="checkbox"/> other |

Please return this form by **Friday 7th August** to Wendy Calder at 8 Ellesmere Road or B15 or email to: wendy@sunnysideallotments.org.uk. Thank you.