



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

No: 4 October 2015

I have been really impressed by the number and quantity of submissions to this issue of the Newsletter – it makes for so much more compelling reading when such a good proportion of the photos and articles have come from allotment holders themselves, so thank you to all contributors.

Our annual Christmas Drinks get together will be on Sunday, 20th December, from 12-3pm. This year we have been offered some musical accompaniment to the afternoon, which got the committee thinking that some live music might be a great addition to next summer's Open Day too. If you are able and willing to provide a little light music, on your own or with others, do please get in touch.

The SAS Annual General Meeting will be held this year on Saturday 21st, from 10.30am in the Sunnyside Rural Trust Building, with refreshments available afterwards. The 2016 SAS Calendars will also be on sale. It would be excellent to see some of our new tenants at the meeting; it is your opportunity to make suggestions and comment on decisions and plans for the coming year, and new committee members are always needed.

Also, I am reminding you that our annual subscriptions to the Sunnyside Allotment Society are now due – payment to Andy James, treasurer (who will be at the AGM to accept subs). Please note that the 2016 subs are going up to £3.50, due to the increase in the cost of group membership of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens (NSALG – do have a look at their website, for a wide range of information and advice).

Not forgetting that the annual rent for your plot is now due – overdue by now, in fact, so send or take it along to Berkhamsted Town Council as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so.

Lin Phillips, Editor

Chairman's Notes

The gardening season is nearly at an end so we can enjoy eating the fruits of our labours and prepare to clear the plots for possible manuring.

The project to clear tree roots prior to erecting a shed and wood store on SSO is still awaiting a suitable contractor estimate, but maybe it will be done before Christmas.

Through the winter, there are a number of Working Party days (Sundays) when various tidying up and improvement jobs are tackled. The turnout can be quite low - 7 or 8 people. Please give a thought to helping out for, maybe, just an hour or two at one of the days – see Neil's article below, for details.

And finally do please try to come along to our AGM (again, details above) to support your committee (or otherwise) and make your views known.

Good gardening,

John Eaton

Manure and Mud

Now is the time to start adding some goodness to your plot and structure to your soil, as you start the annual task of digging in vegetable compost or manure. The following local farmers have supplied manure to tenants in the past – there may be others, do let us know if you have a good supplier (and you are willing to let the secret out!):

Ted Lake 01494 758494

Phil Marks 01442 823357

Nigel Durrant 01442 403351 or 07860 558537

As regards mud, there will be plenty of it in the coming season! Please avoid driving on the allotment roadways when they are wet and muddy as the grass gets ripped up and the roads become impassable.



It doesn't have to be all veg, you know.

"We'll never find someone to take on this plot," said John. "I think I know just the people," said Angela.

That was last October. Five days later, C17B was ours. We'd admired it before on occasional walks because it was on the edge of the wildlife corridor and we love trees and birds. But, despite our friends Debbie and Steve who had taken on an allotment a few months before and become infectiously obsessed, we had put all thoughts of doing the same out of our minds. But then...

C17B was full of roots and stones and was being invaded by undergrowth, but the soil looked good and a winter's digging seemed therapeutic in prospect. And so it turned out to be, with robins and bullfinches for company. Grand ambitions soon banished images of serried ranks of brassicas or nine bean-rows. Eat dust, William Butler Yeats: we would have a shed, a herb garden, a row of Tuscan pots, a stone path, an orchard ... and a secluded arbour. In a few months, to our amazement, that is what we managed to create. And we even have some vegetables too.

For flat-dwellers without a garden, the project has been a real life-changer – and not just because we have a beautiful place to be outdoors, but because we've made lots of really nice friends in the process. Thank you, Sunnyside!

Will and Marsha Facey, C17B

Christmas Drinks – and Music!

This year's Christmas drinks will be held on Sunday 20th December, 12 – 3.00pm. Please bring a plate of food to share, preferably something savoury. There will be tea, coffee, and mulled wine available. And this year, Andy James' daughter and friend will be providing a musical note to the afternoon, playing Christmas Carols on their recorders, in aid of the local hospice.

Open Day 2015

To everyone's relief, Open Day dawned fine and sunny this year. The well-practised team swung into action to set everything up and by the time the first visitors arrived it all looked very attractive, with tables and chairs and colourful umbrellas. One visitor described it as 'like a big garden party', and so it was, with people lingering over tea and cakes. Andy led a successful walk, although it is rumoured that he lost a few punters en route! The Quiz for Kids proved popular with the younger visitors. The gardeners of the future answered the question 'why do we grow flowers on our allotments?' with 'to attract the bees'. And the unanimous answer to the question 'what was the best thing about today? – 'Cakes!'

Our thanks go to Berkhamsted's Mayor, Tom Ritchie, for attending the event and for drawing the raffle prizes. We made £128 for the Hospice from the raffle, and added a further £675.91 to Society funds from sales of refreshments, produce and preserves.

Wendy and I would like to extend our grateful thanks to all who helped make the day a success, from pre-publicity to providing cakes and produce, mowing, and helping on the day itself. And not forgetting the unseen heroes – the Gazebo and Furniture Team, who excelled themselves. We stopped serving at about 5pm and by 5.45 everything had been put away and we were able to stop and enjoy a welcome cup of tea!

Angela Wheeldon, B13

Tenancy Changes

Welcome to:

A8A	Diane Mix
C35B	Denre Bruins
N51	Jennifer Alice Hatt

Goodbye to:

N58	David Roberts
A4A	Charlotte Nash
A44	Dr Elisabeth Karin Newman
A8A	Victoria Palmer
B12A, B14A	Mr & Mrs Sweetman
B34B, C35B	Jane Miller
B41	Mrs Karen Bevan
C1	Emma Przygodzka
N10	Tiffany and Bruce Courtney-Barry
N51A, N51B	Neil & Nicola Thompson
N55B	Claire Mongan
N67	Maryann Pearson

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).



This year for the first time I have tried growing a variety of flowers, both to make my allotment look more fabulous as well as to brighten up my flat. I have to say that (with a bit of help from my mum) they have been a revelation.

The dahlias and zinnias were new to me but went very well, and the sunflowers have been as smile inducing as always. Star of the veldt and poppies did not grow very well, but I am not dispirited and will be trying more next year. This is only my second year on the allotment, so I hope that with a few years' trial and error I will have even better shows to come.

Kitran Eastman, N31B

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@

Seed orders

One of the advantages of subscribing to SAS is the chance to get your seeds ordered from King's as part of our bulk order. The seed catalogues are being distributed this week, to be returned to Andy James by October 30th (preferably directly, but via the tea hut if you have difficulties with that - but please let Andy know you are leaving it there, either by e-mail at jamesak@live.co.uk or via a phone message on 865061).

Spring Plant Fair 2016

I am writing to seek your help in producing plants for our annual Spring Plant Fair that will be held at Ashridge Monument Green on Sunday 15th May 2016. It will be our 20th!

In particular, we value well-rooted perennials. Conditions are still favourable to lift and divide large clumps. All the truly hardy varieties such as hostas, phlox, delphiniums, peonies, acanthus and euphorbias can be cut to the base, lifted, split and replanted/potted. Plants potted now will be well established by the spring.. If you have the luxury of a warm greenhouse to store geraniums and pelargoniums, then you may still be able to take cuttings of sturdy varieties before the soil gets too cold. Some hardwood cuttings can be taken now. This is also a good time to collect flower and vegetable seed and store in paper envelopes (suitably labelled!!) We have access to a warm greenhouse, so please contact me if you have tender plants to donate but no greenhouse space etc.

We hope to be able to use the Ashridge Management College cold frame by early spring. If you need labels, pots, peat-free compost or would like some help with potting up, please contact me). And any assistance in advertising the Plant Fair would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, we are looking to bolster our Plant Fair Committee, so please contact me if you are interested in supporting the National Trust in this way.

John Cartwright, Organiser, A42



My first effort at artichokes - by Geoff Halls, A31

Working Parties

This is a difficult time for the allotmenteer. The potatoes have been lifted, the badgers have had all the sweetcorn and even the rampant weeds are slowing down. All in the allotment is lovely. So the usual cheery "I've got to weed the onions (i.e., *crossword in shed*)" or "The brassicas need covering (*tea and biscuits*)" doesn't get you out of the washing up any more. But, "I've got to do my bit for the community" is watertight even though it includes an al fresco lunch.

... and if you time it right you can just get home in time for a bath, then aperitifs in front of Countryfile.

Back in the real world, we really could use your help to keep the car parks, leaf/woodchip piles, roads, hedges etc. safe and tidy. From October to March usually on the first Sunday of the month we have a working party to do these odd jobs. Most of the jobs are things that you do on your own plot but there are sometimes exciting things like tree pruning to do. There are plenty of opportunities to get to know your fellow allotmenters and exchange ideas over lunch. To give you a sample of things that can be done, last season we opened up the middle path on SSN and harvested the bean poles and pea sticks from Jubilee Coppice. And during the first session of this season, amongst other things, we tidied up the SSO Leaf/Woodchip/Stone piles – as in the before/after picture.

The dates for the coming season are the Sundays of 1 Nov, 12 Jan, 7 Feb and 6 Mar. If you have some suggestions for improvements or maintenance for the common areas please email me or a member of the committee and we will consider them for inclusion in the jobs list. If you want to know more about volunteering or would like to help with preparing lunch then do get in touch.

Neil & Tricia Kennedy, C23 & B33B
neil@sunnysideallotments.org.uk



Photo from Jeanne Woodcraft



**AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING TO BE HELD ON
SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, 2015 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.