



# SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk  
email: [info@sunnysideallotments.org.uk](mailto:info@sunnysideallotments.org.uk)

No: 4 October 2018

## Editor's Note

It's autumn, with a welcome slowing of the pace of gardening jobs on the allotment; a time for reflection, and then planning for next year!

A variety of thoughts and ideas for you in this issue - I hope you enjoy reading it.

Lin Phillips, Editor [linphillips@btinternet.com](mailto:linphillips@btinternet.com)

## Chairman's Notes

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

The Sunnyside Rural Trust has kindly relocated a defibrillator to the outside of their building near the church car park so it is available to others including churchgoers and allotment users. In an emergency, follow the instructions on the box.

The first working party of the winter was on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October, when a good number of volunteers turned up to paint a shed and the loo, as well as clearing undergrowth and laying weed-suppressing fabric (see back page for photos). Kate put on a welcome soup and bread lunch. Thanks to John Goffey for coordinating the work – details for future working parties are in this issue.

The Society AGM is on Saturday 19th January 2019 at 10.30 in the Sunnyside Rural Trust premises, Ivy House Lane, (near the church car park) so please try to come along and make your views known. One agenda item is to elect / re-elect committee members. If you would like to join the committee, have a chat with any of the current committee members about what's involved, or contact Jenny Sippings, the secretary.

Good gardening  
John Eaton

## In Memory of Helen

Very sadly Helen Gray, tenant on B Road, passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Helen had a warm and wonderful presence about her. She moved to Berkhamsted 20 years ago and thoroughly enjoyed being part of this community. Helen had an interesting life. She had travelled widely and enjoyed successful careers in teaching and the financial industry. In her spare time she embraced nature, planting, growing and enjoying the fruits of her labours on her much loved allotment. This she tended with gusto!

Helen had a great sense of humour, always making folk laugh with her stories and anecdotes. She was also an incredibly positive and courageous woman, especially in the face of adversity. She always had a smile. Right up to the final days of Helen's life, her love and enthusiasm for nature shone through. Plant pots from her home were brought on her request and displayed on her patio overlooking the beautiful grounds of the Hospice of St. Francis. The helpful staff made it possible to take Helen in her bed outside, to enjoy the late summer sun with her friends around her. Helen was smiling, chatting, taking it all in and savouring every minute.

She will be sorely missed by all of those who knew her.

Pam Moss (Mossy) A38



Photo—Clive Smith

### Dividing Plants?

If you are clearing your herbaceous borders at home and splitting large lumps of herbaceous plants, please pot up a few extra bits and hold on to them for next year's Open Day plant stall. If you have nowhere to store them, bring them along to me (potted up and labelled please) on A18 and I will look after them.

Thanks!

Lin, SSO A18

### King's Seed Orders

Membership of SAS also entitles you to take part in the annual King's seeds group order, which offers seeds and garden sundries at greatly reduced prices. Andy, our Treasurer, has recently sent out the catalogues to all tenants who are members of SAS, and order forms are due back to him by 30th October. Once he gets all the orders delivered to him, he lets us know and we can pick them up from him.

If you would like a catalogue next year, remember that SAS subscriptions run from January to December, and you need to join before the end of May. The easiest time to pay is at the AGM in January, when Andy will be there to accept payments.

### Bonfires

Please remember that we have neighbours living all around Sunnyside, and be considerate when you are burning rubbish. Firstly, if at all possible, avoid burning by composting green waste or by taking sticks and hard material to the town's recycling centre. If you do have to have a bonfire, avoid weekends when neighbours will be out enjoying their own gardens, have their doors and windows open, etc, and choose a day when the wind will blow the smoke up the hill, away from neighbours.

### Sunnyside Facebook Group

Check out our own Facebook page, where members are increasingly posting great photos and comments on their successes (and challenges) on their plot.

Please join our group for allotment gardening chit chat.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1466477513362340/>



### Allotment Rents are Due

You will have received your invoice from the Town Council for the annual rent on your plot. If you haven't already done so, do send or take it along to Berkhamsted Town Council as soon as possible (cash no longer accepted - payment by BACS or cheque only).

Also, our annual subscriptions to the Sunnyside Allotment Society will be due from January. The cost of your sub to SAS for 2019 is £4.00, and includes our 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 – Jenny will let you have the NSALG password, if you email her for it). Membership of SAS also supports us in raising the needed funds for ongoing maintenance and new projects around Sunnyside.



### Tenancy Changes

*Welcome to:*

|       |                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| A34   | Mark Evans                      |
| A37   | Tim Buchorski                   |
| A44A  | Richard Evans                   |
| B13B  | Jo Banks                        |
| B30A  | Beverley Hancock                |
| N4A,B | Adrian Baker                    |
| N26   | Rob Wittaker                    |
| N31A  | Rebecca Stern                   |
| N40   | Amber Standy & Anthony Burchett |
| N43   | Neil Webb                       |
| N56A  | Nicola Roche                    |
| N61   | Lee Payton                      |
| N64A  | James Burke                     |

*Goodbye to:*

|               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| A6A           | Ray & Grace Phipps |
| A44A          | Ben & Tony Brown   |
| B11B,C & B13B | Helen Gray         |
| B30A          | Francesca Olmi     |
| N4A,B         | Andrew Durrant     |
| N26           | Amanda Perry       |
| N64A          | Sandra Bulpitt     |

**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 – ([jennysippings@virginmedia.com](mailto:jennysippings@virginmedia.com)).



## Sunnyside Open Day 2018

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make Open Day a success. Despite the best efforts of the weather forecasters, we had a good turnout for a very grey day, selling over 100 jars of jam and 150 cups of tea and cake.

This year we had 2 gazebo teams in the morning. This ensured a speedy set-up, enabling us to be ready when we opened the gates at 11 a.m. Once again Cynthia and Jamie did an excellent job on A Road, greeting visitors as they arrived, talking to them about the site, and explaining what was on offer, as well as selling tools and books. Lin and Jane, assisted by Sam, managed the running of the plant stall. Thanks to Lin for looking after donated plants in the lead-up to the day; we had a huge number of plants for sale, most of which sold.

As expected, there wasn't a lot of produce on sale due to the dry conditions this year, but all the jams and chutneys were snapped up by our visitors. Although the sun didn't shine, everyone seemed to enjoy their tea and cake. Thanks to Kate, Angela, Nanette and Chris for all their hard work on the catering front.

Accounts are still being finalised, but takings were about the same as last year.

Our own Deputy Mayor Councillor Barbara Newton did the honours and drew the raffle. Thanks to Geoff's enterprising efforts, we had prizes donated by Bill's Restaurant, Porters Restaurant and Woods Garden Centre. The raffle raised £138 for the Hospice of St Francis.

PCSO Lauren Jackson, who is part of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, attended. As well as chatting to our visitors offering security advice, she gave the Society 3 shed alarms.

Thanks again to all of you who helped out, donating produce, cakes and plants, or preparing the site; the gazebo and furniture team, the refreshment team, and everyone else who gave their time to making the day a success, including those who came and spent some money!

Wendy Calder, Open Day Co-ordinator, N4



Photo—Paul Klinkenborg

## Your Current Committee Members

|                           |                 |        |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| <b>Chairman:</b>          | John Eaton      | 865307 |
| <b>Secretary:</b>         | Jenny Sippings  | 865890 |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>         | Andy James      | 865061 |
| <b>Minutes Secretary:</b> | Cynthia Fulks   | 879410 |
| <b>Newsletter Editor:</b> | Lin Phillips    | 862882 |
| <b>Other members:</b>     | Wendy Calder    | 767289 |
|                           | Angela Wheeldon | 874440 |
|                           | John Goffey     | 864967 |
|                           | Kate Rankin     | 866827 |
|                           | Diana Ball      | 875277 |
|                           | Geoff Halls     | 878176 |

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@ and John Goffey who is: johng@

## Manure

If you are about to start preparing your ground for next year by adding manure or compost, you might like to know that the following local farmers have supplied manure to tenants in the past – please let me know if you know of another good supplier who will deliver to Sunnyside:

Dave Burgin 01442 832997  
Phil Marks 01442 823357  
Nigel Durrant 01442 403351





### Autumn and Winter Working Parties

With the start of autumn, we start our annual season of Sunday working parties; these take place on the first Sundays of October, November, January, February and March. For the benefit of new allotment holders, these working parties are opportunities for us to do maintenance and improvement work on the communal facilities of Sunnyside Old and New. Communal facilities are those for which SAS is responsible, such as the toilet, the tea hut, summer house and seating area, the two new SAS sheds, the wood and plastic guttering stores, the hazel coppices, the leaf and woodchip piles and the designated wildlife area B16. (Common facilities which are the Town Council's responsibility are the roads and car parks, the water supply and distribution system, trees on unlet plots and Birtchnell's Copse – the wooded area above Sunnyside New).

SAS volunteers assist the Council in the common areas, so that while the roads are mowed by the Council's contractor, volunteers keep road edges clear of encroaching vegetation, undertake clearance work in Birtchnell's Copse once a year, and provide first-line minor maintenance of the water system.

Sunday working parties in the winter months therefore concentrate on SAS's communal areas while providing some assistance in keeping roads clear on behalf of the Council. In March (usually) we provide volunteer labour for clearance work in Birtchnell's Copse.

So if you have not yet joined a working party, your help would be greatly appreciated; why not come along? There is always a range of tasks for the day, so you don't have to do strenuous work, and it need not take up more time than you want - anything from an hour or two to all day will be welcomed. SAS even provide a free communal lunch, served up at the Tea Hut on Sunnyside Old.

Working party dates coming up:

4th November 2018

6th January 2019

3rd February 2019

3rd March 2019

John Goffey, working party organiser, B18



### Stripey Cat

Sadly, we have to report the death of Stripey Cat, our allotment 'rodent catcher'. He was about 18 and had been in failing health. When he came to us from Cats' Protection in May 2008, he was very wary of people, but we gradually gained his trust, and as Ted predicted, by Christmas he had become a (selective) lap cat. He was quite a character, and became a vocal part of tea-time gatherings. He lived in the Tea Hut, where he had several beds, but his favourite place in the chilly weather was above the cooker, preferably with the gas on so that he could absorb the warmth. He also like to climb up his two ladders onto the roof of the Tea Hut to keep an eye on what was going on. Ted gave him a lot of TLC, so he has been buried in Ted's memorial garden on B16.

Thanks to all his 'staff' who fed him every day and tucked him up with hot water bottles in the winter. He will be much missed.

Angela Wheeldon, B15



Working party October 2018—photos Jenny Sippings & Clive Smith