



SUNNYSIDE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk
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No: 4 Autumn 2022

Editor's Note

Autumn, again, such a beautiful time of the year. And as usual, varied contents in this issue – I hope you enjoy it.

Lin Phillips

Editor, A18 lin@sunnysideallotments.org.uk

Chairman's Notes

Once again, I am hopeful that Covid has gone, but I still know of a few people that have caught it. So, let's keep up the jabs and be watchful.

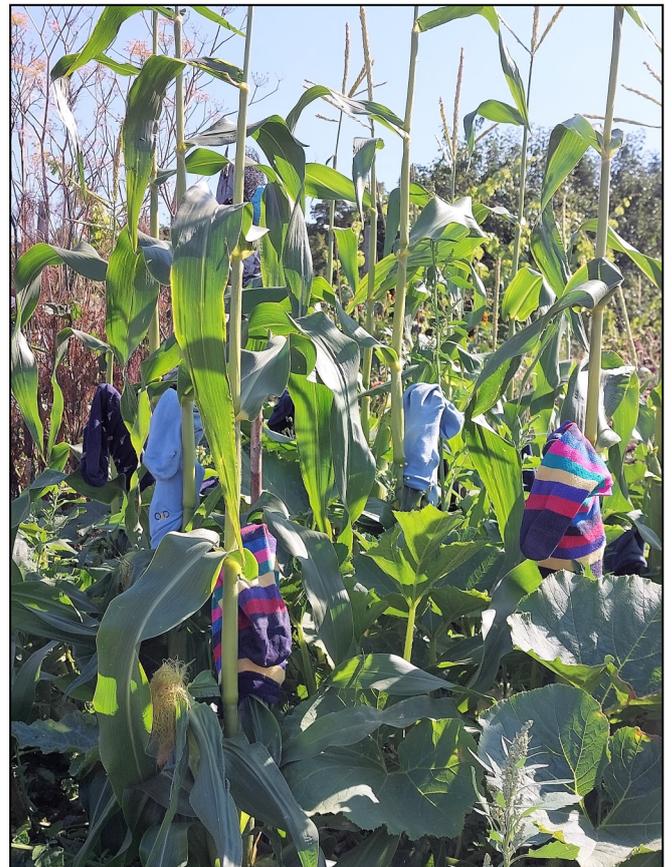
This dry year my harvest has been very mixed; reduced number of pumpkins and a poor show of beans. I hope you had better luck.

Through the winter there will be more working party sessions, to carry our clearance and maintenance jobs. They are usually the second Sunday of the month (but check). The jobs have been agreed by the Committee, and will be coordinated by John Goffey (thanks).

We plan to have allotment Christmas drinks on Sunday 18th December from 12.30 – 2.30pm this year. Details about snacks and refreshments will be sent out later.

We also hope to have an 'in person' Society AGM in January 2023, arrangements to be confirmed.

Good gardening
John Eaton



Socks on Sweetcorn

Walking along A Road during the late summer, you may have seen the unusual sight of colourful socks on ears of corn! Debbie was trying an experiment to protect her corn from rats by placing a sock over each ear. Here are her findings:

I would say the socks were a partial success, in only that three got eaten rather than the usual half a crop. The rats were still able to eat through the material, though, on the ones I left to ripen a bit longer. I will use the technique again next year. Also what worked for me was to harvest the corn on the cob as soon as they were ripe and then freeze the cobs with the husks on. To cook them I microwave them for 4 minutes with the husk on. They are delicious!

Hope this is helpful, Debbie Crooks, A38



Lovely sky over Sunnyside—Clive M

Who is on the plot near to me?

Over 150 local Berkhamsted residents work on our allotment plots - across both Old and New sites. That's an awful lot of characters; experience to learn from; stories to share. So who are we meeting in this edition?

Getting to know Debbie ...

What number is your allotment plot?

I am on Sunnyside Old Side - A38B

Where were you born?

Cuffley in Hertfordshire. Most people who went to school in Hertfordshire have been to the Outdoor Activity Centre at Cuffley, but those of us brought up there never went!

What was your first car?

Mini Clubman.

Why did you take on an allotment?

To grow my own food and flowers and get to know people in the area.

What year did you take on your allotment?

About 2000

What is your most successful crop so far?

Winter squash, tayberries and cosmos.

What is your most unusual crop so far?

Cucumelon, which are great for salads and adding to your jug of Pimms!

What three words would you use to describe your plot?

Scarecrow, weedy and fruitful

What advice would you give any newcomers to Sunnyside?

Have a seat on your plot to enjoy your beautiful surroundings.

In a few words, how would you describe Berkhamsted?

A great place to live.

What is your favourite garden centre?

The Plant Centre at Great Missenden for unusual perennials.

What shop would you like to see added to the High Street?

A delicatessen and wholefood shop that does fruit-pressing!



Say hi to Debbie next time you are on Sunnyside A Road.

Getting to know Lilly ...

What number is your allotment plot?

Sunnyside New 40

Where were you born?

Nicosia in Cyprus.

What was your first car?

Austin Mini Clubman Estate.

Why did you take on an allotment?

I have always been an outdoors person who loves the natural world and growing things - and I miss having a garden to look after - so I have wanted an allotment for some time.

What year did you take on your allotment?

If memory serves, I took on the allotment in early 2021.

What is your most successful crop so far?

Potatoes, beans, and lettuce have been the easiest and most abundant, but then I suppose it's because I had planted plenty of them!

What is your most unusual crop so far?

Nothing terribly exciting so far, just edible violets.

What three words would you use to describe your plot?

Aspiring to evolve.

What advice would you give any newcomers to Sunnyside?

Plant 33% more than you want, as you will be sharing some with God's wonderful creatures - good crop rotation is important, and remain organic. Above all enjoy it - it is truly a joy, and you can learn so much.

In a few words, how would you describe Berkhamsted?

Aesthetically lovely; the epitome of a British town with old world architecture mixed with a vibrant and modern feel - and with a great community spirit, too.

What is your favourite garden centre?

I like to support Batchelors and Little Heath Nurseries, and pop into Woods as well.

What shop would you like to see added to the High Street?

Well, I think we are well served, but if pushed then I would say a handyman-type place where we can get things fixed and reverse our throwaway culture a little. And remember – let's support the local shops we already have!

Clive, A17



All the way from Cyprus to Sunnyside ... say hi to Lilly on New Side.

Tenancy Changes

Welcome to

Lesley Johnson	A6A
Madeleine Landreth	A8A
Georgina Hallett	A29
Louise Ehles	A38A
Caroline McKenna	A40
Delia Eggleton	B9A
Georgina Page	B11A
Emma Moor-Radford	B33A
Nina Holliday	N4 A&B
Ntiana Chasiridi	N9
Steve Poulton	N34
Matthew Bedford	N64A

Goodbye to

Lesley Johnson	A4A
Diane Mix	A6A, A8A
Charlotte Winder	A29
Rory Lumsdon	A40
Ian Griffiths	A41
Melanie Lee	A44B
Matt Lingard	B9A
Deirdre Ahern	B11A
Annie Munk	B11B
Uma Holmes	B31B
Susan Pratt	B33A
Taylor Boniface	N4 A&B
Steve Poulton	N33A
Valerie Bateman & Angus McInnes	N34
Annick Mulcahy	N48
Lucy Evans O'Neill	N50

Sunnyside Toilet Shines!

Once again, hurrah for the three stars who keep our Sunnyside Toilet in good condition! Cynthia, Juliet or Allison go along once a week (or fortnight, in the winter) on a rota basis to give the place a good clean and make sure there are supplies of loo roll, cleaning materials, etc. A big thank-you is due to them - it's not the most glamorous of tasks, but what they do is of great benefit to all plot-holders.

And they need reinforcements! If you could spare a small amount of time on a weekly or fortnightly basis, one month in three, to help out, please contact them, or me (Editor).

Working Parties

The working party season is back again. For those who are not familiar with SAS working parties, we ask for help on an entirely voluntary basis on five occasions over the winter - in October, November, January, February and March - to undertake essential maintenance and development work on communal SAS facilities, on both SSO and SSN.

This year we have had quite a backlog of overgrown areas that need clearing, principally in the SAS sheds area and along the Grantham Mews boundary, plus the B16 wildlife area which is encroaching on its neighbours, and the fruit tree area at the SSN car park. Half of B30 is currently so unkempt that it has proved impossible to let, and needs clearing. Some of this work will be started on the working party day in October.

So if you can find time to help on the next working party, 20th November, we will be meeting at 10 a.m. at the SSO Tea Hut (B15). Come along at any time from 10 a.m. onwards and leave whenever you like; for those still working at 1 p.m. a light lunch will be provided. Bring your own tools; strimmers, trimmers, loppers and secateurs will all be needed. Thanks in advance for your support.

John Goffey, Working Parties Leader, B18

Dates for 2023

Sunday 15 January

Sunday 12 February

Sunday 12 March

Muck and Mud

The following have supplied tenants with manure in the past – I don't know if they still do, but it's worth ringing to find out (please let me know if they don't – Ed.).

Dave Burgin – 01442 832997

Phil Marks - 01442 823357

Nigel Durrant – 01442 403351

And while we are thinking about all things mucky, please remember that the roads on Sunnyside do get very muddy and slippery in wet winters, so please don't drive on them if they are in a bad state.



Pickles galore—Simon Nicolle

Sunnyside Rural Trust

Click&Collect - Sunnyside Rural Trust have some great news - you can now buy a select range of perennial plants online and collect from our Hemel Food Garden plant nursery later in the week.

We sell our plants to support our charitable activities, helping adults with learning disabilities who come to Sunnyside and experience the therapeutic help of working with horticulture and nature. Do take a look at our website or shop for more details.

<https://www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk/clickcollect-perennial-plants/>

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/shop/sunnyside-plants-click-collect>

Dawn Watson, Publicity and Communications Officer,
Sunnyside Rural Trust



Your Current Committee Members

Chairman:	John Eaton	865307
Secretary & newsletter layout and production :	Jenny Sippings	865890
Treasurer:	Andy James	865061
Newsletter Editor:	Lin Phillips	862882

Other members:	Angela Wheeldon	874440
	John Goffey	864967
	Diana Ball	875277
	Kate Rankin	866827
	Jeanne Woodcraft	872852
	Steve Atkinson	

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@

Growing Seeds and Friendships

After taking on an allotment a year ago, I joined a group of six strangers and novice flower enthusiasts scattered across the U.K. in replying to a Facebook post in March. It was asking for volunteer growers to plant seeds and grow flowers, and together we created a 5-star award-winning cutting garden display at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

After signing up in March, I received Nigella, Ammi, Cornflower, Calendula, Sweet Pea, Sunflower and Snapdragon seeds in the post and started sowing. As the seedlings grew I protected them in a sheltered place on SSN 5 from high winds, frost and slug attacks!

In July we packed our cars with plants and made our way to the show! We spent three days planting a beautiful cutting garden, complete with winding garden path, a dahlia bed, a Cobaea arch, and a cutting bed framing a stunning Victorian greenhouse. A couple of bundles of pea sticks from the SS hazel coppice took pride of place in the display as the plant supports!

Taking part was an incredible experience. It was fantastic to welcome all the pollinators and visitors into the garden, and hopefully to inspire others to plant seeds and grow flowers.

Julie Woodford, N5





Open Day

On August 7th, after a gap of three years, we held our (previously) annual Open Day. Open Day has two purposes - firstly, to raise funds for the allotments, and secondly, to provide an opportunity for local people to visit the site, enjoy a pleasant day out, and perhaps decide to take on a plot.

The weather was with us (not too hot!), and the stalls included produce (lots of courgettes, but too hot for beans), tools and garden sundries, plants, cut flower bouquets, greetings cards, and of course tea and cakes.

Many people contributed to the success of the day: arranging and distributing posters, putting up gazebos, setting up and serving on stalls, providing goods to sell, and finally clearing up! Too many to name, but sincere thanks to each and all who made it possible. It was a very good day!

Kate Rankin, A9





Queen Elizabeth II

As this is the first issue since the death of Queen Elizabeth II, I invited readers to send in memories of seeing her, meeting her, etc. A nice response, below:

“I was serving in the Army in Germany in 1977 when the Queen had her Silver Jubilee. We put on a show for her at Sennelager. She is in the grandstand in the left of this photo, though it’s hard to see her!
Also, my wife was invited to St Peter’s Church due to her long service in the Scouting movement when the Queen visited Berkhamsted five years ago. Again, I didn't quite get the Queen herself, but she is in the car!”

David Grundy, B26





Autumn Bounty

