

SUNNYSIDE VIEWS

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGH THE JOY OF ALLOTMENTS

A new look for a new season ...

With the advent of the new growing season we have revamped our quarterly newsletter. *Sunnyside Views* is your newsletter and any ideas for new features are really appreciated. Please send any contributions to climic@sunnysideallotments.org.uk



Thank you Lin ...

Where were you in 2014 - some may have been watching Le Tour in the Yorkshire Dales that year or following the World Cup in Brazil. For Lin Phillips it was the start of dedication in editing your newsletter. That's almost 10 years of hard work so as new editors take the reins we all want to say a massive "thank you" for each and every word from everyone at Sunnyside.



Notes from the Chair ...

Spring is finally here ! I hope you all had a great Easter and nice to see so many of you using the long weekend to get some jobs done on your plots - I got up there quite a bit although think the jackdaws have already had my beans !

Now as we look forward to a new growing season let me also look back. We held our AGM in February and it was great to see so many of you there - including many new faces. You are all very welcome and thank goodness we can all meet in person again.

I won't cover all of the points discussed at the AGM and since - many are covered elsewhere in this publication - but let me focus on two. I think there has been another instance of fly tipping on New. I say 'think' as we can't be sure but if you are ordering wood chippings then please have them delivered to your plot so we know when things are out of order. Also please keep your plots neat. We have a lengthy waiting list of people eager to get hold of plots so with our inspections now starting our approach to warnings will be more robust.

But enough of me being draconian. Enjoy the Spring. You will see that we start this new season with a new look newsletter so hope you enjoy and let me finish by once again thanking Lin our outgoing editor for all her work.

Enjoy your plots - John

Calling all artists ...

We are looking for a volunteer or maybe two to help us revamp our Society logo.

If you have the skills and experience of something



similar then please contact us on climic@sunnysideallotments.org.uk for further details.

World Champion !

We have a world champion in our midsts.

Sarah Marshall (N6) is our golden girl on the Gold Coast after winning a gold medal in the Blind Bowling



Championships in Australia. And Sarah didn't finish there also winning Bronze in the mixed doubles. Congratulations Sarah from us all at Sunnyside.

Save the dates ...



Key dates for your diary. **Wednesday 31st May** is the last date for all subs to have been paid - see later for details.

Sunday 4th June will be our first Summer Working Party - and those taking part are invited to a picnic afterwards. **Sunday 6 August** will be our next Open Day.

Getting to know you ..

Over 150 people have plots across Sunnyside - so *Sunnyside View* took time out to find out a little more about some of our fascinating tenants. This time we sat down with Simon.

Can you please introduce yourself: Simon Nicolle and my plot is B35 - that's on Old Sunnyside as its affectionately named.

What is your birthplace ? Margate in Kent - the Garden of England no less - or so they say !

What was your first car ? Ah now that was a Nissan Micra - not the best car for a young man at the time - I used to leave it unlocked hoping one day it wouldn't be there - but it never broke down and was always there for me.

Why did you take on your plot ? Is there any better place to escape work - any better place to de-stress - and occasionally get some peace from teenagers at home.

What year did you take on your plot? Wow far too long ago to remember.

What has been your most successful crop ? Lettuces, lettuces and oh yes lettuces !



What has been your most unusual crop ? Honey Dew Melons - well you have to push the boat out when planting !

What three words would you use to describe your plot ? A bit messy (Editor's note - hardly readers hardly - just make a visit some time and judge for yourselves).

What advice would you give any newcomers ? Enjoy it ! Keep on top of it and you will soon see the benefits - and pop over to the tea hut on Old Sunnyside B Road - always plenty of advice to be found there.

In a few words how would you describe Berkhamsted ? Great town, great people - and a Wetherspoons (no promotion fees were paid!)

Your favourite garden centre? Well to be honest for great bargains what is better than Wilkos (again Simon assures no promotion fees were paid).

Welcome newbies ..

10 new tenants have joined since the start of 2023. A massive welcome to you all. Jenny and Clive (A13) have years of know-how so here's their top tips.

Help is at hand ...

Ask for advice and look at other plots around you to get ideas. This will help you plan how you want to organise your plot.

Top to Bottom ...

If you have an open plot start digging from top to bottom, keeping your back to the bit you haven't dug so you don't get discouraged.

Cover up snug ...

If you cannot plant straight away then use tarpaulin to cover your cleared ground as this will help keep weeds away.

You don't need manure ...

In your first year do not order a huge pile of manure. If the plot has been lying fallow for a while it will be fertile enough to start with. You do not need the pressure of trying to dig in large quantities of muck !

Spuds are best ...

Potatoes have a habit of suppressing weeds. This involves digging the soil for planting and then again for harvesting giving you the opportunity to get out more weeds and further break up the soil.

www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk for more advice and guidance. A new welcome email is also being sent to each newcomer with advice and guidance.

A Royal Calling ...

A small team are taking *Sunnyside of Life* to the Royal Horticulture Show in July this year

"Bringing people together from all walks of life to share and enjoy nature is what we are all about on Sunnyside so we thought why not take a small piece of that spirit to the RHS at Hampton Court this year" writes Julie (N5).

"And we have a ready made team to do just that - over the last few years a small group of women allotmenters from Sunnyside have formed friendships over the joy of gardening, complaining about our aching backs after a day of digging and we admit it the occasional glass of vino as the sun sets.

"So I am joined by Puri (N5), Jenny (N4), Cindy (N38), Sarah (A23) and Juliet (A17) and we have taken on a small plot at the show to demonstrate how growing your own is just so much better than anything shop bought.



"We will be highlighting growing seasonal scented flowers; how to use sustainable floristry techniques; and demonstrating the importance of reusing, up-cycling and recycling - all coming together to create a social space where people can relax and enjoy the Sunnyside of life.

"So please come along and say hi!. We will share some pictures of our finished site and hopefully our many visitors in the summer edition of *Sunnyside Views*"

The Show runs from 4 - 9 July 2023 at the Royal Court Palace Gardens. Details can be found at www.rhs.org.uk.

From plot to plate

We are on the look out for good recipes to share. This time we feature Raspberry Clafoutis.



Ingredients

- Raspberries to cover the base of a shallow, over-proof dish
- 1 pint of milk
- 6 oz plain flour
- 4 oz sugar (keep some back to sprinkle on top)
- 4 eggs
- Vanilla Essence (optional)

Preparation

Step 1 : Lightly grease your dish and cover the base with a layer of raspberries.

Step 2: Put the flour and sugar into a bowl and make a well in the flour mixture, add the eggs and beat in to the mixture.

Step 4: Gradually add the milk and loosen the mixture and then pour this batter over the rasps.

Step 6: Bake in a moderate oven, 375°F, 190°C or gas mark 5 for about 45 minutes to an hour. When cooked the top should be golden brown and the edges rise slightly.

Step 7: Sprinkle sugar over the top to your taste. Hope you enjoy.

Sustainability Survey ...

Sunnyside being used for survey into ecology and sustainability

A student from the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales has chosen Sunnyside as a base for her research towards an MSc in Sustainability and Ecology.

Berkhamsted resident, Janet Tuppen will be using the site during this spring and summer to carry out surveying as she looks into how to combine land use for food production while at the same time creating sustainable healthy ecosystems.

Of particular interest will be how allotments can benefit wild life and the trade-offs between food production and bio-diversity. Thank you to tenant and committee member, Angela Wheeldon (B17) for the information.



In the name of the Duke

Students work towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards

You may have noticed young students putting in the muscle as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards this winter.



Jacob, Ben and Dylan got stuck into the weeds on Sunnyside New car park as part of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

While Charlie and Ozzy have started volunteering on Sunnyside as part of their Bronze Award.

All are very welcome as new tenants in years to come!

Our joiners and leavers ...

Since Christmas we have welcomed 10 new tenants and say a fond farewell to 3. Some tenants have also moved their plots.

Welcome to ..

Jo Crowder	A1B
Keith Hicks	A4A
Zoe Robertson	A19a
Henry Ashton	A44b
Susan Dobinson	B30A, B
Serena Rach	B31B
Monika Zyszkowska	N26
James Ulyett	N33A
Adele Whitmore	N48
Claire Collins	N50
Helena Parr	N56B

Goodbye to:

Charlotte Morton-Boyce	A1B
Claude Camilleri	A19A
Vicki Daniels	N26

Keep it tidy

You need to keep your plot tidy and cultivated as a key part of your tenancy and the annual round of inspections are now underway. If you are unwell or unable to attend your plot then please let

jenny@sunnysideallotments.org.uk know as soon as possible. Due to the long waiting list the Council will be taking a more stringent view on anyone not using their plot.

Did you know

UK allotments are measured in 'rods' or 'poles'. Both have their origins in Anglo-Saxon farming and are the same - one rod or pole is around 25 square metres.

Working winter wonders

For a quarter of a century winter working parties of volunteer tenants have come together to work on communal areas of Sunnyside - and this winter was no different.

No where is the community spirit of Sunnyside more obvious than the tradition of working parties. The idea started 25 years ago when so much of the site - Old and New - were neglected and property developers were looking to swoop. Now a quarter of a century later tenants continue to come together once a month during the winter.

During this winter working parties have focused on the challenges of cutting back the encroaching brambles from the wildlife habitat on B16; removing the decayed hazel tree and its huge roots from B30 and clearing the Millennium Coppice of years of dead wood and brambles.

That means not only are the areas more accessible but also some vacant overgrown plots are now available to rent - all that is down to the work of those who gave up their Sundays to volunteer.

Thank you are due to you all including the group of volunteers we had from the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Thank you also to those who arranged lunches for those attending and of course to John Goffey who takes the overall lead for organising.

Now we are returning to an idea that has been mooted by many before - summer working parties. Our first will be on Sunday 4 June followed by a picnic for all those who take part. So please join us - a lot of hands literally do make light work and any ideas you have for future working parties would be greatly received.

Anyone with ideas for future working parties can contact any member of the Sunnyside Allotment Committee.



Goodbye arising !

Subs and savings

£200 was added to Society funds last year through the annual round of tenant subscriptions through seed orders. And Treasurer Andy James is keen to remind tenants of the added benefits that their £4 annual subscription can bring. "£4 not only gives you membership of the National Allotment Society and public liability insurance cover but also access to our annual seeds ordering scheme with Kings' Seeds that can bring significant savings for you all", says Andy. Seeds ordered through such schemes are discounted by around 40% according to Kings' Website. Subs must be paid to Andy - not the Council - and must be paid by the end of May. Contact Andy at andy@sunnysideallotments.org.uk.



Fancy a new role ?

Sunnyside Allotment Society are looking for a volunteer who may be interested in taking on the role of minute taker for the Committee Meetings. Interested? then please contact jenny@sunnysideallotments.org.uk

Tenants turn out for AGM

27 tenants turned out on a cold February morning for the annual general meeting.

John Eaton (A3) will continue for a further year as Chair and will be joined again by Andy James (N57) as Treasurer and Jenny Sippings (A26) as Secretary. 7 other members complete the Committee.

All were voted in during a busy Annual General Meeting held in the Sunnyside Rural Trust building and a number of other issues were raised. These ranged from the revamp of the tea hut - available for all tenants to use - to the need to explore the possibility of locking gates in order to deter fly-tippers.

There was also a suggestion that new tenants should be asked to pay a deposit on taking over a new plot. This was to deter those who then left their tenancy and their plot in a mess including the need for others to then clear rubbish left behind. This idea has been raised with the Council in the past but rejected. Instead inspections will be stepped up and reports made to the Council for warning letters to be issued.

A full copy of the minutes will be circulated to all tenants and will be published at www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk. After the meeting Diana Ball (A24) volunteered to take the role of Vice Chair.

Quiz time ...

Tom (A25) is our new quizmaster and each edition will now be testing us all - best total so far is 105 in this latest so good luck !

								<p>THE BOARD SHOWS 4 ROWS OF LETTERS FROM A TYPICAL SCRABBLE GAME. USE EACH ROW TO FORM A WORD OF 2-7 LETTERS AND WRITE IN THE BLANK SQUARES PROVIDED. THEN ADD UP THE SCORE FOR EACH ROW. DON'T FORGET TO USE THE DOUBLE AND TRIPLE WORD AND LETTER SCORES - AND ADD A 50 POINT BONUS FOR EVERY 7 LETTER WORD. GEM'S TOTAL: 105</p>
E ₁	S ₁	U ₁	G ₂	L ₁	E ₁	M ₃	RACK 1	
R ₁	E ₁	T ₁	L ₁	W ₄	C ₃	O ₁	RACK 2	
								<p>TRIPLE LETTER SCORE</p>
D ₂	U ₁	S ₁	B ₃	E ₁	I ₁	H ₄	RACK 3	
								<p>DOUBLE WORD SCORE</p>
W ₄	S ₁	N ₁	O ₁	G ₂	I ₁	T ₁	RACK 4	

Tree surgeon service

Tenant Matt Shapland wanted fellow tenants to know about a tree surgeon service he has used in the past - Richard on 07534 949014. This is a personal recommendation and not linked to the Society.

Your Committee

Sunnyside Allotment Society Committee is there to represent your needs and interests. Please click on the links below to contact any member.

Chairman:

[John Eaton](#)

Vice-chair:

[Diana Ball](#)

Secretary

[Jenny Sippings](#)

Treasurer:

[Andy James](#)

Newsletter editors:

[Clive](#) and [Julie](#)

Other members:

[Angela Wheeldon](#)

[John Goffey](#)

[Kate Rankin](#)

[Steve Atkinson](#)

That's all for now folks

So what do you think about the new look newsletter and content? I am very keen to make this your newsletter which represents your ideas and views so please don't hesitate to give me any feedback or ideas for future editions of *Sunnyside Views*. Thank you.
climic@sunnysideallotments.org.uk

Next edition July 2023

Time for tea ! Or coffee !

A reminder that the tea hut on Old is now open for business.

Everyone is very welcome to use the tea hut after its revamp last year. It can be found on B Road (Old).

You will also find that "free" (donations always welcome) tea and coffee is served around 3pm each day on the weekend and sometimes



during the week so listen out for the hooter! Please come along - it is there for you and lets face it we all need a cuppa after a good day of digging !

Three sites - one ticket !

Sunnyside Rural Trust to open all their 3 sites in May for the National Garden Scheme

Sunnyside Rural Trust will open all three of their sites on Saturday 13 May for the National Garden Scheme.

In Northchurch their site is a market garden using "no dig" methods. It includes a nature trail with wildlife pond and a small animal farm. The site in Berkhamsted features a vegetable growing area and a cane and espalier fruit garden with a woodland and hazel coppice - each busy with wildlife. Their 3d site - Hemel Food Garden - is a Green Flag award winning site that is also a plant nursery growing peat free perennial and annual bedding for domestic and commercial clients. There is an orchard, quiet garden space and market garden, growing a wide range of vegetables for their own use.

Ticket are available to buy at ngs.org.uk or you can buy them on entry on the day at any of the three sites.