

Sunnyside

Rural Trust



Annual Report &
Calendar 2019

2017–2018 Annual Report

Our Vision

Sunnyside Rural Trust has a vision of an inclusive community where all people are valued and enriched within a sustainable environment.

Our Mission Statement

Sunnyside Rural Trust has a mission to provide services that will empower individuals to fulfil their potential for their benefit and for the benefit of the wider community and environment.

Aims of Sunnyside Rural Trust

1. To provide a comprehensive range of services which enable vulnerable young people and adults with learning disabilities to use their communities and live as independently as possible.
2. To develop services which support vulnerable young people and adults into employment.
3. To provide lifelong learning provision.
4. To ensure we are financially robust and have diverse income streams.
5. To offer benefit to the local community/environment especially through growing local food, conservation and promoting sustainability.

Strategic Objectives

- Continue to achieve SRT's aims in line with SRT's Vision, Mission and Values.
- Maintain an adequate revenue stream (excluding donations from SRT Trading and external agencies) that at least matches the SRT costs (including staff salary costs).
- Achieve revenue & profit growth of at least 1% year on year in Trust and SRT Trading.
- Strengthen top level organisation and management processes and procedures within SRT.
- Maintain an affordable and fair salary structure and salary review process and procedures for all SRT staff.



2017–2018 Annual Report

Chief Executive's Report

2017 – 2018 was a positive and inspiring year for Sunnyside. We have collected together some of the achievements and events:

Trainee services:

- We started offering weekly yoga classes at HFG.
- With the help of Peoples Postcode Lottery, we extended our Beekeeping practice across the sites.
- We offered a full menu and barista service from Sunnyside Up café. The dining room was completed. The project is in partnership with Virtual Schools department of HCC.
- We continued to meet the exacting standards of Hertfordshire County Council contract.
- Natasha Mann, led a project to contribute a book of poetry written with Graham Duff, HCC and a group of Sunnyside trainees. The book is called 'Ripples in Circles' and is available to purchase from our farm shop.
- We offered an Easter Scheme to young people with learning disabilities whom are still in full time education but will be looking for a day care provider in September 2018.
- We undertook our annual trainee survey, which aims to understand how people experience our services and make improvements.
- We completed a thorough transport review to ensure we are offering a cost effective, efficient and user friendly service. It meant a raft of improvements and changes were successfully implemented.



2017 – 2018 Annual Report

Human Resources

- The Trust ensured that all staff received both mandatory and enhanced training in social care skills, Health and Safety and horticulture.
- We hosted a wider range of corporate volunteer days, which made a significant contribution to our sites.
- We have 19 regular volunteers and a number of people who generously give us their time and skills when they can. Volunteers are important to our work and we continue to be grateful for their contributions.
- We met our pension obligations under new government guidelines.
- Due to a strong financial performance we were able to give a cost of living award to all staff.

Financial matters including performance and social enterprise

- We were M&S charity of the year for the Hemel Hempstead branch.
- Building Better Opportunities project was reviewed and we had our funding doubled. We offered 2 full time project mentors from January 2018.
- We successfully operated Sunnyside's veg box scheme for a full year and sold out each week.
- We built the 'Little Yellow Theatre' for Electric Umbrella. This was a unique mobile performing trailer for this wonderful charity.
- Chris Ward, run the London Marathon for Sunnyside and raised over £1,000.
- We ended the financial year having generated **£1,030,474** income from both the Charity and Trading company combined and we spent **£988,167**. We are extremely pleased to report an operating surplus of **£42,307**.



2017 – 2018 Annual Report

We are extremely grateful to the following organisations who gave us grants to improve our sites including:

- Peoples Postcode Lottery granted £20,000 towards building our bee empire.
 - Three Rivers District Council donated £300 towards fruit trees.
 - Travis Perkins £5,000 towards the café.
 - Cooperative supermarkets raised over £5,000 for Sunnyside.
 - Screwfix donated £5,000.
 - Finnis Scott Foundation gave £5,000 towards our greenhouse repairs.
 - Dacorum Borough Council awarded us £5,000 community grant.
 - St James Place £2,500 white goods for the café.
 - Tesco – bags of life paid the remaining balance granted the previous year of £2,500.
- making a total of £10,000 received from this fund.

Partnership Work

- We adopted a stretch of the grand union canal by HFG. We have worked in partnership with Canal and River Trust to enhance the biodiversity and conservation work here.
- We worked along the Dacorum Borough Council team on the Jellicoe Garden project, Hemel Hempstead. We grew the Jellicoe roses which have now been planted out.
- We built a strong relationship with Café in the park, Rickmansworth. They commissioned us to build a mud kitchen in their outdoor area, they stock our apple juice and we undertook gardening work. They have a strong history of employing people with learning disabilities.
- Schools and colleges:
 - Breakspeare School, Abbots Langley have visited weekly through the year to build partnership and work experience for their students.
 - Collett School, Hemel Hempstead have visited weekly through the year to build partnership and work experience for their students.
 - Rudolf Steiner School Kings Langley have had weekly sessions for kindergarten groups to learn about horticulture, chicken care and get to work with our trainees.
 - Kings Langley School raised £1000 for SRT through the Dragons Apprentice challenge.
 - West Herts College and Oaklands College have both visited weekly through the year to build partnership and work experience for their students.

Awards

- We continued to work in partnership with Community Action Dacorum on the Repair Shed project at HFG.
- We achieved Gold Standard in Investors In People. Only 5% of companies our size achieves this and it is wonderful recognition for the strong leadership, systems and teams we have built over many years.
- HFG won a green flag award from Keep Britain Tidy. This award recognised the excellent community facilities offered to the community and environment from our site.
- We won 2 community awards from Dacorum Borough Council for our innovative new café at HFG.
- We were HCPA a finalist for innovative care provider.

2017 – 2018 Annual Report

We continue to be busy improving the services we offer and building our social enterprises. These are some of our plans for the future

1. Training and employment opportunities including:
 - To increase our range of services and trainee numbers
 - To develop a 4th site, creating more opportunities for our trainees
 - To create more animal care projects for their therapeutic benefit and work opportunities
 - To ensure we maintain our approved providers status with HCC, which is due for re-tender
 - To offer John Muir Award for people with learning disabilities
2. Marketing and publicity including:
 - Ensure the 'story' of SRT is captured and widely told.
 - Apply for awards to ensure we are recognised for our work
 - Better and more directed marketing of trainee services
 - Marketing plan and action for each social enterprise stream
 - Website relaunch
3. Environmental sustainability including:
 - To create an ES strategy that works towards a carbon neutral operating position
 - To install renewable energy sources across all our sites
 - To implement a central purchasing policy centred around fair-trade, zero waste and local produce.
4. Financial sustainability including:
 - To develop a financial strategy to enable our work
 - To ensure each site has an operating budget with associated targets
5. Social Enterprise including:
 - Increase social enterprise activity and revenue to provide the charity with independent income to further our work.
 - Apply for funding for a business development manager to implement our social enterprise plans
 - Each social enterprise strand should have a project plan with a budget and targets.
6. Human Resources
 - To conduct a staff survey
 - To maintain our gold standard IIP by implementing the action plan
 - To review our job evaluation policy
 - Contract review for all staff to ensure everyone is working towards the long term success of SRT.
7. Health & Safety
 - To ensure we maintain our high standards in H&S
 - To ensure data protection legislation is adhered to and we protect our stakeholders

Thank you for showing an interested in Sunnyside Rural Trust and for your support. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Keely Siddiqui Charlick
Chief Executive Officer, SRT

Dandelions are one of the
first flowers to provide
food for bees after winter

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	NEW YEARS DAY					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The inside of a hive. This frame shows honey, pollen and brood cells. There are tiny eggs in the "empty" cells

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Blackberry blossom and pollen in the
bee's pollen sacs. Different flowers
produce different coloured pollen

March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Borage is a valuable
species for all
pollinators including
honey bees

April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	GOOD FRIDAY	26	27
EASTER MONDAY	28	29	30			



May

Hive checks are in full swing in May, checking for signs of swarming and general health

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
BANK HOLIDAY						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
BANK HOLIDAY						

June

Honey bees do 40% of the work pollinating plants that need it, and hundreds of species do the rest; not just bee species either! Can you recognise the honey bee?

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

*Mint in the herb bed at
Northchurch*

July

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
BANK HOLIDAY						

*Goldenrod flowers later
in the year, which is
great news for our bees
at the Activity Centre.*

September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

A third of all the
food we eat needs
pollination by insects.
This includes our
runner beans

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

The bees are left to overwinter from mid-Autumn; time for us to clean and store our equipment over winter

November

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Holly relies on bees
and other insects to
carry pollen from a
male tree to a female
tree for successful
pollination

December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		CHRISTMAS DAY	BOXING DAY			
30	31					



Bee Keeping at Sunnyside

The Sunnyside beekeeping project started in the Summer of 2016 as a plan, to be made possible by a grant from the Britvic Drinks Company. This initial grant allowed us get connected with a local expert beekeeper and Chalfont Beekeepers Association, provide training for core staff, in the first months of 2017, acquire equipment and then our first colony in April 2017 which is at Hemel Food Garden.

The first year was a steep learning curve for our beginner level staff. By the end of our first season we had already increased to a total of three colonies due to the first colony being so strong, it needed splitting to prevent swarming. The two new young colonies were then moved in July to their current home, Sunnyside New Allotments at the Activity Centre. The original mature colony also produced enough excess honey to give us 3kg at the end of the season.

At the beginning of 2017, the project took on a tutoring project through the Building Better Opportunities scheme operated at SRT. After an initial 10 hour beekeeping course, Hayley became an integral part of the team and has helped us check the hives and manage equipment ever since.

In July, we received £20,000 from the People's Postcode Lottery to forward our beekeeping project. This was an exciting opportunity for the project as we could look to increase our number of hives for the project.

2018 started well for us, even after a very long winter which saw very high losses of colonies across all of Europe. All our colonies survived and we also managed to acquire another two colonies and equipment from a local beekeeper. The hot, dry weather then further benefitted the bees' honey production; we managed four honey extractions, with the help of staff at the Activity Centre, and in total over 200 jars of honey were filled.

The project has set out from the start to include all aspects of beekeeping and the surrounding environment, so the service users will be able to get involved even if they aren't able to take part in the active beekeeping itself. Habitat management and creation for pollinators, honey extraction, building equipment and volunteer days are already underway. As our skill and resources build, and thanks to the People's Postcode Lottery, there will be even more activities made available to SRT.

The Sunnyside beekeeping team would like to thank for their support and contributions to the project and calendar:

Diane Randall, our mentor for the first year who we are ever thankful for. Chalfont BKA and the BBK British and Irish Beekeepers Facebook Group members.





Sunnyside

Rural Trust

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Independent examiners
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Bankers

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Chief Executive Officer
Keely Siddiqui Charlick

Executive Committee Members 2017/2018

Elected Chair: Rhys Madoc | Elected Vice Chair & Treasurer: Mike Russell
Elected Members: John Driver | Joy F Dyson | Wendy Conian | Julie Laws

www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk



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IN PEOPLE

Gold
Until 2020