



Sunnyside
Rural Trust

Helping our
community grow



Celebrating
our volunteers



Annual Report & Calendar 2022

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2020– 2021 for everyone was an extraordinary year, with new challenges and more to come. It allowed us to really see what we are capable of and the partnerships that needed to be forged.

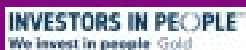
It was a huge year in so many ways and here are a few highlights:

We reviewed our values:



OUR VALUES

1. **We value our people and work as a team.** We:
Listen to each other and show **respect**.
Empower people to reach their goals in a **safe** environment
Support everyone in a **fair** and **inclusive** way.
2. **We care deeply about our environment. We offer inventive and sustainable services to the community.** We stand for:
Quality & stewardship
Enterprise
Reliability
3. **We have a passionate, "can do" approach to our work.** We are:
Resilient
Creative
Dedicated



AWARDS

- Hero of Hertfordshire Award
- High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Award
- Queens Award for Voluntary Service, with special recognition.
- We were reaccredited as Gold Standard in Investors In People. Only 5% of companies our size achieves this, and it is a 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.



TRAINEE SUPPORT

- We continued to meet the exacting standards of the Hertfordshire County Council contract.
- We undertook our annual trainee survey, which aims to understand how people experience our services and make improvements.
- We secured further funding to build an animal therapy service and new facilities at Northchurch.



- We developed a partnership with Tom Stuart-Smith, to grow perennial plants for his RHS garden designs. Tom and Sue Stuart Smith have allowed us to develop a section of their Orchard into a specific perennial growing space called The Orchard Project.
- An exceptional amount of thought went into supporting everyone in a creative and innovative management of trainee support during Covid-19. We developed kits to send out and delivered 300 kits including a grow your own kit and an art/craft-based kit. We secured donations of seeds, printer ink, free magazines, etc.



PARTNERSHIP WORK

- Box Moor Trust have always been an important partner, thanks to the team and Box Moor's stockman for their continued support.
- South Hill Centre and DENS became essential partnerships at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- We signed a Mutual Aid agreement with Hertfordshire County Council that allowed us to adapt our services during Covid 19.
- We were able to remain open and operating a full service throughout
- In addition to our usual services, we ran food bank deliveries and engagement/ activity kits with our partners. Furthermore, we worked with the children's centre to offer kits to vulnerable children in Dacorum.
- Our service for people with dementia suffered a setback due to people having to self-isolate but we began working with Age UK to meet the needs of this group. HCC are commissioning some placements from Sunnyside for horticultural services.
- Breakspear School, Abbots Langley could not visit due to Covid-19, so we created a sensory garden for them and a woodland play area at their school
- We continued to work in partnership with Community Action Dacorum on the Repair Shed project at HFG and are looking to develop further sheds across our sites.
- We continue to develop a strong relationship with Age UK Dacorum. We are currently offering them a gardening space at Northchurch.
We are also opening a gardening group at the Activity Centre. We are looking for funding to ensure the spaces are comfortable and accessible for their client group.



TEAM SUPPORT

We put a huge amount of thought and effort into the support we gave our staff during Covid-19. We offered:

- 5 litres of laundry liquid for each team member and volunteer to cover the cost of additional laundry for work clothes.
- Individual bum bags with gloves, pad of paper, first aid kit, sanitiser, pen, masks, multi tool to help support the team.
- 3 additional outside shaded stands (pergolas with horizontal blinds).
- 3 portable handwashing units for hand washing stations at the front of each site. These are for the team, trainees, visitors, and the public.
- Materials for making face masks and disposable face masks to last until March 2021.
- Additional leave, financial support, and flexible working.
- PPE supports to last until the end of March 2021.
- A second set of polo shirts and new hoodies for every trainee, team member and all volunteers. This is so people can wash one set and wear a set.
- We are now employing 6 supported employees in a range of job roles including barista, café worker, gardeners, and parish wardens.
- We undertook a staff survey for all employees.
- We completed Hertfordshire Community Foundation 'Building Effectiveness' leadership programme. A 10-month mentoring and workshop-based process to support Sunnyside's growth.

Thank you for your interest in Sunnyside Rural Trust and for your support. We hope you enjoy the calendar: it is a tribute to the amazing volunteers who give us their time and work with us all. Recognised by The Queen's Award which represents a tremendous achievement for our charity and we are all immensely proud to receive it - the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.



Keely Siddiqui Charlick
Chief Executive Officer, SRT

For more of the story go to <https://www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk/qavs/>



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SPECIAL EVENT

2021 RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival

Sunnyside Rural Trust was at the 2021 RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival having grown over 7000 plants for garden designer, Tom Stuart-Smith who had asked us to grow his perennial plants for his RHS Iconic Horticultural Hero show garden. The brief for the garden was for it to be sustainable, low maintenance insect and bee friendly, which drove the choice of plants that were selected to grow. Designed as a climate-resilient planting of meadow perennials interspersed with Mediterranean shrubs, every plant included is adapted to hot and fairly dry, conditions that have become increasingly commonplace each year.

Some plants were grown from unusual seeds sourced from around the world and germinated - some taking 6 months. Others were taken from root cuttings and young, plug plants and grown on to sizeable, show ready plants. All of this was done as part of our trainee programme where adults with learning difficulties are involved at every stage of the process, including sowing, pricking out, potting on, watering, feeding, trimming down and general care. Four trainees from Hemel Food Garden, went up to Hampton Court, to experience the atmosphere and see the plants grown by Sunnyside in the garden. Over 25 members of proud staff worked over the week of the show, manning our product stand and telling everyone about Sunnyside and the work we do.



"We are an innovative charity working with young adults and people with learning disabilities in training and employment specifically in horticulture. There is nothing better and you see people blossom. You can't imagine the impact on the guys for them to know that their plants will be showcased in such a way, it's just phenomenal." Keely Siddiqui Charlick, CEO

The perennial plants were lifted for their last journey to RHS Wisley in west London to be planted out in front of the bicentenary glasshouse garden to rejuvenate this area, last designed 15 years ago.

Many trainees have been involved along the 2 year journey and we have had expert advice from Toby & Chris Marchant. This gives us an amazing experience in growing perennial plants and the opportunity to sell these great plants to our customers as well as wholesale companies.

The Hemel Hempstead site now produces an exciting range of perennial plants for the discerning landscape market.



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Thank you to everyone who has been involved and supported Sunnyside over the last year. We believe the work we do makes a difference to our trainees, their families, our employees, volunteers, customers, the environment and the wider community. We look forward to helping our community grow in the years to come.

Osborne
Travis Perkins

Lottery
Paradigm
Tesco
Asda

Tom & Sue Stuart-Smith

Lady Arabella Stuart-Smith
Henry & Kate Holland-Hibbert

Hertfordshire County Council
Dacorum Borough Council

Berkhamsted Town Council
Northchurch Parish Council

Bovingdon Parish Council
Wigginton Parish Council
Little Gaddesden Parish Council

Prudential
Box Moor Trust
Sunnyside Church
Berkhamsted School
Ian Reay

Age UK
Age UK Dacorum
West Herts Charity Trust
Community Action Dacorum
Hertfordshire Community
Foundation

Green Fund Dacorum Borough
Council

High Sheriff Award
Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire
Robert Voss CBE, CStJ.

Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire
Jo Connell OBE

Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire
David Cansdale

Kings Langley Parish Council
Chipperfield Parish Council
D-Lab
HSBC
Waitrose
Gary Rolls, G F Roofing
The Volunteer Centre
St Marys C of E Primary School,
Northchurch
Friends of St. Peters Church
Calor Gas
Low Carbon Workplace
Aviva
Councillor Terry Douris
William Wyatt Lowe
PCT

JOIN US AS A VOLUNTEER: take a look at our website
<https://www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk/supportus/volunteering/>
and contact farida@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk



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