

Western Wards Allotment Association

Salisbury Site Managers

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Salisbury Green Allotment Site – An Autumn Update 2022

Dear Plot Holders,

1. 2022 – a very hot summer season!

The extremes of heat and local hosepipe ban we have experienced during the summer have indeed been challenging for plot holders and it is amazing that any of us are harvesting any vegetables and floral produce. Well done to everyone for your hard work and commitment.

Hosepipe Ban

We would comment that site managers were very disappointed with the decisions by the Southern Water Board to impose a hosepipe ban on the growing of vegetables in gardens and on allotment sites on 5th August. We were pleased when the SWB later excluded allotment sites from the ban on 9th August - but later did a U turn on the decision on 14th August. Whilst we all recognize the importance of using scarce water resources wisely, the SWB decisions were confusing.

Social Gathering

Thanks to Hazel Oliphant Plot 36a (2) who has kindly made the Salisbury Green Cricket Club available for another seasonal allotment site social gathering on Sunday 25th September at 4pm until 6pm. Put the date in your diary. Bar will be open for refreshment and the bi fold doors open wide with chairs outside subject to weather.

2. Waiting List and Plot Vacancies

There is still a 'healthy' waiting list of 20 applicants for plot vacancies at Salisbury Green and another 12 persons interested in joining that list.

3. Changes in Tenancies

On Plot 10b (2), we say farewell to Andy Nelson and his 'bees'. Andy and his partner are moving to West Wales as a permanent move. Andy tells me that he has been a plot holder for 17 years and, although we shall miss his bee keeping expertise, I am pleased to advise that Ray another experienced bee keeper has adopted Andy's enclosure and will be keeping two hives there.

We also say farewell to Kirsty Wood on Plot 22b (1). John and Pam Barber have decided to give up Plot 35b (1) but will continue with their daughter Diane on plot 34b. Doug Smith is giving up 36b but will retain his smaller plots.

4. New Tenants

On 1st October, we welcome the following new tenants to allotment keeping:-

- Suzanne DEBONO Plot 36a(1) 5 rods
- Christine and Alex POWELL Plot 35b(1) 5 rods
- Luke PRENDERGAST Plot 36b(1) 4 rods
- Clem' COOK Plot 36b(2) 6 rods
- Wendy HARRISON Plot 22b (1) 5 rods.

Colin CHALKLEY has accepted the tenancy for 10b (2) 5 rods with effect from 1st April 2023.

We welcome you all to the site and wish you all well on these plots.

5. Rent Renewal Notices - 2022/23

Martin and I will be sending out rent renewal notices in the second week of September for payment on or shortly before 1st October which is the start of the 22/23 financial year. You will be pleased to note that there is no increase in tenancy fees this year but there will be a small increase in the membership/administration fee from £1 to £2 - 50p to meet rising costs.

6. Sarisbury Green Site Projects

Composting Toilet

The newly constructed composting toilet was formally opened by Cllr. Sean Woodward on Saturday 23rd July 2022 by cutting a 'blue ribbon' and the event marked by a brass plaque. For the official opening, WWAA Acting Chairman Richard Bastow and Treasurer Paul Rann were present together with a number of plot holders. Celebrations continued over lunch at the Sarisbury Green Cricket Club hosted by Hazel Oliphant. We have plans to fund and build a second toilet at the 'top' end of the site.

Equipment Container

To avoid the equipment container rusting away, work has already been undertaken by Martin to replace the leaking roof. Since the spring, considerable additional work has been undertaken to replace the old oversized table with two modern shelving units for efficient storage, dispose of equipment no longer required, clean and paint the interior to brighten it up and prevent rusting. What a huge difference it makes.

Work has now commenced to clean and renovate the container exterior surfaces by undertaking rust prevention and painting the surface in a suitable colour (not 'pink' as suggested by a number of plot holders).

New Equipment

A new Rotavator with a Honda engine has been purchased for your use and is being stored in the equipment container. This is a very heavy and powerful machine which will cope with difficult ground.

For lighter rotavating work and thanks to David Kirkland Plot 25b, the 'old' Honda Merry Tiller rotavator has been repaired and now has replacement oil seals and drive belts fitted. The machine is being kept available for use at the lower end of the allotment site.

These rotavators are available for your use BUT, you must contact Robin or Martin by email to book a rotavator in advance. You will need to have an introductory operating and safety briefing before you start.

The site's Stihl trimmers stored in the container have been repaired and serviced and are available for use. Please ensure when you have finished using them that the equipment is cleaned and re-fueled ready for the next plot holder who wishes to use them.

Barnes Lane Corner Area

We are very grateful to Liz Wood Plot 28A for all her constant hard work maintaining and improving the Barnes Lane corner area project, especially during the extreme heat of the summer months and hosepipe ban. Liz has bought additional plants to

improve the floral appearance, added a bird feeding structure and bird foods to the area, acquired additional water butts for the dry areas, acquired compost and mulch to improve impoverished soil, maintained the wildlife pond and added to the pathways with supplies of chippings.

What a massive difference Liz has made! A facility to be really proud of – Liz rightly gets lots of compliments from plot holders and passing members of the public.

Hedge Cutting

We are delighted to say that our exterior side and top of the hedge was cut in Allotment Road and Barnes Lane on 3rd and 4th August by Fareham Borough Council. We are sure you will agree that the Council did a good job and an email of thanks has been sent to FBC for the work.

Scrap Metal

A 'mountain' of scrap metal has been disposed of during the year via a local dealer, Dave (07772 609679). As well as collecting scrap metal, he also supplies water butts if you are in need of one. Call him on his mobile telephone.

7. Sarisbury Green Church of England Junior School - Plot 31a

It was a great shame that the school plot 31A could not be maintained during COVID restrictions after the hard work of Ben and Maria Kimble to establish and promote it to sponsors. However, I am delighted to report that three members of the teaching staff have offered to resume responsibility and supervise children on the plot – Jane Durnford, Sue Wells and Tammy Champion. As an initial step, the school has purchased 16 mini sleepers to create new raised beds and planted vegetables and flowers. Many thanks to our plot holders Ro McKenzie, Liz Wood and Penny Daish who stepped in to help maintain the plot.

8. Western Wards Allotment Association

Bi monthly committee meetings

The next WWAA committee meeting will be held at Victory Hall, Warsash on Tuesday 1st November. There is still a vacancy for the role of Chairman of the Association and the terms of reference for the role may be found on the website.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The date of the 2022 AGM will be held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at Sarisbury Green Community Centre commencing at 7.00pm - another date for your diary if you wish to attend.

It is important that any agenda items which members may care to raise at the AGM should be sent to the Secretary Julie Prescott (jprescotthr@gmail.com) no later than 1st November 2021. An AGM agenda will be circulated with a copy of the 2021 AGM minutes and the accounts.

9. Tenancy Terms and Conditions Reminders

Bonfires

Thank you to all plot holders for observing the rule which states that bonfires shall not be lit during the months of June, July and August on the allotment site.

The committee has decided that whilst the site remains a huge fire risk due to the continuing tinder dry conditions, the ban will be extended to the month of September.

Provided the weather and site conditions are suitable in October, burning of wood and accumulated rubbish is permitted but should **not be lit** during the daytime:-

- more than two hours before sunset, and,
- as far as possible, ensure that the wind is blowing smoke away from neighbouring properties/dwellings;
- bonfires must be attended when alight and be of a manageable size;
- the burning of plastics, carpets, tyres, MDF and laminated wood is prohibited. A means of disposal will be provided on at least one occasion during the year.

Tidying Plots

As the autumn season is upon us, we also would remind tenants of the need to keep plots tidy in accordance with the tenancy agreement.

10. WWAA Membership Facilities

The WWAA website

The website may be found at the internet address <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/>. It is the 'window' for the allotment association. It is maintained by Rona Neilson, the administrator. Rona may be contacted through the 'contact us' email facility and is always keen to publish items of allotment keeping interest. Plans are at an early stage to upgrade the website to modern standards.

The WWAA Jim Lett 'Trading Hut' at Hunts Pond Road

Membership of the WWAA entitles access to the 'Trading Hut'. John Parsons, the WWAA shop manager has given notice that you will be able to buy garlic, onions and shallots as from the end of September along with broad beans and peas for over-winter planting. The Hut is open on Sundays, from 10.00am until 12.00 noon.

Keep in touch with the shop opening and the range of products available at <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/>

11. Facebook Social Media – 'Allotment Road'

It is pleasing to note the continuing number of users who contribute to 'Allotment Road', our social media account. The moderator, Abigail Harrison, Plot 31B, is always available to advise new plot holders who would like to take part. Abigail's email address is 'abigail.attic@gmail.com'

12. Marketing Allotment Keeping and Displays

The Sarisbury 'Show on the Green' 2022

This well attended event was held on Saturday 6th June this year. The WWAA marketing stand promoted allotment keeping and answered questions but in particular, supported the Sarisbury Green Horticultural Society by marketing the event. With well over 2,500 local attendees at the show, the WWAA stand created lots of interest.

Sarisbury Green Horticultural Society – Annual Show 2022

The local horticultural Annual Show was held on Saturday 13th August 2022 at the Sarisbury Green Community Centre for the first time since 2019. Organised by Chair of the Society Annette Foulds, supported by WWAA Sarisbury Green plot holders, there were some 50 exhibitors this year including many from the Junior School. Allotment site prize winners included plot holders Kate Tucker, Penny Daish, Abigail Harrison, Liz Wood and Robin, Sue Tim and Louise Green.

Botley Gardening Club – Annual Autumn Show 2022

Autumn Annual Show was due to be held in the Market Hall at Botley on Saturday 10th September 2022. Open to the public at 1pm. Exhibitors welcome and a show

booklet can be obtained from Show Chairman Kate Tucker on **01489 482901** or email kate.tucker@outlook.com.

Best wishes and happy allotment keeping,

Robin Green and Martin Wheeler
Joint Allotment Site Managers