

Western Wards Allotment Association

Salisbury Green Joint Site Managers

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1st October 2023

Salisbury Green Allotment Site – Autumn Update 2023

Dear Members,

It has been another eventful allotment year to date. The main growing season is coming to an end after periods of extreme wet and very dry hot weather. The unusual weather has now become 'the norm' rather than the exception.

Nonetheless and thanks to some innovative gardening practices, it has been a productive year and we thank all those who have been able to gift surplus vegetables for charitable purposes through Sue Wells, Lead School Teacher for the school plot. On behalf of the site membership, thank you Sue for managing the collection and delivery processes.

We wish to remind all plot holders that the WWAA Annual General Meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 14th November at 7pm at Titchfield Community Centre. The AGM venue is being moved around our area to be fair to those whose WWAA sites and homes are on the east side. We welcome any member who is able to support the event. It is your opportunity as members to learn how our finances are spent and ask questions. There is still a vacancy for a WWAA management committee Chairman.

Martin and I are willing to stand again this year as your site managers unless there is anyone who would like to volunteer for the role.

1. Vacancies and the Waiting List

The Association financial year starts on 1st October. As I publish this newsletter, there are 6 plot holders who have decided to give up but I am sure these vacancies will be 'snapped up' by those at the top of the waiting list of 32 persons.

2. New Tenants

We welcome to the allotment site new tenants:-

- Plot 29a(3) Pete and Pauline James;
- Plot 28b(2) Luke Osman;
- Plot 30b Keeley, Britanya and Kelly – a joint tenancy.

3. Farewell to Leavers

We say farewell and best wishes to tenants who are leaving us:-

- Bob and Janice Chant (3b) after 17 years as a plot holder,
- Lucy Swanbrow (6b) after 25 years as a plot holder and a period as a joint Site Manager and member of the WWAA management committee,
- Claire Milne (20b)
- Richard Crowley (22a),
- Edward Whitworth (otherwise known as 'John the Hat') after 40 years on (28b (2)),
- Paul Beaumont (29a(3)), and,
- Ben and Maria Kimble (30b).

4. Autumn Social Gathering Saturday 16th September 2023

Good to chat to those who attended the autumn social gathering at the Sarisbury Cricket Club on 16th September and thank you for your support. We hope to arrange a Christmas season social gathering on Saturday 16th December for those who would like to join us.

5. Sarisbury 'Green Team'

Some of you will know about the Sarisbury 'Green Team' who are an association of local Sarisbury residents led by Karen and Simon Niven. The organisation's voluntary role is to keep public areas in the Sarisbury Ward well maintained and tidy with attractive floral planting. I am sure you will agree that they have already made a big difference to the appearance of the area and we congratulate them for achieving this year's Fareham in Bloom award.

Allotment site managers have recently met with Karen and her husband Simon. There are some aspects of their work we can support and I am sure that they will be able to support our activities in the future. If you feel you would like to give some of your time supporting the Green Team, Karen may be contacted on niven899@gmail.com.

6. Sarisbury Allotment Site Project Initiatives

IBC Water Tanks

You will note that, further to our WWAA report on 'Managing Extreme Weather Conditions', <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/home> have now acquired three IBC water tanks which can store up to 3000 litres of rain water sourced from the roof of the equipment container. As part of our commitment to managing extreme weather conditions, we will be experimenting linking the IBC's to a new rainwater standpipe in readiness for another extreme dry period next year. If successful, we will seek opportunities to extend the initiative across the site.

An information leaflet for managing the effects of extreme weather has been published by the Hon Secretary Julie Prescott on the WWAA website based on the National Allotment Society research.

Composting toilet near the Equipment Container

Work started during spring 2023 to lay foundations for the proposed second composting toilet near to the equipment container. We hope to move ahead with the concrete base during the autumn/winter months to prepare for the construction of the cubicle.

Various improvements to the existing composting toilet at the Junior School end of the site have been made by Martin Wheeler. Inflow and outflow air vents have been incorporated which has freshened up the interior powered by an additional solar panel. Thank you to Julie Prescott for spending time ensuring that the cubicle is clean and tidy.

Wildlife Corner Area

Liz Wood continues to maintain and develop the corner area of the allotment designed as a wild life area, because the shade caused by the huge oak trees make it impossible to use as allotment plots. We thank her for her continuous voluntary commitment and hard work. It is a great credit to Liz and if you haven't visited, it's well worth spending a few minutes of your time.

Ben Spraggon and his Mini Digger

Ben has, on a voluntary basis, continued to support Sarisbury projects during the summer with his digger and transporting goods in his trailer. We are very grateful for his help.

7. Local Shows - Summer 2023

Salisbury Green Community Centre 'Show on the Green' – Saturday 10th June 2023

To support the local community activity, the WWAA exhibited a stand at the 'Show on the Green' promoting allotment keeping and the summer horticultural shows to the local community. I am pleased that there was a lot of interest from passing visitors.

Salisbury Green Community Centre Horticultural Show – Saturday 13th August 2023

Thank you to the many Salisbury Green allotment plot holders who exhibited vegetables and flower displays at the show. There were over 400 exhibits on show which was a substantial increase over previous years. Salisbury plot holders 'walked away' with a glittering array of prizes for their vegetable and floral exhibits. Councillor Sean Woodward presented the prizes at the end of the afternoon which included Hazel Oliphant with the Royal Horticultural Society medal for the most prizes awarded. Well done Hazel! Good to support local events.

Garden Show, Victory Hall, Warsash on Saturday 9th September 2023

On a hot and humid summer's afternoon, the Warsash 'Village Garden Show', hosted by [Warsash Horticultural Society](#), was held at Victory Hall, Warsash on Saturday 9th September. Opened by WHS Society Chairman Jill Milton, the show comprised vegetable and flower display exhibits for judging as well as cakes, jams and preserves and photography. In a packed hall, there were opportunities to 'snap up' bargain plants at the Autumn Plant Sale as well as taking a chance to win a Tombola prize and tasting a welcome cup of tea and slice of cake.

Salisbury Green plot holder Hazel Oliphant took the opportunity to exhibit vegetables and flower arrangements at the show and won an array of awards including two 1st prizes. Apsley Farms Ltd donated a ton bag of mulch as a lottery prize which was won at the end of the afternoon by Salisbury Plot holder Liz Wood.

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

The Trading Hut is open on Sundays from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. The shop is stocked with a good range of products at very cost effective prices for WWAA members. Keep in touch with the shop opening and the range of products available at <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/home> and follow the link to the Trading Hut. The shop now takes payment with a bank card.

9. 'Allotment Road' - Facebook

Many thanks to Abigail Harrison Plot 31B for the work she does moderating the account. Abigail may be contacted for guidance on abigail.attic@gmail.com.

10. The WWAA website - <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/home>

The WWAA website administrator is Rona Neilson. She works very hard to maintain the website on our behalf. If you have any photographs or items of interest which can be published on the website, Rona would be pleased to hear from you. Rona can be contacted using the email on the website ['Who to Contact'](#).

11. House Keeping

Allotment Site Equipment and Machinery.

The first Mountfield Mower purchased 3 years ago to replace the old and expensive Honda mowing machines has now reached the end of its useful life. It will be 'written off' in the WWAA Sarisbury 'accounts' in the spring of 2024 and we will replace it with another cost effective Mountfield mower.

Thank you to Stuart Wheeler Plot 8a(2), our fleet engineer, for his maintenance work on the machinery to keep it all going.

Dogs on Site

Whilst dogs have always been welcome on the site, provided that they are kept under control (either on a lead or other means of control) and do not go wandering off across the site. Recently, dog faeces have been found in various locations across the site. This is unpleasant, a health hazard to others and not acceptable. You are reminded that, if you bring a dog on site, you are responsible for their conduct and cleaning up after them.

Tidying up for winter

This is the time of year when it is necessary to tidy up plots after the summer growing season for the winter period. Please ensure that pathways and hedges where they border your plot are kept tidy. We are routinely inspected by the local authority for compliance with the terms and conditions of our lease.

Happy allotment plot keeping,

Robin Green and Martin Wheeler

Joint Site Managers