

## Western Wards Allotment Association

### Salisbury Green Site Managers

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### **Salisbury Allotment Site – Spring Update 2019**

Dear Members,

Good to welcome the spring season and, hopefully, some drier and warmer conditions to work at the allotment next week! I am sure many of you will be pleased to know that the water supply has been switched back on.

#### **Vacant Plots**

As I write to you, there is currently just one **vacant plot** available (Plots 14B(2)) and there is just one person on the 'Salisbury Allotment waiting list' - but David and I would be pleased to receive any enquiries from interested persons.

#### **New Plot Holders**

We welcome to the Salisbury Allotment Site a new plot holder who has recently joined us:

- Katherine Tucker – Plot 17A (1).

You are very welcome to Salisbury Allotment site and I am sure your allotment neighbours will provide any support you may need.

#### **WWAA Marketing Initiatives**

David, Abigail Harrison (Plot 31B) the WWAA graphic designer and I are pleased to support the WWAA Marketing Sub Committee. The sub committee includes Martin Barnett (Hunts Pond Road) who leads on marketing, the WWAA Chairman Bob Hughes and Rona Neilson and Keith Taylor who maintain and develop the WWAA website. The committee met on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 to set out marketing plans for the year. It is intended this year to hold marketing displays at:-

- Warsash Plant Sale Day, Victory Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> May; (Bishops Waltham Allotment site are also holding a plant sale on the same day and the site manager Anthea would be pleased to welcome you there);
- Salisbury 'Show on the Green' on 8<sup>th</sup> June;
- Salisbury Horticultural Show, Community Centre on 15<sup>th</sup> August, and,
- Locks Heath Shopping Centre on dates to be arranged.

You are welcome if you would like to take part.

#### **'Allotment Road' – Facebook Social Media Group**

The membership of 'Allotment Road' on Facebook has grown over the winter and Abigail who manages the site is sure that it will continue to grow during the year.

If you are unsure how to access our Facebook account but would like to be part of the social media group, please email Abigail for advice on [abigail.attic@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.attic@gmail.com)

## **Sarisbury Allotment Open Day – 8th June 2019**

For the first time, it is intended to hold an Open Day at Sarisbury Allotment Site on 8<sup>th</sup> June to permit members of the public to view what we do. An Open Day will be properly supervised and access limited through the double gates opposite the Junior School. We hope to stimulate interest by allowing members of the public to view inside.

At the same time, we hope to take the opportunity to sell any spare produce which plot holders may have grown over and above their needs to support a new building and development project (see below).

Produce contributions and volunteer assistance on the day will be very welcome.

### **Allotment Corner Area - Barnes Lane/ St. Paul's Road**

Plot holders will be familiar with the Sarisbury Allotment corner area (Barnes Lane junction St. Paul's Close) under oak trees which has become totally overgrown over the years. In order to clear it, the WWAA sanctioned the use of Community Pay Back Scheme operatives under strict supervision. Clearance by 20 operatives took place on 6th March 2019 and a subsequent day. The area is of little value as an allotment plot because of the shade of numerous oak trees. It is hoped to develop it as an area for growing wild flowers and fruit trees as an allotment communal facility and the ground work is progressing well.

### **Improvements to the Site - Building and other Projects**

#### Research

In order to research best practice for allotment site management, two visits have been made by David and me over the winter period to allotment site neighbours at Bishops Waltham and Porchester Red Barn. As a result of our research, it is clear that the facilities at the two sites visited are vastly superior to the Sarisbury site.

#### Proposed Building with Toilet facilities (Subject to Planning Permission)

It is clear that we are in need of a permanent building providing a central point of focus and a range of modern facilities including a meeting space, refreshments, toilets for the welfare of gents, ladies and disabled, office for management and storage for equipment.

We have a suitable position for a building to be erected on Plot 31A with ease of access from the roadway through existing double perimeter gates opposite the Junior School, close potential link to sewerage mains, electricity and would be positioned close to our mains water supply.

This proposed project is ambitious and at an early stage. **If planning permission is granted by the Fareham Borough Council as owners of the land and approval granted by the WWAA Committee**, the capital to fund the project will be at no cost to plot holders or the WWAA finances. Grant funding will be sought from Hampshire County Council and National Lottery funding.

The new building will be linked to a plot on site for the disabled to make use of.

#### Mini Digger

As part of our improvements on site, we are very grateful to Mr Ben Spraggon of Warsash who very generously made available his mini digger 'free of cost' and has been carrying out project ground work tasks, including the corner area, which would have been impossible to deal with manually. Thank you Ben.

## **WWAA News**

The WWAA is currently an unincorporated organization managed by the Chairman and committee members. For many valid reasons, the WWAA committee plans to apply to the Charity Commission for Charitable Incorporated status (CIO). CIO Trustees will be appointed and a written application will be submitted in due course.

## **Review of the Site**

David and I have again carried out a seasonal review of the entire site. It is that time of the growing year again when I need to draw the attention of all plot holders to a number of key issues in the tenancy agreement.

1. All plots **AND sheds** should have a notice clearly indicating their plot number.
2. Grass edges to path ways should be adequately maintained. Where plots have an adjacent hedge, this should be kept trimmed. (We are particularly concerned where grass edges have not been trimmed and maintained. Long grass often conceals holes or obstacles to trip the unwary. This could result in serious injury through trips and falls and I am anxious that persons who walk along grass pathways are kept safe.
3. Allotment plots should be clean, free of pernicious weeds and in a good condition, with at least 80% of the overall plot in cultivation.
4. Plots should not be used to deposit any refuse or unwanted waste.

## **Thank you**

Finally, David and I in our site management roles would like to thank all of you who have provided practical support to us. It is much appreciated.

For our part, we will continue to do whatever we can to ensure Sarisbury Allotment site is a safe, secure, well maintained and a productive site for current and future plot holders.

Happy allotment keeping and best wishes,

**Robin GREEN (Plot 32B) and David WHITLOCK (Plot 9B)**