

**Western Wards Allotment Association**  
(Registered Charity No 1205562 )

Salisbury Green Joint Site Managers

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**Salisbury Green Allotment Site – Spring Update 2024**

Dear Members,

After the wettest and warmest February on record, the meteorological 'Spring' season started on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, astrological spring season starts on 20<sup>th</sup> March and the 'clock' goes forward by one hour on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Whatever date 'spring' starts, we look forward to some drier and warmer weather to get started on our allotment plots.

To welcome the spring season, a **Spring social gathering** has been arranged at the Salisbury Cricket Club, Allotment Road on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 between 3pm and 5pm**. Plot holders and their families will be very welcome for a social drink and Martin and I will be available to answer questions about site projects and anything else you may care to ask. I am sure you will wish to say hello to friends and exchange good planting ideas with fellow plot holders. It's a good time to swap seeds if you have some spare. Many thanks to Hazel Oliphant, the cricket club secretary and plot holder for 36A(1) for hosting the event.

The rain we have experienced during the winter and, particularly in February, has unsurprisingly caused some temporary flooding in parts of the allotment. These should dry off with some wind and improved weather.

Allotment matters of interest are as follows:-

**1. Vacancies and the Waiting List**

At the time of writing, the site has just 1 plot vacancy – 37a.

There are 8 persons on our waiting list.

**2. New Tenants**

We welcome to the Salisbury Green Allotment Site new plot holders:-

- Keeley and Britanya HODGE – Plot 30b.

**3. Obituary**

It is with sadness that I inform Salisbury Green Allotment Site plot holders that Richard Crowley aged 76 years died after a short illness in February 2024 at a Chandlers Ford Nursing Home. Richard gave up allotment plot keeping in 2023 after 5 years as a tenant on Plot 22a. We offer our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Plot holders will recall that Richard's wife, Nicky who was a joint plot holder, died suddenly at their Cold East home in September 2023.

Richard's funeral will take place at 3pm on Friday 22nd March 2024 at the Test Valley Crematorium, Ridge Lane, Romsey, SO51 6AB. Managers will attend to represent the allotment community.

**4. Salisbury Allotment Site Project Developments**

Upper Area Composting Toilet project

The concrete base for the second proposed toilet close to the equipment container was completed in the autumn of 2023. Owing to the unprecedented continuous rainfall during the winter, we avoided ordering the cubicle structure from 'Dunster House Ltd' preferring to wait for the weather to improve this spring. We shall order it soon and construct it with the help of volunteers.

### IBC Water Tanks

As part of our commitment to managing extreme weather conditions, we are experimenting with the IBC tanks in readiness for another extreme dry period.

You will note that, further to our WWAA report on 'Managing Extreme Weather Conditions', <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/home> we have started to fit the IBC water tanks which can store up to 1000 litres of rain water each. The first storage tanks will be fitted adjacent to the equipment container. If successful, we will seek further 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.

### Wildlife Corner Area

At the time of writing, work was in progress to place and secure the memorial teak bench kindly donated by the relatives of Bruce Bound for plot holders to rest and enjoy in the corner area. The work should be completed soon.

### Ben Spraggon and his Mini Digger

Ben has, on a voluntary basis, continued to support Sarisbury Allotment Site projects during the autumn and winter with his mini digger and transporting goods with his Land Rover and trailer for us.

We are always very grateful for Ben's help 'digging' plots 37a and 30b during the winter months, transporting goods using his trailer to save delivery costs and for his autumnal work digging 22a(1), 22b(1) and 6b to return the plots to good order. Ben generously assists us for no payment or expenses helping us to cut costs from projects. We could not have achieved the work without his support.

## **5. Dates for your 2024 Diary**

### Warsash Horticultural Society Plant Sale – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Plants grown by Warsash HS members will be offered for sale at the Plant Sale at Victory Hall, Warsash on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Doors open at 10.00am until 11.30. You definitely need to be there early to take advantage of floral and vegetable bargains on offer. Funds go towards maintaining the Society.

### Sarisbury Green Community Centre Horticultural Show – Saturday 10th August 2024

Thank you to the many Sarisbury Green allotment site plot holders who exhibited vegetables and flower displays at the show in 2023. There were over 400 exhibits on show which was a substantial increase over previous years. We hope we can achieve the same, if not better, success in 2024.

### Sarisbury Green Community Centre 'Show on the Green' – Saturday 24th August 2024

To support the local community event, the WWAA has exhibited a stand at the 'Show on the Green' in the past few years promoting allotment keeping to the local community. We will do so again this year on Saturday 24th August 2024. In previous years, the show has been held in June but, such are the pressures on community centre events, that the date has been changed to August.

## **6. The WWAA Jim Lett 'Trading Hut' at Hunts Pond Road**

A reminder that the Trading Hut is open to members this year 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 trading and the range of products available at <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/trading-hut> and follow the link to the Trading Hut. The shop now takes payment with a bank card.

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

The WWAA website administrator is Rona Neilson. As a volunteer, she has worked hard to maintain the website on our behalf and we thank her for her expertise and continuing commitment.

However, the WWAA committee feels that our current website needs a 'refresh' and the Hon Secretary, our own Julie Prescott, is leading the project to create a new one with a more modern look. If you have any photographs or items of interest which can be published on the new website, Julie would be pleased to hear from you.

## **8. 'Allotment Road' - Facebook**

Many thanks to Abigail Harrison Plot 31B for the work she does moderating the Allotment Road Facebook account. To join the Facebook group, Abigail may be contacted for guidance on [abigail.attic@gmail.com](mailto:abigail.attic@gmail.com).

## **9. Dave, the Sarisbury Allotment Scrap Metal Removal Man**

We are always grateful to Dave, the scrap metal man, who gets rid of our piles of unwanted scrap metal. However, that isn't the only service Dave provides. He can be contacted on 07772609679 or 02380 348633. Dave also:-

- Sells water butts, fire bins, incinerator bins which are ready for use;
- Collects and removes batteries for all types of vehicles including cars, lorries, boats and fork lift trucks;
- Provides a 'Man in a Van' service for home and garden waste, house clearance of domestic bulky items for example, fridges, wardrobes, sofas.

These are useful and reliable services – keep his telephone number handy.

## **10. House Keeping**

### Allotment Site Equipment and Machinery.

Spring is the time when there is a demand for use of the allotment's mechanical equipment. There are engine driven mowers and strimmers available to you for grass cutting. These need to be refueled and cleaned after use to keep them properly maintained and ready for the next person.

You will need to speak to a manager before you plan to use a Honda rotavator. Users will need a health and safety briefing and shown how to safely operate the equipment.

### Rubbish left by the Gates

Please do not leave rubbish items by the double gates for others to clear up and dispose of. Rubbish removal from the site is a personal responsibility.

We are currently dealing with a 'mountain of plastic rubbish' which has been left behind by plot holders who have given up and it costs you, the Association, a great deal of money to dispose of it.

### Chippings

Plot holders will have noticed that the chippings bins have been empty for some time. Managers have spoken to the usual suppliers of free chippings about the shortage. It appears that suppliers are not happy about driving their vehicles 'off road' for fear of getting stuck in wet and muddy conditions. When the site entrances dry off, normal deliveries will continue.

### Mains Water

We have been advised by the Treasurer that the cost of mains water supply by Southern Water to allotment sites has increased from £1-61p per cubic meter to £1-97p. This is an increase of 18.3%. When the dry weather starts and you need to water plants, please do so sparingly and avoid wasting water.

### Locks on Gates

Just a reminder to re-set lock combinations to zero '0-0-0-0' after entering the site. There have been occasions where the lock code has not been properly re-set and the site is insecure. When you do, please ensure that the position of lock is easy to undo for the next person.

Happy allotment plot keeping in 2024,

**Robin Green and Martin Wheeler**

**Joint Site Managers**