

Western Wards Allotment Association

Salisbury Green Joint Site Managers

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Salisbury Allotment Site – Summer Update 2021

Dear Members,

Introduction

After a very dry April this year and the wettest May on record for some 150 years, we are pleased to welcome some summer season warm weather and rain and to watch our plants grow quickly (and, with regret, the weeds as well!)

It has been a difficult twelve months with the constant threat of COVID infections to our community, but it has been pleasing to see so many of you working at the allotment despite the difficulties. We wish any member who may have caught the virus, and suffered from long COVID, a rapid recovery

The temporary COVID regulations have caused so many 2020 and 2021 local community horticultural shows to be postponed or cancelled owing to the pandemic restrictions and, as I write, the end date has been extended to mid July. Let us hope we can resume some normality after that date.

1. Salisbury 'Show on the Green' – Saturday 14th August 2021

I am delighted that the Salisbury Community 'Show on the Green' is planned for Saturday 14th August. Owing to the cancellation of the Community Centre 2021 Horticultural Show, an alternative horticultural display will be held at the 'Show on the Green'. I am very grateful to Maria Kimble Plot 30B, who is now a member of the local horticultural committee representing the Salisbury Green allotment site, will be assisting in the organisation of the display.

Please support the horticultural display at the Show and Maria by entering vegetable and flower exhibits. It's a bit of fun and you never know that you could be the winner of a prize. Class entries will be published and circulated in due course.

2. Plot Vacancies

We continue to have **no vacant plots** available on the Salisbury Green site. We have 100% occupation of available plots. As I write, there are 20 persons on the 'Salisbury Green allotment plot waiting list'. Accordingly, the waiting list has been closed as additional names will become unrealistic until there are further vacancies occurring. However, I have the names and email addresses of a further 20 persons who would be interested to join the waiting list.

As all WWAA allotment sites are in similar full position with waiting lists, the Chairman of the WWAA has written to Sean Woodward and the FBC asking for consideration to be given to establishing additional allotment sites in the area to meet demand.

3. New Plot Holders

We welcome to the Sarisbury Allotment Site 1 **new plot holder** who has joined us during the early summer months:

Annamaria ELLIOTT - Plot 25b(2)

Anna, you and your husband Mark are very welcome to Sarisbury allotment site, and I am sure your allotment neighbours will provide any advice or support you may need.

4. New Equipment

A further new 16 inch Mountfield mower to replace the old Honda 19 inch cut model has been purchased and delivered for use by plot holders. We are grateful to Stuart Wheeler Plot 8a(2) for servicing and maintaining the equipment. If anyone would like to purchase the 'Honda' which still functions, contact Martin Wheeler for details.

5. Sarisbury Green Site Project Work

During the spring season, managers have continued to dispose of huge piles of unwanted scrap metal from the site as well as plastic rubbish accumulated over many years. There are five vehicle tyres left on site which have been collected and must be disposed of. We welcome enquiries from someone who might want them for a 'non allotment purpose'.

Container Area

Well done to Martin Wheeler who leads on work around the allotment site 'container' to tidy up the area. The steel container weighing two tons, which houses our equipment, was sinking and leaning on one side but has been raised and supported so that it is upright. We thank Anna Waghorn and Catherine Allen Plot 6a(1) for their gift to the site of a mature Jasmine plant to improve the appearance of the entrance to the site and container. It is proposed to paint the container in the autumn to improve its appearance.

Barnes Lane Corner Area

We thank Liz Wood (Plot 28a) for her work on the Barnes Lane corner area 'bank' and the gift of young hedging plants which are maturing - as well as - Pam Barber (Plot 34b) for her continuous planting and gifts of wild flowers and Julie Prescott (Plot 35a(2) and 35b(2)). A wonderful environmental initiative which supports the ambition of a future allotment wild flower and fruit trees area for your enjoyment.

6. Sarisbury Green Site Reminders

Water Butts – we note that many of you have covered your water butts to prevent birds drowning in them. This occurs when they try to drink particularly during the hot spell of weather. We would encourage you to do so to keep our wildlife safe. If like me you don't have a plastic cover, a piece of wire mesh or a board will do just as well.

Grass pathways and hedges – the recent hot weather and rain have resulted in dramatic growth of vegetables and flowers – but also grass pathways and hedges next to plots. Please ensure that you maintain pathways and hedge rows where they adjoin your plot as required by the tenancy agreement.

Security of the site - can we also remind you to close gates when you enter and leave the site to keep out unwanted human visitors, but also wandering 'deer' looking for a meal opportunity. Secure to the gate or conceal combination locks when not in use. Please lock the gates when it is clear you are the last to leave. We continue to hear reports of human prowlers being discovered during the night hours in St Paul's Road gardens and we need to prevent opportunists wandering across our site.

7. Royal Horticultural Society News

Members are reminded that the WWAA, as an organisation, is affiliated to the RHS. An RHS Affiliated Society Garden Entry Card has been issued to the WWAA which gives a 30% reduction on the entry fee for one person and a guest to one of the following RHS Gardens:-

- Wisley;
- Hyde Hall, Essex;
- Harlow Carr, North Yorks;
- Rosemoor Devon.

If any WWAA member wishes to make use of the entry card for a day out when COVID restrictions permit (you need to show the entry card when you arrive at the venues), contact John Parsons at the Trading Hut and he will make it available. John's telephone number is 01329 665008.

RHS Garden Bridgewater official May opening! The RHS teams of gardeners, designers, front of house staff and their teams of volunteers have worked tirelessly to get this neglected site ready for everyone to come and enjoy. If you would like to use your annual free group visit to see Bridgewater with your club, please email bridgewater@rhs.org.uk with your affiliated number and preferred dates.

Bee Friendly Garden The BBC and RHS have combined to launch a competition for children to design a bee friendly garden which will be built by the RHS at an NHS hospital. The presenter, Zoe Ball, will announce it soon and we are looking for 100s of passionate gardeners to help judge BBC Radio 2's brightest new children's competition to help keep Britain's bees buzzing. Volunteers are required in early July to judge a batch of 50 entries which needs about 4 hours of your time?

The RHS website may be found at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/>

8. National Allotment Society

The National Allotment Society has announced the date for their National Allotments Week 2021: 9th-15th August 2021. Their theme this year is 'Plotting for the Future', celebrating the contribution that allotments make to a sustainable future. More information will be available on their website over the coming months.

National Allotment Society website may be found at <https://www.nsalg.org.uk>

9. Warsash Village Garden Show and Plant Sale

A reminder that Warsash Village Garden Show and Plant Sale will be held on Saturday 4th September 2021, from 2.00pm, at the Victory Hall, Warsash. Admission is 50p (children free) and it is hoped that some Sarisbury Allotment plot holders might submit vegetable and flower competition entries. We collected a lot of prizes and a cup in 2019. Let's hope we can repeat that success.

I will be manning an allotment marketing display at the event so, even if you do not have anything to enter, just come along and say hello, there will be tea and cake available! A copy of the Show Schedule is available to download from the Warsash Horticultural Society website <https://warsashhorticulturalsociety.chessck.co.uk/>.

10. Our Facebook social media site 'Allotment Road'

I am always pleased to note the increased use of our social media account 'Allotment Road'. 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'](mailto:abigail.attic@gmail.com).

11. July 2021 WWAA Committee Meeting

The next WWAA committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th July 2021 at 7pm using 'Zoom' virtual meeting facilities in view of the continuing COVID restrictions. Site managers submit bi-monthly reports to the meeting and, if anyone wishes to identify an issue affecting the WWAA, we will be happy to raise it.

The WWAA website may be found at <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/> and the administrator Rona Neilson is always pleased to receive items of interest for publication.

Happy allotment keeping,

Robin Green and Martin Wheeler
Joint Site Managers Sarisbury Green