

Western Wards Allotment Association

Salisbury Green Joint Site Managers

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Salisbury Allotment Site – Summer Update 2022

Dear Members,

After a dry spring season this year, we are pleased to welcome some rain and to watch our plants grow quickly (and, with regret, the weeds as well!)

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, but site managers were pleased to attend the Warsash Plant Sale on 7th May 2022 and the 'Show on the Green' on Saturday 11th June 2022 to 'market' WWAA allotment - keeping to the local community. Whilst Salisbury has a long waiting list, other WWAA sites have plot vacancies.

1. Social Gathering Sunday 26th June at Salisbury Cricket Club

It is intended to hold a further allotment plot holder's social gathering at the Salisbury Cricket Club in Allotment Road on Sunday 26th June between 4pm and 6pm. You will be made very welcome and it's good to meet and chat with other tenants. Please feel free to bring a picnic along should you wish to do so and, for those interested, there will be some cricket being played and the use of the wide screen TV's. Martin and I will be pleased to answer any queries you may have about the site management.

2. Salisbury Green Community Centre Horticultural Show – Saturday 13th August 2022

I am delighted that the Salisbury Community Centre Horticultural Show is planned for Saturday 13th August 2022 following the COVID break of 2 years. I am very grateful to Maria Kimble Plot 30B, who has been supporting the local horticultural Chair Annette Foulds by representing the Salisbury Green allotment site.

I shall be circulating the Schedule of classes of exhibits by email including vegetables, flower displays, cakes, photographs and art and I hope that you will support the event by entering exhibits for judging – it's a bit of fun and you never know that you could be the winner of a prize.

If you would like to help set up prior to the show, Annette Foulds may be contacted at acfoulds@btinternet.com.

3. Plot Vacancies

We continue to have **no vacant plots** available on the Salisbury Green site at the present time. As I write, there are 20 persons on the 'Salisbury Green allotment plot waiting list' and a further 14 persons who would be interested to join the waiting list.

However, Martin and I have already received advanced notice that there will be 6 half plots available from 1st October 2022 which existing plot holders are giving up and arrangements are already in hand to invite those on the waiting list to view.

4. New Plot Holders

We welcome to Sarisbury Green allotment site one new member –

- Ed LAIT, who is now the new tenant of Plot 9b(2) following a project to overhaul the half plot during the winter months.

5. Building of our 'Experimental' Composting Toilet

I have no doubt that members will have watched the building of the composting toilet which was delivered as a 'self build' flat pack in May. I am pleased to say that Martin and I are, at last, close to completing the building process and it is almost ready for opening and use.

We will issue some guidance for use which will be circulated in a separate email.

If the experimental toilet is successful (and there is no reason why it should not be), we will arrange further grant financing and build a second toilet at the 'top end' of the site near to the container.

6. Vacancy for WWAA Chairman

The WWAA operates with a board of trustees and a management team, all of whom are volunteers and we are looking for more people to come and join us.

We continue to have a vacancy for a Chair for the Association Management Committee. The Chair's role is to guide and lead the association and if you are interested in finding out more about this role, please consult the WWAA website for a role description or contact a site manager, the Treasurer Paul Rann or Secretary our own Julie Prescott.

In the meantime, we are grateful to Richard Bastow who is the Chair of the WWAA Trustees and acting as Chair of the Management Committee to fill the gap temporarily.

7. 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.wvaa.org.uk/new/> and follow the link to the Trading Hut. The shop now takes payment with a bank card.

8. 'Allotment Road' - Facebook

I continue to be amazed that we have so many members using our 'Allotment Road' Facebook account. Clearly, there are a lot of non plot holders interested in what we do. 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.

9. The WWAA website - <https://www.wvaa.org.uk/new/>

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 'Contact Us'.

10. Use of Slug Pellets

Following the announcement of a metaldehyde slug pellet ban in 2020, the change in regulations has finally come into full force. Plot holders are reminded that it is now unlawful to sell, supply, store or use metaldehyde products.

There plenty of alternative organic methods available to deal with slug problems, including organic slug pellets which are widely available for purchase.

Thank you

Just a reminder to all plot holders to observe the strict rule that bonfires shall not be lit during the months of June, July and August on the allotment site.

Finally, Martin and I in our site management roles would like to thank all of you who have provided lots of practical support with projects and general maintenance. It is much appreciated and the site looks a great deal better for it.

Happy allotment plot keeping this summer!

Robin Green 32B and Martin Wheeler 8A(1)

Joint Site Managers