

Western Wards Allotment Association

Salisbury Green Joint Site Managers

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Salisbury Allotment Site – Summer Update 2023

Dear Members,

After what seemed like weeks of continuous rain in the spring, at last we have some glorious summer warm weather. Plants are growing fast - but so are the weeds!

It's been a busy and eventful year to date on the site. There are no plot vacancies and we are 100% let. We have 25 persons on our waiting list and the average time to wait for a vacancy is about 18 months. There is a big demand for opportunities to lease a WWAA allotment plot in the Western Wards area.

Martin, Ben Spraggon and his digger and I have been busy undertaking site projects to improve the facility, some of which are set out below. In addition, we have had difficulties with and resolved water mains supply problems on Standpipes 1, 2 and 3. Let's hope that is all behind us now.

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

1. Social Gathering Sunday 25th 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 25th June between 3pm and 5pm. You will be made very welcome, the bar will be open and it's good to meet and chat with managers and other tenants. Family members very welcome.

2. Salisbury Site Project work

The following project work has been carried out by site managers and volunteers including Ben Spraggon and his 'mini digger',:-

- The **new chippings and manure bins** installed next to the **middle set of double gates** opposite the Junior School staff car park. The design for this installation is the same as the one next to the Equipment Container. This new facility will be of considerable benefit to plot holders in the middle of the site.
- Improvements have been made to the **perimeter hedge line next to plot 20a** and middle grass area by cutting back the hedge and levelling out banks of soil. This makes walking along the pathway safer and easier to negotiate.
- Improvements have also been completed to the **perimeter hedge line next to plots 19b, 20b and 21b** by levelling out banks of accumulated soil, removing large quantities of plastic rubbish and disposing of it properly, demolishing two long disused sheds, creating more space and burning the rotten wood.
- Work has been completed to support the **Salisbury Green Junior School plot** by installing mini sleepers for raised beds, paid for by the school, and helping tidy up the plot. Well done to school teacher Sue Wells and her team of teachers, parents and children for their hard work.
- A **solar panel powered water pump and filtration system** has been installed in our wild life pond on the corner area to improve the quality of the water. We are also very grateful to Liz Wood, Plot 28a, for her continuing hard work planting shrubs and bulbs and maintaining the corner area project. It is pleasing to see frogs, newts and other wild life in the pond.

3. Equipment Gifts from Plot Holders

We are always very grateful for gifts of mechanical equipment made to the site by generous donors. In this period, a big thank you to:-

- **Robin Stroulger**, Plot 2b who has donated a brand new electrical generator and a brand new mechanical posthole borer for use on site. The items are being 'commissioned' by Stuart Wheeler our 'fleet engineer'. These are stored in the Equipment Container and are only available on request from Martin, Stuart Wheeler or myself.
- **Pam and John Barber** Plot 34b who have donated a Mountfield Mowing Machine and fuel and an electrical trimmer. These will be kept at the lower end of the allotment inside the 32B shed for use by plot holders.

We have also been advised of a free greenhouse for collection from a property in Brook Avenue. The owner requires that it is removed from their garden in the next 5 to 6 weeks. The greenhouse measures 305 cms x 248 cms and appears to be in good condition. If you are interested, email Robin Green and he will put you in touch with the owner.

4. Reconnection of Water Supply Lower end of the Site

In March 2023, there was a major water leak in Barnes Lane junction with Allotment Road to a 100 year old underground lead water pipe. Contractors called out to deal with the issue during the night hours capped off the pipe owing to the nature of the leak. Unbeknown to contractors and site managers, the pipe supplied mains water to the allotment standpipes 1, 2 and 3. Six weeks later, after appropriate arrangements to close Allotment Road, repairs to the pipe under the roadway were made at the end of May. We have water again! Thanks to all for managing the situation, particularly during the hot weather. Road now open again.

5. Managing Extreme Weather Conditions

At the request of the WWAA Management Committee and mindful of the need to address climate change conditions, your site managers have published a report on the Management of Extreme Weather Conditions on the WWAA website documents section <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/home>.

The report advocates the need to store rain water on a much larger scale than we currently do. At Sarisbury this year, we hope to experiment with the collection of rain water in two 1000 litre 'IBC' water tanks from the roof of the Equipment Container. When collected, the rain water will provide a store for use in excessively hot conditions when there is the potential for hosepipe bans. These will be linked to a new rain water standpipe. If successful, the systems will be rolled out across the site as money and time for installation allows.

The new chippings and manure bins have also been installed to encourage the use of mulches and greater use of manure and compost to preserve water.

An information leaflet for [managing extreme weather](#) has been produced by the Hon Secretary Julie Prescott.

6. Local Shows - Summer 2023

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

The WWAA will be marketing allotment-keeping at the Show. If you visit, come and say hello.

Sarisbury Green Community Centre Horticultural Show – Saturday 13th August

I am again pleased that the Sarisbury Community Centre Horticultural Show is planned for Saturday 13th August 2023. 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.

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

Sarisbury Allotment Site exhibitors have been very successful in 2021 and 2018 by winning the Best in Show Cup. The competition [Schedule](#) is already available with a competitor's [entry sheet](#) attached. It would be good to win the Show Cup for another year.

Or, if you live closer to Botley, you might wish to attend:-

Botley Horticultural Show on Saturday 9th September

Competition booklet will be available from site managers.

7. Vacancy for a 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.

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

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.

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. Housekeeping Items

The WWAA management committee has decided to increase plot rents from £7.50p to £8.50p per rod with effect from 1st October 2023. The committee has deemed this increase necessary due to the rising cost of water and helps with maintaining

financial stability. This is the first increase in the cost per rod for over 3 years and still represents great value for money. There is a requirement for plot holders to inform site managers by 30th September if they no longer wish to rent a plot as a result of the increase.

We recently arranged for four ton bags of waste and other rubbish stored by the container to be removed by Hampshire Waste Disposal Co. When the process has been completed, no more rubbish please to be placed by the container. Disposal of rubbish is a personal responsibility.

Dogs are welcome on site provided that they are kept under proper control and owners accept the responsibility to 'clear up' after them. There have been some occasions when dog faeces have been found on pathways and on plots.

12. Thank you

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