

Western Wards Allotment Association

Salisbury Site Managers

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1st December 2022

Salisbury Green Allotment Site – A Winter Season Update 2022

Dear Member,

Seasonal greetings to all Salisbury Green allotment site members and your families. Martin and I wish you all a peaceful Christmas holiday this month and a 'Happy New Allotment Year' in 2023.

As a date for your diaries and if you wish to attend, arrangements have been made for a Christmas seasonal social gathering at the Salisbury Green Cricket Club in Allotment Road on Saturday 17th December 2022 between 3pm and 5pm. Family members, friends and children welcome. For younger members, we are told that 'Santa' will arrive at 4.30pm which should be interesting!

1. WWAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022

The WWAA Annual General Meeting was held at the Salisbury Green Community Centre on Thursday 22nd November 2022. 30 members were present.

During the meeting, no new nominations were put forward for Salisbury Green site management. Martin and I were re-elected to serve as your site managers during 2022/23 allotment year.

There are still no nominations for the post of WWAA Chairman and, if anyone would like to put their name forward, please email the Hon. Secretary, our own Julie Prescott on jprescothr@gmail.com. A role description may be found on the website.

2. Plot Vacancies

There will be **two vacant 5 rod plots** available on the Salisbury Green site in December. One is immediately available and the other during January. Otherwise, we have 100% occupation of available plots. As I write, there are **19 persons** on the 'Salisbury Allotment Site waiting list'.

3. New Plot Holders

7 tenants have taken up vacant plots during the autumn months:

Plot 4b	Holly Freize
Plot 13a(1)	Karen Austin
Plot 13a(2)	Evelyn and Mike Gibbons (wef 1.1.23)
Plot 21a(1)	Ro' McKenzie
Plot 25a(1)	David Daish
Plot 36a(1)	Mark Woodford
Plot 10b(2)	Colin Chalkley (wef 1.4.23)

New members and your families are very welcome to Sarisbury Green allotment site, and I am sure your allotment neighbours will provide any advice or support you may need.

4. Dates for your 2023 Diary

The WWAA and your site managers will be pleased to support:-

- Warsash Horticultural Society Plant Sale at Victory Hall, Warsash on Saturday morning 13th May 2023. Be there early not to miss plant bargains on sale at cost effective prices;
- Sarisbury 'Show on the Green' will be held on Saturday 10th June 2023 at which it is intended to market WWAA as an organisation to the local community;
- Sarisbury Green Horticultural Society Annual Show 2023 on 19th August 2023. Booklets for exhibits will be made available;
- Warsash Garden Show will be held on Saturday 9th September 2023. Booklets for exhibits will be made available. I recall that Penny Daish Sarisbury Green Plot 26A won the 'Best In Show' Cup for her vegetables display in September 2021. We always seem to come away with a glittering array of prizes, and,
- Botley Horticultural Society Annual Show will also be held on 9th September 2023 at the historic Market Hall.
- 2023 WWAA AGM will be held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 7pm at Titchfield Community Centre.

5. Water supply

The lease agreement between the Fareham Borough Council and the WWAA requires that the site water supply stop cocks be turned off for the winter months on all sites. This year, the November switch off was postponed until 1st December at Sarisbury due to the hosepipe use not being re-introduced until 4th November by Southern Water Board. We hope that was helpful.

6. Site Projects

Container Renovation

Following the replacement of the equipment container roof by Martin during spring 2022 to stop water leaks, the storage container has been repainted both inside and outside to prevent rusting. The painting work was essentially carried out by volunteer Tim Green, Plot 33b(2). Equipment no longer serviceable has been disposed of and mowers and strimmers repaired and serviced. The project has made a remarkable improvement to the facility.

Chippings Bin and Manure Bin

To accommodate the proposed second composting toilet on the equipment container area, the 'chippings bin' was moved forward and to one side on the grass area. At the same time, a 'manure bin' was built next to the chippings bin. It is proposed to accept deliveries of horse manure from local stables which will be freely available to plot holders. Both projects have been completed during October.

We hope to improve the ground conditions from the double gates to the bins by laying down 'scalpings' in the spring months.

Composting Toilet

Work has started to construct the concrete base to build a second Dunster House composting toilet behind the new chippings and manure bins at the container north end of the allotment. We await the outcome of an application to the Hampshire County Council for a grant towards the costs.

Tidying Up

Work has been carried out to continue tidying up the site by burning dilapidated sheds which no longer have an owner or use and other combustible rubbish. Scrap metal will be collected from the south end of the site by 'Dave' the scrap man.

Mini Digger Support

We are always very grateful to Ben Spraggon and his mini digger who, at no cost to Sarisbury plot holders, has carried out a huge amount of work this year on various projects. We could not achieve these without Ben's help. Thank you to Penny Daish for baking Ben a 'thank you cake' and to Sue Wheeler for her present to Ben of fresh 'eggs'.

Corner Area Project

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. We shall be installing a pump powered by a solar panel in 2023 to oxygenate the pond water. It is pleasing to see frogs, newts and other wild life in the pond and birds using the 'feeders'. I am sure that the developing area will look very colourful in the spring. Liz welcomes any volunteer support to work on the project.

7. Delivery of Surplus Fruit and Vegetables to Food Banks

In past years, WWAA site managers have tried to supply surplus fruit and vegetables from allotment sites to 'food banks' to avoid wasting food and provide for the needy in society. However, managers have always experienced the problem of gathering donations from plot holders, the collection of produce from sites by charities and keeping it fresh pending collection.

Recently, plot holder Ro' McKenzie Sarisbury Green Plot 29a (1) and (2) has delivered surplus fruit and vegetables she has grown at the Sarisbury Green Allotment Site to Hampshire Food Revolution (CIC), Henry Cort Drive, Fareham PO15 6TL. It's a short journey and Ro wanted to visit and check out the organisation.

Ro' reports positively about the charitable organisation, who welcomes any food surplus donations. For anyone interested, their website may be found at <https://www.facebook.com/foodrevolutionCIC>.

This will not be organised as a regular event, but deliveries will be made as and when surplus fruit and vegetables are available.

8. The WWAA Jim Lett 'Trading Hut' at Hunts Pond Road

John Parsons, the WWAA Trading Hut manager has given notice at a WWAA management committee meeting that the Trading Hut, which is open on Sundays from 10.00am until 12.00 noon, will be closed from 18th December 2022 reopening on 22nd January 2023.

Keep in touch with the shop opening and the range of products available at <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/>.

9. 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).

10. WWAA website <https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/>.

Rona Neilson is the WWAA website administrator and publishes allotment and related news items of interest. If any member has a news item they would like to publish more widely than our social media account, contact Rona using the website 'Who to contact' facility.

There are plans for a new and up to date website which will succeed the current 'old' website. This should take place during 2023.

Robin Green and Martin Wheeler
Joint Site Managers