

Western Wards Allotment Association
(Registered Charity No 1205562)

Salisbury Green Joint Site Managers

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1st December 2023

Salisbury Green Allotment Site – Winter Update 2023

Dear Members,

Seasonal greetings to all Salisbury Green allotment site members and your families. Martin and I wish you all a peaceful Christmas holiday later this month and a 'Happy New Allotment Year' in 2024. Welcome to those members who have recently joined us.

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 16th December 2022 between 3pm and 5pm. Family members, friends and children welcome. Bar open, wide screen TV's for additional entertainment and I am sure there will be the odd mince pie on offer.

1. Western Wards Allotment Association – Annual General Meeting 2023

The WWAA Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at the Titchfield Village Community Centre. Well attended by members from the five WWAA sites, the minutes will be published in due course on the website. Of particular note, the WWAA Trustees were delighted to announce that the WWAA has been registered by the Charity Commission of England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The status carries with it a wide range of benefits to the organization but will not impact day to day plot keeping.

During the meeting, Martin and I were re-elected to serve as your site managers during 2023/24 allotment year.

Martin and I would like to add our sincere thanks to the 'unsung heroes' of the WWAA management committee for their hard work this year. Paul RANN, who keeps the Treasurer's role running so smoothly and making complex financial issues simple to understand and to Julie PRESCOTT, who maintains the Hon Secretary's role, not forgetting Richard BASTOW who has stood in as Acting Chairman in the absence of a nomination for over a year. Thank you all on behalf of Salisbury members.

2. Vacancies and the Waiting List

Owing to the number of plot vacancies which unexpectedly occurred on the site during the autumn period this year, we have been able to offer an unusually large number of opportunities to persons on our waiting list. After re-allocating the plots, we have just 1 vacancy left - 37a.

This autumn, the waiting list has been reduced from 32 to just 6 persons, none of whom have been waiting for longer than 6 months.

3. New Tenants

We welcome to the Sarisbury Green Allotment Site 13 new plot holders:-

- Pam Spicer 3b(1)
- Zoe Swatton 3b(2)
- Anne Hillstrom 4b(1)
- Michelle Brenton 4b(2)
- Sophie Hemmings 6b(1)
- Joshua McCann 6b(2)
- Fraser Stokes 6b(3)
- Steve Yeomans 10a(2)
- Mark Griffiths 20b(1)
- Paul Fuller 20b(2)
- David Thorpe 22a(1)
- Laura Powell 22b(1)
- Sue Wells 34a(2)

4. Farewell to Leavers

We say farewell to tenants who left us this autumn:-

Wendy Harrison 22b(1)

Peter Hutchison 37a.

5. Obituary

It is with sadness that I inform Sarisbury Green Allotment Site members that **Bruce Bound** aged 94 years who retired from allotment plot keeping in 2022/23 after 40 years as a tenant on Plot 27b, died at the Hamble Heights Care Home on Friday 17th November.

Bruce was one of life's colourful characters who kept working on his plot until he was 93 years of age. By any standards, that is a remarkable achievement. We offer his son Paul and daughter Toni our sincere condolences on their bereavement.

Bruce's funeral will take place at 4pm on Friday 8th December at the Wessex Vale Crematorium Bubb Lane, Hedge End SO30 2HL. His daughter Toni and son Paul welcome any member who would care to attend and afterwards at 17, Barnbrook Road, Sarisbury SO317BL. Please confirm with Toni at toninice@gmail.com or me if you wish to attend for numbers.

6. Sarisbury Allotment Site Project Developments

Upper Area Composting Toilet project

The concrete base for the second proposed toilet is now in place. During the winter months, we shall order the cubicle structure from 'Dunster House Ltd' and your site managers will construct it with the help of volunteers.

IBC Water Tanks

You will note that, further to our WWAA report 'Managing Extreme Weather Conditions', we have started to fit the three IBC water tanks which can store up to 3000 litres of rain water sourced from the roof of the equipment container. As part of our commitment to managing extreme weather conditions, we will be experimenting linking the IBCs to a new rainwater standpipe in readiness for another extreme dry period next year. If successful, we will seek 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

Liz Wood continues to maintain and develop the corner area of the allotment designed as a wild life area, because the shade caused by the huge oak trees make it impossible to use as allotment plots. We thank her for her continuous voluntary commitment and hard work. It is a great credit to Liz and, if you haven't visited, it's well worth spending a few minutes of your time.

Ben Spraggon and his Mini Digger

Ben has, on a voluntary basis, continued to support Sarisbury Allotment Site projects during the summer and autumn with his digger and transporting goods in his trailer for us. We are very grateful for his help 'digging' plots 22a(1), 22b(1) and 6b in the autumn to return them to good order. There are plans to 'dig' 37a. Ben assists us for no payment or expenses helping us to cut costs from projects.

7. Dates for your 2024 Diary

Sarisbury Green Community Centre 'Show on the Green' – Date to be arranged in 2024

To support the local community event, the WWAA has exhibited a stand at the 'Show on the Green' promoting allotment keeping and the summer horticultural shows to the local community. We will do so again when a date is known. In previous years, I am pleased that there was a lot of interest from passing visitors.

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. Sarisbury plot holders 'walked away' with a glittering array of prizes for their vegetable and floral exhibits. Councillor Sean Woodward presented the prizes at the end of the afternoon which included Hazel Oliphant with the Royal Horticultural Society medal for the most prizes awarded. Well done Hazel! Good to support local events.

We hope we can achieve the same, if not better, success in 2024.

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

A reminder that the Trading Hut is open to members 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/trading-hut>. The shop now takes payment with a bank card.

9. 'Allotment Road' - Facebook

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. As a volunteer, she works hard to maintain the website on our behalf and we thank her for her expertise and continuing commitment. 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. House Keeping

Allotment Site Equipment and Machinery.

We are grateful to those members who clean up the mowers after use. Users are reminded that when cleaning the underside of the machine, it should be tilted with the air filter uppermost. Not to do so risks oil from the engine and sump contaminating the paper air filter. Oil contamination causes the machine not to start for the next user and needs replacement.

Mains Water turn off.

The lease agreement between the Fareham Borough Council and the WWAA requires that the site water mains supply stop cocks be turned off for the winter months on all sites. This year, the 'November' switch off has been postponed until there are signs of frost and adverse weather.

Happy allotment plot keeping in 2024,

Robin Green and Martin Wheeler

Joint Site Managers