

Western Wards Allotment Association

Salisbury Green Joint Site Managers

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7th August 2020

Salisbury Allotment Site – Summer Update 2020

Dear Members,

March 2020 saw the commencement of the coronavirus emergency restrictions introduced by the Government and 'lockdown'. However, it was very pleasing that the Government included allotment plot keeping as part of daily exercise we were all permitted to take. As I am sure you will agree that, although it has been a very dry year since the winter months, the allotment plots are looking good for the extra time many have been able to spend growing vegetables and tending plots. It was unfortunate that the 'Fareham in Bloom' competition was suspended this year.

Resignation of David Whitlock and appointment of Martin Wheeler as Joint Site Manager

I am sorry to report that David Whitlock, Plot 9B, decided to stand down as joint site manager on 28th April for health reasons. I sincerely thank David on your behalf for all his hard work as a site manager. I know that David will continue to be very supportive of allotment keeping at Salisbury.

To replace the second site manager role, I am pleased to welcome Martin Wheeler Plot 9a(1) and 10 a(1) who has been proposed and accepted by the WWAA Chairman and committee to replace David until the next Annual General Meeting formalities.

Vacant Plots

There are currently **no vacant plots** available on the Salisbury Green site and there is 100% occupation. As I write, there are 17 persons on the 'Salisbury Allotment waiting list'.

New Plot Holders

We welcome to the Salisbury Allotment Site **6 new plot holders** who have joined us during the spring and summer months:

Adam Lambourne 17a(2);

Geoff Allen 14a(2);

Gemma Down 14a(1);

Edward Tavender 29b(1)

Clive Cheetham 12a(1)

Danielle Paolino 12a(2)

You are all very welcome to Salisbury allotment site and I am sure your allotment neighbours will provide any advice or support you may need.

Reporting on WWAA Committee Issues

Those who attended the WWAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2019 at St John's Church rooms will know that the WWAA Chairman, Bob Hughes, announced that he did not intend to stand as Chairman at the next AGM in 2020. Indeed, Bob Hughes later resigned with immediate effect on 7th May 2020 after 9 years in the role.

This news was followed by the sudden resignation of the WWAA Hon. Secretary Mike Roberts on 8th July.

With the coronavirus restrictions affecting further 'face to face' WWAA committee meetings, the posts remained vacant until the committee met using Zoom facilities and accepted the acting appointments of:-

Alastair Burnett (Joint Site Manager for Hunts Pond Road) as the Acting Chairman, and,
My appointment (Joint Site Manager for Sarisbury Green) as the Acting Hon. Secretary.

AGM 2020

The WWAA AGM 2020 usually held in November each year has been postponed due to coronavirus restrictions. It will be delayed until January or February 2021. When the AGM is held, it will be necessary for members to appoint a new Chairman and new Hon Secretary at the meeting.

The appointment of a WWAA Chair or Hon. Secretary does not have to be a member of the management committee. It is sufficient that the applicant is a plot holder at one of the five WWAA sites. If any member at Sarisbury site wishes to consider serving as the Chairman or Hon Secretary of the WWAA to replace Bob and Mike, I would encourage members to discuss the matter and put their name forward to me as Acting Hon. Secretary at robin.green505@gmail.com. Job descriptions are available.

You can always keep up to date with WWAA developments by accessing the website maintained by Rona Neilson on '<https://www.wwaa.org.uk/new/>'.

WWAA Marketing and Display Initiatives

Owing to the emergency restrictions, plans for marketing allotment keeping and exhibiting produce were cancelled at:-

- Warsash Plant Sale Day, Victory Hall on Saturday 9th May 2020 ;
- Sarisbury 'Show on the Green' on Saturday 13th June.
- Sarisbury Horticultural Show, Community Centre on Saturday 8th August.
- Warsash Village Garden Show on Saturday 5th September.

However, subject to government restrictions, the Warsash Horticultural Committee has planned to hold the: -

- Warsash Village Garden Show on Saturday 4th September 2021, and,
- Warsash Plant Sale for 7th May 2021.

In the event you would like to take part and support the display or exhibit your own vegetables or flower arrangements in the Garden Show competition, you are very welcome. Details are available on the respective websites.

'Allotment Road' – Facebook Social Media Group

The membership of 'Allotment Road' on Facebook continues to grow. If you are unsure how to access our Facebook account but would like to be part of the social media group, please email Abigail for advice on abigail.attic@gmail.com.

Improvements to the Site - Management Projects

Corner Area – St Paul's Rd/Rose Bank Close.

In December 2019, David and I commissioned the Community Payback Scheme Operatives to clear the perimeter corner area closest to the rear of 26, St Paul's Road and Rose Bank Close.

The work consisted of clearing two disused sheds one of which was constructed with a low level corrugated asbestos roof and a mountain of other non combustible rubbish. The asbestos was removed for safe disposal by experts nominated by Fareham Borough Council. The other rubbish was cleared using a skip. However, there is further work to clear the area which will resume when the restrictions allow.

Water Board Inspection

The Southern Water Board has made a recent inspection of our water system under Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 and made some recommendations which have to be adopted. Contractors will undertake the work necessary to bring standpipes and taps up to the accepted Water Board standard.

Skip

A further skip will be delivered to the site hopefully in September for disposal of 'non combustible items', for example, plastic items which have built up on site – wood may be burned after 1st September, grasses and weeds composted and scrap metal disposed of to a scrap metal dealer by the managers.

Hedges in Allotment Road and Barnes Lane

Due to coronavirus restrictions, contracted hedge cutting by Fareham Borough Council along the external sides and tops of perimeter hedges in Allotment Road and Barnes Lane has been delayed but should be undertaken during August.

'Oh deer' – site security – close the gates on entry

There are too many occasions this summer when the site gates have been left insecure when no one is working on site - or left wide open after entering.

I regret that I need plot holders to close the entry gate behind them to keep out human trespassers and the latest intruder – a young Roe deer. On a search of the site, no other obvious entry point has been discovered by which the deer has entered the site other than open gates. Deer have voracious appetites and will eat vegetables and flowers which are not protected on a large scale and it is clearly not possible to protect everything we grow behind barriers. Deer proof fencing has been erected around 90% of the site to keep them out.

As well as the deer, two human intruders, who had entered via an open gate, were also discovered in suspicious circumstances some weeks ago by a plot holder.

Review of the Site

Fareham Borough Council Allotments officer Matt Wakefield will be making his annual visit to inspect the site on Tuesday 11th August. I am sure he will be pleased with our progress but a quick reminder of key issues for compliance with the tenancy agreement.

1. All plots **AND sheds** should have a notice clearly indicating their plot number.
2. Grass edges to path ways should be adequately maintained. Where plots have an adjacent hedge, this should be kept trimmed. (We are particularly concerned where grass edges have not been trimmed and maintained. Long grass often conceals holes or obstacles to trip the unwary. This could result in serious injury through trips and falls and I am anxious that persons who walk along grass pathways are kept safe.
3. Allotment plots should be clean, free of pernicious weeds and in a good condition, with at least 80% of the overall plot in cultivation.
4. Plots should not be used to deposit any refuse or unwanted waste.

Thank you

Finally, Martin, David and I in our site management roles would like to thank all of you who have provided practical support to us. It is much appreciated.

For our part, we will continue to do whatever we can to ensure Sarisbury Allotment site is a safe, secure, well maintained and a productive site for current and future plot holders.

Happy allotment keeping and best wishes,

Robin GREEN (Plot 32B) and Martin WHEELER (Plot 9a(1) and 10a(1))