

## Western Wards Allotment Association

### Salisbury Site Managers

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### **Salisbury Green Allotment Site – a winter season update**

Dear Plot Holder,

A Happier New Year 2021 to all Salisbury Green allotment tenants.

I have to say that it is unusual for Martin and me to publish a newsletter during the winter season, but there are various matters which we need to communicate to keep everyone fully informed and to provide the opportunity to participate in WWAA affairs.

#### **1. WWAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020**

During the summer of 2020, the WWAA management committee recognized that it would not be possible to hold an AGM for WWAA members, as we normally would do, due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. Alternatively, an 'on line' AGM 2020 will belatedly take place using 'Zoom' **on Thursday 25th February 2021 at 7.30pm**. If you would like to take part 'on line', I will ensure that you receive a 'Zoom' invitation by email. I already have been notified by a number of persons who wish to 'attend'.

Regardless of your participation, I will circulate to all Salisbury Green allotment members by email:-

- An AGM 2020 agenda,
- Draft minutes of the previous AGM held in November 2019,
- Published accounts for the year ended September 2020, and,
- A ballot paper to vote for proposed WWAA role candidates.

#### Resignations from the WWAA Management Committee 2020

During 2020, there were a number of resignations from the Management Committee, including the WWAA Chairman Bob Hughes, Hon. Secretary Mike Roberts and, on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020, the Hon. Treasurer Phil Pike.

An advertisement to fill the Chair and Secretarial vacancies has been circulated on the WWAA website last year. As a result, Martin and I are pleased to support the nomination of Julie Prescott, Salisbury Green site as WWAA Hon. Secretary and Avoen Perryman of Hunts Pond Road site as WWAA Management Committee Chairman. The Treasurer's vacancy will be advertised on the WWAA website with a closing date of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

#### Resignation of David Whitlock as second Site Manager, Salisbury Green during 2020

All will be aware that our second site manager, David Whitlock Plot 9B, resigned in April 2020 due to health issues and his post was immediately filled by Martin Wheeler 10a(1) as an Acting Site Manager until the AGM 2020.

Martin has done an outstanding job at Salisbury and I am pleased to support his permanent appointment at the AGM.

### Voting for Candidates

Committee appointments and site management posts are subject to election by members at the AGM. It has been agreed that 'electronic or postal ballot votes' may be accepted this year. I shall circulate a ballot paper to members as an opportunity to vote for proposed candidates. I would encourage you to support the candidates, particularly our own Julie Prescott (Plot 35a(2)) as WWAA Hon. Secretary and Martin Wheeler (Plot 9a1/10a(1)) as the Sarisbury Green second site manager.

My post as Site Manager will also be subject to re-election.

### **2. Plot Vacancies**

There are currently **no vacant plots** available on the Sarisbury Green site. We have 100% occupation of available plots. As I write, there are now 20 persons on the 'Sarisbury Allotment waiting list'. Accordingly, the waiting list has been closed until there are further vacancies occurring.

### **3. New Plot Holders**

We welcome to the Sarisbury Allotment Site **2 new plot holders** who have joined us during the autumn months:

- Steve Conibear – Plot 16b(1)
- Stuart Henderson – Plot 20a(1)

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

### **4. Southern Water Board Inspection – August 2020**

During July this year, the Southern Water Board (SWB) made a surprise inspection of the mains water facilities at Sarisbury Green allotment site and other WWAA allotment sites under the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 - Inspection of Water Installations.

During the inspection process and a critical review of Sarisbury facilities by the Inspector, arrangements were made for remedial work to be undertaken in the autumn to bring our 12 standpipes up to the SWB standards required. It has been necessary for each standpipe plumbing to be renewed and a 'stopcock' incorporated, pipes lagged and replacement surrounding woodwork fitted. The wood has received two protective coats of paint. The standpipes have now been permanently numbered 1 to 12 with plastic discs and a standpipe plan prepared for future reference. The remedial work has been paid from central WWAA funds rather than from the Sarisbury Green site budget.

This work has now been fully completed and approval given by the SWB.

### **5. Rubbish Clearance Project**

I am pleased to report that the allotment corner area adjacent to Rose Bank Close/St Paul's Road' has now been cleared of plastic rubbish and glass as part of a continuing rubbish clearance project. The rubbish filled a 12 cubic yard skip hired for the purpose, most of the scrap wood burned and 'a mountain' of scrap metal to be collected in due course by a dealer. This work has made a substantial difference to this location and it is hoped that the vacant space will be occupied by a further bee

hive enclosure managed by Paul Waterhouse Plot 1a(2) a trained bee keeper, subject to consultation and a risk assessment.

#### **6. 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).

#### **7. The WWA 'Trading Hut' at Hunts Pond Road**

John Parsons, the WWA Trading Hut manager, has given notice at a WWA management committee meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January that lockdown restrictions prevent him from re-opening as planned on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Subject to continuing lockdown restrictions, new potatoes, shallots, peas and beans should be on sale from 21st February.

When the Trading Hut resumes business, it will be open between 10am and 12noon on a Sunday. There may be a requirement for visiting customers to remain outside the shop, keep your distance and wear 'face masks'.

#### **8 Lockdown - COVID 19 Restrictions**

I am sure you will agree that keeping an allotment plot is a great way of getting exercise and growing food during this pandemic. As we are now in a national lockdown situation, we must adhere to COVID 19 regulations. Regulations permit taking exercise once per day by maintaining your plot (no limit on time spent). Guidance has been published by the National Allotment Society website. This can be accessed at <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news/covid19-information/> and is for your safety. Please take care and stay safe.

#### **9. COVID 19 Scams – a word of warning**

I have been advised by former Police colleagues and Trading Standards in Northamptonshire of a scam in relation to the COVID 19 vaccine. It appears that people are being sent a text message claiming to be from the NHS which informs the recipient "we have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine". The message ends with a link to a website mocked up to look like a legitimate NHS platform. The website requests personal details, including name, address and banking details.

The NHS will never ask for bank details, passwords or pin numbers and these requests should serve as 'instant red flags'. The vaccine brings us hope for an end to the pandemic and lockdowns, but there are some out there that only want to create even further misery by seeking to defraud. Beware!

#### **9. Avian Flu**

The Chief Veterinary Officers for England, Scotland and Wales have agreed to bring in new measures to help protect poultry and captive birds, following a number of cases of avian influenza in both wild and captive birds in the UK.

For those few poultry keepers at Sarisbury Green, there are new regulations which were introduced on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020, to adhere to new poultry

housing measures. This means that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers to keep their birds **indoors** and to follow strict bio security measures in order to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease.

The National Allotment Society has published advice, dated 4th December 2020, which can be found at <https://www.nsalg.org.uk/news/avian-flu-latest-measures/>.

Best wishes to all,

**Robin Green and Martin Wheeler**  
**Joint Site Managers**