Thank you for your interest in looking at the new website allotment newsletter. It’s planned to place regular updates here for both Marshfield Road and Church Lane sites, so keep checking via the Marshfield Community Council website.

**JANUARY 2022**

**Allotment Committee and Working Groups**

**The Community Council provides allotments at Marshfield Road and Church Lane. Management of the sites has been delegated to the Council’s Allotment Committee which, in turn, has passed the day-to-day management to two Working Groups, one for each site.**

**The Council would like to hear from any tenants interested in being co-opted to the Allotment Committee where the role of Chairperson is also to be decided.**

**Also, each Working Group has a person to lead the Group. Stephen Thornton leads the Church Lane Working Group but since \*Rachel Mattey stood down from this role for the Marshfield Road site, we are looking for a volunteer to take on this role.**

**If you are interested in becoming involved in the management of the allotments in any capacity – Committee Chairperson, Committee Member, Marshfield Road Working Group Lead, or a member of either Church Lane or Marshfield Road Working Groups – please contact the Clerk to the Council by email for more information at:** **marshfieldcommunitycouncil@gmail.com**

**JANUARY 2021**

**Marshfield Road Site Gate Lock**

As promised, I have purchased an interim lock whilst I get the other one fixed.  It’s a combination lock and you have to press in a button on the bottom of the lock also to release it. (having a pencil or similar to hand may help this).

Don’t forget to scramble the numbers on locking up!

This is only a temporary measure – it’s not ideal but at least the site is as secure as we can make it.

Many thanks

 Rachel

**Most tenants have been emailed the combination number but if you have any problems please contact Rachel Mattey or the Clerk.**

**AUGUST 2020**

**Update - Marshfield Road Site.**

The site is looking impressive, perhaps benefitting from us all having a little more time! All plots have now been filled and we are having to hold a waiting list.

**MAINTENANCE**

Could we please remind everyone that if for any reason you are unable to tend to your plot for a period that you may want to inform the committee. Plots can be inspected at any time to ensure good control of weeds, paths, and general tidiness. Valid reasons for nonattendance /maintenance will be considered. If you wish to give up your plot, again please inform the Community Council at your earliest convenience.

**SECURITY ON SITE**

Unfortunately, earlier on in the year we have had a few incidents of people wandering on site, with some not taking kindly to being questioned and even others picking fruit! With the increased incidence I have put up signs to inform that the site is not for public access. This should deter the innocent wanderers, but for site security it’s been proposed we all get into the habit of closing the gates as we enter and depart the site. This is common practice at Church Lane. Thank you to those who have started to do this. It is by no means mandatory and will not be monitored but may be useful as a general deterrent.

**WATER**

We did have a period with little or no water and there was a suggestion of paying to refill some of the tanks, but when the costs came in the committee decided against this, and preferred the option of continuing to improve the water storage onsite.

The current IBCs will be installed in due course. As ever we are relying on volunteers to complete this – so thank you in advance.

As always, we ask that if you have any thoughts on what should/could be done onsite to improve things then please get in touch by writing or emailing

Many thanks

**MARCH 2020**

To all Allotment Tenants

31st March 2020

Dear Allotment Holders,

Firstly, may I say I hope that you are all staying well in these unprecedented times. I know that in Marshfield, the community have really come together in order to support one another. I for one am glad that you all can still tend your allotments, however I have been concerned to hear about some of the behaviour that has been occurring:-

I understand that there has been some disquiet over the cutting back of the boundary hedge – with both rubbish and words thrown (from each side?) I find myself in the very difficult position of having to remind you all, to please act appropriately, responsibly and with consideration to other members of the allotment and the site itself. Abusive behaviour will NOT be tolerated.

As Chairman I investigated the complaint that was made some time ago and was certainly happy that the site was being well managed.

The boundary hedge was not removed but was cut back in order to remove the overgrowth encroaching onto the adjacent plots. The ivy and brambles along with all the rubbish that had been dumped there was also removed.

The existing hedge is expected to thicken as it grows again, as is the normal habit of a hedge. I agreed with Stephen and Rachel about the hedge maintenance including replanting and new hawthorn plants have also been added where necessary. Hedge management is also something that can only be done at certain times of year as I am sure as gardeners you already know.

Sadly, it has come to Gerry's attention that my response to investigating the complaint had not been conveyed back to the complainant. I can only apologise for this.

This work is routine maintenance and was therefore not put through the Allotment Committee, however, it was done after discussions between Marshfield Road and Church Lane Working Group members who manage the sites. I have been extremely happy how Steve and Rachel have been managing the allotments and especially all the success they have had in getting all the plots filled and the measures we have had to take to ensure that payment for such a valuable asset is collected.

If there is indeed further rubbish to be removed, please let Steve or Rachel know and they will look at ways of removing it and will appreciate any volunteers coming forward to do so. There is no reason why some types of rubbish that can be recycled cannot be taken home and put in the normal recycling bins to prevent excess rubbish build up on site.

We understand the concern about security which had previously been discussed in MCC meetings and I enquired about with the Working Groups and would value any further input for us to discuss at a future Allotment Committee meeting.

May I also take the opportunity to add that if people have strong opinions on how the site runs or have ideas on improvement, that they consider attending these meetings to help everyone, especially Stephen and Rachel who put themselves forward to take charge of managing the allotments.  (There were only four people who attended the last committee meeting with myself, namely Steve, Rachel, John Lucas and Paul Walkey!)

If there are any further issues, I am happy to arrange a time to meet you at the allotments.

Kind Regards,
Catherine Grady

Chairman of the MCC and the Allotment Committee

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**December 2019**

News from Marshfield Road Allotment Site:

**Working Group Volunteers**

It was a busy few months leading up to Christmas with the Volunteer Working Party helping to clear 2 vacant allotment sites in readiness for new tenants. One has already been allocated, the other nicely covered so should be less work for any prospective new allotmenteers! A big thank you to those that were able to help.

We are planning on calling for more volunteers in early spring to clear the raised beds just to the left of the entrance as these are now vacant plots. Sadly, the Brownies and Guides have felt unable to continue to maintain their areas due to time constraints. The raised beds need tidying and covering so that we may advertise them as available. Please watch out for the posters and emails calling for volunteers – any help would be very much appreciated.

In the meantime, If you may be able to help you can let us know by emailing marshfieldcommunitycouncil@gmail.com so that we can contact you later.

**Water Tanks**

In other news we are in the process of purchasing some more large water tanks to place in the centre of the site – in place of the blue barrels. These have proved successful in other areas on the site and should benefit us by holding a lot more water.

I wish you a very Happy New Year and happy planting

Rachel Mattey (Marshfield Road Site)