

Marston Moreteyne Parish Council

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

October 2021

PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

Marston Surgery

MMPC is mindful that the Covid pandemic had imposed tremendous strain and challenges throughout the NHS. Therefore, it was with some reluctance and regret that the council felt compelled to raise concerns of local residents with the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)* about the service being provided by the Marston Surgery especially the booking system.

*CCGs are groups of general practices (GPs) which come together in each area to commission the best services for their patients

Currently it is not possible to book advance appointments and all appointments have to be booked on the day by calling the Surgery at 0830 & hoping that some are left - in effect not dissimilar to a lottery. We have heard of residents who having attempted this at that time and having persisted through the lengthy telephone message find immediately afterwards that no appointments are available. We have heard of non-urgent email enquiries not being answered within the promised timescale. As a result, residents are giving up, putting off attending to their medical needs, either self-medicating or then choose to seek private medical care which belies the NHS free at the point of use principle.

We have seen in response to these concerns, responses from the Surgery online that solutions are being looked at - what are those solutions and what timescales are being worked to. We feel residents would appreciate a sense that things are going to get better.

Hugh Roberts – Chairman, Marston Moreteyne Parish Council.

Parish Council Meetings

Planning & Environment Committee	19 th October	7.00pm
Full Council	19 th October	7.30pm
Planning & Environment Committee	2 nd November	7.00pm
Finance & General Purposes Committee	2 nd November	8.00pm

Meetings are held at Marston Moreteyne VC School, Church End Site, Church Walk, Marston Moreteyne. Meeting agendas are available for viewing on the parish council's website at least 3 clear days prior to the meeting. www.marstonmoreteyne-pc.gov.uk

Allotment Tips

With a lot of the produce from the allotment having been cropped the beds are looking a little bare and attention is now moving to either preparation for winter or there is still plenty of time to plant more crops. The length of the day and reasonably warm air temperatures will allow for a good couple of months of active growing time.

The best crops to benefit from these conditions are the leafy greens such as Swiss Chard, Kale and Beetroot. This last vegetable is often underrated but among other benefits drinking the juice can produce an increase in stamina and eating beetroot affects the reduction of oxygen uptake, making exercise less tiring. Beetroot is easy to grow as it is quick to germinate from seed and has no natural enemies with pests only having a small nibble of the leaves. These leaves can also be harvested to use in salads.



Over winter crops such as spring cabbage and garlic can also be planted, and the warm ground conditions will allow them to establish before the cold winds and rains begin. The cabbage plants are an ideal crop to follow on from peas and runner beans as these plants actually add nitrogen to the soil which all brassicas need.

As mentioned before several of us have had their onion crops affected by White Rot. This is a disease this affects the base of the onion bulb and when you harvest them you will see white fluffy growth around the roots. This is a serious disease, and I am mentioning it because it remains in the soil for many years so you mustn't grow onions or related plants such as garlic or leeks in the same soil again. Do not dispose of any affected onions on your compost heap as this will also transfer the disease.

If you are not interested in growing any more crops this year then preparation of the ground, ready for next year, should be your priority. Remove the weeds and dig or rotovate to break up the surface then add a layer of well-rotted manure which will suppress any new weed growth. As an alternative the ground can be sown with a green manure such as mustard which once grown can be dug into the ground and will provide essential nutrients for next year's crops. A little effort now and you will reap the benefits next Spring

David Pryor Chairman, Marston Moreteyne Allotment Society

Marston Charities

Students in further education or apprentices in work who have been resident in Marston Moreteyne Parish for at least 12 months and are aged 18 years or over can make an application to the Marston Moreteyne Charities for grant aid to assist with the cost of their education.

Applications from students must be accompanied by a supporting letter from their tutor on university headed paper, or in the case of apprentices, a supporting letter from their employer on company headed paper.

The Charity will only accept applications from students and apprentices for a period of four years. Applications from sixth form students cannot be accepted by the Charity.

The closing date for applications is **30th November 2021**. Any application received after this date will not be approved.

Applications to be approved by the Charity Trustees will be accepted by John Clarke at 95 Bedford Road, Marston Moreteyne, Bedford, MK43 0LA,
Tel: 01234 767515. Email: johngclarke@outlook.com

John Clarke
Secretary to the Marston Moreteyne Charities

WELCOME BACK FUND

Parish Business Directory

Are you a business operating in the parish of Marston Moreteyne (includes Wood End, Upper & Lower Shelton & Wootton Green)?

Would you like to be listed in a new Business Directory?

Marston Moreteyne Parish Council has secured funding from the Government's Welcome Back Fund to create a new business directory.

Big or small businesses welcome to advertise at no cost.

For more information, or an application form please contact:

**Parish Clerk on 01234 743598 or email
h.trustam@btinternet.com**

Green Waste Collections

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has announced that it will be undertaking a garden waste collection during a two-week period in October (18th October and 30th October). The collection is to clear the backlog of waste in resident's garden bins before the winter period.



To facilitate this, crews will be redeployed from the weekly food waste collection to collect garden waste for the two weeks. This means that food waste will not be collected during this period.

Although, food waste is normally collected every week, these are smaller containers and much

quicker to collect. However, it takes two weeks for

CBC to get round to all 120,000 properties to collect garden waste. That's why there is a need to temporarily suspend the food waste collection for the full two-week period.

During the two-week window, residents are asked to place their garden waste bin, or their two Council issued bags at the kerbside instead of their food waste bins, from 7am. This should be done on the day residents normally have their recycling collected.

If you are unable to wait until for food waste collections to resume (from 1st Nov) to dispose of your food waste, CBC would recommend either home composting or disposal in your household waste.

A number of questions have been posed to CBC by the parish council on behalf of residents.

These Q&As can be found below:

1. When will green collections resume permanently?

We will keep Cllrs and residents informed, it is planned to carry out Christmas Tree Collections after Christmas and then recommence green waste collections in March.

2. When collections resume on 18th October 2021 for the short collection window will they take more than two bags?

We can only collect the waste that is in resident's garden bins, or the two Council issued green waste bags. Due to the high volume of garden waste expected we can't collect any additional garden waste and can't return if you forget to put out your bin or bags. Residents with excess garden waste and enough space in their gardens are encouraged to home compost. If they can't home compost then they can visit one of tidy tips, these are open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm, including bank holidays. Residents no longer need to book a slot (from Monday 27 September). Please do not refill your garden waste bin or the council issued garden waste bags as the contractor would not be able to return.

3. Will they take the garden waste in other bags as I have already filled my two green bags?

This is not planned due to the reasons detailed above. The garden waste bags issued by the Council are a certain size and design to ensure they can be appropriately handled by the collection crews.

4. If so what bags will they accept?

N/A – see answer above.

5. My green bin is full and very heavy – will they still take it?

Bins have an 80kg weight limit. Collection teams work within these limits to ensure the truck can lift the bin without damaging equipment or being lost. You should be able to reasonably move a bin to the collection point if it is within this limit.

6. I am concerned that garden waste will not be collected during Autumn – when I have a lot of leaves, is this likely to be the case?

Our contractor has a collection planned to clear one bin or the council issued bags over the two weeks commencing 18th October, this is on your usual recycling collection day you should leave your green garden waste bin or bags out for collection from 7am. It is planned to carry out Christmas Tree Collections after Christmas and then recommence green waste collections in March. Residents with excess garden waste and enough space in their gardens are encouraged to home compost. If they can't home compost then they can visit one of tidy tips, these are open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm, including bank holidays. Residents no longer need to book a slot (from Monday 27 September).

7. Will I get a rebate on my Council Tax bill?

Council Tax is set each year to meet our expected budget requirement. This covers a range of services from roads, buses, bins to adult social care and looking after vulnerable children. If there is a saving in one service, this is not refunded to residents, but it goes towards funding other council services that have incurred additional unexpected costs.

As collecting garden waste is not a legal requirement of councils, many councils have decided to charge a specific additional fee for those who want to have their garden waste collected. We do not do this; we aim to provide this service within our budget.

The suspension of garden waste collections is because we do not have enough HGV drivers. This is part of a national issue and not something we can quickly and easily fix.

It is unlikely that we will be able to resume collecting garden waste without incurring additional costs. For example, we may need to use more agency drivers which costs us more. So, whilst it might seem like no service means no cost, this isn't going to be the case.

8. Visits to Household Waste Recycling Centres is restricted to one visit every two weeks – can this be relaxed for garden waste?

This limit was removed, and booking is not required from 27th September.

9. Why should I / We / CBC pay a contractor for a service that is not being provided?

Please see Q7.

10. Why are there no contingency plans?

The current suspension of garden waste collections is because we do not have enough HGV drivers. This is part of a national issue and not something our contractor has been able to fix quickly and easily. This has been covered in the national press and is affecting several sectors like retail and many other Local Authorities. We know this is disappointing with many people working in the garden at this time of year. We are working with our contractor to reinstate garden waste collections in the spring. There has been a campaign with the Council and Contractor to promote the vacant driver positions, more agencies have been engaged, pay has been increased and there are trainee drivers ready to take tests but unfortunately these are delayed due to license processing and the backlog of available test dates.

11. Why couldn't we get less regular garden waste collections in the short term (say one per month)?

Please see Q6.

12. My garden waste is beginning to ... stink / get infested / has all sorts of creepy crawlies...etc...is there anything I can do?

We would suggest if you have been unable to empty the garden waste in your bin into other containers or bags and take it to the Household Waste Recycling Centres or home compost it then it is planned to clear one garden waste bin or the council issued garden waste bags over the two weeks commencing 18th October, this is on your usual recycling collection day you should leave your green garden waste bin or bags out for collection from 7am. If you have placed the correct material into the bin or bags, the contractor should empty these.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

MARSTON MORETEYNE

Remembrance Sunday this year sees a relaxation in safety measures from a COVID 19 perspective. In addition, in consultation between all interested parties - namely Marston Moreteyne Parish Council and local representatives of the Royal British Legion - the format of the acknowledgement of Remembrance will change this year. There will be an acknowledgement for Remembrance commencing at the Village War Memorial followed by a church service at St Mary's Church.

This year, the acknowledgement of Remembrance will be held at The War Memorial on Bedford Road, commencing at 10.30 am and followed by a church service at St Mary's Church at 11.30 am.

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS For the first time in two years, youth organisations are encouraged to attend as in the past. This includes the Lidlinton Cadet Force who will play a similar role as they have previously done so. They are also asked to provide Parade Marshal assistance as shown below. In addition, all other youth organisations are invited to attend. Wreaths and wooden crosses are available from John Clarke. He can be contacted on 01234 767515.

PROGRAMME FOR SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2021

Time	Event	Remarks
1020	The following representatives report to The Memorial: Cllr Hugh Roberts – Parish Council Chairman Mr Eric Robinson MBE – Bedfordshire County President RBL Mr Alan Gilmore – Branch Chairman, RBL Marston Moretaine Mr John Clarke – Branch Standard Bearer	
1030	Those parading assemble at Reynes Close and march to The Memorial Residents assemble at The Memorial	Parade Marshal (Lidlinton Cadets)
1053	Introduction	Cllr Hugh Roberts
1056	Reading The Names of The Fallen	Mr Eric Robinson MBE
1059	The Exhortation	Mr Alan Gilmore
1059	The Last Post	PA System
1100	Two Minutes Silence	ALL
1102	Reveille	PA System
1103	Kohima Epitaph	Mr Alan Gilmore
	Laying of Wreaths: Chairman of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council Bedfordshire County President RBL Marston Moreteyne Branch Chairman Youth Organisations Others wishing to lay a wreath or other appropriate Emblem	
1110	Poetry Readings	
1115	Disperse and Form Up in Reynes Close to march to St Mary's Church	Parade Marshal (Army Cadets)
1125	All seated in church	ALL
1130	Church service led by Revd Gill Webb	ALL

ROAD CLOSURES AND POLICE PRESENCE

A request for road closures and a police presence will be asked for by the Parish Council in due course.

Neurodiverse Community Garden



If you live in the Marston Moreteyne Parish
and have Autism, ADHD or learning difficulties,
join us for an online meeting to discuss
an exciting new group starting in the spring.

Wednesday 10th November 8pm



E-mail marstoncommunitygarden@hotmail.com

For the link or more information



Vale Community Church

... Leaving a trace of Jesus everywhere we go

Dear Village,

We trust that all of you have been able to enjoy some greater freedom this summer and met up with family and friends, who maybe you haven't seen for a long time! It has been a long wait hasn't it, but gradually we are beginning to get used to what may be the new normal!!

Here at Vale CC. we have met during the summer on a Sunday morning at Marston Moreteyne VC School – Forest End Site, for a 10.30am service. Mainly this has been held in the school hall – due to uncertain weather conditions, and we expect that from September onwards this will continue. Chairs are spaced, doors and windows kept open, hand sanitizer is available and mask wearing is optional, as we try to be as Covid aware and safe as possible.

If you would like to meet us on any Sunday morning, you would be very welcome and there is no booking needed or advance notice. The service is informal, all age and drinks are served at the close.

The Tuesday afternoon '**Friendship Group**' - run by one of our members, has re-started. Here is an opportunity for all those retired in the village to meet at 15.00 in the lounge at Manor Court. There is no agenda, just a cuppa, chat and a very warm welcome to all. For more information, please contact Sandra on 01234 766378.

As we are currently, without a Pastor the church is led by a five-person Leadership Team, details of whom are on the church website.

The leadership team and resources are available to you at any time –

Website: www.valecc.org.uk - for all you need to know about Vale Community Church

YouTube channel: valecommunitychurch

Our services are now being filmed and put out on YouTube on the Sunday night / Monday. This means that folk not able to make the actual service, can view the service, during the week.

Facebook: valecommunitychurch

With Greetings and Best Wishes from all at Vale Community Church,