

Volunteer Gardeners urgently needed - Malmesbury

Abbeyfield Burnham Court is a sheltered housing complex in Malmesbury; a block of 50 flats which surround a courtyard garden. Unfortunately as most of the residents are elderly they do not have the ability to look after the garden properly and it is looking very forlorn after the winter.

We would be hugely grateful if any students might be able to spare some time to come on a voluntary basis to help us sort it all out and get it looking lovely for the summer when the elderly residents sit outside and enjoy the sunshine.

We have a courtyard garden with a central area for residents to sit and enjoy the sun, approx 80 x 50 yds. There are various pathways throughout, surrounded by laurel hedges. There is a central obelisk with planting with a small seating area around it, and a pond on a paved area that is now defunct with small shrubs around this area. There are various sized lawned areas between the paths.

The whole garden has been neglected as the residents who used to look after it have now left. So we really need extra hands to help with weeding, pruning, planting and even planning.

Current issues:

- The hedges have brambles growing through them and need trimming and weeding.
- The defunct pond needs emptying and a future plan for it needs to be designed and put in place.
- We have got various sized pots for the seating area that need planting.
- Various shrub roses need pruning (quite soon!).
- Other small shrubs need maintenance.
- The lawned areas are now mainly moss and weeds so need a future plan, as residents are very unsteady walking on it.
- We have two large planters by the front door, both box plants have died and the planters need replanting.

We can source a certain amount of material needed, but our main priority is to find some help/extra hands to help us look after this garden.

I'd be very happy to chat to interested students and we can show them the garden at any time and we can provide lifts if needed.

For further information please contact Frances Chalk frances.chalk@yahoo.com