



# Sustainable Marshfield

Monthly Newsletter 8 September 2020

*We are a local group aiming to raise awareness, encourage discussion and stimulate practical action to ensure we develop into the future as a thriving and sustainable community that responds positively to the big environmental and social challenges facing us all.*



**Local Enterprise** A positive side-effect of this year's pandemic, which forced many to work from home or seek alternative sources of income, has been an upsurge in local enterprise. Below we highlight three recent examples, though there are many more. Please let us know about these and we will gladly promote them on Sustainable Marshfield's Facebook page or in this monthly e-newsletter as space allows. We just ask that you include a sentence explaining how the service or product contributes to a more sustainable and resilient future for us all.



**Marshfield Market Garden** Have you noticed the veg shop that appeared in an old blue horse box trailer just over the A420, on West Littleton road? This is Andrew Kirby's first year growing and selling vegetables for our local community. He hopes to provide year-round, high-quality, freshly picked produce – no pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilisers, etc. The produce looks vibrant! The shop is open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-5pm. Due to COVID only card payments are accepted for the time being. An online ordering system, with collection or home delivery available, is in the pipeline.

**Vintage and Brown** This high street shop is under new management by Jane Ashton who grew up in Marshfield and has returned to us. They've set up a space dedicated to local artists and suggest locals come and have a browse then nip across to Sweetapples Teashop for some cake! They are also supporting the local charity Friends of Huck by selling original paintings by Chris Hucklebridge. All proceeds go to the charity which was set up by Chris's son before he succumbed to bowel cancer. Along with other community-minded village shops, V&A is clearly intending to support our local economy.



**Bond's Wood Farm Regenerative Agriculture** A small farm in The Shoe producing quality, high welfare food, planting 100's of saplings each year and working with nature to increase the biodiversity and local ecosystem. Selling eggs from pastured chickens. Rare breed sausages, bacon and joints available mid-September. Next year will include a pesticide and herbicide free 'No-Dig' market garden, selling fresh salad and vegetables, potentially veg boxes. Contact Mark 07764479356 [m4markos@hotmail.com](mailto:m4markos@hotmail.com)



**Keep it local** Let's remember many established businesses only survive and thrive with our support. It is sad to note that Marshfield Vets in the High Street has just announced a permanent closure. Take a fresh look at 10 pages of local business ads in the centre pages of All Around Marshfield. A final thought; on-line shopping may be cheap and convenient, but it's squeezing the life out of our independent shops, local jobs and even the chance to say 'hello' to real people in the village!



**The quiet mobility revolution** More Electric Vehicles appear on the streets of Marshfield each month – over ten at the last count! This transition to a local carbon mobility future brings local knowledge that could be shared with those thinking of making the transition. Let us know your experiences. Maybe we can set up an advice forum on Facebook, have a Zoom surgery or even consider communal charging points



**Reduce, reuse, recycle the Marshfield way...** Here are three local initiatives:



**Crisp packet recycling:** The UK Terracycle scheme has removed 36 million packets from the waste stream. We are taking part as a collector and have contributed over 30,000 packets. Keep bringing yours to the Country Stores. It also raises income for local sustainability projects.

**Community composting:** Composting schemes have been set up at St Mary's Church, the Community Centre and now at the Primary School. Green 'waste' including from the Blue Heart verges is being actively composted for local use. How's your home heap going?



**Street recycling** There is a tradition in the village of putting unwanted goods outside homes for others to pick up for free or a donation. It's a great and simple example of reuse! *Let us know your actions for reducing the ever-growing mountain of waste facing society.*



**Plant a tree in 23** Give some consideration to planting trees in the next few years. Now is the time to collect seeds for planting in pots to then plant out after 2 years. We have some free deep plant pots for any under 12s who want to plant some this autumn, or £1 each for any adults who want to join in. Instructions given. Contact: [news@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:news@sustainablemarshfield.org)

### Spotlight on trees with a story to tell - Nigel de Berker

Pedunculate oak is a keystone species, providing habitat and sustenance to many forms of wildlife, including hundreds of insect species. The image shows three common types of oak gall produced by minute cynipid wasps. The galls do not seriously harm the tree and provide a safe environment in which the insect's eggs hatch and develop as larvae, feeding upon the tissue of the leaf and acorn. In autumn the galls fall and the larvae overwinter on the ground to emerge in spring. Cynipid wasps have alternate female and male-female generations, but that's another subject...



**Bronze bats** St Mary's Church has achieved Eco Church Bronze Award status after a year of sustainability actions. By way of a practical celebration, a moth and bat evening was run by local ecologist Martin Smith. Five bat species were identified in the churchyard: common pipistrelle, noctule, serotine, natterer's and soprano pipistrelle. All feed off the growing moth population living among the flowers and grasses. Visit the churchyard and mini flower festival on the theme 'Caring for Creation' during Heritage Open Days from 11-20 September.



**Verges update** The ten Blue Heart areas around the village are being scythed and neatened up for the winter. We are reviewing progress of this local initiative to help arrest the dramatic decline in pollinating species so starkly highlighted in the State of Nature report [State of Nature 2019 UK](#) We appreciate there may be a variety of views on this scheme and welcome a thoughtful dialogue on its development aimed at creating value to nature and people.

### Diary dates:

- **Green Drinks on-line** will be at 7.30pm for an hour on the **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September** via Zoom.
- **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 'Marshfield: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow'**. Sustainable Marshfield are putting together a day to celebrate our village to be held at the Community Centre. We will plan activities around Covid restrictions, including local apple pressing, old and new photographs, our thoughts and creations during Covid, plus visions for Marshfield in the future. Details to follow.
- **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Sustainable Marshfield AGM** on Zoom at 7.30pm

#### **Growing Sustainable Marshfield membership with your help.**

We want to grow our free membership, connecting up households in and around Marshfield who are interested in taking local action for sustainability. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join.

Email your name, address and phone to: [membership@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:membership@sustainablemarshfield.org)

All other correspondence to [news@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:news@sustainablemarshfield.org)

Join over 300 people on the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for daily updates.