



## Sustainable Marshfield Monthly E-Newsletter 2 – March 2020

*We are a new 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.*

### Thank you! 16,000 crisp packets collected in Marshfield and counting...

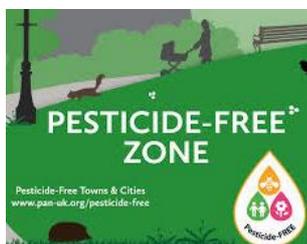
Thanks to everyone continuing to deliver empty crisp packets to The Country Stores and other collection points. We're diverting waste from landfill/incineration, sending a message to industry about packaging AND earning cash (£100 so far) to directly support local projects. Keep them coming in please. Check out the scheme here: [Crisp Recycling Scheme](#)



**Transport** TravelWest consultation (closing 15 March) is a draft plan for our region's bus strategy. It considers options to improve the bus network and encourage bus usage, including proposals to create faster, more reliable and more accessible services across the West of England. The goal is to see bus passenger numbers double by 2036. Add your voice by following this link: [bus consultation](#)



**Wildflowers verges in Marshfield** Over the coming months we will see the results of wildflower reseedling activities in Sheepfair Lane, Little End and the Community Centre. Marshfield Primary School is also embarking on a wildflower meadow project in the school grounds. With support from the community, the children will be turning a muddy, unsightly bank into a beautiful area of wildflowers. This is a great way to attract wildlife and learn about the importance of pollinators! Please contact the school office if you would like to be involved [admin@marshfieldprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@marshfieldprimary.org.uk)



**Pesticide-free village?** As part of an effort to understand (and hopefully reduce) the use of pesticides around the village, we've learned that StreetCare (South Glos) currently uses glyphosate-containing products for control of annual and perennial weeds in our streets. Treatment is carried out using approved non-residual translocated herbicides by trained staff. We wonder if there would be village interest in exploring becoming a pesticide-free zone? Find out more at [Pesticide Action Network](#)

Did you know that **Marshfield Parish Council** keeps a regular spot on their agenda for Sustainable Marshfield? The Council also has a Climate/Environment Policy Statement which it plans to align with the South Glos Climate Emergency Policy. We aim to collaborate on all sustainability-related actions. Council meetings are held in the Tolzey Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7.15pm. All are welcome to attend. See the [Parish Council Agenda and Minutes](#).





**And the Oscar goes to. . . !** The Bristol Diocese of the Church of England has produced a short film promoting Eco Church. Check it out at [Eco Church at St Mary's film](#). It features our church, it's Kid's Club, the school and Central and Country Stores. Well done Marshfield! We hope it will help inspire other churches into action.

**EcoBricks** Don't ditch all the single-use soft plastic packaging that's become so much a part of our convenience lives. Marshfield Primary School is appealing for EcoBricks to fill gabions as part of the refurbishment of its amphitheatre in their grounds. This could be your chance to make positive use of all that annoying waste plastic. Follow this guidance on [How to make an ecobrick](#). There's also a chance to sponsor a gabion. Further details from the school at [admin@marshfieldprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@marshfieldprimary.org.uk)



**Beware the energy greenwashers** According to Chippenham-based Green Energy, lots of energy suppliers claim to offer 100% renewable electricity. Many don't buy enough power from renewable generators to match what their customers actually use. Instead, they buy power from the wholesale market (which comes from a mix of sources, including fossil fuels) and use a loophole to sell it as renewable. Check out truly green suppliers using the [Greenwashing index](#)

## Some sustainability activity dates for your diary:

### March

**Sat 14 Annual WI Community Litter Pick.** Meet at 10.00am by the Bus Shelter at the top of Weir Lane. Wear gloves and suitable clothing. Black bags, hoops and grabbers provided.

**Thu 19 Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks** at the Lord Nelson from 7.30pm  
Join us at our monthly informal gathering over a drink to chat through issues and ideas

**Sat 28 Trees in our surroundings, a guided walk with Nigel de Berker**  
10.30-12.00am Starting at the Community Centre the route includes the churchyard and wooded areas around the playing fields. Nigel has given our tree planting group valuable advice and practical support. He's worked with trees since the 1970s when he was with the Royal Parks, National Trust and Kew. An independent arboricultural consultant, his particular interest is ancient trees and protection of trees in developments. Nigel and his wife, Joy, raised their family in Marshfield.

### April

**Sat 11 In Harmony with Nature - Farming and Gardening the Biodynamic Way**  
As part of Easter celebration activities at Marshfield Community Centre, from 11.00 to 12.30 there is a presentation by farmer Stuart Cragg and gardener Gabriel Kaye about the biodynamic approach to growing that is climate and nature-friendly sustainable, regenerative, and organic agriculture.  
Learn about using simple farm-made preparations as activators for soil and plant health, activating the natural balances on farm and garden, respecting the role of nature and animals in fertility and 'pest' control. Books/information available on the day from the Biodynamic Association.  
For more information contact Joy de Berker [joydeberker@msn.com](mailto:joydeberker@msn.com) Tel: 01225 891730

**Thu 16 Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks** at the Lord Nelson from 7.30pm  
Join us at our monthly informal gathering over a drink to chat through issues and ideas.

**Growing Sustainable Marshfield membership with your help.** During 2020 we plan to grow our free membership, connecting up as many households in and around Marshfield that are interested in 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)