



Monthly Newsletter 7 August 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.



The heat really is on... The last day of July 2020 saw a temperature of 38.7C in Cambridge. This was the third highest recorded in the UK since records began in 1884. The Met Office annual report has just been released [Met office report](#). It highlights a range of climate related challenges for the UK. Last year was the twelfth hottest recorded in the UK. Mike Kendon, lead author of the report, said "Our report shows climate change is exerting an increasing impact on the UK." The emerging science reinforces this fast emerging reality and the need for us all to take positive action in responding to the Climate Emergency.



The Climate Emergency and Marshfield Hundreds of local authorities and parish councils have passed Climate Emergency declarations and are taking action to help accelerate the transition to a net zero carbon future. South Gloucestershire Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019.

Avon Local Councils Association organised a workshop on 30th July for parish councils to explore how to take appropriate leadership on this issue which impacts on every citizen. Representatives from Sustainable Marshfield and Marshfield Parish Council took part online and will discuss ways to take forward this agenda in the coming months.



Future Generations Do you ever think about the legacy of environmental damage and unsustainable living we are passing on? The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to 'future-proof' all programmes and policies. A commissioner can enquire into any issues and reports twice a year on implications. It is well worth looking up gov.wales.

Why is it that we in England have never heard of it? An enquiry to our MP asking what the UK government is doing in terms of monitoring the value of such an Act, and the prospect of it being introduced UK wide, has not so far produced an answer. Possibly if more people made a similar enquiry we might be able to help move the whole country in this direction? luke.hall.mp@parliament.uk

Anyone for scything? With growing interest in traditionally managed grassland and rewilding verges and gardens, has come a revival of scything. It's a healthy form of outdoor exercise and silent! At the Eco Church workdays you may have seen beautiful wooden Austrian scythes (ideal for large areas) used by the Cotswold wardens and more modest but effective modern scythes. To maintain the wildflower verges around the village we're going to need scythers. For more information: scytheassociation



Lots of us have spent our money more locally during the pandemic and supported local businesses. CoGo can help you find positive impact local businesses to support and help you track your carbon footprint as you shop. You can also get help with how to switch your lifestyle with a personalised ethical recommendation engine and more. Download the <https://cogo.co> app today and see how it can help.



Community orchard? Do you own land where a community orchard/ forest garden could be established? Or areas suitable for hedge/ copse regeneration? The International Tree Foundation has been pioneering community-led forest and woodland restoration since 1922. Every year grants are available for small-scale community projects. Sustainable Marshfield would like to apply but we need community-minded landowners. The closing date for applications is 31 August. Contact us asap to develop a plan [internationaltreefoundation](http://internationaltreefoundation.org)



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

Mature small-leaved limes are uncommon in the wild. Some very old trees feature in ancient woodlands. The small-leaved lime in St. Mary's churchyard has a distinctive, swollen base. The tree looks to be about 150 years old and is therefore still relatively youthful. The species supports a wide range of moths and other insects. In midsummer its profuse, fragrant flowers provide a rich source of nectar and pollen for bees.



Earth Overshoot Day is 22 August, three weeks later than 2019

Each year, Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity has used all the biological resources that Earth can renew during the entire year. Humanity currently uses 60% more than can be renewed – or as much as if we lived on 1.6 planet. COVID-19 caused humanity's Ecological Footprint to contract, demonstrating that shifting resource consumption patterns in a short timeframe is possible. However, true sustainability that allows all to thrive on Earth can only be achieved by design, not disaster. [Overshoot Day](http://overshootday.org)



Hedgehog alert A quarter of Britain's native mammals are "at imminent risk of extinction", according to the scientists who have compiled the nation's first official Red List of endangered species, just released [Red List for Britain's Mammals](http://redlist.org)

The 11 mammals include red squirrel, water vole, hazel dormouse and hedgehog. We can do our bit to make our gardens hedgehog friendly, not least by stopping the use of garden pesticides, including slug pellets.



This **common frog** was hopping out of harm's way during recent churchyard conservation mowing work at St Mary's. This one is light coloured (colour varies) but see the characteristic 'dark mask' behind its eye. Though they are the most frequently seen frog in the UK their habitat is diminishing. Retaining undisturbed areas are vital for these and other reptiles to find some sanctuary. [Hop to it: caring for the common frog](http://hop-to-it.org)

Diary dates:

- **Green Drinks on-line** will be at 7.30pm for an hour on the **Thursday 20th August** via Zoom. Further details will be emailed out and added to the Sustainable Marshfield Facebook Page.
- **Parish Council meetings** are held every two weeks via Zoom. If you would like to attend virtually, contact The Parish Clerk marshfieldpc@btconnect.com. The next meeting is on 4th August at 7pm. Meetings are usually for around 45 minutes.

Growing Sustainable Marshfield membership with your help.

During 2020 we plan 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

All other correspondence to news@sustainablemarshfield.org

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