

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.



Marshfield Community Apple Pressing Day

Did you know that 90% of garden apples are simply left to rot? Once a highly valued home crop, so often these days apples are left on the tree, drop to the ground with the first autumn wind and are left to fight it out with the lawnmower. What a waste! To encourage a re-valuing of homegrown apples we are running an apple pressing day at Marshfield Community Centre Green on **Sunday 11th October**. Contact Louise Wirick on 01225 892195 for more details and to book a 30-minute session to produce your very own fresh apple juice.



Street lights go green! The street lights in Marshfield are to be replaced by LEDs (Light Emitting Diode) in 2021 to help reduce energy costs and cut carbon emissions.

This is part of South Gloucestershire Council's programme to convert all 29,500 street lights and 3,500 lit road traffic signs across the district. They currently cost £1.5 million in energy bills and create in the region of 8,000 tonnes of CO₂

Through this change annual energy consumption in Marshfield is set to fall from 60,000 kwh to under 10,000 kwh. Carbon emissions will reduce from 31 to 5 tonnes. The main change residents will notice is a shift from an orange to a white glow. Further information is available from Marshfield Parish Council.

New £5,000 grant for home energy efficiency improvements

If you're a homeowner or residential landlord you can apply for a **Green Homes Grant** voucher towards the cost of making energy efficient improvements to your home. These include insulation to reduce your energy use and installing low-carbon heating to lower the amount of carbon dioxide produced. Vouchers will cover two-thirds of the cost of eligible improvements, up to a maximum government contribution of £5,000. If you, or someone in your household, receive certain benefits you may be eligible for a voucher covering 100% of the cost of the improvements. Check out the government site: [green-homes-grant-scheme](https://www.gov.uk/government/schemes/green-homes-grant) BUT, time is short. You must redeem the voucher and ensure improvements are completed by 31 March 2021.



Have you signed South Gloucestershire's Climate Emergency Pledge?

In July 2019, South Gloucestershire Council declared a Climate Emergency. You can show your own commitment to the Climate Emergency and to Nature Recovery by signing the [climate emergency pledge](https://www.southgloucester.gov.uk/cem). This link also provides top tips on how to contribute towards reducing our household footprint.

Sustainable thinking on the BBC Sustainability is such a big subject covering so many areas that it can be quite overwhelming at times. So you may find the BBC's bite-size videos, typically 3 or 4 minutes long, a great way to seek answers to many sustainability questions such as: Is your pension contributing to climate change? Are you suffering from eco-anxiety? Can fashion ever be sustainable? You can find all of these via the BBC website: [BBC sustainable thinking](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56882888)





Helping hedgehogs This year the British hedgehog was officially classified as vulnerable to extinction. They need our help. Tony Kerr has built two hoghouses to protect our prickly friends. His home hoghouse is built from timber offcuts made into a box with a covered entrance ramp and compost bag to keep the rain out. These are big enough for the resident to bring in leaves to build a comfy nest. Dimensions were taken from [giveahogahome](http://giveahogahome.com). The allotment hoghouse is a shelter of bricks and tiles buried under dead branches and leaves also with a plastic cover. A small action to help keep more of our wildlife alive and flourishing. There are plenty of slugs and snails to eat!



Looking ahead to Spring This autumn, thanks to a Parish Council donation, we are planting a few native spring bulbs (wild daffodil, bluebell, snowdrop, snakeshead fritillary, lesser celandine and wood anemone) on village sites. Some of our delicate native spring bulbs are becoming less common or have been altered by hybridizing with cultivated varieties. Taking advantage of sunshine and longer days, they have a small window of time in which to grow, flower, be pollinated and reproduce. By summer, most are

dormant so they are called *spring ephemerals*. But their arrival cheers us. Each year we hope to add to the village collection. If you want to plant your own, here's one possible source: <https://wildnativebulbs.co.uk>



Supporting Local Enterprises We are happy to profile local enterprises that are part of the 'local produce' sustainability jigsaw. Gill Gooding let us know about her local meat delivery service from a third generation family farm based between Marshfield and Colerne. *"Free delivery to Marshfield on a Thursday. All livestock born and raised here, we are all about supplying our local produce to local people. Please consider supporting local and give us a try"*. Tel: 07843 413139 Email: oaksfarm.colerne@gmail.com



Fungal Facts There are 15,000 species present in the UK. Pictured are shaggy inkcap or Lawyer's Wig seen in a local field. Fungi get their nutrients and energy from organic matter, rather than photosynthesis like plants. It is often just the fruiting bodies, or 'mushrooms', that are visible to us, arising from an unseen network of tiny filaments called 'hyphae'. These fruiting bodies produce spores for reproduction. Fungi play an important role within our ecosystems, by recycling nutrients from dead or decaying organic matter and providing food and shelter for different animals. See: [Fungal Facts](#)

October Diary dates:

- **Sunday 11th Sustainable Marshfield Community Apple Pressing Day**
See article in news sheet
- **Wednesday 21st 6.00pm:** A University of Bath for Policy Research (IPR) online public lecture discussing food and social resilience with Professor Tim Lang. Details: [Food and social resilience](#)
- **Thursday 22nd 7.30pm Sustainable Marshfield Online AGM** on Zoom
Join us online for an update on activities during the group's first year. We will also elect a committee to help organise activities for the coming year. Details will be emailed to members.

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

All other correspondence to news@sustainablemarshfield.org

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