



Sustainable Marshfield Monthly Newsletter 5 June 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.



Bee friendly in Marshfield?

Monmouth has just been declared the UK's first Bee Town. This accolade was achieved through local residents and organisations encouraging pollinating plants in gardens and verges, reducing the use of pesticides and an active beekeeping programme. In Marshfield new beehives have recently been installed. Our Blue Heart verges with their blaze of



wildflowers for pollinating insects all help. You could immediately become a mason bee guardian in your household. See [mason bees](#) Dare we dream of being declared a Bee friendly Village? If you have thoughts, contact fellow local bee enthusiasts at: marshfieldcommunitybees@gmail.com



Managing verges for biodiversity

The verges at the Community Centre are currently full of wild flowers. These were seeded last year as part of the Blue Heart initiative to encourage more pollinating plants. Good management is really important. Early cutting dates reduce floral diversity over time by encouraging vigorous growth of long-lived species that tend to overtake. Late cutting also reduces floral



diversity through build-up of dead vegetation over the soil that wildflower seeds can't penetrate. Even worse however is no cutting at all. **Cutting from mid-July until the end of September** helps to maximise species diversity. Find out more here: [Good verge guide](#). Sustainable Marshfield is working with the Parish Council to encourage good management guidelines for verges across the Parish.

Birds on our patch Expert eyes are spotting birdlife around Marshfield on a daily basis. A list across the seasons drawn up by local ornithologists is inspiring and motivating. You can find it on the Birds of South Gloucestershire web site [Birds of Marshfield](#). Here are a couple of entries from May including a first for Marshfield:

*Monday 11th A surprise **Wood Sandpiper** was both seen and heard when it was disturbed from Doncombe Brook on Ringswell Common. It was seen to fly towards Cloud Wood. This is the first sighting of this species for the Marshfield Patch.*

Thursday 28th Combined reports: Spotted Flycatcher in the Shire Valley (Pete Coslett). Elsewhere, three Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk, two Common Buzzard, two Raven, at least ten Skylark, seven Swallow, eight House Martin, seven Blackcap, five Common Whitethroat, Nuthatch, Yellow Wagtail, nine Corn Bunting and Yellowhammer.



Better walking and cycling. Roads have been quieter during lockdown, though that's beginning to change. SGC wants to know if over this time we've noticed areas needing safety improvements, especially as this fits with their intention to increase walking and cycling in South Gloucestershire. If you have any ideas for Marshfield put them to the Parish Council/ Ward Counsellor and ask for their support in submitting through the link [SGC transport improvements](#)



Measure your carbon footprint

Have you ever wondered what the carbon footprint of your household is and what you could do to reduce it? The committee of Sustainable Marshfield were lucky enough to get a preview of a new website that helps you do just that. It is now live for everyone to use for free. <https://zero.giki.earth> will guide you through everything from your utility bills to health and beauty purchases. It also provides tips on how to reduce your footprint.

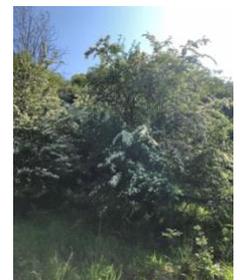
Why not give it a go and let us know your experience? Maybe we'll set up a Zoom community to compare notes.



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

This veteran, healthy, storm-damaged field maple, likely at least 100 years old, stands on the woodland edge, near the public footpath between Motcombe Farm and Oakford Lane. Field maple is a native species. It has strong regenerative capacity and is a frequent component of old hedgerows and coppice woods, commonly associating with ash and hazel. The trunk swellings are normal features of ageing.

'Scrub' is more than tangled plant growth – if thoughtfully managed it is a valuable wildlife habitat. Left alone, scrub becomes woodland but it can be cultivated for its own unique biodiversity value. Varied shrub species support many creatures while scrub edges can be rich in flowering plants. Around Marshfield diminishing areas of scrub are found in field corners, green lanes and commonland. Guidelines for good management from the RSPB can be found here [managing scrub](#).



Some of the joys of May around Marshfield.....



Diary dates: In line with Government advice, all local gatherings with a sustainability theme have been cancelled or postponed for the foreseeable future.

- **Green Drinks on-line** will be at 7.30pm for an hour on the **Thursday 18th June** via 'Zoom'. Further details will be emailed out and added to the Sustainable Marshfield Facebook Page.

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.

**** STOP PRESS ** VERY GOOD NEWS !! ****

Marshfield Community Land Trust is delighted to have received planning permission for the development of affordable housing for rent on a rural exception site at the site to the east of Marshfield.