



# Sustainable Marshfield

Monthly Newsletter 6 July 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.*



**We are not alone...** There is a growing network of community groups near us taking action on the climate and nature emergency. Sustainable Marshfield is an active member of the Gloucestershire Climate Emergency Community Engagement Group. For details of local groups and their activities go to [community engagement groups](#).



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

The image shows our beautiful Green Lane public footpath. It is fringed with field maple, ash, wych elm, English elm, crab apple, grey poplar, hawthorn, hazel, along with native woody shrubs, dogwood, blackthorn, spindle, wild privet and others. The large, ivy-clad tree on the left is an old ash pollard. It has a trunk diameter of about 1.3m. It may be over 200 years old. Let us know about your favourite local tree.

**Do you buy second hand books...?** and are you trying to avoid Amazon and all their linked businesses? World of books is a UK ethical business that ticks all the right sustainability boxes. It is promoting re-use of good condition books at home and at school. It works with charities, buying books from them and securing their re-use wherever possible. Unwanted books are sent for recycling. Literacy and the enjoyment of reading are promoted. Check them out at [World of Books](#). At the bottom of the home page you can click on About Us and get inspired.



During the Covid 19 lockdown many of us have been asking questions about food:



**COMMUNITY  
SUPPORTED  
AGRICULTURE**

- Where does it come from?
- How it was grown or reared?
- How resilient are the supply chains we rely on?
- Who makes profits from this essential part of our lives?
- Is the supply system fair for all participants?

Community Supported Agriculture is an initiative that seeks to address these questions <https://communitysupportedagriculture.org.uk/>

To follow the principles simply requires a large enough number of enthusiastic people, some organisation, and some land. There are already hundreds of schemes in action across the country, and lots of advice on how to start and how to keep it going. Such a scheme would contribute to a sustainable Marshfield, create some jobs, and supply food from a local source. Let's talk about the opportunity on the Facebook pages.



An upside for some of us during Lockdown has been the chance to do more exercise, especially walking and running. As we clock up more miles, our shoes are wearing out more quickly. However we don't want to add to the mountains going to landfill sites. In 2018 an estimated 24 billion pairs of trainers were manufactured and the materials are hard to recycle. Follow this link for some great tips on what to do with them [shoezone](#)



### Keep it in the Community

A three-bin composting system has been installed at the Community Centre. Initially it will take green material generated from the grounds. Hopefully there will be capacity to take greens from surrounding areas, keeping material in the community for use as a soil conditioner. Thought for the day: If your home composting has gone to sleep maybe this is the time to revive it!



A big **thank you** to everyone continuing to drop off savoury snack wrappers at the Country Stores for recycling. We send off about 2000 wrappers to Terracycle every month for reprocessing, for which we receive credits. This removes them from the general waste stream, gives them a second life and sends a message about moving away from our linear economy towards a circular economy. Please keep them coming!



**Eco Church impact** St. Mary's churchyard is looking rather different this year. Mowing around the gravestones has been delayed as part of the Eco Church initiative. An abundance of wildflowers is now flourishing. A network of mown grass paths encourage people to walk around this very special space. It is an example of what can be achieved with small changes to land management practice.



### Some of the joys of June around Marshfield.....



The free iNaturalist app for your smart phone can be helpful for identifying plants you find when out on a walk: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. And do post photos of your own finds on our Facebook page ...

**During dry spells**, birds, bees, butterflies and small mammals can suffer. If you have a garden, put down a shallow container of water plus some stones so visitors can climb in and out but not drown. Farmers with a spring that runs dry can do the same for creatures that might go there in search of water. Give birds moist all-year-round food as they cannot access worms and grubs when the ground is hard.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> July** 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](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.