

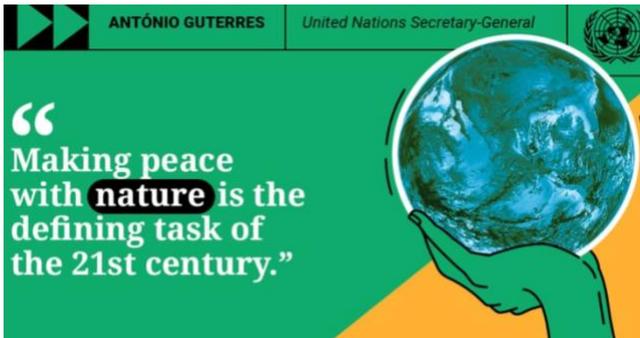


# Sustainable Marshfield



Monthly Newsletter 11 December 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.*



On 2 December UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres delivered [a landmark speech on the state of the planet](#), setting the stage for dramatically scaled-up ambition on climate change in 2021. He called for making peace with nature by starting now to achieve carbon neutrality, putting global finance to work for climate and protecting the most vulnerable. Across all actions for climate and our shared planet, we must act with urgency, but also hope, as many of the solutions are at hand. [See more.](#)

## What would a Sustainable Marshfield feel like?

Tony Kerr poses the question

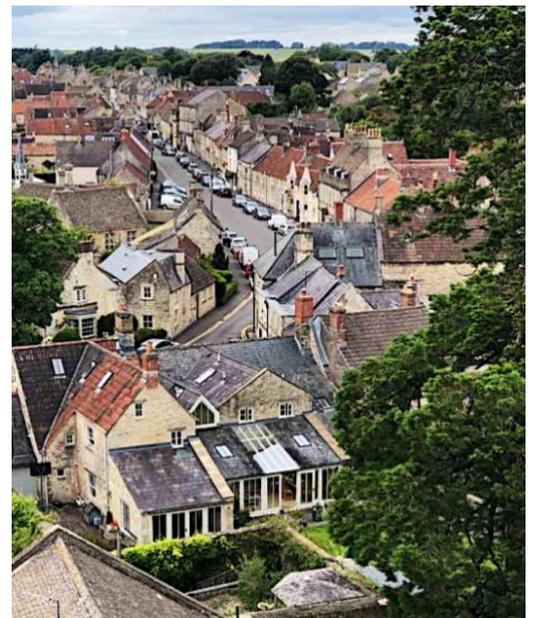
*The argument is over, the Climate Crisis is real, and our government like many others, is committed in statute to reducing CO2 emissions to ZERO by 2050. It is very tempting to say it is the government’s problem and they must sort it out, and must have a good story to tell the COP26 in Glasgow in 12 months time. The recent 10 point plan sets out some ambitions which only government can manage, but which confirm their commitment.*

*A lot of people have started to take personal responsibility by doing what they can to reduce their impact; less flying, electric cars, reduced meat, reduced plastic, composting, recycling, cycling, walking and gardening. Farmers are replanting hedgerows and reducing pesticide use. Shops offer paper bags and refills.*

*Would we make more progress if we supported each other, if we shared ideas and had a village ambition to become zero carbon?*

*How would we feel if we could say “Marshfield is on target to be Carbon Zero in 2040”? Maybe 2030?*

*What would a Sustainable Community feel like? A good place to live, mutually supportive, clean air, clean energy, more birdsong, happy children, a healthy population, local food supplies, good local services?*



**#30wearschallenge** With Christmas coming there are many ways we can try and be more sustainable. One is to consider the clothes we buy for ourselves and each other. The fashion industry is a major contributor to global emissions, water scarcity, reductions in biodiversity and inequality.

The #30wearschallenge asks people to consider before purchasing any item of clothing; will it worn 30 times? Let’s face it, most Christmas jumpers probably don’t meet that criteria! It’s a great way to make sure you and your families are part of the slow-fashion movement.

There's even an app you can use: [Can you wear it 30 times?](#)



**On the wing** Birds to look out for around our local patch by ornithologist John Barnett. *December is a quiet month for birds, as our Winter visitors settle in. Look out for Meadow Pipits, Skylarks and Linnets and a Merlin in the muddy fields to the north and east of the village, and Stonechats on top of the hedges. In the scrub on Ringswell Common are 100+ Winter Thrushes, Redwing, Fieldfare, Continental Song Thrushes and Continental Blackbirds, all feeding throughout the Winter on the huge number of berries down there.*



**Spotlight on local trees with a story to tell** by arboriculturalist, Nigel de Berker *This crab apple tree (pictured) at Pitt Farm shows mostly crab apple characteristics. It is probably not pure crab species, as the parent seed likely came from the discarded apple-core of a cultivated hybrid. Nonetheless crab apple type trees host a wide range of insects and are useful pollinators in orchards, including for triploid apple cultivars (e.g. Bramley's Seedling). The fruit is nearly always small and sour, but throughout history, occasional pip seedlings have produced sweet fruit, some of which have been propagated by gardeners and nurserymen as new tasty varieties of apple.*

**Keep your eyes peeled** A chance find of an apple on a woodland run has led one nature lover to discover a new variety. Archie Thomas, who lives in the Nadder valley in Wiltshire, stumbled across a solitary windfall apple near his home this month. The apple had come from a lone old apple tree in the hedgerow with a large number of fruit on it. It is clearly not a planted tree, but a seedling that could be a cross between a cultivated apple and a wild *Malus sylvestris*, a European crab apple.



**5000 and 1 and counting...** Dawn Brooks reports on her farming family's efforts to embrace biodiversity on a working farm. *We have planted 5001 trees in just a year. Most of them are in fields alongside Rushmead Lane. These are all native trees and are just part of a 3km plan we have on our farm to encourage and help wildlife. It will also give cover for our animals. Lots of bugs*

*live in the waste left by the animals. These are eaten by birds. We are quite lucky as many different birds can be seen in and around Marshfield.*

*The '1' tree is the Oak planted at the Community Centre. It is doing very well thanks to volunteers who watered it during the dry spring weather. We will be planting 3000 more trees over the next few months if you would like to help or want a tree.*



**Deep and crisp and even...** We wish you a peaceful and sustainable Christmas.

A final thought: household consumption of crisps and snacks dramatically increases over the festive season. Please flatten the empty packs and bring them to the Country Stores for recycling. Sustainable Marshfield collects them and send them to [Terracycle](https://www.terracycle.com/) raising money for local projects and taking plastic out of the waste stream.

**Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks on-line** will be at 7.30pm for an hour of catch-up and informal chat on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** via Zoom. Further details will be emailed out and added to the Sustainable Marshfield Facebook Page.

**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 number to: [membership@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:membership@sustainablemarshfield.org)

All other correspondence to [news@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:news@sustainablemarshfield.org)

Join over 350 people on the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for regular updates.