

We are a group of local residents 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.



Wake up to nature! Join International Dawn Chorus Day

On **Sunday 2nd May**, set your alarm for 4.30am, fling wide the bedroom curtains, open the window and celebrate nature's free symphony. If you want to put names to the glorious sounds, check out Norfolk Wildlife Trust's audio guide to [dawn-chorus-birds](https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/dawn-chorus-birds)

As we become ever more aware of our dependency on the natural world, it's a timely moment to consider what more we can all do as individuals and, as a village, to protect and encourage local biodiversity. And if you miss out on Sunday's Symphony, there's always Monday, Tuesday....



South Glos Council and Sustainable Marshfield support Plantlife's **No Mow May** campaign. You can join too and it doesn't ask you to do much. In fact, you don't have to 'do' anything at all. Just lock up your lawnmower on 1 May and watch the flowers grow in your lawn until the end of the month, providing a feast of nectar for our hungry pollinators. If you don't have a lawn, no problem! Plant some lavender or other pollinator friendly plants in containers to feed insects. See No Mow May [plantlife.org.uk](https://www.plantlife.org.uk) And look out for the Blue Heart Verges around the village - all providing vital insect charging stations.



An Electric Car Club for Marshfield?

Tisbury, a Wiltshire village of a similar size to us, has set up a car club [TisburyElectricCarClub](https://www.tisburyelectriccarclub.com). It enables residents to rent electric cars for an annual membership and low cost hourly rental. Imagine how many second cars we could remove from the High Street and driveways with a scheme like this in Marshfield? It would save money and contribute towards CO2 reductions.



There is also help towards setting up a local club from a new shared transport charity [comouk](https://www.comouk.com). If you have thoughts email us at mobility@sustainablemarshfield.org And join us for an informal Zoom chat on the topic at our monthly Green Drinks online: 7.30pm, Thursday 20th May.

Farming diary by Dawn Brooks from Field Farm

Over the last few years we have had dry spring weather. This means the crops all struggle. Most local farmers are beginning to wonder when we will get some rain as that's the only way we will get grass for livestock to eat. The rain over the last days has been very welcome, but not enough.



Picture 1 shows the depth of some fissures.

Picture 2 show areas where the grass has turned brown through lack of rain as well as sun and wind.

Picture 3..... a field full of this would be perfect for the animals to eat.

The pictures were all taken in our fields in Marshfield. We farmers desperately need the rain to grow the crops.



Marshfield Solar Streets is up and running....

There has already been a great response to our new initiative encouraging householders and businesses to install solar panels. The scheme was launched at our April Green Drinks online.

Our partner installer, IDDEA, is able to offer a significant price discount. A standard 3.6kW solar array usually costing around £6,000 will be around £4,100. The first installations, also with battery storage, are set to take place in June. For your free survey and quote contact info@iddea.co.uk You can learn more about IDDEA here: <https://www.iddea.co.uk>

We have prepared a guidance note with planners at South Glos Council on installing solar arrays in the Conservation Area. For this and any other questions contact solarstreets@sustainablemarshfield.org



Turn Eco-anxiety into action The pandemic has caused a lot of stress and worry for children. Many are also getting increasingly worried about our environment, especially when all they hear about it is bad news. It's good to talk to young people about their views/fears and help them see positive steps forward. You may find this resource useful from Transform our World. It's designed to help teachers: [turning-anxiety-into-action](#)

Rethinking Waste in Marshfield

We can all do more to reduce the amount of stuff we chuck away, adding to the frightening waste mountain from so called 'modern living'.

The Recycling Hierarchy (right) shows that 'Avoid', 'Reduce' and 'Reuse' are most preferred actions. It's worth remembering that what we often regard as waste is potentially a resource to someone else.

Marshfield is showing practical ways that we can become less wasteful of resources. Below are three village initiatives now up and running. Please make use of them and pass the word on to friends and family.



SustainableMarshfield
In the UK we throw away
7 billion crisp packets every year

Recycle
your crisp packets
at the
Country Stores, Marshfield

**THE BIG MARSHFIELD
DOORSTEP JUMBLE**

FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH
ON DOORSTEPS ALL AROUND MARSHFIELD
1ST MAY, 5TH JUNE, 3RD JULY, 7TH AUGUST

SELL JUST PUT A TABLE ON YOUR DOORSTEP AND START SELLING.
DON'T FORGET: LEAVE ROOM FOR PEDESTRIANS

BROWSE YOUR NEIGHBOURS WARES. **BUY**
DON'T FORGET: KEEP YOUR DISTANCE WHILE HAGGLING!

SustainableMarshfield
*Recycle your
Medicine Blister Packs
in Marshfield!*

Three Shires Medical Practice have kindly given us permission to collect your empty medical blister packs for recycling
Please deposit empty blister packs only, with no cardboard packaging, in the container just inside the Surgery entrance.
We then take them to Superdrug for recycling.
The Surgery is open from 08.30 to 17.30 Monday to Friday
Any queries to zerowaste@sustainablemarshfield.org
Join the drive to eliminate needless plastic waste

Join **Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks on Zoom** to include a discussion on car and other mobility issues in and around Marshfield **7.30pm Thursday 20th May**

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 380 people on the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for updates and discussion.