



Monthly Newsletter 15 April 2021

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.

A new initiative in response to the Climate Emergency.....

Marshfield Solar Streets

Sustainable Marshfield has partnered with IDDEA, a trusted local installer, to offer discounted solar PV arrays across Marshfield Parish. This partnership scheme is being delivered by many communities and local councils in towns and villages in the South and West.

IDDEA is able to offer a significant discount by installing solar panels in bulk, saving time, transport and emissions. A standard 3.6kW solar array usually costing around £6,000 will be around £4,100.

For a free survey and quote contact info@iddea.co.uk Tell them you are interested in taking part in 'Marshfield Solar Streets'.

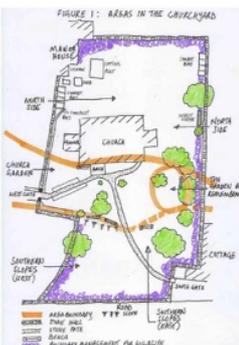
- Investment in battery storage can further reduce your energy costs.
- Learn more about IDDEA here: <https://www.iddea.co.uk>
- IDDEA donates £50 to Sustainable Marshfield for each installation
- Any questions to solarstreets@sustainablemarshfield.org



Join Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks on Zoom **7.30pm Thursday 15th April 2021**

Includes a presentation and Q&A on Marshfield Solar Streets with Ian Dunstone, CEO of IDDEA

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89870078079>



Eco Church at St Mary's - new Management Plan

Following a year of survey and discussion, a Management Plan for the churchyard has been agreed by the Parochial Church Council. The approach being adopted is one of 'thoughtful evolution'. The aim is to maintain the unique atmosphere of this sacred space while enhancing its biodiversity and wider amenity value for the community and visitors. Contact Sally Kerr if you would like to see a copy of the Plan or join the group of volunteers doing regular gardening work sallykerr105@outlook.com



More rubbish news from Neil Russell-Bates

It's great to see local efforts to clear up the litter around the village. The 'Broken-windows Theory' suggests that if a street has a building with a broken window, it is likely that more windows will be broken. The reverse is also true. By keeping our village tidy, litterers may think twice before chucking their rubbish here.

There's a great app you can use from **Planet Patrol** whilst spotting and picking up litter. By recording what type and brand it is, you help to create a database that is used to put pressure on government to legislate



on what is called Producer Responsibility; an act is under consideration right now. The oldest piece of litter I found was just last week on Ashwicke Road and was this Schweppes can. The brand hasn't been sold since 1985! Just shows how long litter can hang around. Check out [Planet Patrol](https://www.planetpatrol.org).



Trees around Marshfield with Nigel de Berker Our native *Cherry plum* (also known as *Myrobalan plum*) is now in flower in the hedgerows about Marshfield. It may form part of a managed hedge or grow to a small tree. The white, five-petalled flowers appear in early March, the young stems are usually green. Cherry plum is often confused with Blackthorn and it is seldom planted. Blackthorn also produces snowy white blossom, but about a month later and its flowers are slightly smaller.



Ringswell planting There has been much tree and hedge planting activity around the village during February and March. Our Parish Council approved funding for wildflower seeds and 8 apple trees on Ringswell Common, planted at the end of March. The traditional apple trees have wonderful names: Tom Putt, Golden Noble, Morgan Sweet, King of the Pippins, Ribston Pippin, Bramley, Browns and Newton Wonder. We look forward to harvesting apples in the years to come.



Farming diary by Dawn Brooks from Field Farm

Spring is a time where everything starts to look forwards and layers of outerwear start to be removed as we warm up. Crops are growing so work starts on the fields. Cows are turned out onto nice sweet fresh grass, we start looking forward to seeing the new calves and sleepless nights as we watch for any signs of difficulties with calving. Birds collect



feathers, fur and other items to make nests in the hedges. Life goes on with 'hope' always in our lexicon.



Soft plastic recycling breakthrough Tesco has just launched the UK's biggest network of recycling points for soft plastic to 171 of its stores including Chippenham and Yate. Items such as bread bags, fruit packaging and salad bags will be reprocessed into new packaging. We continue to collect crisp packets at The Country Stores for re-processing via Terracycle. So far we have raised over £140 from the scheme. Please bring your empty flat packets along. We are encouraged in feeling part of the consumer pressure on big retailers to eventually eliminate plastic waste.



Turn over a new leaf with low-carbon gardening

Did you know that running a petrol lawnmower for an hour can create the same carbon emissions as driving a car for 93 miles. Time to change to electric? Check out this and many other ways to garden more in tune with nature and CO₂ emissions reduction on this RHS podcast: [Low carbon gardening](#)



Local walks As lockdown restrictions ease, we all hope to venture out more to experience the wonders of nature on our doorsteps this spring and summer. New marker signs have been installed for the four Cotswold AONB Gateway Routes around Marshfield. Check them out at [Cotswold Gateways](#). Maybe this is also a time for celebrating our community and shared interests. **Village Day**, Sunday 4th July at the Community Centre will be a great occasion!



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 370 people on the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for daily updates.

STOP PRESS: We have just been donated 10 Oak saplings by Extinction Rebellion to help with the tree replacement programme needed around Marshfield due to Ash Dieback disease. More details from Dan Smith dan@danandjane.net