



Monthly Newsletter 13 February 2021

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.



“Why, what's the matter, That you have such a February face, So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?”

William Shakespeare, Much Ado About Nothing



Climate Emergency Declared At its meeting on 19th January, Marshfield Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency. This aligns it to South Gloucestershire Council who made the declaration in July 2019. More and more councils across the UK are recognising that leadership and action at all levels is required if we are to accelerate the transition to a net zero carbon future.



Renewable energy at scale for Marshfield?

Marshfield Community Land Trust (MCLT) is exploring the feasibility of developing a community owned solar farm. This could offer a significant local response to the Climate Emergency. It would need to be located on land to the north of the A420 to connect into the Grid. You can show support for the idea by completing the MCLT survey, shortly to be circulated. This will help the case for securing a Government grant to do a full feasibility study. More information from Tony Kerr tony@kerr105.com



Litter bugs Have you noticed the increased amounts of litter surrounding our village at the moment? A run along Down Road this week was particularly distressing seeing how much roadside trash there was and in the lay-by by the Primary School. How can we tackle this together? Do we need signs in strategic locations to discourage such behaviour? More litter picks? Thoughts would be welcome. In the meantime I intend to do more litter-picking myself in these areas. *Neil Russell-Bates*



Farming diary *by Dawn Brooks from Field Farm.* February is a quiet month for us. Hedge trimming stops as the birds begin to think about nesting. Farmers are only able to cut hedges, unless they border a road, between September and February. On our farm we start much later and have a 3 year rotation plan. This allows plenty of berries and cover for wildlife. Our hedges are mostly 3 meters in height and fenced on both sides to give lots of shelter for our cattle but stops them making gaps. You can see Horseshoe bats flitting along the hedges most evenings on Ayford Lane.

Local business commits to tree planting. Estate Agents Davis Meade is partnering with the social enterprise Epic3 which supports environmental initiatives towards mitigating climate change. They propose that 100 trees will be planted for every house sold. They'll be glad to tell you more about this. Visit their website Davis Meade or if you'd like to do the same through your own business, explore the various projects at epic3, for example.



Trees with a story to tell - Hazel *Nigel de Berker*

Hazelnuts have historically provided a nutritious, portable and storable food for man and his stock, also benefiting many other species of bird, insect and animal. Over past centuries, hazel coppice has provided wood for many uses. Male catkins form over winter on 1-2 year-old growth of mature plants and shed pollen in early spring. Small crimson feathery pistils emerge from scattered single female flower buds, normally a few days after initial pollen release from the same plant.



Marshfield LED street lighting replacement

programme is now well underway. Each lantern is clever, giving optimal performance and maximising energy efficiency. It contains a photo cell to detect when it gets dark and turns the light on. A 'driver' sets the dimming pre-set to 75% and 50% following the chart. Lux is the intensity of the light.

Time Period	Light Output
35 lux to 11:00 PM GMT	75%
11:00 PM GMT to 06.00 AM GMT	50%
06:00 AM GMT to 18 lux	75%



Blue Heart Verges update Snowdrops planted in December

are now appearing in the grassed border opposite the Almshouses. With wild daffodils to follow, it is a herald of spring and summer to come. Look out for the marked Blue Heart verges around the village. These areas are being traditionally managed to encourage nature and to raise awareness about the biodiversity crisis we are facing.



Composting pallets Many thanks to our friends at Marshfield Farm Ice Cream for donating used pallets to the Eco Church Team at St Mary's. We will now be creating four additional compost bins to ensure that all green cuttings from the Churchyard are composted on site.



Beat the winter blues with snow planting

It works for hardy annuals, biennials and short-lived perennials - seeds that enjoy some cold to germinate but don't need full cold stratification*. After a snowfall, broadcast seeds (try members of the poppy family) out on the snow in an area where they will be able to grow. *Note: some perennial seeds need several weeks of cold moist weather to germinate in the spring.



Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks on-line, Thursday 18th February

at 7.30pm for an hour of catch-up and chat via Zoom. One subject for special discussion will be the idea to create a community-owned solar farm for the village. Further details will be emailed out and added to the SM 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 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.