

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.



“About the woodlands I will go, to see the cherry hung with snow.”




Tree Planting Tree planting suffered a setback when many trees intended to replace saplings, that didn’t survive last year’s dry spell, were stolen from a barn on Rushmead Lane. However, some saplings have been planted close to ash trees on the A420 by-pass. Hopefully these will become established before the existing trees have to be removed because of ash dieback. The A420 was chosen as it’s one of the few verges that is not mown regularly so saplings are undisturbed long enough for them to become established. A meeting’s being held with the Biodiversity officer from South Glos Council at the end of March to talk about the by-pass and other areas. dan@danandjane.net

Hedgehogs in the LNAP. Hedgehog numbers around the UK are in decline. Across the country the hedgehog population has dropped by nearly half since the year 2000 and this declining trend is continuing. Experts now estimate that there are fewer than 1 million hedgehogs left in the UK. This dramatic loss proves that even the most iconic of British species is not immune to environmental changes or human pressures and reminds us all of the fragility of our local wildlife and the need to protect it.



SM is planning a number of proposals to the Local Nature Action Plan to increase hedgehog numbers by encouraging the creation of hedgehog highways and hedgehog houses, reducing the use of slug pellets, and holding a hedgehog information day. LouiseR@wiltshirewildlife.org

Energy Prices - How is the Price Cap applied?

		Gas	Gas	Electricity	Electricity
		Up to March 22	From April 22	Up to March 22	From April 22
	Standing charge p/day	26.12	27.22	24.88	45.34
	Unit charge p/kWhr	4.07	7.37	20.80	28.34

The Default Tariff Cap was introduced in 2019 as a means to control the market in retail energy to households. The tariff applies to measures which are used to calculate cost of Gas and Electricity based on number of days of the billing and actual use of each fuel <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/default-tariff-cap-level-1-april-2022-30-september-2022>

The headline figure of £1971/ year comes from applying these rates to the consumption of a “standard” household. There are minor regional variations. tony@kerr105.com

Marshfield Community Centre Open Afternoon

Marshfield Community Centre is holding an open afternoon where you can come along to find out what activities are happening in and around Marshfield on 2nd April 2-4pm. Lent lunches & afternoon teas, see the new EV charging points, check out the planters that are designed for maximum use by birds, bees & bugs. Plus see our very own composting system where we have lots of wood piles for all the insects.



Our Community Centre needs help!

Utility bills are around £1000/ month which is unsustainable with current rents. Dawn and other volunteers are doing what they can to stop wastage by closing doors and only heating when needed. For the longer term we are assembling an ad-hoc group to explore options to improve insulation, change lights and heating, all towards lowering utility costs and helping the CC on its path towards net zero. Marshfield CLT energy group have agreed to contribute to these discussions but we need many offers of help to get the best results for Marshfield's Community Centre. If you have skills in building fabric refit, efficient heating and lighting design, solar PV and batteries, or project management, and would like to contribute, please message Dawn Brooks or Tony Kerr. dawn@marshfieldorganicfarm.com



Blue Heart Verges. This is the fourth year that selected roadside verges around Marshfield are being managed to encourage wildflowers, insects and the birds that feed off them. This is a local response to the biodiversity crisis we are all facing. You will see the distinctive Blue Heart signs on verges at Ayford Lane, Sheepfair Lane, Little End, St Mary's Churchyard and Hayfield, next to the Community Centre. The verges will be left uncut through to July before being hand scythed. More people are going pesticide-free and reducing their gardening mowing as we all see the joy and value in encouraging everyday nature in our backyard.

At the other end of the village, the Blue Hearts have been refurbished and are in place along the stretch of Ayford lane verge, where amongst the grass and celandine a small number of primroses are now also showing through; the section of hedge that was planted last year has been checked-over and replacements have been planted to cover the few losses that occurred. peterwoodward@questnet.co.uk



Recycling We hope you've seen the new bench at the Community Centre; it's made from 100% recycled materials and has been funded partly from funds from Terracycle raised from recycled crisp packets & MPC. Since we began this scheme in 2019 we've processed over 65,000 used crisp packets. Unfortunately, Walkers are stopping their sponsorship of this recycling scheme therefore the programme will finish at the end of April. (The Bread Bag scheme ended in March.) R6cmrb@gmail.com This is such a shame as Marshfield have been such fabulous supporters of this scheme.

Unfortunately, this will also mean that SM's source of income will now dry up requiring us to look for other ways to raise funds. The used blister packs from your ibuprofen & other medicines can still be deposited in the Doctor's waiting reception area from where a team recycle them through Superdrug in Bath.

Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks, Thursday 7th April at 8pm in the Catherine Wheel for an hour of catch-up and chat. A reminder will be added to the SM Facebook page.

Growing Sustainable Marshfield membership with your help.

We want to grow our free membership, connecting 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

All other correspondence to news@sustainablemarshfield.org Join over 350 people on the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for regular updates.