



## Sustainable Marshfield Monthly E-Newsletter 3 – April 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.*

### What a difference a month makes

*In the blink of an eye our outlook on so much in life has shifted dramatically. Things we took for granted and felt secure about, now appear fragile and uncertain. Even a walk to the local shops is off limits to many. Behind every closed door there will be an individual story of heartache and hope. The Village has come together in so many ways to support our more vulnerable residents. In time we will no doubt reflect on what all this means for our future lifestyles, priorities and our relationship with the wider environment. For now another dramatic change is imminent. The arrival of Spring! We hope you are able to witness and celebrate this extraordinary explosion of nature with fresh eyes, whether on a walk or from behind the glass of your living room. This edition particularly highlights some ways people are working to protect and enhance nature now and for future generations. Peter Woodward, Chair, Sustainable Marshfield*



**Marshfield Wildflower Paths** Inspired by Joy de Berker we aim to revive wildflowers that would have been seen along the lanes around the parish in centuries past. Four of us walked a first route from the village down Green Lane, Monument Lane, Ayford Lane and up Fuddlebrook Hill to identify planting plots. Marked by blue hearts plot 1 now has 13 Primroses and 7 Red Champion. This long-term plan will hopefully inspire appreciation and protection of the wilds we still have.



**Rushmead Lane set to bloom** Local farmer Dawn Brooks reports on exciting developments. *In this picture we have glorious blue sky and in the distance on the left you can see the trees we planted earlier in the year. They are doing very well. Both fields on either side of Rushmead Lane have been sown with nectar and pollinator seeds so we are looking forward to seeing it all in the next couple of months. This area is available for all to see as it's close to a footpath and the lane, all easy to walk to from Marshfield or surrounding villages.*

**Home composting** Could the suspension of the Council green bin collections prompt a revival in home composting? Whether yours is a plastic dalek or a full-blown three-bin system, it makes sense to keep organic matter in the garden, rather than shipping it away for treatment. Recycle Now, the national recycling campaign offers useful advice: [Home composting](#). Some villages run community composting schemes. If you are interested in exploring ideas for a Marshfield scheme contact [peterwoodward@questnet.co.uk](mailto:peterwoodward@questnet.co.uk)

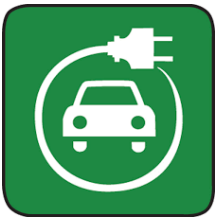


**Wells and waterways of Marshfield** Back in the day many village residences and farms had their own wells, ponds and valued streams. We'd like to gather information and photos of wells still functioning or stopped up, notes about streams that once ran deeper, ponds that could be recovered etc. Already nine village and two outlying households have told us about their wells and included some fascinating stories. Send to Sara [sara.firman@yahoo.com](mailto:sara.firman@yahoo.com)



**Eco Church at St Mary's** A new churchyard management plan has been drawn up by Mary Keen and Catriona Mangham as part of the *Eco Church at St Mary's* initiative. This will improve the biodiversity of the churchyard while maintaining it as a place of tranquility. A change to the mowing regime during 2020, with a main cut during August, will enable pollinating plants to flower and allow us to survey the grassland. Caring for God's Acre works nationally to support groups to investigate, care for, and enjoy burial grounds. Check out their web site [Caring for God's Acre](#)

**Crisp packet recycling continues** We are still collecting crisp packets for reprocessing. The Country Stores is currently open between 6-9am weekdays. Please flatten the packets. Alternatively hold on to them until the isolation period is over. Check out the scheme we are a part of here: [Terracycle](#)



**Electric Vehicles** People buying an electric vehicle will know that installing a charging point at your property is necessary to keep the car fully charged. A typical installation costs £1000, for which the government stumps up half the cost. But what if your car is parked on the street and you have nowhere to charge it? The government also subsidises communal chargers, reducing the cost to about a £1000. It can be viable if two or more people need access to a shared community charger. Is anyone out there interested in using a charger in Marshfield? Please e-mail Dan Smith at [dan@danandjane.net](mailto:dan@danandjane.net)

#### **Sustainable Marshfield Community Carbon Reduction Fund**

The presenting health crisis has momentarily masked another huge challenge facing us all - the battle against climate change. We have set up a Fund to support community initiatives that reduce our carbon footprint such as energy efficiency measures at the Community Centre or carbon capture through a major tree planting campaign.



We will be inviting local people to contribute to the Fund by calculating their own travel, household or business carbon emissions and then offsetting them through a payment to the Fund. This is also an important way that we can all become more aware of our own emissions and how we might reduce them. If you have thoughts on this please contact Neil Russell-Bates [nrb\\_abroad@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nrb_abroad@yahoo.co.uk).



**Marshfield's veteran trees.** Nigel de Berker tells us that this old ash along Ayford Lane (photo taken in 2006) shows the survival capacity of its species. That broad, shallow-domed crown offers reduced wind-resistance and this tree has weathered many storms. Its responses to decay and ageing include wound compartmentalisation and the formation of strategically placed reaction wood, including specially toughened callous tissue. Hopefully it will be one of the precious trees that is tolerant of ash dieback.

**Diary dates:** In line with Government advice, sadly all local gatherings with a sustainability theme have had to be cancelled or postponed for the foreseeable future.

- **Biodynamics** Although the talk planned for 11 April has been postponed you can contact [www.biodynamic.org.uk](http://www.biodynamic.org.uk) for seeds, books, courses and other on-line information.
- Our next '**Green Drinks on-line**' will be at 7.30pm on the **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April** via 'Zoom'. Further details will be emailed out and added to the Sustainable Marshfield Facebook Page.

#### **Growing Sustainable Marshfield membership with your help.**

During 2020 we plan to grow our free membership, connecting up as many households in and around Marshfield that are interested in local action for sustainability. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join.

Email your name, address and phone to: [membership@sustainablemarshfield.org](mailto:membership@sustainablemarshfield.org)

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