



## Sustainable Marshfield Monthly E-Newsletter 4. May 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.*



### Share your ideas of the 'new normal'

A recent YouGov survey found that 'only 9% of Brits want the personal and social changes they have seen to return to normal. 85% say they would like them be permanent. This has led experts to suggest there is a long-term shift in how people perceive food, farming, health and the environment.' Do you feel this? And if so what kinds of positive changes have you most appreciated? Make a list of your top 3 and send it to us or post them on our Sustainable Marshfield Group Facebook page. Here are a couple of quotes already in:

*"Working from home and not driving miles that impact on the environment, for a meeting that can be held locally"*

*"I'm using up the kitchen and bathroom supplies I overlooked and enjoying being thrifty!"*

*"I have enjoyed seeing other people appreciate what they have around them instead of needing to spend vast amounts of money on material things that come and go."*



### Calling early birders!

This **Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May is International Dawn Chorus Day**. We had hoped to hold a gathering to celebrate one of nature's real wonders. One that we usually sleep through. The restriction on gatherings means it's time to be creative. We encourage you to lean out of your bedroom window around 4.30am and record the joyous **Marshfield Dawn Chorus**. Post it on the Sustainable Marshfield Facebook page. Then you can go back to bed with a glass of celebration Dawn Chorus Prosecco – or a cup of tea!



### Native oaks in flower

These flowers were seen on a native oak near Fuddlebrook in late April. The same species was recently planted at the Community Centre. Each tree has separate male and female flowers. Around now, masses of short tassel-like male catkins develop about the canopy along with fewer, less obvious, small, red, club-shaped female flowers. Female flowers mature shortly after the males to avoid self-fertilisation in individual trees. *Nigel de Berker*



### Shopping in the new normal

Have you wondered about how your Covid19 shopping habits are affecting the environment? Most people are indeed staying at home so more grocery shopping is being done online. Meanwhile those who are venturing out are doing so less often to minimise their potential exposure. Online grocery deliveries mean that one vehicle delivers to multiple homes. With fewer individual trips to supermarkets and more use of our excellent village stores we are collectively reducing our CO2 emissions. Are these good habits we can maintain when lockdown lifts? *Neil Russell-Bates*



## No Mow May!

**Question:** What do you do get if you add 5 daisies, 2 dandelions and 6 buttercups?

**Answer:** Enough nectar to feed one honey bee for a day!

[Plantlife](#) is launching **No Mow May** encouraging families to leave the mower in the shed and see what blooms in their lawns. From 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May survey results can be submitted to Plantlife who will calculate a National Nectar Index showing how lawns across Britain are helping to feed our pollinators. Check out [Every Flower Counts](#)

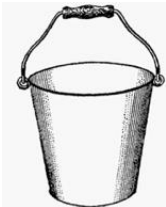
## Sustainable banking

Most of us know we can have a positive effect on the environment by making fewer car journeys, however, have you ever considered that changing your bank could also make a big difference? The Ethical Consumer magazine says most of the high street banks are highly unsustainable quoting fossil fuel investments and tax avoidance as major issues. They say the most sustainable bank in the UK is [Triodos](#), based in...Bristol! *Neil Russell-Bates*



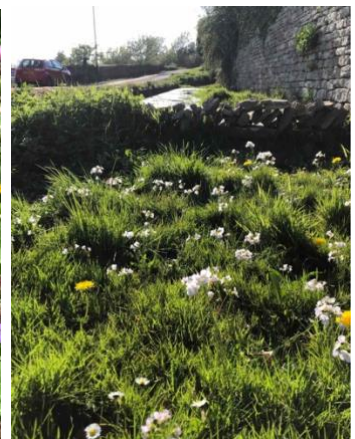
## Crisp packet recycling continues

We are still collecting crisp packets so please deposit yours in The Country Stores or outside 2 Mead View Close. Flattened packets are appreciated. If you are self-isolating then do please keep them in a bag for the time when restrictions are lifted. Check out the [Terracycle](#) scheme. *Claire Russell-Bates*



**Water supply** Until mains water came to Marshfield in 1935, water for washing and cooking would have been collected from wells, two or three times a day. Only a few houses had their own well. In 2019 in the UK, single-person households used around 150 litres per day, increasing to 250 litres per day when two people lived at home. Imagine how many trips to the well this would take! Do send us any 'water in Marshfield' stories as we learn about our past to help inform our future. *Sarah Firman*

## Some of the joys of April around Marshfield



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

- **Green Drinks on-line** for an hour will be at 7.30pm on the **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** 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 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](mailto:membership@sustainablemarshfield.org)

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

Join the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for daily updates. Over 300 people have already joined.