



Sustainable Marshfield Monthly Newsletter 5 June 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.



Bee friendly in Marshfield?

Monmouth has just been declared the UK's first Bee Town. This accolade was achieved through local residents and organisations encouraging pollinating plants in gardens and verges, reducing the use of pesticides and an active beekeeping programme. In Marshfield new beehives have recently been installed. Our Blue Heart verges with their blaze of



wildflowers for pollinating insects all help. You could immediately become a mason bee guardian in your household. See [mason bees](#) Dare we dream of being declared a Bee friendly Village? If you have thoughts, contact fellow local bee enthusiasts at: marshfieldcommunitybees@gmail.com



Managing verges for biodiversity

The verges at the Community Centre are currently full of wild flowers. These were seeded last year as part of the Blue Heart initiative to encourage more pollinating plants. Good management is really important. Early cutting dates reduce floral diversity over time by encouraging vigorous growth of long-lived species that tend to overtake. Late cutting also reduces floral



diversity through build-up of dead vegetation over the soil that wildflower seeds can't penetrate. Even worse however is no cutting at all. **Cutting from mid-July until the end of September** helps to maximise species diversity. Find out more here: [Good verge guide](#). Sustainable Marshfield is working with the Parish Council to encourage good management guidelines for verges across the Parish.

Birds on our patch Expert eyes are spotting birdlife around Marshfield on a daily basis. A list across the seasons drawn up by local ornithologists is inspiring and motivating. You can find it on the Birds of South Gloucestershire web site [Birds of Marshfield](#). Here are a couple of entries from May including a first for Marshfield:

*Monday 11th A surprise **Wood Sandpiper** was both seen and heard when it was disturbed from Doncombe Brook on Ringswell Common. It was seen to fly towards Cloud Wood. This is the first sighting of this species for the Marshfield Patch.*

Thursday 28th Combined reports: Spotted Flycatcher in the Shire Valley (Pete Coslett). Elsewhere, three Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk, two Common Buzzard, two Raven, at least ten Skylark, seven Swallow, eight House Martin, seven Blackcap, five Common Whitethroat, Nuthatch, Yellow Wagtail, nine Corn Bunting and Yellowhammer.



Better walking and cycling. Roads have been quieter during lockdown, though that's beginning to change. SGC wants to know if over this time we've noticed areas needing safety improvements, especially as this fits with their intention to increase walking and cycling in South Gloucestershire. If you have any ideas for Marshfield put them to the Parish Council/ Ward Counsellor and ask for their support in submitting through the link [SGC transport improvements](#)

