



Newsletter 22 - Early Autumn 2022

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.



“For me the only feast at all is Autumn's Harvest Festival when I can satisfy my want with ears of corn around the font” *Diary of a church mouse - John Betjeman*

EV charging point

It is understood that the EV charging point at the Community Centre will go live at the start of October 2022. Sustainable Marshfield are hoping to play our part in promoting this important South Glos-wide initiative as the number of EVs in the village continues to increase.



Withymead Nature Garden

In February and March this year a number of volunteers undertook planting sessions on the old boules pitch on the Withymead, with the aim of establishing a community garden: However, in May all the new plants in the main area were mowed by the grounds contractor. It was hoped some plants would survive, but despite efforts to water in the drought most have now failed as well as several of the surrounding hedgerow plants. We plan to assess the situation at the end of September to tidy the site up for the winter and with a view to replanting before next spring

Ofgem and the Energy Cap

The much-quoted cost of energy in the press rising to £3,549 per year is only part of the story. Ofgem sets limits which energy retailers must not exceed for certain domestic contracts, as set out in the table.

Period	Electric		Gas		Consumption in each house will vary from the average so the quoted price is not the maximum you will be charged. Most Marshfield houses will use much more than the average
	Standing charge	Unit price	Standing charge	Unit price	
April - Sept 2022	45p/day	28p/kwh	27p/day	7p/kWh	
Oct – Dec 2022	46p/day	52p/kWh	28p/day	15p/kwh	
Dec- Mar 2023	+	+	+	+	
April- June 2023	++	++	++	++	

Ofgem calculate that the average dual fuel house in the UK uses 2,900kWh of electricity and 12,000kWh of gas, and the quoted price is calculated using the rates in the table and these average consumption figures.

Ofgem have decided to change the rates every 3 months so the quoted figure only applies until December when we have been told the rates will rise again.

The “Price Cap” for average use started in 2019 at £1137, it fell to £1042 in October 2020, and has risen every review since then. Forecasts for January 2023 are around £4600!

Blue Heart Verges:



- The main summer scythe/mow has now taken place
- There will be further tidying work at the end of September
- Blue heart signs have been taken down to be put up again next Spring
- Some additional wildflower seeding will be considered in the Autumn



Help give swifts a home

Marshfield is the summer destination of choice for a flock of loyal swifts. Their favourite points of attraction being St Mary's Church and the Market Place, where some already roost. They are excellent performers as they zoom around together high up in the sky at top speeds of nearly 70mph, with their iconic screeching being the soundtrack of summer. They're not fussy guests either, as they eat plenty of insects on the wing. Swifts stay in Marshfield over the summer to raise their chicks, before making their return journey back to Africa.



As Marshfield is really lucky to have these red-listed birds, Marshfield Parish Council and Sustainable Marshfield would like to help you install swift nest boxes! At an average cost of £40 per nest box, do you think you could give a swift a forever home? SM can then install the box for you!

There are just a few things to consider:

- Could the nest box be placed at least 5 metres above ground?
- Would it be out of direct sunlight for most of the day? Ideally under eaves.
- Would it be clear from obstructions like wires? Where possible avoid siting directly above doors or windows.

Super swift facts

- As their name suggests, they are the fastest birds at level flight
- During their lives, swifts travel the equivalent of 4 trips to the moon and back
- They sleep on the wing as high as 3,000 metres in the sky

If you would like to give a swift a home or would like to check if your home is suitable, please contact Sustainable Marshfield by 31st October '22 via email: news@sustainablemarshfield.org

Hedgerow Heroes

CPRE Avon and Bristol has received a grant for an exciting Hedgerow Heroes project in South Gloucestershire. The project will empower people and communities to overhaul the management of 118km of hedgerows alongside South Glos's footpaths to help them thrive. The charity is calling on local people, as well as Parish and Town Councils, to join a team of Hedgerow Heroes who will learn how sensitively to manage hedgerows before getting out into the countryside to put their new skills to work by giving our hedgerows the TLC they so badly need.

Avon Valley District Voluntary Wardens will be assisting in a walk around the lanes and byways of Marshfield on **Tue 20th Sept starting at 2pm from St Mary's Church Marshfield, SN14 8NT.**

Please see the attached poster for further details and how to book a place on the walk.

Apology

A number of readers have pointed out that the people who do a sterling job of maintaining the Farm Pool have actually been doing a huge amount to prevent any deterioration, including confirming the drainage sumps have been kept clear so the pond is not silting up. No fish are now breeding and the newts are thriving. The back of the pond was only mown at the end of July after they had checked plants had seeded. My apologies and thanks to Brian Snow and Bob Veitch who have put in such a great deal of work on the pond and its verges over the years. dan@danandjane.net



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 410 people on the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for regular updates.