



Sustainable Marshfield E-Newsletter 1 – February 2020

We are a new 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.

Welcome to the first e-newsletter

We will provide members of Sustainable Marshfield with monthly information updates and ideas. Join our Facebook Group [Sustainable Marshfield](#) to be a part of ongoing discussions. We want this to be your newsletter so please send us short items for future issues to news@sustainablemarshfield.org



Trees galore

To launch our annual winter tree planting, volunteers installed an oak at the Community Centre (who sponsored the tree) in November 2019. As part of Tree Week (winter 2019), South Glos Council supplied 300 native saplings for hedges at the Community Centre and farmland near Rushmead Lane; some were shared with Marshfield Ice Cream. Nearly 1,000 more saplings from iDig Trees were planted at Rushmead. Sites are being explored for next winter.



Let us know if you have suitable plots.



Make every day a litter pick day

Marshfield WI are organising their brilliant annual community litter pick on **Saturday 14th March**. Details to follow. Here's a thought for today - make every day a personal litter pick day. It's strangely satisfying, quietly making a difference as you walk around. Remember, each item you pick up won't then be seen by hundreds of other passing eyes day after day. Maybe let's just do it instead of cursing or waiting for someone else. And extra vigilance on waste collection day will pay dividends.

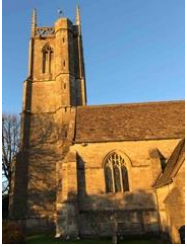
First accessible EV charging points in Marshfield

Two of the Sustainable Marshfield group who drive electric cars (EVs) have made their home charging points available for anyone to use via the website [BookMyCharge](#). If you drive an EV or are thinking of getting one, but don't have anywhere at home to charge it, you can use their charging points which are widely available during the week. If you have visitors with an EV, again this could be the solution. Don't let lack of local charge points be the barrier to driving an electric car!



Find the Greenest Electricity Tariff – but beware!

Households are switching to green electricity in their droves. But beware of greenwashing. Some retailers have simply bought Renewable Energy Generation Origin certificates which are much cheaper than investing in actual renewable energy installations. The greenest tariffs come from suppliers (retailers) that buy renewable electricity and the REGO certificates from renewable generators. Check out the Energy Savings Trust [Green Tarriff Guide](#) and the [WHICH guide](#). Do share your thoughts and experiences with us. Don't forget that the best contribution to reduce your emissions is to reduce your energy consumption.



Church solar

David Colbourne reports that despite the very dull weather in the last quarter of 2020, with very low light levels reducing the power generated by the solar pv panels on the roof of St Mary's, the church once again achieved just over 4 MWhr in 2019, thus saving over 1.4 tonnes of CO₂. For comparison, St Mary's net consumption of electricity was just over 3.2 MWhr over the same period.

Affordable houses progress

After four years of effort, Marshfield Community Land Trust has submitted an application for affordable houses at Garston Farm. Go to <http://marshfieldclt.org> for full details and to view the application. And do take the trouble to comment on the application. Comments have to be made by 13th February 2020. The application was endorsed by the Parish Council at its January meeting.



Shop local

News of uncertainty over the future of Artingstall Butchers reminds us all of the importance of using our local shops if we value them as a feature of the village. *Use them or lose them* is the motto.

Central Stores and the Country Stores have been responding to the trend of reducing single-use plastics by offering milk and orange juice in glass bottles, stocking ingredients with no packaging and refillable cleaning products. They've just launched a range of *Made in Marshfield* produce and are appealing for old jam jars so they can be re-used. If you have further ideas for what they might do or stock, have a chat with Sally or Rachel. And a



reminder that you can refill your own containers with fresh milk at Sweetapples Teashop.

Growing membership with your help

Sustainable Marshfield was launched as a local group last October. During 2020 we plan to grow our free membership to connect up with as many households as possible in and around Marshfield who care about taking local action for sustainability. Please encourage friends and neighbours to join, simply by emailing a request to join with your name, address and contact phone to: membership@sustainablemarshfield.org

Dates for your diary:

February

Sat 1st

Planting Celebration 4.30pm outdoors at Marshfield Community Centre. Join our merry band for some songs at twilight around the new oak tree. Tree songs, tree poems, tree stories - welcome one and all. Come as you are or wear your favourite tree colours. Bring a candle in a jar if you have it. And a warming drink if you like.

Friday 7th

Marshfield Country Market reopens at 10.30am in the Church Hall offering a range of local produce. It will run on a fortnightly basis for the foreseeable future.

Thurs 20th

Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks at The Lord Nelson from 7.30pm. Join us at our monthly informal gathering over a drink to chat through issues and ideas

March

Thurs 19th

Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks venue tbc from 7.30pm. Join us at our monthly informal gathering over a drink to chat through issues and ideas