



Sustainable Marshfield

Monthly Newsletter 12 January 2021

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.



"Pale January lay in its cradle day by day. Dead or living, hard to say." Alfred Austin



Seeing the light! During January all the street lights in Marshfield will be replaced by LEDs (Light Emitting Diode) in 2021. This will reduce energy costs and cut carbon emissions.

It is part of South Gloucestershire Council's programme to convert all 29,500 street lights and 3,500 lit road traffic signs across the district. They

currently cost £1.5 million in energy bills and create in the region of 8,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Through this change annual energy consumption in Marshfield is set to fall from 60,000 kwh to under 10,000 kwh. Carbon emissions will reduce from 31 to 5 tonnes. The main change residents will notice is a shift from an orange to a white glow. Further information is available from Marshfield Parish Council.



Powering our Net Zero Future The new [Energy White Paper](#) launched in December 2020 puts in place a strategy for the national energy system that:

- transforms energy; cleaner, greener
- supports green recovery; green jobs
- creates a fair deal for consumers; save on bills, protects the fuel poor

It aligns with a commitment to become Net Zero Carbon by 2050 through migration from coal oil and gas to clean fuels for electricity generation, transport, heating and cooking. The targets include more offshore wind, new nuclear generation, carbon capture and storage, emissions trading and electric heat pumps in homes.

It will affect us all through investment strategies and legislation, and individually with changes to domestic heating and transport. Under the 'Consumers' section there is reference to Agile Octopus and Energy Local Clubs and undertakings to consult on improving the energy performance of homes and ending the gas grid connection to new homes.

What do we need to do in Marshfield to be ready, to respond to consultation, to make decisions about our homes and vehicles? Contact Tony Kerr if you would like to join a discussion group to learn more, to inform the wider community, to challenge, to make local plans: tony@kerr105.com



Management of Ringswell Common

Discussions are ongoing about how to ensure the long term management of Ringswell Common, located south east of Marshfield. The SM Committee has discussed this issue and published the following statement:

'Sustainable Marshfield believes that the protection and enhancement of biodiversity

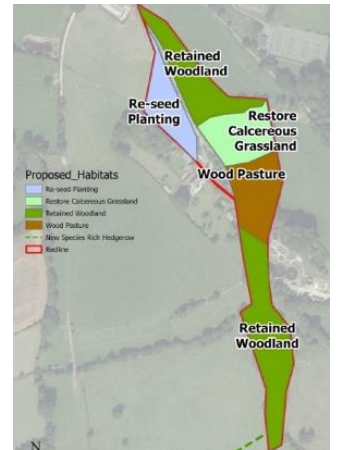
across the Parish by landowners and appropriate authorities is crucially important.

We are delighted that Marshfield Parish Council (MPC), as landowner of Ringswell Common, is taking on responsibility to determine its future management as a designated Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

There are bound to be a range of views and options about the most appropriate management that take into account biodiversity, farming and community considerations. We are encouraged that the MPC decision will be informed by a range of expert inputs and community views.

We have looked at the Advisory Note compiled on a pro bono basis by local professional ecologist, Martin Smith. This was produced in response to a personal invitation from the owners of Pitt Farm, who manage the land. We believe it offers a good sustainable route forward and are confident that MPC will give it careful consideration alongside specialist advice from South Gloucestershire Council and Natural England.

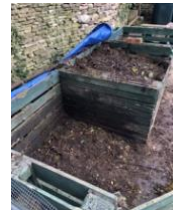
We hope that people who are interested, may take the time to look at Martin's Advisory Note which is available via the MPC website. <https://www.marshfieldparishcouncil.co.uk>



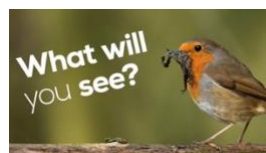
Follow the link [What planet are we on?](#) for a really good series of podcasts on climate change from Radio 5 with Liz Bonnin. They are Informative, positive and practical with lots of interesting guests. Sir David Attenborough features on the first one.



Used wood pallets wanted As part of the Eco Church programme at St Mary's we are aiming to compost all green material generated in the church and churchyard. We now need 13 more 120cm x 120cm used wooden pallets to expand our composting system. Contact Peter Woodward if you can help. peterwoodward@questnet.co.uk



Marshfield Free Mental Health Awareness training A sustainable and resilient village is about much more than responding to the environmental challenges we face. It's also about how we support each other especially during the challenging times, such as the Coronavirus pandemic we are currently enduring. Beth Goodyear, a local resident, is running introductory four-hour 'Mental Health Aware' sessions throughout January. Book your place at: [Mental Health Training](#) *It is thoroughly recommended!*



The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch runs from 29-31 January 2021. It's your chance to contribute to this huge Citizen Science project run annually since 1979. Will the House Sparrow still occupy top spot? Register to do the one-hour survey on the RSPB website.

Sustainable Marshfield Green Drinks on-line, Thursday 21st January at 7.30pm for an hour of catch-up and chat via Zoom. Further details will be emailed out and added to the SM Facebook page.

Please encourage friends and neighbours to join Sustainable Marshfield.

Email your name, address and phone number to: membership@sustainablemarshfield.org

All other correspondence to news@sustainablemarshfield.org

Join over 350 people on the **Sustainable Marshfield Group** on Facebook for regular updates.