

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The effects of speeding traffic have been gnawing away at the quality of our lives for a long time now, and increasingly so as the volume of vehicles increases. Limitations of resources mean the Police cannot respond to every infringement, and while traffic calming measures are effective they are also costly, and often months or years in installation. Enter Community Speed Watch – an invaluable addition to the arsenal of methods available to combat the problem. The first 'official' appearance of CSW in our region was some 10 years ago in the village of Ash, in South Somerset. Local residents had become so exasperated at motorists continually racing through their village, and at the additional noise and hazard that this created, that they finally approached the Police who suggested a CSW scheme. Local resident volunteers manned it, the Police supported it, and a marked reduction in speed was evident during the times of its operation. As a further bonus, the villagers themselves became more aware of their own speeds while driving. How does it work? The community identifies roads and times where/when speeding is a problem, which the Police will then check and verify. If CSW is a suitable resource (there are safety and visibility issues which restrict its use) the community will be asked to supply volunteers to man the scheme – usually 2 or 3 per session, and a minimum of one hourly session per week to be effective – whom the Police will train and support. Teams monitor the speeds of passing vehicles at each location and the results are forwarded to the Police who will issue warning letters; in most cases this gentle reminder is sufficient to focus attention on driving speeds, but persistent offenders will be targeted and punitive measures taken. Here within B&NES we now have three schemes running – in Midsomer Norton, now nearly 4 years old, joined in March 2010 by Widcombe, Bath, and earlier this year by Peasedown St John – and several more in various stages of preparation. Both the existing schemes have shown promising results, suggesting that for many drivers more moderate driving speeds have begun to take root in their consciousness. The added plus is that, having identified the problem, the community can have the satisfaction of becoming part of the solution.

Councillors' Contacts

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Officers' Contacts

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If you would like to have an article published or advertise in the

next edition of the newsletter please contact the

Parish Clerk on 01761 410669

or email Lesley.welch@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Core Opening Hours - Monday—Thursday 10 am—3 pm

If you suffer by this scourge of 21st century living, why not consider setting up your own scheme? Talk to your neighbours and see if they feel the same way. Then talk to your Police Beat-Manager or one of your PCSO's who will progress matters. While on the subject of self-help, why not also consider volunteering to help your local Police force? There are many areas where civilian volunteers can assist, enabling the development of more initiatives in the control of crime (indeed, Community Speed Watch itself is administered by Police Volunteers), and allowing the Police to optimise their own precious time to the benefit of the community they serve. Please contact Westfield Parish Council on council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk or call 01761 410669 if you are interested in setting up a scheme in this area.

The Westfield Warbler

Westfield Parish Council Newsletter

www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

December 2012—Edition 5

A Message from The Chair of the Council

Westfield is hosting the Carnival again this year and it will be another spectacular illuminated show with music and the twirling of the Majorettes batons. This is to be held on Thursday, November 15th, in Wells Road, Westfield at 7.30 pm. Westfield Parish Council will be in attendance and situated by the newly erected living Christmas tree, if anyone wishes to come along for refreshment and a chat please feel



for this to happen and the Carnival Association for stewarding. There will also be part of the Norton Band and Westfield Ladies Choir for carols around the Tree.



Arrival of Christmas tree

New Access Way

A request was made at our Annual Parish Meeting for an access way from Upper Court to Norton Hill Recreation Ground. After having gained the relevant permissions the new access way was installed by the Parish Council last month.



Please come along for this festive event.

Finally it is my sad duty to announce the death of Councillor Ted Pack. Ted will be sadly missed by his colleagues on the Parish Council, his financial skill and understanding enabled the Council to move ahead with confidence. We are indebted to Ted for all he did, his contribution to the Parish Council put us on a solid footing from the very start, and this is his legacy both to the Council and the community.

Cllr Geoff Fuller

free. We will be pleased to see you.

Another date for the diary is Thursday 29th November at 6.30 pm when the Christmas lights on the tree and around the shops will be turned on by some local school children. All thanks to A.F. Denning Electrical for setting up the electrics

The Westfield Questers

are holding community events in the New Year, including one on Community Safety. If you are interested please contact us on: westfieldquester@live.co.uk



The Westfield Questers

Westfield Allotments and Garden Society (WAGS)

For those wishing to put their names on the waiting list please contact the Secretary by Email : westfieldallotments@hotmail.co.uk



XMAS FAYRE WESTFIELD METHODIST CHAPEL SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2012

Organised by Somer Valley Rotary
Opening by The Chair of BANES, Cllr R Appleyard at 10 am.

Come and be amazed by the quality and variety of goods made by talented local people.

XMAS CAKE DRAW @ 2.30 PM



Westfield Family Learning on the Community Bus

The blue playbus is back in Westfield for a course of 10 family learning workshops until December. (Thursdays 10-12 term time at Westhill Club Car Park). The Bus is set up for messy play on the lower deck, with sand, paint, dough, sticking, puzzles and construction. On the upper deck, the Bus is carpeted and has bench seats so it is good for babies and parents to chat! There are lots of toys, books and role play equipment which is rotated weekly to give a variety of play opportunities. The family learning workshops are themed so that each week a different aspect of play such as construction, music, creative play, messy play etc. is highlighted. After 5 weeks



a lovely group of 12 families has formed and they are really enthusiastic about what the Bus can offer. Kerry said "It's so good to have the Bus back in Westfield, we've missed it! My older child came before and loved it, I'm so happy that my little one can now benefit from it" Kelsey said "The Bus is a wonderful resource for the area, great for children and parents" The Community Bus has requested more funds from the Parish Council and B&NES Councillor Initiative Fund (Cllr

Rob Appleyard) to continue in Westfield in the New Year so watch this space!

Time2Share

Supporting disabled children, young people and their families

www.time2share.org.uk Registered Charity No: 106882

Could it be you?

If you are interested in volunteering, working with children, or looking to add that extra something to life, read on...

Do you have a few hours a week to spend with a disabled child or young person in Bath or North East Somerset?

We are looking for volunteers of all ages, shapes and sizes! You don't need previous experience, just the right motivation and an open mind!

Time2Share is committed to positive change for disabled people, their families and carers in the community by promoting choice, independence and equality.

We aim to provide opportunities for:

Social activities and fun outings.

Making new friends and building relationships.

Personal growth and increased confidence.

A positive impact on family life.

A short break and increased support for carers.

As a volunteer you can have lots of fun and make a big difference to a young person and their family.

Our 1-2-1 befriending service helps families find some much needed time and space for themselves and other family members.

Just a couple of hours a week can make all the difference.

Regular access to breaks like this has reported benefits in reducing stress and family breakdown.

Please contact Sarah on 0117 9415868 or Email nes@timetoshare.org.uk

PARISH DIARY

November—December 2012

| NOVEMBER | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thursday 15 th 7.30 – 9.30 pm | Midsomer Norton and District Carnival Association – Annual Illuminated Carnival | Westhill Road/Wells Road |
| Wednesday 21st 7.30 pm | Cam Valley Wildlife Group Members Evening combining the AGM, plus a Quiz– Contact Barb Jones - 01761 232321 | Centurion Hotel, Probably in the Stratton Room—Do come along and support a great Group! |
| Thursday 29 th 6.30 pm | Christmas Tree and Westfield Shops Light switch on with Carols. | By Living Christmas Tree a top of Elm Tree Avenue |
| DECEMBER | | |
| Monday 3 rd at 7pm | Westfield Parish Council Meet- ing – all residents welcome to attend and make comments before the start of the meeting | The Boardroom, 1 st Floor, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, St Peters Business Park |

If you are a local organisation and would like to add an event to the Parish Diary please contact us. For more events please visit our website under Events and Meetings. www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk