

# The WESTFIELD WARBLER



SPRING 2021  
ISSUE 37

Should the Parish  
Council purchase land at  
Waterside Valley?

Produced for Westfield Parish Council



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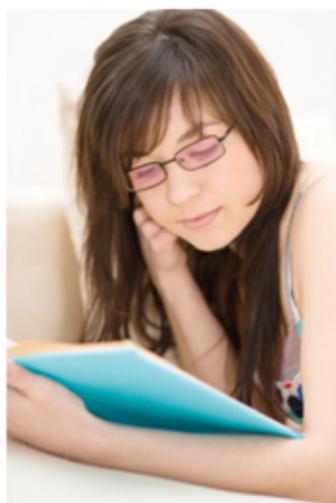
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# Welcome from Ignyte

**Hello and welcome to the first issue of the Westfield Warbler for 2021!**

Despite the ongoing difficulties we face, we hope you are well and that you are looking forward to the promise of warmer weather - we're certainly looking forward to seeing the spring shoots appearing in Westfield's flower beds. Speaking of flowers, we're also looking forward to this year's front garden competition! Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for more information about that!

As this issue of Warbler goes to press, there is some light at the end of the tunnel as discussions around lifting lockdown restrictions start taking place - just because we're in lockdown though doesn't mean that there isn't plenty to report, as the following pages will prove!

We hope you have a lovely spring and we'll see you in our next issue in the summer - if you have anything you'd like included, don't forget to get in touch with us - [news@ignyte-uk.co.uk](mailto:news@ignyte-uk.co.uk)

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The next edition of The Westfield Warbler will be in May 2021. If you would like your group to be included, please contact us by 26th April.

You can view The Westfield Warbler on the Council's website at [www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)

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# Message from the Chairman

**As we endure another national lockdown we are minded that getting out and about, even in these winter conditions, is very important to our health. There is an article in this edition of the Warbler regarding the piece of land in the Waterside Valley that has come onto the market. The Parish Council took a decision at its meeting in February that it would put in an offer for the land, in order to keep it an oasis of nature for local residents. We are, of course, very keen to give our residents the option to comment on the plan and would invite your thoughts.**

That leads me in to talk about the discussion regarding Climate Emergency. The Parish Council is considering declaring a Climate Emergency and looking at ways in which we can combat the effects of climate change. Again, we would welcome any input from residents. There will be meetings monthly or every two months. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Something that encourages a great community spirit in Westfield is the stretch of Christmas lights along the centre of the parish, and the Christmas trees around the shops. We are happy that several Councillors have received nothing but positive comments about the display and we are

pleased that you like them. They have even drawn comments from outside the parish!

Another major article this time is the Precept leaflet. It is important that you take a good look at this if you are interested in how your money is spent in Westfield as it outlines everything that the Parish Council is responsible for and how we spend your money.

You will have noticed that our website has changed. We have brought it into line with Government legislation with regards to accessibility – that is, making sure that all people, with or without disabilities, are able to access the site and get the most out of it. We hope you like it.

Coming up in March is the national Census. This is something that happens every 10 years and is a tool for the Government to analyse how we would spend money on things like schools, doctors' surgeries and roads. It leaves a mark in history and enables a snapshot of what life looked like in 2021. Every household will be contacted shortly so watch out for that.

Lastly, Westfield Parish Council is approaching its 10th Anniversary. Any plans for big celebrations have obviously had to be put on hold, but if anyone has an idea on how we could mark the occasion we would love to hear from you.

I hope that all residents of Westfield are getting through the current tough times with minimum impact and would like to reassure everyone that the work of the Parish Council continues through it all.

Best wishes

**Cllr Geoff Fuller** - Chair of Westfield Parish Council



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# Work starts on The Shambles

Building work is finally about to begin on The Shambles redevelopment on the Wells Road in Westfield after years of planning negotiations.



The development will provide two 2 bedroom cottages, 8 flats including some with designated home/work spaces, and one commercial unit on the ground floor overlooking Co-op Funeralcare. Each property has designated parking.

The new development will retain the existing front street-facing facades of the building, considered to be an integral part of Radstock's heritage and the 'gateway' to Westfield, and have the 1980s shop fronts removed to revert to the farm cottage fronts of the early 1800s.

Note: "Shambles" originated as a term for an open-air slaughterhouse and meat market, or a site where butchers prepared animals for consumption. This site was historically a farm and later a butcher's shop, hence The Shambles name.



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# Get ready for Bath's Clean Air Zone

**Bath's clean air zone is set to launch from midnight on Monday 15 March to urgently cut air pollution.**

From this date, you may have to pay to drive in the zone if you drive a higher emission taxi, private hire vehicle, minibus, van (including pick-up and campervan), light goods vehicle, bus, coach or lorry. Private cars and motorbikes will not be charged in Bath but may be charged in other zones.

## Check if you'll be charged

Only higher emission vehicles will be charged. Please check whether you need to pay to drive in Bath's CAZ, using your vehicle registration number at GOV.UK's vehicle checker: [www.gov.uk/check-clean-air-zone-charge](http://www.gov.uk/check-clean-air-zone-charge). The service will also tell you whether a national exemption applies.

## What types of vehicles will be charged?

The following higher emission vehicles will be charged in Bath's CAZ:

- Pre Euro 6/VI diesel vehicles (Euro 1 to 5/V or earlier)
- Pre Euro 4 petrol vehicles (Euro 1 to 3 or earlier)

There will be no charge for lower emission vehicles such as Euro 6 diesel vehicles, Euro 4 (or newer) petrol vehicles, fully electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles or

hybrid vehicles.

## What are the charges?

The zone will operate 24 hours a day (midnight to midnight), 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

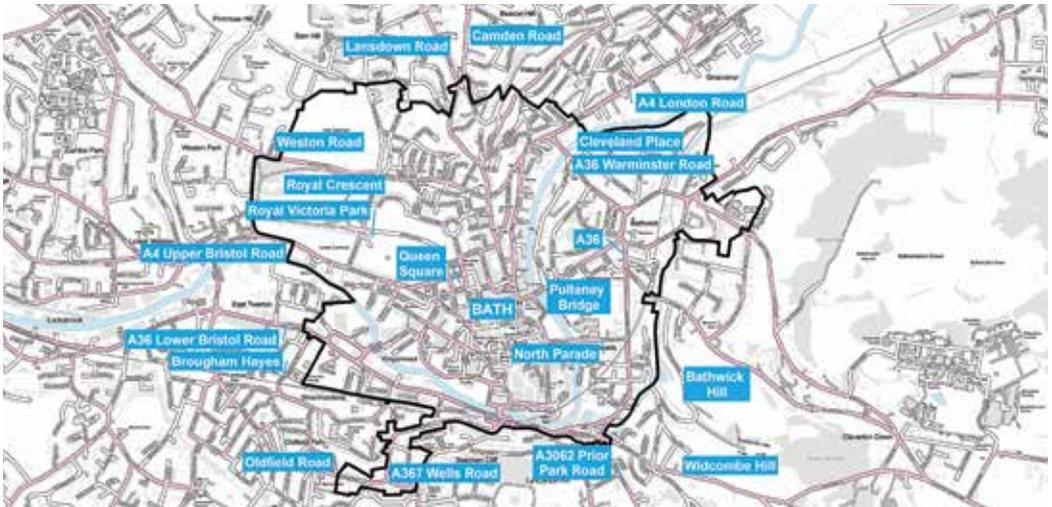
- Higher emission taxis, private hire vehicles, minibuses, LGVs and vans (including pick-ups and campervans): £9 a day
- Higher emission buses, coaches and HGVs: £100 a day.
- Larger, higher emission horse transporters and motorhomes (classed as private heavy goods vehicles): reduced rate of £9, provided the vehicle is registered with Bath & North East Somerset Council at least 14 days ahead of their journey. Otherwise the charge is £100.

For details on how to pay or register for a discounted journey, go to [www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathCAZ](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathCAZ)

## What support is available?

Drivers affected by charges are advised to check the council's website at [www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathCAZ](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathCAZ) for a list of local exemptions and whether they might be eligible for financial support to upgrade their vehicle or fleet.

The financial support scheme can provide grants and/or interest-free finance to help those regularly affected by charges to upgrade or replace non-compliant vehicles.



Those who have premises and/or regularly drive in the zone, can apply.

For example, eligible van drivers could stand to receive up to £4,500 in grants, plus interest-free finance, to help them upgrade to a similar, compliant vehicle.

Larger grants are available of up to £20,000 for HGVs and £35,000 for buses and coaches. In light of COVID-19, Bath & NE Somerset Council has amended the support scheme to give additional help to some businesses.

A wide range of local exemptions is also available for hard-to-replace or special vehicles, and to support disadvantaged groups and vital services in the city.

## Why does Bath need a Clean Air Zone?

Bath's Clean Air Zone is being introduced to help the city meet UK air quality legislation. Several places in Bath currently exceed the legal limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO2) pollution which is mainly caused by diesel and older petrol vehicles. This situation is unacceptable because of the role that poor air quality

plays in damaging health locally, and in the Climate Emergency more widely.

In Bath and North East Somerset, around 12,000 people suffer from asthma, and high concentrations of NO2 can trigger attacks. The latest research indicates that in the UK, between 1 in 4 and 1 in 12 of new cases of asthma in children each year are attributable to NO2. 74% of these cases occur in urban areas. Over the longer term, high levels of NO2 contribute to reduced lung development in children and are linked to an increased possibility of heart attacks and dementia in older people.

While the city is not charging private cars, the council is currently looking at lots of ways to improve walking, cycling and public transport to encourage more people to choose more sustainable ways of getting around.

## Find out more

For information on Bath's clean air zone, including maps, charges, a link to the vehicle checker, exemptions and financial support go to [www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathCAZ](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathCAZ).



  
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# A plea to dog walkers

**Yet again we have been receiving numerous complaints from residents about the amount of dog mess that is being left on the Recreation Grounds in Westfield.**

We are sure that if you are one of the huge majority of dog owners that clears the mess up after your dog then you are getting well fed up of being targeted with these messages. Please rest assured that they are not aimed at you. There are those that don't seem to realise the effect that leaving the mess behind is having on other people around them.

For example, there is always the problem of small children picking it up – you know how fascinating it is for young children to pick up the messiest thing around them! – and of them getting disease from it. It might be rare, but if it wasn't there it would be even rarer.

The other thing is that the Recreation Grounds both have a football pitch at its centre. Members of the

teams that use those pitches have to scour the grounds every single time they play to ensure that their players do not run the risk of stepping in the mess or sliding through it. We all know how very unpleasant it is to step in and carry back to our home/car.

There are bins for dog mess in various strategic positions in both Recreation Grounds. Once again, the plea to use them is being issued here.

Please consider others when you are walking your dog in public places in Westfield.



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# Westfield's Inspirational Citizen Award

**Each year, for some years now, we have been looking for the Inspirational Citizen of Westfield who has gone over and above the call of duty to help people, run a project or work with the community to achieve an aspiration.**



Last year's winner was Catherine Cooper who has been tireless in her quest to recycle as many waste items as possible that are not picked up by B&NES. She has a drop off point for a whole list of items and carefully packages them up and sends them to the individual recycling centres for the products via Terracycle. This is all for charity and she feels that it helps both the environment around us and the charity.

As we all know, this last year has been a real challenge for many people in Westfield. Do you know someone who has gone beyond what would be expected of them in their day to day life? Someone who, maybe, has done the shopping for vulnerable residents or collected prescriptions; someone who has made sure that their neighbours are well and not struggling to get the help or things they need; someone who has joined a community group to ensure the well-being of local residents?

If you know someone who has made a significant contribution to the community of Westfield, then please let the Parish Council know on 01761 410669 or by email: [council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk) or by visiting our website: [www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk). The Parish Council would love to hear from you and to give this award to a deserving recipient.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 26th March 2021. The award is usually presented at the Annual Parish meeting. This year we will be waiting to see if or when the meeting will be able to take place, but we will still find a way to make sure that the Inspirational Citizen of Westfield is recognised.

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## Westfield's Tenth Anniversary

**Yes – 10th anniversary!! Hasn't that time flown!**

It was ten years ago, in May 2011, that Westfield became a parish in its own right. Larger than its neighbouring town Radstock in terms of population, the making of Westfield as a parish meant that available resources could be focussed in Westfield to meet the needs and aspirations of this unique area. And there have been some changes.....

The next Warbler will highlight with photographs some of those changes over the last 10 years – the emergence of the annual Christmas Lights Switch On event, the annual Fun Day at Westhill and Fun Fair at

Norton Hill Recreation Ground, the Neighbourhood Plan to name just a few. If anyone has any photos of Westfield around 10 years ago or more that you would be happy for us to use, then please let us know.

As for so many other people in these strange and unsettling times it is difficult to make any plans to celebrate, as much as we would love to. So for now the Parish Council will forego its celebrations until the pandemic has passed, but rest assured a community celebration to mark this milestone is on the way!

# Should Westfield Parish Council purchase land at Waterside Valley?

The section of Waterside Valley shown opposite came on the market early this year and local residents contacted the Parish Council with their concerns and aspirations for the land.



The Parish Council is aware that the land is unlikely to be given planning permission for housing under present planning law, but that might change. The only way to achieve certainty, and safeguard this valuable green space for future generations, is to purchase it.

## Why focus on this land in particular?

Waterside Valley is a dearly loved asset in the community, valued for its wildlife. Its fresh air is an antidote to the toxins of the A367, and it is an environment for enjoying nature, sledging in winter and animal grazing. It can help alleviate issues of mental health and is an outside space to walk, especially for the increasing number of people working from home.

As one local residents described it, "Waterside Valley is a key area in the community, it is used by many people in many different ways. If the usage of the field was restricted or the environment was impacted due to a developer there would be an impact on many people's lives and the wildlife that resides in it."

"The community is using the land for the following reasons (although its use is not restricted to these reasons): Dog Walking, Exercise (runners and walkers), Bird Watching, Sports (children play football and ride their bikes), Exploration of Nature.

"Wildlife is in abundance including: a variety of Bats, Deer, Rabbits, Buzzards, Woodpeckers, Barn Owls, Falcon, Hedgehogs, Foxes, Pheasants.

"The area is also maintained by the community. A resident of Birch Road uses a sit on lawn mower to mark out paths for people to use as they walk through the field. There are often community groups getting together to clean the miners' pool and remove rubbish from the river. People donate their time and efforts to this area for the good of the people who use it and the animals who live in it. If the community already takes responsibility for it to an extent, imagine what can be done working with the local authority."



### What is the financial impact of purchasing this land on the people of Westfield?

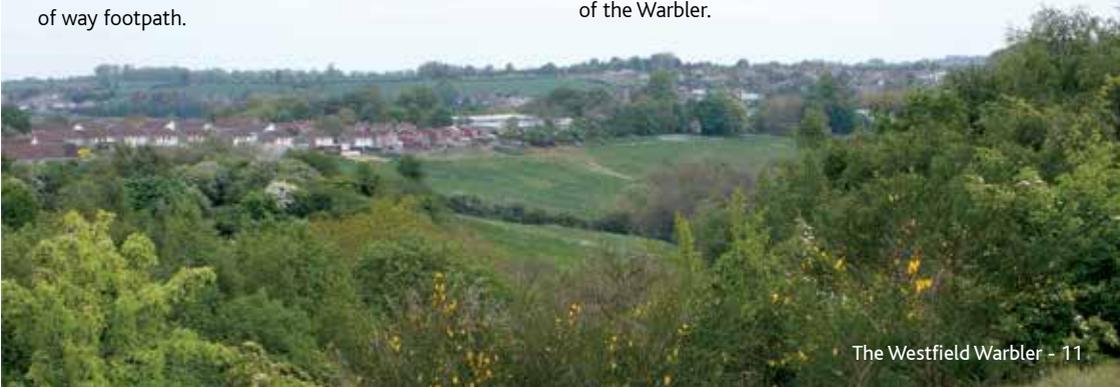
This is an important question. At its meeting in February, the Parish Council stated its intention, should the purchase go ahead, to apply to use S106 funding for green space and grant funding from other organisations. The capital cost of purchasing the land would in that case not have an impact on the Westfield precept. Of course, the ongoing maintenance of the land as the years go by would probably have an impact. Westfield Parish Council has a history of seeking grant funding where it can and carefully monitoring its spending to ensure value for money, so we would do all we can to keep ongoing costs down. We know that the local residents care deeply for this land and there is already a high degree of voluntary work going on there, which would be encouraged. Finally, we would explore with local farmers the grazing of animals to help keep the grass down and our B&NES Councillors would apply to Bath and North East Somerset Council for Community Infrastructure Levy money to improve the public right of way footpath.

### How can we access Waterside Valley?

Why not take a walk through the valley now? There is a public footpath which runs the length of the valley up to the back of Westfield's Industrial Estate. It is part of the Westfield Heritage Walk which can be found on our website – <https://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/community/heritage-walks/>

### How do we respond to this consultation?

The Parish Council would love to hear from you – we need to know if there is a will in the community for this initiative to go ahead and we would like to hear the concerns too. Please contact the Parish Council at [council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk) or write to Westfield Parish Council, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, Westfield BA3 3BX. We are also putting the consultation on our Westfield Parish Council Facebook page and you can respond that way too. If you can get your thoughts to us by 28th March 2021 that would be great. Your parish councillors are out and about all the time, and can be contacted via the details at the back of the Warbler.



# Picnic benches at Westhill

**We are lucky in Westfield to have two recreation grounds for exercise and socialising (when we're allowed!) as well as some lovely footpaths and cycle tracks.**

Westhill Recreation Ground, right in the heart of Westfield's community, has long been a popular place for people to stop for a picnic and enjoy the open space and following the installation of the fitness track and outdoor gym equipment and the upgrade of the swings in the play area last year, the Rec has been busier than ever.



Using S106 funding, which is the money a developer commits to support the local infrastructure when planning permission is granted, the Parish Council was able to install a series of benches and picnic benches around the site. Some of the picnic benches have long over-reaches to accommodate wheelchairs, meaning accessibility for all.

Thank you to B&NES for recognising the Parish Council's vision in this respect and granting the S106 funds. We're sure they will be well used.



# Now and Then in Westfield



## Elm Tree Avenue

If anyone has any photos from years gone by of something in Westfield, then please let us know. Your pictures could appear in the next edition of the Westfield Warbler.



**RADCO**

# Good deeds during lockdown

**On March 20th last year we closed our doors at Teddy Bear Nursery as the first National lockdown took place. When we re-opened, we quickly realised that the world had changed and for many of our families their needs and situations had also changed.**

As a charity-run nursery, we have always believed in childcare that is affordable to all and we wholeheartedly supported the campaign to continue to provide free school meals over the school holidays, a time when many children and families are hungry, even before we found ourselves in the middle of a global pandemic.

Unfortunately, that scheme didn't cover children in nursery education, so we decided to think outside the government scheme and planned our own scheme and over the summer holidays we made deliveries to a number of families of supplies to help them out.

The summer scheme was a huge success. However, as we approached October half term we quickly realised that there were more families in need than there had been in the summer so we set about raising money to be able to provide the same service over the Christmas holidays.

We contacted Westfield Parish Council and Cllr Geoff Fuller very kindly donated £500 from his Chairman's allowance to help us. At nursery, a raffle was held and food and money donations from our nursery families and wider community were collected. In the end we managed to raise just over £800 as well as a huge collection of donated food goods.

We were able to offer food hampers to 11 families which included essential groceries, Christmas treats and a £10 toy shop voucher.



The feedback from all our families has been tremendous with many saying that they could not believe how much it really helped them at a time when they needed it the most and how it would help them to enjoy the festive time instead of worrying.

We have always set out to try and help all of our families in some way or another over the past year, other things we have done have included:

- 1) Changing days and sessions to meet new needs
- 2) Offering extra sessions as needed (often at short notice) to help families work around ever-changing work commitments
- 3) Reducing the cost of sessions where needed and providing free sessions to Keyworkers to allow for work patterns etc.
- 4) Working with families with offers to reduce or clear their outstanding bills.

The world has changed hugely since we initially closed our doors last March but our values and the love and continued support shown by our extended nursery family has gone from strength to strength.



# Westfield Precept Explained

**The purpose of this article is to set out the main areas of the Parish Council's work and to highlight where the public money is spent within the parish.**

The precept is the levy raised by the Parish Council to fund its planned expenditure for the year. The Council deliberated hard over funding its budget in this exceptional year. Many families are struggling financially as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the Council wanted to strike the balance between easing the tax burden for the uncertain year ahead and protecting its reserves in the face of future financial burdens which would avoid steep tax rises in future.

Conscientious monitoring of income and expenditure over the years has enabled Westfield Parish Council to create a stable financial base from which it can work towards delivering projects for the community.

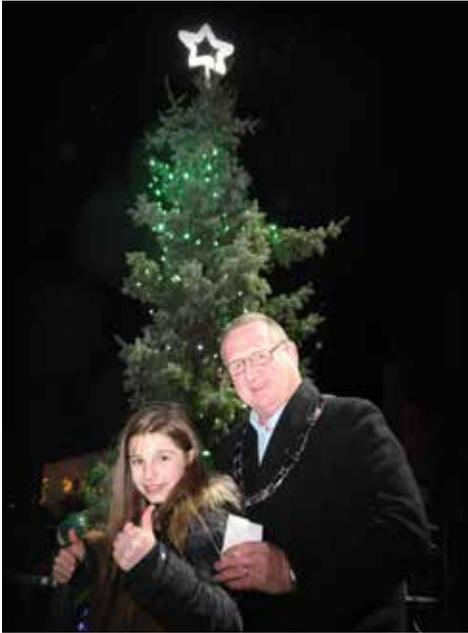
We are aware that our unitary authority, Bath and North East Somerset Council, has faced some severe challenges to its finances over recent years and in 2020 in particular with the effect of the COVID pandemic. This has and will continue to impact the services in Westfield and with continued careful control of its finances the Parish Council can continue to support and mitigate this impact as much as possible.

## What services does the Parish Council offer?

- The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications and provides a local voice on highways and environmental matters.
- It has a Neighbourhood Plan which directs future developments in the Parish ensuring the standards of development as well as affording the Parish a 25% portion of the community infrastructure levy which it uses to fund projects for the benefit of Westfield.
- It funds youth services in the Parish as part of a wider Cluster Group.
- It manages sports and leisure facilities at Norton Hill and Westhill Recreation Grounds on behalf of two Miners' Welfare Trusts as well as maintaining a few smaller areas of land.



- Our recreation ground facilities offer football pitches, a tennis court, play areas, a BMX track, gym equipment, a fitness track, table tennis, boules and basketball.



- It encourages community spirit by funding events such as the Christmas Lights Switch-on event, the summer Fun Day, the Front Garden competition and the Inspirational Citizen award.
- It supports the parish environment by funding the hanging baskets and the planting schemes in the decorative pit trucks and raised beds around the parish, as well as additions to the parish such as the Heritage Walking trails and campaigning to keep footpaths clear.



- The Parish Council supports local organisations through grant funding and makes provision in its budget to support St Nicholas Churchyard which is used and appreciated by many residents of Westfield.
- The Parish Council provides and, in partnership with community organisations, maintains six public access defibrillators in the parish.



## How did the Parish Council perform in the last year?

2020 saw plans for many events and projects somewhat thwarted but the big success of the year was the installation of a fitness track around the outside of Westhill Recreation ground complemented by 12 pieces of outdoor gym equipment. This was the Parish Council's largest project to date and was generously funded by grants from Big Local and B&NES section 106.



Although it was not possible for the annual Christmas Lights switch-on event to go ahead, we were still able to enjoy a fresh new set of festive lights on lamposts the length of the parish thanks to a new 5-year contract.

A new set of benches and picnic tables were installed at Westhill Recreation Ground following the success of the ones at Norton Hill the previous year, again funded by a section 106 allocation.

Plans for a pavilion at Westhill Recreation Ground had to be paused as so many grant funding pots closed during the pandemic. However, the Parish Council is delighted to have secured from B&NES, via section 106, the funds to re-allocate the footpath status from the old to the new path that links Pit Lane to Shakespeare Road, paving the way for more efficient clearing of vegetation each year and, we hope, adequate lighting along the length of the path.

Youth Services continued despite the challenges of lockdown. The Parish Council, as part of the Youth Cluster, was pleased to continue to support the provision financially.

The Parish Council continued to support local organisations with grant donations as well as a grant given by the Parish Council Chairman from his Chair's Allowance to Teddy Bear Nursery for the provision of Christmas goods parcels.

The third annual Inspirational Citizen Award was awarded to Terracycle recycling champion, Catherine Cooper, for providing a facility for residents of Westfield and beyond to recycle items that are not able to be collected by the local authority.



Our freedoms may have been restricted in 2020 but the spring / summer weather was undeniably beautiful and we were delighted to be able to go ahead with the annual Front Garden competition judged by our very own flowers contractor and with prizes generously donated by Thomsons Hardware in Radstock.

This year we used The Westfield Warbler to offer a free advert to any business based in and serving Westfield as a way of helping to boost business following the Spring/Summer lockdown. It was a bumper edition and we are grateful to B&NES Cllr Robin Moss for using Ward Councillor Initiative funds to part fund this.

Website accessibility is ever more important as we rely on the internet for communication. 2020 saw a lot of background work on a new website which meets accessibility requirements for local councils and our new website is now live.

The Green and Open Spaces working group continues to work on projects emanating from our work on the Neighbourhood Plan and welcomes any new members. The Parish Council would be delighted to hear from anyone that might have ideas or expertise in this area.

## What is new for 2021/22?

The COVID pandemic took over a lot of things in 2020 but one thing that remains critical is the climate emergency facing our planet. Westfield Parish Council has formed a Climate Emergency Working Group and welcomes any new members who have an interest in this area and would like to share ideas or get involved. You do not have to be on the Parish Council to join the working group.

The Westfield Green and Open Spaces Working Group continues to work on projects to bring to fruition the aspirations of our Neighbourhood Plan

and welcomes new members and ideas. Current projects include the creation of a nature trail and the installation of lighting along the Pit Path from Shakespeare Road.

The Parish Council continues to budget cautiously and to ensure it has contingency reserves to maintain a healthy financial balance of providing for the community whilst anticipating future demands on its resources. We positively encourage your views and suggestions for the future of our Parish. Residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council and you can view our 2021/22 budget at any time on our website.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How is the Parish Council funded?

The Parish Council raises a precept based on its budgeted spending for the year. The precept is added to your Council Tax bill and is shown alongside other additions such as Police & Fire and Social Care. In addition to the precept the Council seeks funding in the form of grants for some of its projects.

### How much does the average household pay towards the Parish Council?

The precept total is apportioned per household according to Council Tax band and is presented in terms of a Band D equivalent. The 2021-22 precept of £207,650 will cost a band D household £110.62 per year or £2.13 per week. This is an increase of 2p per week from last year.

### How is the Parish Council run?

The Parish Council is made up of 11 Councillors elected by the people of Westfield every four years. The Parish Council employs three part time members of staff to administer the work of the Council. Details of the Councillors and contact details for the office can be found on our website

and in the back of each edition of our quarterly newsletter, The Westfield Warbler.

The Parish Council is governed by statute, such as the Localism Act 2011. We are members of the National Association of Local Council (NALC) who advise on updates to the law and changes in legislation such as GDPR and website accessibility.



**Westfield  
Parish Council**

# Front Garden Competition

**Well, believe it or not, even under the current restrictions, it is time we started thinking about the annual Front Garden Competition in Westfield.**

This is always an event that we love, as it shows off all those wonderful gardens in Westfield. At this time of year we all need something to look forward to and getting our plants ready for the garden is one of them.

Last year's winners were delighted with the accolade of having won the competition and we're sure they will be entering again. Mrs Jennings was the recipient of the best Front Garden award and Mr Hudd won the best Container award.

Our judge – Rob Wicke, the contractor looking after the flower displays through Westfield, who is probably in full swing getting those ready for display this year – said that last year's entrants were a pleasure to have seen, brightening the neighbourhood for all.

So get your gardening gloves on, pop down to the garden centre for your seeds and essentials and we look forward to getting your entry into the competition in June. Judging will take place, as usual, in early July – watch this space.

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## British Legion update

**Even though the official Poppy Appeal Collection is over, that doesn't mean that your local Branch are not still working for the good of local veterans and their families. We are still there with our local 24/7 helpline, 07858 576827. We can then put you in touch with trained and dedicated staff to assist you.**

If you didn't manage to purchase an enamel Poppy or VE Day pin, there are still some available. The pins are on sale in the National Westminster Bank in Midsomer Norton and also at Norton Green Garden Centre,

Chilcompton. This is also an opportunity to get rid of all the old coinage and notes (British of course). However, you can still use current currency!

We are also in the first stage of planning for this year's Remembrance and Dressing of Graves ceremonies. So, if you have never purchased a wreath before and would like to for laying at a war memorial this year, please contact Wg Cdr Geoff Wilson via email: geoffwilson.msntabl@gmail.com. Your style of wreath, badge and ribbon can then be discussed and a donation price quoted.

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**census**  
2021

# Be a part of Census 2021

**Census day is 21 March 2021.**

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.



Find out more at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

   Follow @Census2021

# Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

## Households across Westfield will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

"This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools

and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](http://census.gov.uk).

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## Carers' Centre

### We're still here to support unpaid carers in BaNES

If you're looking after someone  
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to support you. Get in touch for:

- Trusted information and advice
- Help planning for emergencies
- Employment and grant support

# 0800 0388 885

Monday–Friday, 8.15am–3pm

[support@banescarerscentre.org.uk](mailto:support@banescarerscentre.org.uk)



# Youth Connect outreach sessions

The Youth Connect work team have been running outreach sessions in the parks since the arrival of covid-19 and have been working hard to maintain fun and interactive sessions outdoors.

These sessions have involved sports, issue based informative workshops and outdoor cookery. They have also been keeping in contact with the young people via text message and Zoom sessions, checking in with young people and offering support where needed. During the lockdowns teams have been walking the area of Westfield handing out hygiene packs to any young people they meet and informing them on up to date covid information and offering any support needed.

The hygiene packs contain hand sanitiser, a face mask and anti-bacterial wipes. The hygiene packs were funded by the Midsomer Norton Lions Club.



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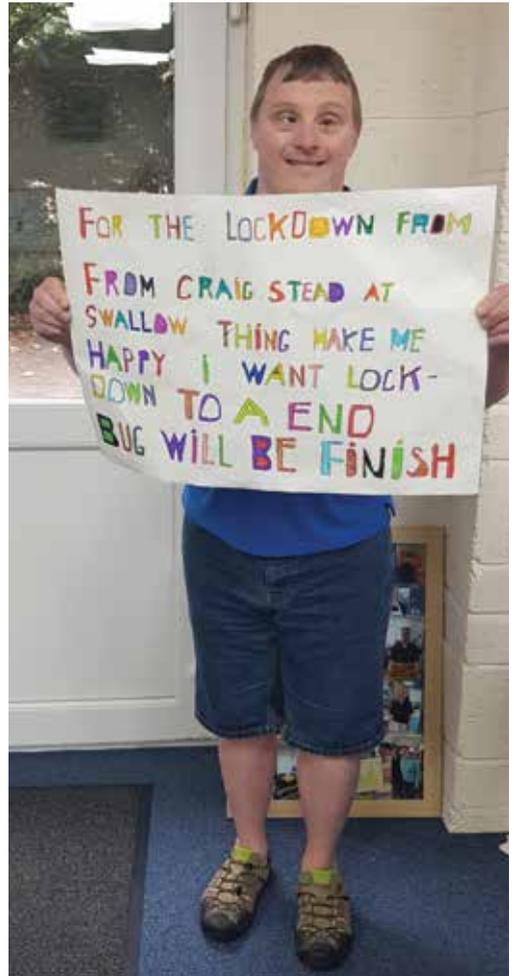
# SWALLOW Charity providing much-needed support

**SWALLOW Charity has continued to support its members, local teenagers and adults with learning disabilities, throughout the pandemic. In order to keep members and staff safe the charity has implemented a regime of using PPE, social distancing and sanitising. The charity's support has become even more vital as members' anxiety levels have risen and normal routines have been disrupted.**

SWALLOW members have also been busy cooking for vulnerable families and making cakes for NHS workers, they have also created artwork to show their appreciation and sacrifices that people have made.



The SWALLOW Choir is also busy recording a new version of "You Raise me Up" for a special Remembrance Service on 24th March 2021. If you would like details of anything that SWALLOW is up to, or you would like to support the charity's work, please contact Nicky Tew on [nickyt@swallowcharity.org](mailto:nickyt@swallowcharity.org) or ring 01761 414 034, or go to [www.swallowcharity.org](http://www.swallowcharity.org).



One of SWALLOW's members sums up how many people feel.

# Keep Britain Tidy!

**Over the past year the amount of litter around our neighbourhood has increased to an alarming amount! We should be proud of our neighbourhood.**

Litter blights our streets but with so many work staff furloughed or isolating because of Covid, councils have not been able to undertake the normal cleaning routines.

Since the recent lockdown started, my husband and I became so appalled by the amount of litter on our streets and in the hedgerows that we decided to volunteer to clear as much as we could. In ten days in January we filled twenty four large sacks. The contents contained over forty disused face masks, hundreds of drink cans and plastic bottles, empty vodka, wine and beer bottles. Hundreds of crisp packets and sweet wrappers. Also, dozens of coffee cups, sandwich wrappings and other take way food wrappers. Cigarette butts are very hazardous, they can choke small animals and birds who mistake them for food. They release toxins into the environment. One butt contains enough toxins to kill dozens of fish should it reach a river or stream.

I believe a considerable amount may be from recycling bins. Lids come off and items blow out onto the pavements and into the road gutters. If people were to place a brick or stone on the lid this would solve the problem. The recycling team do not collect items that have fallen out of the boxes. I have witnessed this!



Today's young people are key to eliminating litter and ending waste for future generations. More than 2.3 million children and young people are actively engaged in the Eco Schools programme. It encourages every child to learn about the environment and the role in preserving it.

Sir David Attenborough stated recently that he is ashamed of his generation for helping to destroy our planet. So who is it that throws a face mask out of a vehicle window or when alighting from a bus? Who throws down empty vodka and wine bottles? Who do they think will clear it up? Do they not care about the impact a broken glass bottle will have on wildlife but also our cats and dogs? The plastic that gets caught in a bird's mouth can cause its death.

If you have an hour or two each week you can play your part in helping to keep our neighbourhood free from litter. Litter pickers and bags can be supplied by BaNES. Should you choose to pick litter it can be done as part of your daily exercise. Please ensure to do it safely either on your own or with a member of your household. Undertaking voluntary or charity work is permissible under the current regulations. If you would like to help please contact the Parish Council on 01761 410669.

Written by: Sandra Coles

# Rising to the Climate Emergency in Westfield

**Climate change, meaning the build-up of man-made gases in the atmosphere that trap the sun's heat, causing changes in weather patterns around the world, has long been established as one of the major issues of our time. But what can we do here in Westfield?**

The Westfield Climate Emergency Working Group is set up to take action at a local level. Already we have seen B&NES Councillor for Climate Emergency, Sarah Warren, visit the Parish Council meeting to talk about the steps we can take here and now. And an appeal in

the local paper went out to people of all ages with an interest in doing something to make a difference for the next generations to come forward and be part of this group.

On the agenda so far are Tree Planting and funding for electric car charging points. Why not join the group, expand the agenda and start working together to make a difference in Westfield? We would welcome any resident that has an interest in such matters.

## Let's get walking

**Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?**

Walking in Somerset [www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset) is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said: "There is so much walking information on

the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you."

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

**John Harris** – email: [john@walkinginengland.co.uk](mailto:john@walkinginengland.co.uk)  
[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

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# Westfield launches its new website



**Web accessibility is the inclusive practice of ensuring there are no barriers that prevent interaction with, or access to websites by people with disabilities.**

In the UK alone some 11 million people suffer from a disability. Nearly two million of these are blind, and 40,000 are 25 years old or younger. This is not to say that all disabilities make it difficult for people to use the internet, but it provides the context in which the government's Website Accessibility Regulations were written and their importance, which was embraced by the Parish Council.

Westfield responded with a thorough analysis of its website. It soon became apparent that it fell short of the new guidelines in many areas and that correcting these areas would take longer and be more expensive than developing a new website.

Following a lengthy tender process, the Parish Council commissioned local company Zonkey to create a website which meets the new regulations. January 2021 saw the culmination of many months of work, as the website went live.

Why not take a look at the new site [www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)

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*All bookings on-line via website, a five minute induction will be held prior to first visit, this will be over the phone during the Covid pandemic.*

# Westfield TT still running

**This report has been received from John Reynolds, founder of Westfield TT, who, we are delighted to say, announced his engagement to Jo at Christmas. We would like to wish them lots of happiness in their lives together.**

It has been a really difficult year trying to arrange Westfield TT running groups with all the restrictions.

The new running track has been amazing, not only for running but also for using the gym equipment and having a secure and safe place to meet during the dark winter evenings.

The track has been priceless for introducing new runners and also experienced members, gaining new levels of fitness in a safe environment by not running through busy streets.

At the moment we can only run in pairs - 2m apart which makes group training session impossible. So I have improvised by laying a flour trail on Sunday mornings which runners can easily follow in pairs.

The trails take them on an unknown local route that starts and finishes at the running track.



It gives everyone the opportunity to still train at whatever time suits them on a Sunday.

They can pair up with someone of the same speed and I've had several comments from local residents of all ages that also have great fun following the arrows by walking the route.

This gives us a great feeling that the local community are joining us in keeping fit and healthy. Routes are usually 6-8 miles.

Many thanks once again for all the amazing support from Westfield Parish Council which have helped to improve so many lives during these difficult times.

John Reynolds



# Simnel Cake

## - An Easter Treat

As Spring starts to set in and now that Shrove Tuesday has come and gone, it is time to start looking forward to Easter. Why not use your extra lockdown time to create this classic Easter treat? Simnel Cake is a light fruitcake that traditionally was eaten in the lead up to Easter, however it has since become synonymous with Easter Sunday because it is traditionally decorated with 11 balls of marzipan said to represent Jesus's disciples, minus Judas. Really though, it is up to you how you choose to decorate your cake and as this recipe is freezer friendly, you can get ahead of the game by preparing early.

### Ingredients:

- 250g mixed dried fruit (a mixture of sultanas, currants, raisins and candied mixed peel)
- 1 orange , zested and juiced
- 500g pack marzipan
- 250g pack butter , softened
- 200g light brown soft sugar
- 4 eggs , plus 1 beaten to glaze
- 175g plain flour
- 100g ground almonds
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 lemon , zested
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 100g glacé cherries , halved
- 3 tbsps apricot jam



### STEP 1

Put the mixed dried fruit in a bowl with the orange juice and zest and 2 tbsp water. Cover and microwave for 2 mins, then leave to cool completely. Alternatively, heat gently in a pan, stirring now and then until the liquid has been absorbed and leave to cool.

### STEP 2

Heat oven to 150C/130C fan/gas 2. Roll out a third of the marzipan and use the base of a deep 20cm cake tin as a template to cut out a circle. Wrap any offcuts and the remaining two-thirds of marzipan and set aside for later. Butter and line the cake tin with a double layer of parchment. Beat the butter and sugar together until creamy. Add the eggs, flour, almonds, baking powder, lemon zest, mixed spice and vanilla (all in one go) and mix until well combined. Mix in the cooled soaked dried fruit and fold in the cherries.

### STEP 3

Scrape half the cake mixture into the tin. Top with the disc of marzipan, then the remaining cake mixture, and level the top with a spatula. Bake for 2 hrs. Check it's cooked by inserting a skewer to the centre of the cake, if any wet mixture clings to the skewer, return to the oven for another 10 mins, then check again. Cool in the tin for 15 mins, then turn out onto a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

### STEP 4

Brush the top of the cake with apricot jam. Roll out half of the remaining marzipan and use the base of the cake as a template to cut out another disc. Place it on top of the cake and crimp the edges, if you like. Roll the remaining marzipan into 11 equal-sized balls for the apostles. Brush the marzipan with beaten egg and arrange the apostles in a circle on top around the outside, and brush them with a little egg too. Put under a hot grill for a minute or two until just starting to caramelise – be very careful as the marzipan will burn easily. Leave to cool.



# Poems Westfield Primary School

The children from Westfield Primary School have been writing poems and have sent us a selection.

The following are riddle poems about a creature:

## Robins

Robins gently dive  
Robins surprisingly play  
Robins glide softly

By Jake

## The Yeti

Himalayan beast  
Mystical, furry creature  
They live in dark caves

By Rafferty

## The Kangaroo

I jump really high  
With my baby in my pouch  
Big, springy, back legs

By Isla

## The Hedgehog

Small and spikey  
Hibernates in winter  
Eats lots of gross bugs

By Maisie D

## The Snake

Slithering, cold, smooth  
Scrumptious mice to gobble up  
Sharp, poisonous fangs

By Toby

## The Dog

Gives nice, wet sappy kisses  
Happy and very friendly  
Likes to go on walks

By Max

The following are poems about the snow:

So perfect to see  
Tiny, delicate patterns  
The floating snowflake

By Ziva

Building a snowman  
House full of decorations  
Icicles dangling

By April

Winter nights are here  
Snow is falling on the ground  
Makes you feel chilly

By Kian

The trees have lost their leaves  
Good time for hot chocolate  
What am I? Winter!

By Roman

Snowflakes are falling  
It's a winter wonderland  
It's glowing bright white

By Tommy

Cars frozen outside  
Houses covered in snow  
Building big snowmen

By Michael

Wrap up warm with Mum  
Hot chocolate with family  
Cosy by the fire

By Alex F

Snow falling slowly  
Slippery the roads become  
I fall on my bum!

By Casey

Rain and snow falling  
Wrapped up warm in the house  
Giddy flakes swirling

By Tali

I made a snowman  
My snowman had twigs as arms  
I named him Larry

By Mia B

Snow is fun outside  
I went to build a snowman  
Go sledging today!

By Cole

Falling from the sky  
Big snowflakes melt on my tongue  
It's icy – don't slip!

By Alex C

I like snowy days  
Making snowmen and walking  
Throwing snowballs too

By Parker

I like throwing snow  
I saw snow falling outside  
I slipped on ice again

By Freddie



# The Parish Clerk

As I write this article we are still in Lockdown 3 and taking each week as it comes. Persevering and not taking too much for granted has become something of the norm for all of us and we are grateful when plans work out and things get done.

Through the Autumn we gathered quotes to replace the swings at Westhill Play Area and were delighted to see them go in just before Christmas. Likewise the new picnic benches were installed at Westhill, making it a pleasant place to stop for a picnic and enjoy the new outdoor gym and play facilities.

We are sorry that the annual Fun Day at Westhill Recreation Ground will not happen in June this year and likewise a community celebration of Westfield's Tenth Birthday is being deferred due to the pandemic. But please rest assured that this milestone will not pass us by completely and the next Warbler will focus on the changes in Westfield since it became a parish.

As you may know, Local Councils now have to comply with Accessibility Regulations in relation to their websites and apps. These regulations aim to help make sure online public services are accessible to all users, including those with disabilities. We were pleased to launch our new compliant website in January, which is straightforward to navigate and use. Why not take a look at it at [www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)

A huge thank you to the Westfield Snow Wardens for their work to keep the gritting machines primed and ready for use. If anyone would like to join this small group of volunteers doing such vital work in the parish, please do get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

**Lesley Close**

**Parish Clerk**

## Parish Council Meetings

**All meetings are on Zoom until further notice and start at 7pm.**

**The Zoom invite is on our Website, Agendas and Minutes page.**

[www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/agendas-minutes](http://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/agendas-minutes)

### **Parish Council Meetings**

Monday, 1st March, Tuesday, 6th April & Tuesday, 4th May

### **Environment and Development Meetings**

Monday, 8th March, Monday, 12th April & Monday, 10th May

### **Finance and Personnel Meetings**

Wednesday, 17th March, Wednesday, 21st April  
& Monday, 19th May



# Your Councillors



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01761 415155  
diana.cooper@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



**Cllr Vincent Cox**  
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**Cllr James Honess**  
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**Westfield  
Parish  
Council**

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Telephone: 01761 410669 Email: council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk  
@westfield\_pc Westfield Parish Council

Any queries can be emailed to council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk and will be answered during normal working hours which are Monday to Wednesday 9am to 4:30pm and Thursday 9am to 3pm.

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