

The **WESTFIELD** WARBLER



AUTUMN 2021
ISSUE 39



Westfield
Parish Council
purchases land at
Waterside Valley
- more inside



Produced for Westfield Parish Council



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Welcome from Ignyte

Hello and welcome to the Autumn edition of the Westfield Warbler. As well as a new season, this issue brings you news of the Waterside Valley, as well as some dates for your diary as events start up again! Look out for some of our community contributions for those!

Although restrictions are all but lifted now, we want to be able to tell you about more groups and gatherings in the issues to come, so please do continue to look after each other and stay safe.

While it might be too soon to mention Christmas, our next issue will be the winter edition, so please do let us know of any festive fun that you have planned. To be included, get in touch with us on news@ignyte-uk.co.uk

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To advertise in the next edition of the Westfield Warbler, contact Zoe on 01761 409831 or email zoe@ignyte.co.uk

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The next edition of The Westfield Warbler will be in November 2021. If you would like your group to be included, please contact us by 20th October.

You can view The Westfield Warbler on the Council's website at www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

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Message from the Chairman

It's great news that the purchase of the Waterside Valley has been secured by Westfield Parish Council, so a great big thank you to the office staff for their work on the project.

This piece of land has been bought for recreation and wildlife so we will shortly be asking for working parties and volunteers to help maintain the valley for years to come.

Westfield Parish Council has also been working with the trustees of Westhill Community Club to secure a lease which will help the club prosper in the future. The Parish Council is also looking to use the unused skittle ally and turn it into new changing rooms for sports activities within the recreation ground. This is still in the very early stages so watch this space.

The annual grant pot has been opened and applications are welcome from any person or organisation whose efforts are of benefit to the people of Westfield. There is plenty of information on our website and on Facebook or you can call the office to discuss further any questions you may have. Grants of up to £1000 are available and the closing date is 4th October.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Emily, our Finance Officer, who is moving on. Emily has been undertaking all of Westfield Parish Council's Financial work for the last 7 years and she will be sorely missed. All of our Councillors would like to thank Emily and wish her well in her new job.

We now welcome Adam, who will be taking on the Finance role so we wish him well in the work.

We also would like to welcome a new Councillor to the Parish, Steve Pritchard who seems very keen to get involved in projects that will enhance the parish.

Cllr Geoff Fuller

Chair of Westfield Parish Council

Fitness for all at Westhill Recreation Ground

The fitness track and outdoor gym at Westhill Recreation Ground is almost one year old!

As we looked back on the past year, we undertook a quick survey on Facebook to gather a snapshot of how the recreation ground is being used. 24% said that they use the track more than once a week, 14% about once a week and 29% use it once a month. 42% said that it helps them to maintain their health and fitness very well, with 20% of these saying that it was very much a prompt to them to improve their fitness.

Are you looking at getting fitter? The 12 pieces of outdoor gym equipment were carefully selected to work all the muscle groups. They include: the balance beam, body twister, double leg press, inclusive hand bike, sit up bench, space walker, step box multi gym, surfer, two-wheel spinner, dip bar and inclusive chest pull down. If you are unsure how to use them, there are QR codes on each piece of equipment giving more



details.

Funded jointly by the Big Local and B&NES s106 funds, the fitness track itself is invariably in use by runners, dog walkers, families and children on bikes and scooters. If you are looking at gently increasing your own fitness level, why not take a look, there is something for all levels and you'll be surprised how regularly taking a few minutes on the equipment improves overall fitness.

Westfield honours NHS Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day

With the first NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day taking place on Monday 5th July, Westfield wanted to join the rest of the country in marking this historic date. 5th July 1948 was the moment in our country's history when the National Health Service was born, bringing free healthcare to everyone.

Pageant Master, Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, said: "We have treasured it ever since but never more so since March 2020 when the Coronavirus pandemic gripped the UK and utterly changed our lives."

Given the current Covid restrictions, the Parish Council chose to mark the event with the laying of some beautiful blue flowers at the memorial stone at the top of Elm Tree Avenue.

Laying the flowers on behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Eleanor Jackson said: "It was a privilege to lay the flowers on behalf of Westfield Parish Council on NHS Day. We all owe a great debt to NHS staff, and those who provide care in the community, and we wanted to recognise the sacrifices of health and even life itself which some of our residents have made."

Cllr Jackson was joined by Andrew Snee on behalf of CURO.



Grants Pot now open

Westfield Parish Council has once again opened its grants pot to applications from groups and organisations working in and for Westfield. With grants of up to £1000 available (more in exceptional circumstances) the Council would be delighted to hear from any group or organisation that is working for the benefit of Westfield residents.

You do not have to be an established group or a registered charity to apply as long as the purpose of the activity is of a charitable nature and will be of benefit to residents of Westfield. Whilst we require an established bank account in the name of an organisation in order to transfer funds, the Parish Council has in the past supported individual ventures with the direct purchase of items that made a difference to their work.

We are delighted to support regular applicants that continue to enhance life for Westfield residents such as SWALLOW, SWAN Transport, Teddy Bear Nursery, Westfield Allotments Society and Trinity Methodist Hall. But, we are equally delighted when we receive applications from organisations that are new to us. Last year we were introduced to and able to help Enigma

Twirl Team, who were struggling to pay hall fees after being unable to fundraise throughout the pandemic and Small Stuff Baby Bank who had seen the community need and their own overheads go up considerably as a result of the pandemic. We are also pleased when we are able to award grants for one off projects, such as Kilter Theatre's UnSung Project working with our two schools, Westfield Primary and Fosseway, to create a song about Westfield which was then sung to them by Westfield Voices choir.

If you're not sure whether you should apply or feel daunted by forms then please do get in touch and we would be very happy to talk you through the process and advice on the information that we need to know.

Westfield Parish Council grants pot is looking forward to hearing from you!

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WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

GRANTS AVAILABLE UP TO £1000

Westfield Parish Council's annual grant pot
is open for applications.

Complete a simple application form telling us
how your project benefits the people of Westfield.

Any group, organisation or individual project working in or
for the people of Westfield is invited to apply. You do not
need to be a registered
charity as long as the work it does has charitable aims.

Full information and application forms on our website:
www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/community/grants
or call 01761 410669

Deadline:
4th October 2021



News from St Peter's Church

Weekly Thursday morning Communion services will restart on the 2nd September at 10am.

Online services will continue for those unable to physically attend Sunday worship while there is still a need. The Online service can be found on our Facebook page from 6pm

From September, the pattern will be as follows:
(All start at 10.00am).

1st Sunday – FC Service (Family service)*

2nd Sunday – Communion

3rd Sunday – Service of the Word

4th Sunday – Communion

*Please note, children are welcome at all of our services, but this one is less formal.

It is our intention to follow the Sunday service with refreshments in the hall if circumstances allow.

Subject to any Covid restrictions, our hall is available for



hire, for further information, please contact: Mrs Lynne Waton via email: lynnestpeters@gmail.com or phone: 01761 414731.

There will be a harvest service on Sunday, 17th October, full details will be posted on our Facebook page in due course.



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3 - 6 Dec

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Ash trees at Norton Hill Recreation Ground

We are very sad to report that Ash Dieback has got to some of the lovely Ash trees that line the road alongside Norton Hill Recreation Ground. As a result, you will have seen qualified tree surgeons at work removing some of them.

Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is a fungus which originated in Asia. It doesn't cause much damage on its native hosts of the Manchurian Ash (*Fraxinus mandshurica*) and the Chinese Ash (*Fraxinus chinensis*) in its native range. However, its introduction to Europe about 30 years ago has devastated the European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) because our native ash species did not evolve with the fungus and this means it has no natural defence against it.

What happens to the tree?

The fungus overwinters in leaf litter on the ground, particularly on ash leaf stalks. It produces small white fruiting bodies between July and October which release spores into the surrounding atmosphere.

These spores can blow tens of miles away. They land on leaves, stick to and then penetrate into the leaf and beyond. The fungus then grows inside the tree, eventually blocking its water transport systems, causing it to die.

The tree can fight back, but year-on-year infections will eventually kill it.

Rest assured the Parish Council is investigating the best way forward. How to replace the Ash and how to find the funding? Watch this space for more information.



Parish Council Meetings

All meetings are detailed on our website:

www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



An historic moment for Waterside Valley

This year's Spring Warbler asked the people of Westfield whether they thought the Parish Council should purchase land for sale at Waterside Valley. The response was a resounding 'yes', with the Summer Warbler featuring some of the many responses highlighting the significance of this much-loved piece of land and the strong desire to see it become public open space.

We are delighted to say that July 2021 saw the Parish Council complete on the purchase of the land, and we are now setting up a 'Friends of Waterside Valley' group.

Do you have any thoughts on how you would like to see the valley progress? Are you a dog walker, tree enthusiast, cross country runner, environmentalist? We would love to hear from you.





We need input to help us decide how to maintain the landscape for the benefit of all who use it.

Whether you would like to give your time and energy as a one-off or as part of a regular working party, please do contact us and we will keep you informed – council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk or call 01761 410669.



Youth Connect South West

Throughout the COVID19 pandemic, the team has been working on Tuesdays hosting detached sessions in Westhill Park and the Rec.

We have hosted a range of activities including sports, wellbeing and cooking – which always goes down well. With the change in National Youth Agency (NYA) guidance for working with young people, the team are hoping to return to Westfield Methodist Church Hall. These sessions will take place on Tuesdays in September from 6pm – 8pm, open to young people aged 11+

If you would like more information about these sessions or the work that we carry out, please contact Carrie Ford (Nes Team Leader) on 07875488718 or email Carrie.ford@ycsw.org.uk



Prepare for winter – Free bags of salt grit

It might seem like the icy roads and pavements of winter are a long way off, but we still have some bags of salt grit that we are offering free to anyone who can take them away.

Would you use it for your drive, pavement outside your house, steps etc? Contact us and we can arrange to meet you to collect in Westfield.

Now might also be a good time to ask if there is anyone out there who would be prepared to help the community of Westfield by becoming a snow warden. We have gritters and high viz vests. All we need is a

community minded individual that would be happy to grit some pavements near where they live on frosty mornings or in snowy weather.

Should you be interested in either of these things, just give us a call on 01761 410669 or email us at council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



To advertise in the next edition of the Westfield Warbler, contact Zoe on 01761 409831 or email zoe@ignyte.co.uk



**YOUTH CONNECT
SOUTH WEST**

REOPENING

TUESDAY YOUTH CLUB

**SEPTEMBER 2021
AGES 11+**

WEEKLY YOUTH CLUB SESSIONS FOR AGES 11-19.
COME JOIN US, MAKE FRIENDS, LEARN NEW SKILLS
AND HAVE FUN

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CARRIE 07875488718

**WESTFIELD METHODIST CHURCH HALL
6PM - 8PM**

SWALLOW Charity is recruiting

Would you like to work for a local charity supporting teenagers and adults with learning disabilities? Here is what some of our staff say:

"SWALLOW is a fantastic place to work"

"I love the strong community spirit at SWALLOW"

"I feel a very valued member, part of the team, and can honestly say if I have any issues I know I would be supported"



"Whilst the organisation has grown, it has never lost its focus on supporting our members to live the lives they wish to"

If you would like to find out more about how you could make a real difference and support SWALLOW members to live their lives to the full, please call 01761 414034 and ask to speak to Michelle or Lucy, alternatively email michellecox@swallowcharity.org or visit SWALLOW's website for more information, www.swallowcharity.org

An advertisement for Ignis Stoves Radstock. It features a modern, square-shaped woodburning stove with a glass front, emitting a bright orange flame. The stove is set into a white, rectangular fireplace. Above the stove, the brand name "IGNIS STOVES" is written in a large, serif font, with "RADSTOCK" in a smaller, orange sans-serif font directly below it. To the left of the stove, there is a decorative object resembling a tall, thin vase or a set of tongs. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is contact information: "FIREPLACES FLUES INSTALLATION WOODBURNING & MULTIFUEL STOVES", "INFO@IGNISSTOVES.CO.UK - 01761 437366 - WWW.IGNISSTOVES.CO.UK", and "FIRE ENGINE SHED, UNIT 6 COLLIER'S YARD, FROME ROAD, RADSTOCK BA3 3PT".

Westfield declares a Climate Emergency

On 1st March this year Westfield Parish Council declared a climate emergency.

Chair of the Parish Council, Geoff Fuller, said: "As a parish council we have a vital role in addressing the climate emergency. We are uniquely placed to encourage grassroots action, set an example and be a focal point for local action."

The Parish Council's Climate Emergency Working Group has identified four key areas in which to drive its Plan for Westfield:

(1) Purchase of land at Waterside Valley to

protect and enhance biodiversity in an area which is experiencing housing development on an unprecedented scale.

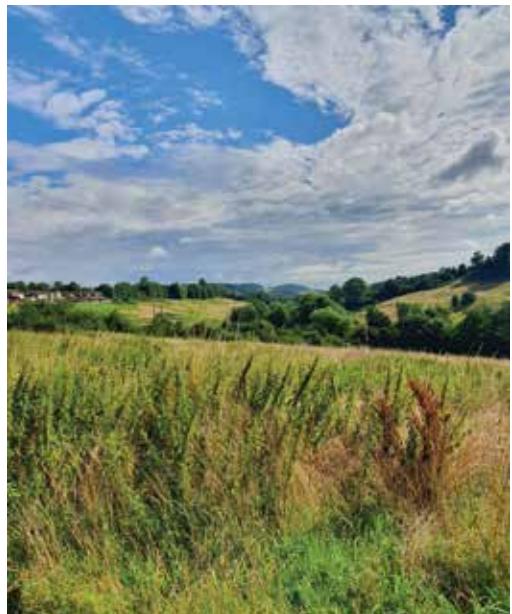
(2) Tree Planting to encourage young people to mark the Queen's Platinum Anniversary and learn about the importance of trees in our environment.

(3) Electric charging points for cars, to encourage the local Shell garage on the A367 to offer a rapid car charging point.

(4) Community heating from flooded mine works.

Not only would heat from the mine water supplant fossil fuel and go a long way to reducing the area's greenhouse gas emissions, but the community could see reduced heating costs. There are many variables but mine temperature data suggests Westfield has a renewable underground resource and the Working Group has therefore contacted B&NES about accessing grants for a feasibility study.

Cllr Sarah Warren, Deputy Leader of Bath and North East Somerset with responsibility for Climate and Sustainable Travel said: "The latest climate science shows that we have to move at speed to reduce our carbon emissions, and I find it really inspiring that many parish councils are choosing to lead on climate action. I commend Westfield PC for their plans and look forward to working with the community to realise them."



As we move forward, Westfield Parish Council is sending a representative to the Parish Council Climate Emergency Network in September so that we can keep informed and do all we can to reduce climate impacts by 2030.

If you would like to be involved in any way please contact the Parish Council – council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

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Swan Transport's 'Stars in their Cars'

Swan Transport's dedicated team of volunteer drivers are truly 'Stars in their Cars', they have been helping people get to vaccination centres, hospital appointments and social activities.

Swan's work directly combats social isolation and improves health and wellbeing for people in towns and rural areas across all of B&NES and our drivers are the key to providing this service since 2001.

Swan has seen a growth in the number of people needing help with transport, as some people have decided not to return to their cars after lockdown eased having not driven much during the last year.

We have received lots of positive comments about our volunteer drivers, including how our passengers really appreciate being able to get out and about again, especially if they find it difficult to use the bus or are not on a bus route. For some of our passengers this was the first occasion that they had ventured out since the first lockdown back in March 2020.



Swan staff would just like to say a very big 'Thank you' to all of our volunteers, we very much appreciate everything they do to make the communities we live in a better place and give Swan Transport the reputation it has as a quality service.

Swan always welcome enquiries from people who have the use of a vehicle and would like to help by driving with us. If this is you, please contact Sarah at Swan Transport Tel: 01761 439548 or email swan.transport@btconnect.com



Bath College



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www.bathcollege.ac.uk/openevents

PRE-REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE 

 info@bathcollege.ac.uk    @bathcollege  01225 328 720

Stunning Westfield Displays

Do you like our flower displays?

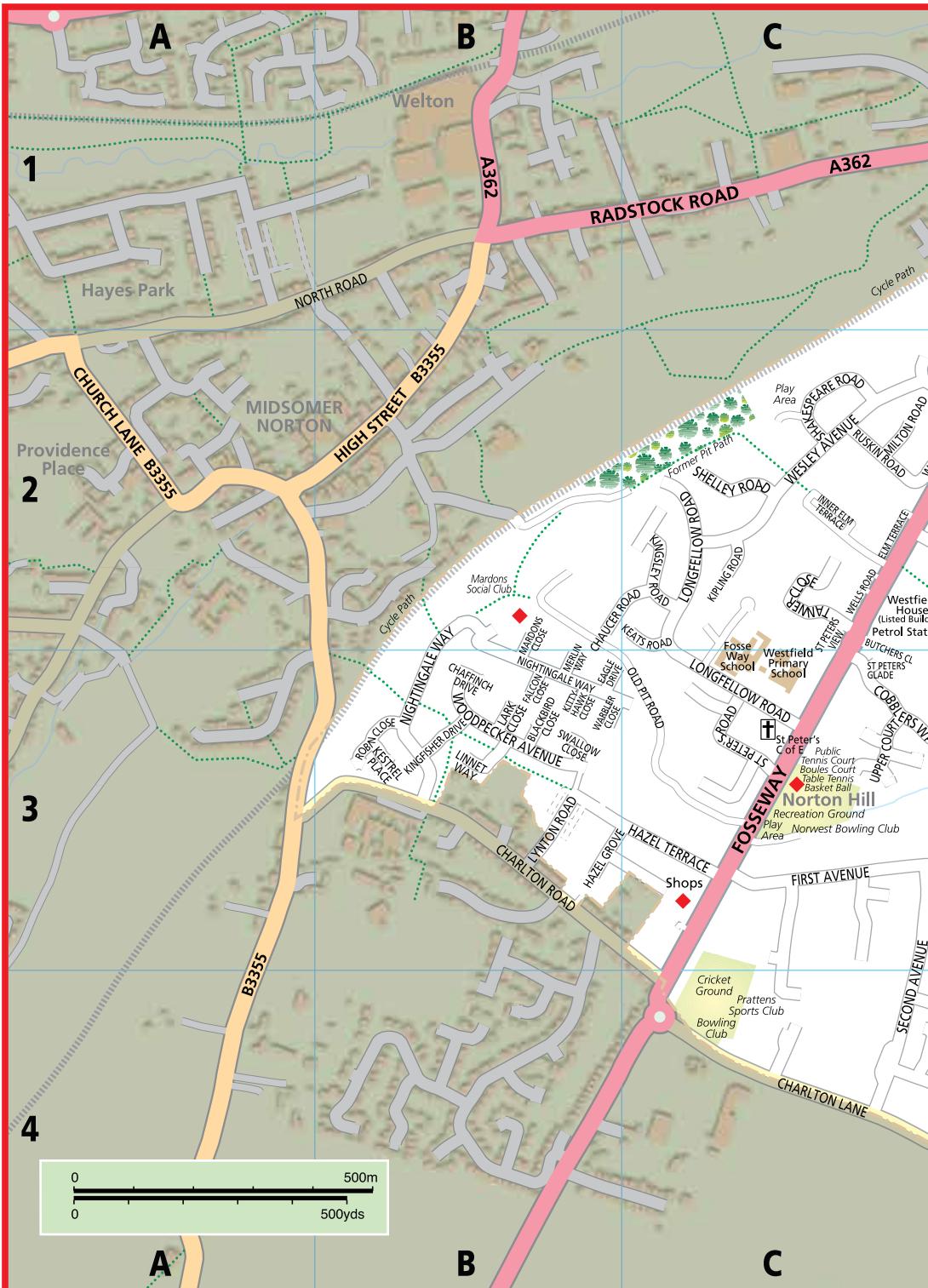
We think that the flower displays in Westfield are looking particularly colourful and bright this year and we would like to thank our contractor, Rob Wicke, for his work in establishing them and for the regular maintenance he does to make sure they stay that way. They are very eye catching as you travel through the centre of Westfield.

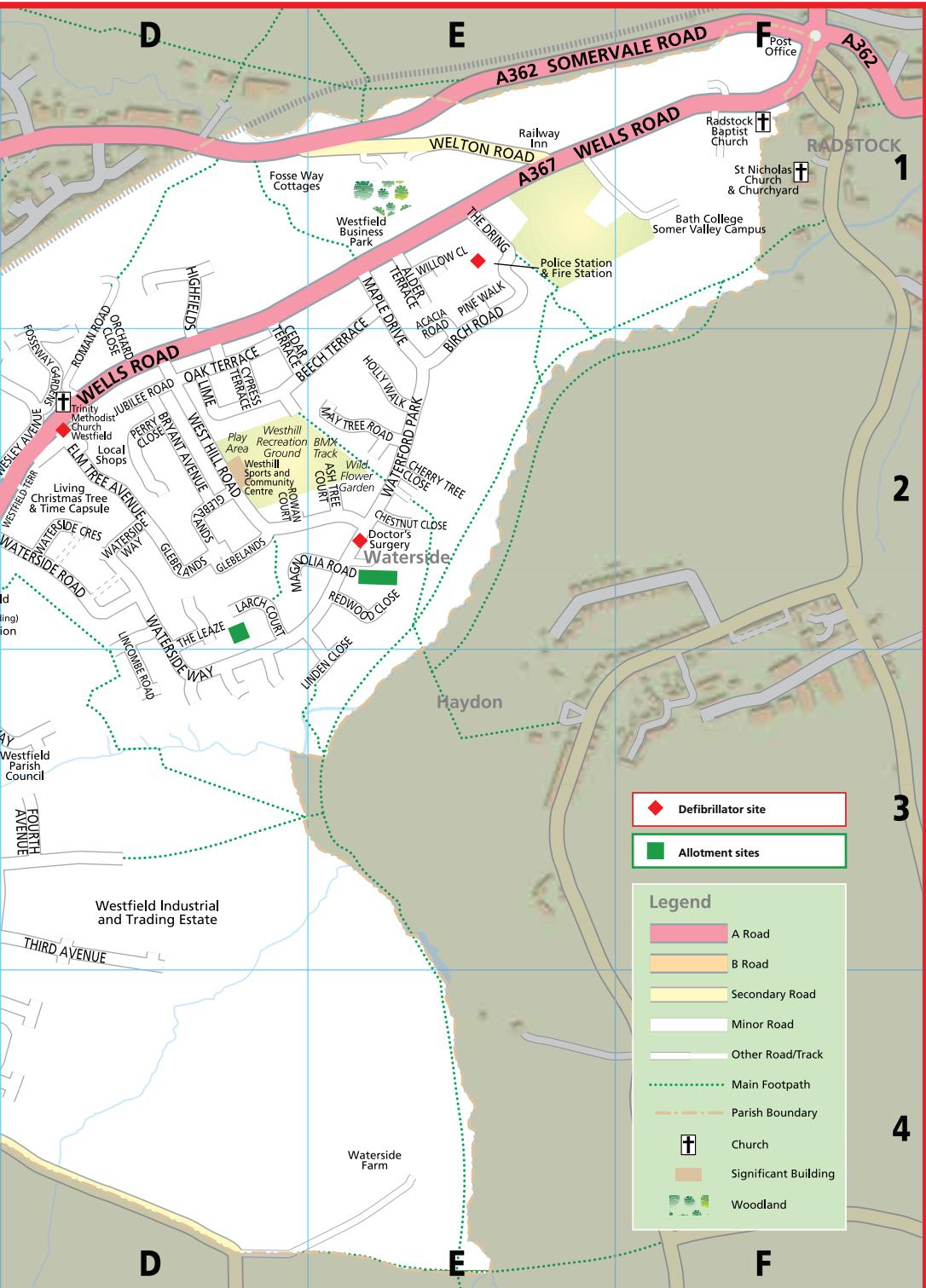


The hanging baskets seem to improve year on year. Chairman, Cllr Geoff Fuller, said: "It is always a pleasure to drive through the centre of Westfield and be greeted by a colourful display every year. Thank you to our contractor for keeping Westfield looking inviting."

Keep up the good work, Rob!







Front Garden Competition 2021

During June and early July this year, there seemed to have been a lot of focus on a certain football tournament that was taking place. It was difficult to realise that other things were going on. In the meantime, residents of Westfield still had their gardens to think about, and, of course, the annual Front Garden competition.

Entries this year were once again fabulous. Many gardens in Westfield are looking bright and cheerful and a lot of residents have obviously taken great care to keep them that way.

Our judge this year was Mr Rob Wicke, who is our contractor responsible for the beautiful displays of flowers in the hanging baskets and coal trucks in the centre of Westfield and at Nightingale Way. On a rainy day at the beginning of July, he toured Westfield looking at gardens and containers that had been entered – either directly by the residents or by passers-by who were impressed with the displays.



We are delighted to announce the winners – Mr Keith Dalley of Longfellow Road wins for his diverse, attractive front garden. He said how lovely it is to hear people passing by commenting on the lovely

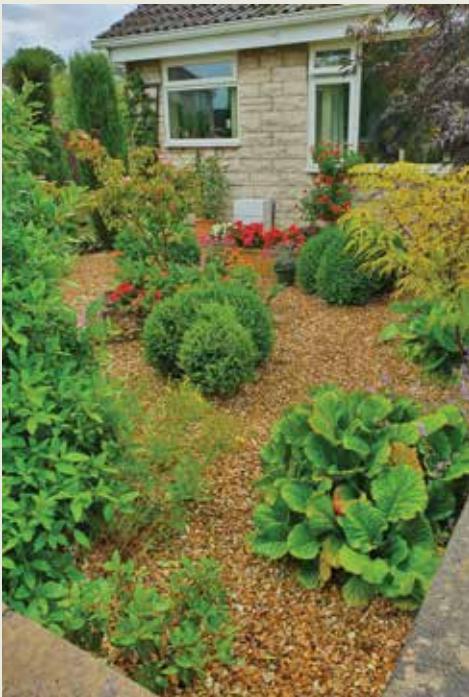
flowers in his garden. It adds to the enjoyment of planning the garden and makes the hard work worthwhile! Mrs Jade Kerton of Waterford Park wins the container prize for two beautiful hanging baskets. She was very touched to have been nominated for the award and happy that her beautiful hanging baskets had given pleasure to passers-by.



The judge said: "I was extremely pleased to see such a wonderful variety of beautiful front gardens and flower containers on display this year, congratulations to everyone who took part!"

"One garden that really caught my eye this time round had the best of all worlds. It was a corner house, so the front garden ran along two sides, which can be quite a challenge to design well."

There were a number of established shrubs and trees to provide depth, structure and background colour, with a lovely combination of perennials and bedding plants popping out with joyful colour and texture. Very nicely done!



"It was a tough call for the container prize, with the winner just edging it due to displaying two amazing hanging baskets, compared to another contender's excellent one! Fine margins indeed! The huge baskets were in immaculate condition and the flowers were perfect in size and colour. I would be very proud to have them hanging outside my front door. I think you'll find the photo says it much better than I can!"

On awarding the cups and prizes, Vice Chair of the Environment and Development Committee, Cllr Diana Cooper, said: "It is so pleasing to see that the residents of Westfield have taken such good care of their gardens and displays, creating a lovely, vibrant show as you walk around the parish. Mrs Kerton's beautiful hanging baskets are particularly striking."

The winners each received a cup to commemorate their win and a voucher to spend at Thomsons Hardware in Radstock. The Parish Council would like to thank Thomsons for their continued support.



Somer Valley FM and Bath College bloom together

Somer Valley FM, the local radio station for North East Somerset, based in Midsomer Norton, have had their gardens further developed and spruced by the Prince's Trust 2 Team from Bath College.

The team, based on the Somer Valley campus, initially cleaned and cleared, renovated existing borders, planted afresh, and even designed and built a lit path.

Ben Perry, Prince's Trust Team leader, was delighted with the results. "The team were brilliant in planning and completing the garden redevelopment very quickly. Working well together, I'm sure the skills they are gaining as part of the Prince's Trust training will help them in their future careers."

The Prince's Trust Team is Sophie, AnnMarie, Ashleigh, Liam, Callie and Nathaniel.

Richard Burgess, Station Manager, commented: "We have a great relationship with Bath College, across all the campuses. It's important to me and our team that we encourage our young local people wherever we can, from gardening through to media presenting. The students were a pleasure to be around – I hope they can find the right opportunities for themselves when their education is complete."

The Prince's Trust next programme starts 27th September, finishing 17th December.

To contact your local radio station: 01761 411755, studio@somervalleyfm.co.uk, or find us on social media.



Age UK offer support to those who have lost their confidence

Age UK Bath & North East Somerset is urging the public to be compassionate as we head into autumn, with a recent survey showing that a huge 48% of older people say they have lost their confidence, and many more are worried about the future.

CEO, Simon Allen, said: "We are really concerned that nearly half of people who answered our survey say they have lost confidence. Older people have been some of the most affected during the pandemic and for many, the isolation, lack of contact, worry and loss of loved ones has, understandably, taken its toll. Therefore, we are urging the public to really be mindful of older people in our community who may want to take things slower – not all of us are ready for no masks and group hugs."

The survey, which went to thousands of residents in Bath & North East Somerset, has shone a light on how older people have coped during the pandemic, what support is needed and feelings about the future.

Nearly half of all people who answered, said they had lost confidence which has sparked the charity to launch an emergency 'Confidence; to live the life you choose' appeal raising money for more one to one support including tailored mobility exercise, access to community groups, chat and check in and practical guidance to getting online.

Comments from the survey included:

Paula, 69, "I've never spent so much time alone without human contact before. I have become very isolated and have felt very lonely."

Peter, 81 said: "I need confidence to understand technology and get online. I find it difficult being disabled and relying on other people all the time."

Rose, 63 said: "It is hard making friends when you don't have confidence".

Brian, 76 said: "I do hope I can build up the confidence to go out of the house again."

Confidence isn't changed overnight and so the charity is asking people for regular donations to support their ongoing work which will see older people having the confidence to live the life they choose.

Age UK Bath & North East Somerset want to remind people that they are here for anyone over 55 who might need advice, support out of hospital, help at home or just a friendly chat.

Can you help to support people in building back their confidence? Please visit
www.ageuk.org.uk/bathandnortheastsomerset/

Radstock Folk Dance Club

Radstock Folk Dance Club are hoping to start meeting again on the first Friday in October (it is actually the 1st of October).

This is, of course, dependant on no more restrictions being applied to meetings indoors, and it will depend on what restrictions the hall imposes by then. We meet in the Church hall of St Peter's Church in Longfellow Road, Westfield. If you would like to join us for some light exercise and good company then please contact

Dick and Jean Shilton, 01458 841400 or email dickshilton@btinternet.com

It would be advisable to contact us to make sure that we are able to meet.

Dick Shilton

Lockdown Boules

In 2020, along with the country, and all other sports, Boules went into lockdown. However, as restrictions eased in the summer, tentative steps were taken to start again.

To keep their hand in, whilst maintaining the rule of six and social distancing, some were fortunate enough to be able to play in their back gardens. As time went on, we were able to return to the piste, which fortunately is big enough to allow two groups of six to play, whilst maintaining social distancing.

This year, we started as usual in April, and fortunately have been able to continue without interruption. Some of our regulars are understandably reluctant to come, due to underlying health problems, but the majority have returned.

The court is, of course, available throughout the day, but if you are new to the game, or want to join a fun group, then please do join us on a Tuesday evening at 6pm. We are there come rain or shine, until October, there are no formalities, no fees, no need to book, just turn up and play.



If you would like any more information, please give me a call on 01761 415155.

Diana Cooper

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Matt has run his own business called Maxem Glazing, providing a service directly to opticians all around the country. Vicky is a fully qualified Dispensing Optician who is on hand for any help and advice that is needed for frame and lens selection.

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Chair of WAGS report

I became acting chair unexpectedly in March 2020. Shortly after this, covid struck, forcing us all to remain at home with limited social contact.

It was a priority during lockdown that we did everything possible to keep the allotments open for all to enjoy safely. We followed the National Allotment Society guidance which enabled us to keep the allotments open and covid safe.

The National Allotment Society guidance was last updated on 19 July in line with the lifting of legal restrictions and we can now hold our AGM.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the allotment committee who have worked tirelessly to help maintain the allotments during the last 16 months.

We received a grant from Westfield Parish Council, to improve the fencing and orchard and create a new woodchip bay. The orchard was fenced off for safety due to the beehives. Several members helped with this work which was carried out in a socially distanced way. The pergola area has also been maintained and our hanging baskets look lovely again this year. This work has much improved the appearance of the allotments from the street and allotment entrance and has received many positive comments from both allotmenteers and neighbours.



The woodchip has been removed from the orchard following infection spreading from the woodchip to some of the trees which needed to be removed. The orchard has now been sown as a wild flower meadow with a wide variety of wild flowers to attract bees and other insects and looks amazing.

We continue to have beehives on site, the bees are a point of interest and benefit the allotment site as pollinators.

Britain in Bloom visited both the main site and Larch Court allotments on 21st July. The inspector was suitably impressed with both sites, particularly the wild flower orchard and we expect a good result again this year.

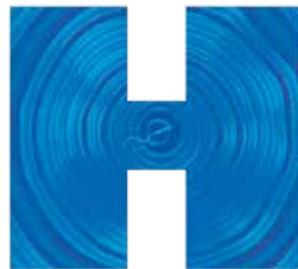
We are continuing to provide excess produce to Crop Drop this year, as we did at the end of last season. We supply Swallows Café each week which is very much appreciated by them.

In looking forward to the year ahead without covid restrictions we hope to hold an event for members later this summer to celebrate our allotments. We are also considering a street party next year for the queen's jubilee weekend.

I am honoured to have been elected as chair and end by thanking all allotment holders for their continuing work on their allotments and the communal areas of the sites which are looking fabulous again this year.

Paul Millard, Chairman Westfield Allotments and Gardening Society





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Westfield School dives into their pond project

Year 6 teacher Jose Ross' dreams of making the school pond accessible and a beautiful place to hang out are finally starting to come to fruition.

Applying for a grant from Westfield Parish Council back in 2019, Jose planned to build a path around the pond to make it accessible to all pupils. However, illness followed by the dreaded COVID-lockdown, followed by a focus on post lockdown learning meant that the entire project had to be put on hold. In the meantime, Jose was able to enhance and embellish her plans. As the photos show, the pond is in desperate need of a new liner so Jose added to the requested funds with an application for a further grant in 2020 towards the pond liner.

Already, two teachers and extended family have given up their weekend to clear the area and cut back overgrown seeded trees to expose the pond area. Meanwhile, Captain of Frome House, Billy, secured the role by declaring "vote for me and I'll get the pond cleared". Good as his word, Billy is pictured here with the other House Captains, Imogen, Oliver and Isabella, moving the large stones which they want to put to one



side to be used to build a habitat pile once the area has been cleared. Next in the plan is that a digger will scrape out the brambles, nettles and scrub around the edge of the pond so that the accessible hard-core path can be laid.

To complete the vision, Jose has planned picnic tables on which students can work on wildlife projects and raised beds with perennial flowers.

Westfield School is delighted to have won a prestigious South West in Bloom award once again and the passion for the outdoors can be seen all around the school grounds with the vegetable beds, poly tunnel, Giving Garden (fruit to be shared), wild flower area and Mining Memorial garden.

Watch this space for updates on the pond project!



New Village Agent appointed

As we come out from the COVID lockdown and life begins very slowly to return to a new normality, many people are very nervous about what they will find as they leave home after nearly 18 months of self-isolation. Local support services, clubs and social activities have been closed and events cancelled as the Government asked us to stay at home.

With a glimmer of light now showing at the end of the tunnel, local charity WERN (West of England Rural Network) is looking to support people in the community who have struggled with their physical and mental wellbeing. They have appointed Michael Auton as their new Village Agent working across Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Westfield and Paulton.

Our two teams of Village Agents (North Somerset and B&NES) are embedded in the rural communities in which they work, providing confidential 1-to-1 support with information and advice. Alongside this, we work with local people to create new opportunities for activities and social groups, and encourage people to move more and sit less through gentle exercise and walks.

Our focus is on people living in rural, often remote locations. Older residents often feel forgotten and ignored. They are certainly out of sight as the social groups they attended have been closed over the last year. During the pandemic, Village Agents became a vital point of contact for food and other essential supplies.



Michael has lived in the Somer Valley for many years and will use his wealth of experience and local knowledge to signpost residents to local services, befriending groups or offering 1-to-1 support. He is now looking to connect with service groups, lunch clubs, befriending groups, churches, and charities, and is keen to see how the service can support readers of the Westfield Warbler at home.

Michael says: "The last 15 months has been hard on all of us and we have struggled to manage the impact of COVID on our lives. Social contact has been significantly restricted and activities we took for normal may no longer exist. As the new Village Agent for Midsomer Norton, Radstock, Westfield and Paulton, I am here to help any residents to provide information and support to access services which will improve their health and wellbeing."

Anyone over 18 years of age can be supported and you can self-refer if you are struggling and need additional support. Michael can be contacted by emailing michael@wern.org.uk or telephone 07392 700765. More information about the Village Agent service can also be found on the WERN website, www.wern.org.uk/village-agents



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Live music is back at Mardons!

There was some trepidation amongst visitors as live music was reintroduced at Mardons following nearly 16 months of restrictions.

'The Skinny Dippers' did a fine job of coaxing the audience back to the dancefloor on the first night, and, with the arrival of 'Call The Shots' the following week, a packed club partied in style.

Weekly entertainment has now resumed and there's some terrific bands coming up.

On 4th September 'The Longshots' return, this time sporting a great new vocalist. An energetic band whose love of performing is always evident, they cover greats like the Rolling Stones, Beatles and ELO through to Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Killers, impressing on their initial visit, guests were quick to call for the club to 'Book them again!'

Club favourites, 'Freeze', will be on hand to entertain on 11th September and things will be kept closer to home on 18th, as local lads 'None Of The Above' make their debut. With a diverse influence of rock & roll, Britpop and rock, the band's set is full of foot stomping hits from the 60s to the 2000s.

September is rounded off with a visit from party band 'You Me And The Dancefloor' whose fun set is always a delight - their 'Wrecking Ball' is amazing!

For fans of sport, the club will, of course, be showing the football on the new big screen projector throughout the season - it's a great place to enjoy all the games.

Mardons would like to say a massive thank you to Westfield Parish Council for the recent grant donation towards the club's new outdoor kitchen area. Although delayed due to the pandemic, the new installation will be fitted soon - a huge asset to the club and the groups who will be able to make use of it in the future.

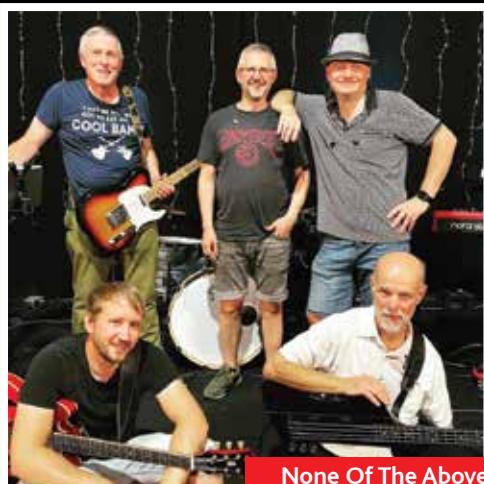
Follow the club for upcoming entertainment at:
www.facebook.com/mardonsclub



The Longshots



Freeze



None Of The Above

Trinity Events

Sue Tandy and her team would like to thank everyone who supported the cream teas, raising funds for Breast Cancer care, held on Saturday 3rd July. Due to your wonderful support, an amazing £1100 was raised. Thank you all very much and hope to see you next year.

Weekly diary dates:

Monday evenings 7pm-9pm

A new Arts and crafts evening starting 6th September.

Tuesdays 2pm-4pm

Knit and Natter.

Saturdays 10am-12 noon (fortnightly)

Coffee mornings, bacon butties and homemade cakes.

Saturday 4th September 10am-12noon

World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan



Sunday 26th September, 10.30am

Harvest Festival led by Rev. David Winstanley.

Saturday 2nd October 10am-12noon

Coffee morning for World Vision.

Saturday 30th October (time to be arranged)

Poppy Party, celebrating 100 years of the British Legion.



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'A Ticket to Ride' at Midsomer Norton Station



The weekend gala to celebrate the visiting steam locomotive Austin at Midsomer Norton station saw four locos in action in some of the best weather of the summer! The biggest ever gala saw resident Class 08 and 03 Diesel Shunters working alongside unique Sentinel steam locomotive 'Joyce' and the visiting Kitson 0-6-0ST 'Austin 1'.

There was an intensive timetable that saw both freight and passenger services, with all combination of locos in action. Two vintage buses were on site assisting with transport to and from the gala. The Wickham Trolley was also put to work providing a ride within the confines of the station yard.

Austin has been hauling passenger services every summer weekend and will be a major part of the autumn Gala on the 22nd to the 24th October. An extra treat this year are Driver Experience courses on Austin on September the 4th and 18th. Looking forwards, bookings will soon be available on the website for Santa Specials on all the December weekends.

People have been very welcome over the summer weekends and volunteers at the station would like to thank all the visitors who have made all their hard work worth while. You can get your 'Ticket to Ride' on the website or why not join the team as a working volunteer.

Booking for all events and rides is through the website, sdjr.co.uk



To advertise in the next edition of the Westfield Warbler, contact Zoe on 01761 409831 or email zoe@ignyte.co.uk

Explore the green spaces of the Somer Valley



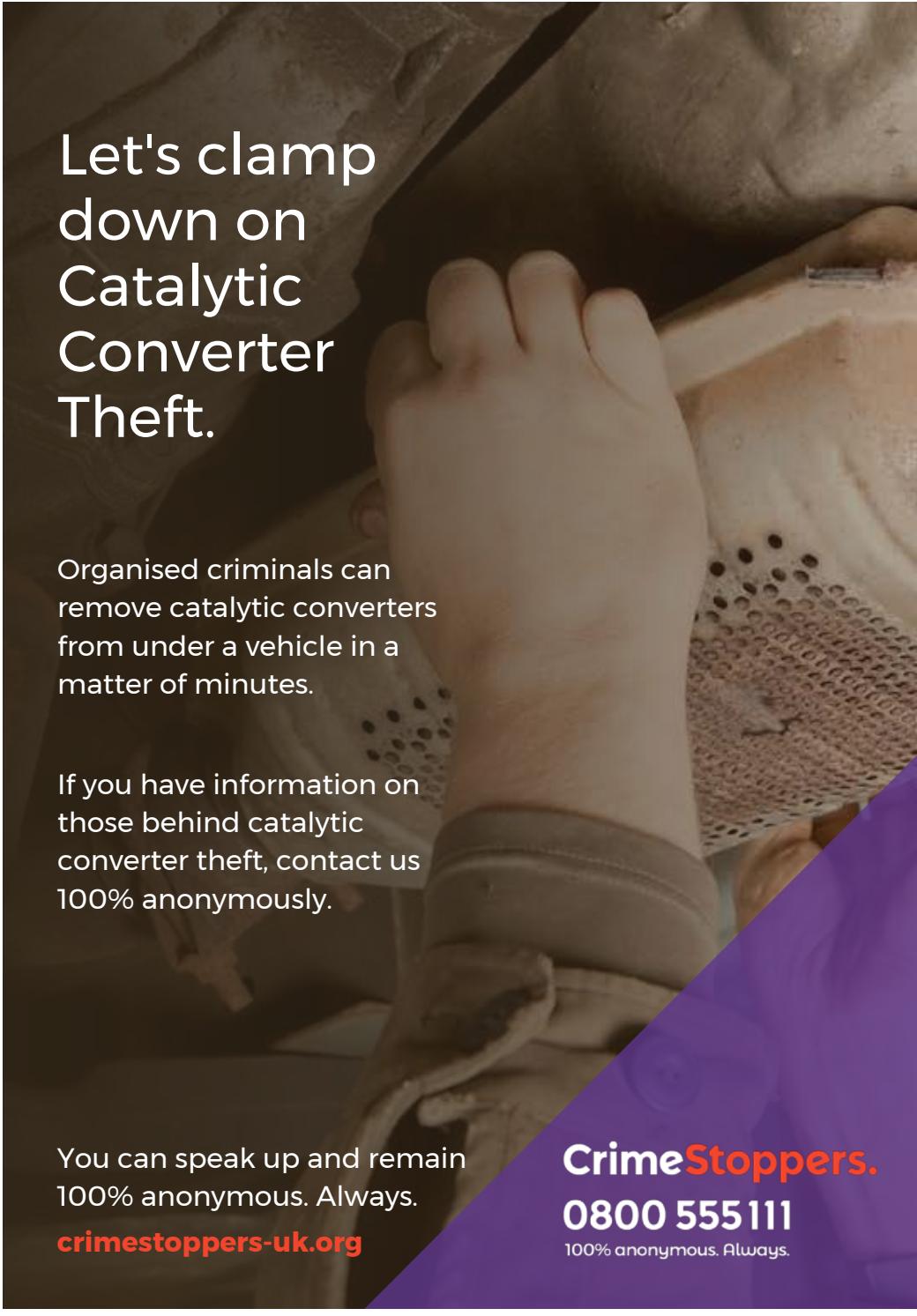
Somer Valley Rediscovered has been working with Westfield Parish Council, Radstock Town Council and Midsomer Norton Town Council to create a single map charting the wealth of green spaces in our area.

From the beautiful Waterside Valley to Haydon Batch and Midsomer Norton Town Park these spaces all promote the well-being we enjoy from connecting with nature. Woodlands, watercourses, grasslands and beautiful views are all at our fingertips.

A huge thank you to Somer Valley Rediscovered for raising our awareness and creating such a beautiful map for all to enjoy.

Take a look at the maps in the bus shelters on the A367 opposite the Methodist Church in Westfield, the Island in Midsomer Norton and outside Victoria Hall in Radstock.

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The Parish Clerk

The completion on the purchase of land at Waterside Valley was very much anticipated and took place at the end of July. The Parish Council has set up a small Working Group to work out how to set out a plan for the future of the land and, as ever, the Parish Council will be consulting local residents who have expressed an interest in volunteering their time. We look forward to seeing how this land might be managed for the benefit of all. Thank you for all the comments, they served to assure the Parish Council that this land is much needed for recreation.

Over the past month, I have been analysing usage of the new fitness track and outdoor gym equipment which was installed last year at Westhill Recreation Ground. Many thanks to all who completed the quick survey on Facebook. It is a pleasure to see it so well used and enjoyed and that the benefits in terms of fitness and wellbeing are noticeable.

Within the Parish Council office this month we are saying a sad goodbye to Emily Merko, our Finance Officer, who has been with us since 2014. Emily will be missed not just for the intellectual acuity she brought to the role, but also for her humour and brightness in the office. We wish her every happiness for the future.

We warmly welcome Adam Faulkner as the new Finance Officer to join the small team here in the Parish Council. As Adam picks up the reins and familiarises himself with the workload it has made me realise just how much the Parish Council has grown over the years.

Lesley Close

Parish Clerk

Westfield Voices are back!

We had our first rehearsal on August 4th. Most members preferred to sing wearing visors or masks. Hopefully, as Covid case numbers reduce, we shall start feeling safe to sing without them. Though the need for ventilation in the hall means that we shall also need winter woollies as we get into the autumn.

Alas, Katy, our accompanist, has had to leave us, but we hope she may come back and sing for us at concerts from time to time. But we have been able to recruit a new accompanist, Barry, who has considerable musical expertise and plays various instruments, as well as piano.

Playing for a ladies' choir is a whole new experience for him, particularly at our first practice when it felt like we

all had to learn to sing again after 18 months off. But our musical director, Ruth, kept us going and by the end of the evening we were able to make a reasonable job of "My Favourite Things" and "I'd like to teach the World to Sing". Over the next few weeks we shall be working on a number of old favourites, with a view to putting together a programme for bookings in the new year. We have already been asked to perform next February.

We are very happy to welcome new members. You don't need to be able to read music, and we don't do auditions. If you have ever fancied singing with a choir come and try us out. Our rehearsals are on Wednesday nights at St Peter's Church Hall from 7:15 to 9:00pm.

If you want to know more, contact us via Lesley Schofield on 01761 419540 or Jane Dyson on 0761 232715 (jane_dyson@live.co.uk)

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Cllr Pat Williams
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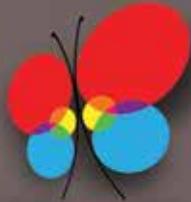


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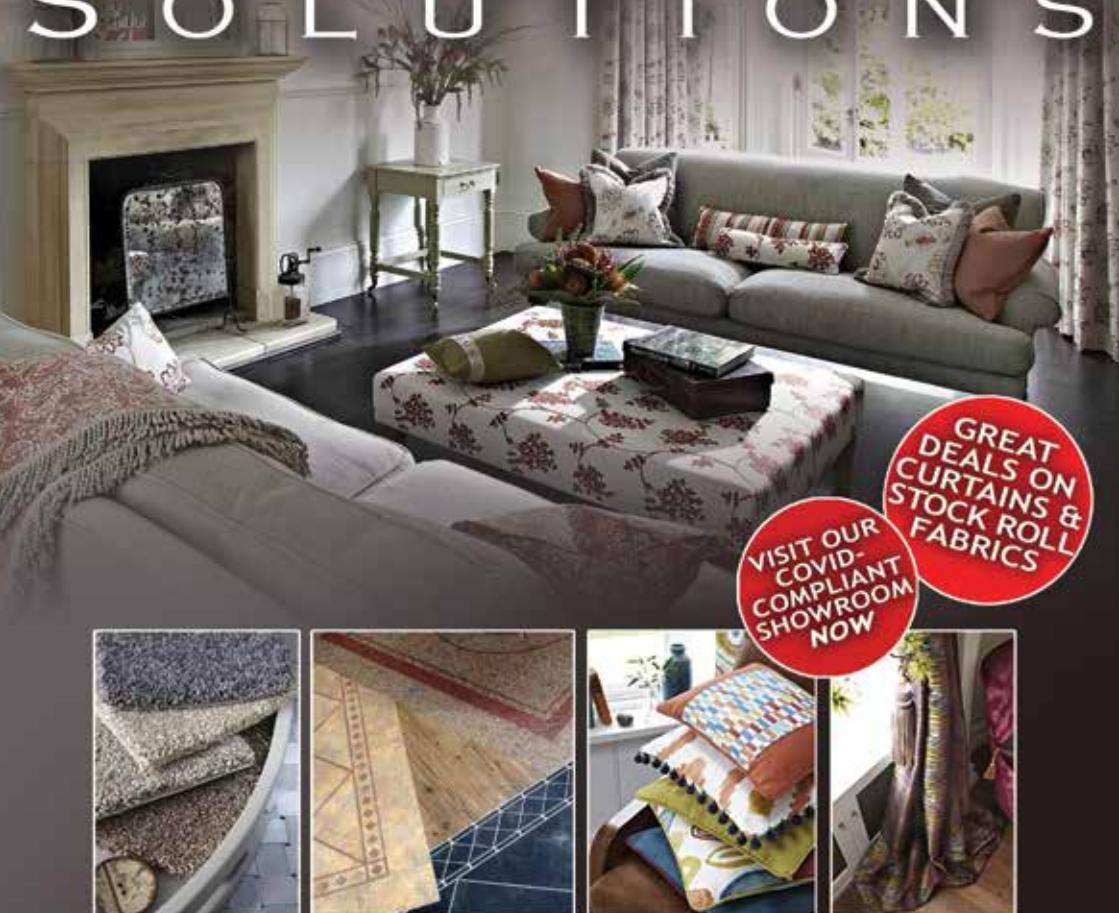
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