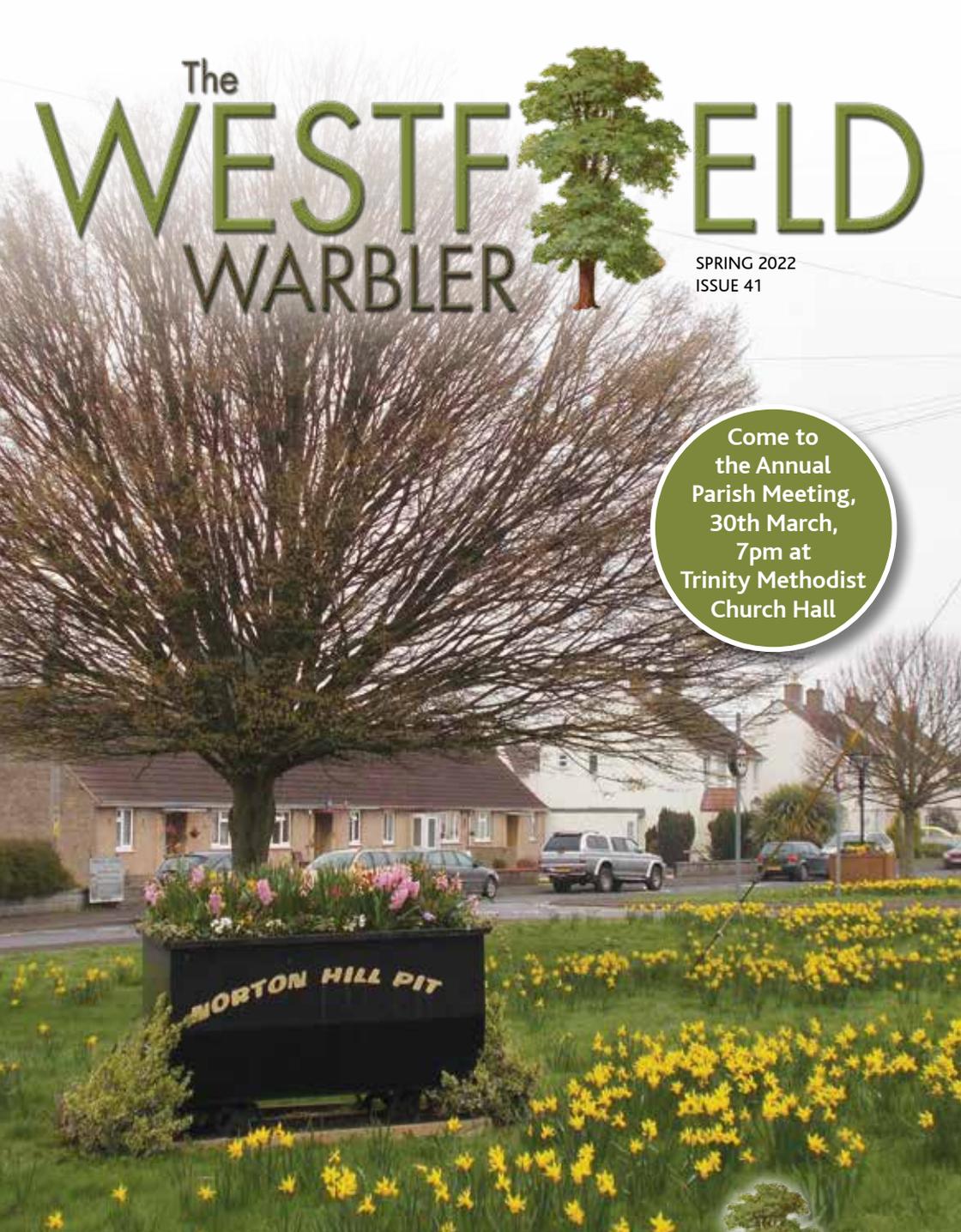


The WESTFIELD WARBLER



SPRING 2022
ISSUE 41

Come to
the Annual
Parish Meeting,
30th March,
7pm at
Trinity Methodist
Church Hall

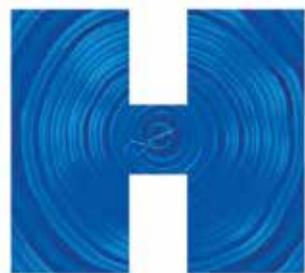


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Welcome from Ignyte

Welcome to the spring edition of the Westfield Warbler. We are now firmly in 2022 and with restrictions all but lifted, there are loads of events and things to do on Westfield's calendar - you can find dates for your diaries in this issue.

Also in this issue, you can find out the winner of the Westfield Christmas Lights Competition and the details for the upcoming Front Garden Competition.

Want to feature in our summer issue? Make sure to get in touch with us before our deadline in April. Until then, we hope you have a lovely spring and we'll see you in the summer!

How do I keep up to date with The Westfield Warbler and Westfield Parish Council on social media?

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To advertise in the next edition of the Westfield Warbler, contact Carmen on 01761 458192 or email carmen@ignyte-uk.co.uk

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The next edition of The Westfield Warbler will be in April 2022. If you would like your group to be included, please contact us by 15th April.

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

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Message from the Chairman

Welcome to this, the first edition of the Westfield Warbler of 2022.

I would just like to thank everyone for their part in making the Christmas Light switch-on another successful event. It was so good to see so many people enjoying the evening.

As you are all aware, we have a brilliant display of lights along the main road through Westfield and I am pleased to announce that we are looking to get these extended to Wells Hill, so they will reach from boundary to boundary.

This year, Westfield Parish Council held its first Christmas Decorations Award and the well-deserved winner was Mr Kevin Rabbitts, for a great display at Ruskin Road.

The budget has been set for the coming year and a precept leaflet can be found in this edition showing how your money is spent.

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the 30th March at the Trinity Methodist church at 7pm. It is an opportunity for residents of Westfield to get to the heart of what is happening in Westfield. Also, the Inspirational Citizen presentation will take place and, hopefully, there will be a winner who will receive their award.

A Management Plan is being worked on to maintain the Waterside Valley and our thanks go to those that have had their input so far.

Enjoy the oncoming Spring season.

Cllr Geoff Fuller

Chair of Westfield Parish Council

Thank you Westfield!

John Reynolds, on behalf of the Westfield TT Running Group, has sent his thanks to Westfield Parish Council for the new running track.

Speaking about the track, he said: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for allowing our group to use the running track. This has made the group feel as though we have a safe and secure place to meet and train safely - especially during the dark winter evenings.

"Throughout the covid restrictions, we could monitor safe and secure meetings, whether we ran as individuals or in groups, by marking out trail runs, making small arrows out of flour.

"So many of our runners have truly benefitted both mentally and physically from using the facilities."

If you are interested in getting fit or meeting new



people, you can join in the Westfield TT Running Group, they meet several times a week with a focus on different abilities. Find out more by visiting their Facebook group here: www.facebook.com/groups/1851237311831759

Westfield Christmas Lights Competition

On the shortest day of the year, Cllrs Geoff Fuller and Diana Cooper, together with a Special VIP, toured the streets of Westfield, to judge the first ever Westfield Christmas Lights Competition. It was cold and dark, but Westfield was a blaze of lights and colour.

The residents of Westfield certainly did us proud, with some truly remarkable displays, well done to you all. It certainly made the judges' task very difficult, but, sadly, as with all competitions, there can only be one winner. This year, with a truly amazing display, it was Mr Kevin Rabbitts, of Ruskin Road.



On receiving his award, Kevin said: "I am really made up, so excited. I have never won anything in my life before. After the terrible time that we have all had, I just wanted to cheer people up and put a smile on their faces."

Well, he has certainly done that, well done, Kevin!

Front Garden Competition

Spring is upon us and very shortly, the keen gardeners out there will be looking to get things ready for their front gardens. This year, the Front Garden Competition will be running as normal, being judged in early July.

As it is a very special year for Her Majesty the Queen, it seems fitting that there will be an extra section to

the award asking to see displays that are fitting for the Platinum Jubilee – maybe a pot or section of garden dedicated to the celebration of the event.

The criteria for the event is on our website.

So, get those green fingers working and we look forward to seeing the stunning displays that we are lucky enough to be met with each year!

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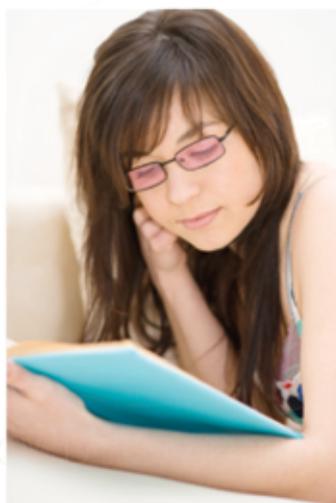
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Play areas update

After many years of repairs and replacement beams, the end of the road finally came for the wooden trim trail at Westhill Recreation Ground. In its place we now have a bright, robust trail consisting of steel balance beams and stepping circles.

Thanks to some s.106 funding earmarked for Norton Hill Recreation Ground, we have also replaced the wooden climber. This climber has stood the test of time, but, like the trim trail it finally succumbed to rot and has to be replaced. The new climber is similar in design, but more robust in its material. We have taken the opportunity to replace the play surfacing in that section of the play area at the same time.

Finally, you may have seen that the basket swing at Westhill Recreation Ground has been missing for some months. It was taken down due to indications of rot in the wooden cantilever arm. A new steel arm has been installed and, as I write, the basket swing is being attached.



These three replacements all came about as a result of rot in the wooden equipment. It is a slow process, but to make the play areas stand up to future wear and tear we are slowly replacing with stronger alternatives.



To advertise in the next edition of the Westfield Warbler, contact Carmen on 01761 458192 or email carmen@ignyte-uk.co.uk

Youth Connect

Youth Connect South West (YCSW) is a registered charity offering support to young people across Bath and North East Somerset. We have a range of services for young people, and all are run in line guidance from the National Youth Agency (NYA).

This winter, the youth team in North East Somerset decided to trial opening youth club sessions at Westfield Methodist Church on Tuesdays 6pm-8pm, for young people aged 11-13. Following two years of disruption to the club, caused by the pandemic, the team had been facilitating youth work under the detached model. With this our older members had moved on and so with a return to indoor provision, the time was right to open the doors to new young members.



On reopening night, the team welcomed a small group of young people, who instantly got involved in the "I'm a celebrity" challenges that had been set. From eating dried bugs, to putting their hands into the unknown boxes that contained critters, and being challenged to dingo dollar questions, the team made a great first impression. Weekly, the numbers increased with a return after Christmas to 30 young people.

Getting young people involved in part of the planning is at the heart of youth work. On the first week back, young people shared their ideas for weekly activities and discussed the pros and cons of introducing a charge of 50p for weekly subs.

Throughout January and February, the team have been hosting a range of activities alongside a bespoke

music project with Paul Midgeley, in partnership with Bath Music Festivals. This has allowed young people the opportunity to learn a new skill through a unique drumming workshop in groups and as individuals learning additional techniques with looping.



Carrie Ford, NES Youth Team Leader said, "It has been brilliant to see a new generation of young people access YCSW provision in Westfield, offering a range of positive activities to those 11+ in the area. What is great in this short time scale is how much enjoyment young people are getting from our sessions. It is also positive that we have an older member returning as a volunteer, and a keen new member completing their DofE, who is assisting some of our young members in activities. We hope this session continues to grow and welcome more new faces!"

Going into the spring, the team will be looking to do project work, including a cooking project, and with the return of the warmer weather by April, outside activities in the local park. We would love to welcome more members to our Tuesday sessions.

For more information about sessions in Westfield please contact: Carrie Ford, NES Youth Work Team Leader - 07875488718

More information about the referral process can be found at: www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk
Facebook - Youth Connect SouthWest
Instagram - @youthconnectsouthwest





YOUTH CONNECT
SOUTH WEST

TUESDAY YOUTH CLUB

6 PM - 8 PM
AGES 11+

WEEKLY YOUTH CLUB SESSIONS

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FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CARRIE
07875488718

WESTFIELD METHODIST CHURCH HALL
AT THE SIDE ENTRANCE

New Trees at Norton Hill Recreation Ground

Early January saw 14 Silver Birch trees planted along the length of the recreation ground adjacent to the A367.

As many will be aware, sadly 14 trees were removed from the site last year due to Ash die back. We hope the Silver Birches will provide a pleasant screen from the road and will be enjoyed for many years to come.



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Can you help Fosse Way House?

Fosse Way, the special school based in Westfield, is seeking funds for a range of fixtures and fittings that will enhance the lives of students.

The School's residential provision, known as Fosse Way House, caters for up to eleven students and is located above the classrooms in which the students learn by day. Residence at Fosse Way House provides the students with a bespoke 24 hr curriculum, carefully designed to develop the many skills that each student will need when the day comes to embark on life beyond the school gates. The core objectives, are to extend the social and communication skills of the students, develop their independence skills and build each student's capacity to use leisure time in satisfying and rewarding ways.

Over the years, Fosse Way House has come to be recognised as an invaluable component of the highly successful special school. Fosse Way House Manager, Jason Towells, explained: "Preparing all students for adulthood is a fundamental goal of Fosse Way House. Over the years, we have supported young people to move on to further education, gain employment or to move to their own supported living homes."

To fulfil its aims for the students, Fosse Way House has set up a 'Go Fund Me Page' and hopes to raise the sum of £4,000. At the time of writing, generous businesses and individuals within the local community have already donated £1,915 towards this goal. These funds have enabled Jason Towells and his team to purchase



new sofas. Some of the funds have also been used to buy a freezer. Students and staff alike were particularly grateful for an extremely generous donation by Howdens, who have kindly donated an entire kitchen! Meanwhile, the Clark Foundation made the gratefully-received donation of £500.

Parents, staff and students have also made a tremendous contribution in raising the much needed funds. One energetic parent undertook a fifty kilometre sponsored walk, while a member of Fosse Way House staff organised a Christmas raffle with prizes donated by local businesses. Meanwhile the students themselves enthusiastically participated in the fundraising drive by making Christmas decorations that were sold in Fosse Way's café, 'Longfellows'.

Buoyed by the growing success of the fundraising endeavour, Jason and his team are now determined to meet the £4,000 target.

Commenting on future plans, Jason said: "We are now trying to raise money to refurbish a second kitchen within Fosse Way House. This will help the students to develop a range of life skills including meal preparation, using a washing machine and a tumble dryer. We are also going to use any other funds we raise to update all students' bathrooms. We want to make them more homely and ultimately promote the students' personal care skills."

Readers who may wish to make a donation can do so by visiting Fosse Way House's 'Go Fund Me Page' at <https://gofund.me/4e763637>



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PEOPLE OF WESTFIELD

Wednesday 30th March 2022,
commencing 7pm at
Westfield Trinity Methodist Church
Hall

Including presentation of Westfield's
Inspirational Citizen Award

All residents of Westfield welcome.
Come along and see what's
planned for the coming year and
share your views.

Light refreshments available



Westfield Parish Council
The Oval Office, Cobblers Way,
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SWALLOW Charity: A great place to work

If you have ever thought about working in the care sector, SWALLOW, a local charity based in Westfield providing support to teenagers and adults with learning disabilities, might be the next step for you. They have many opportunities available right now and will provide on the job training and huge job satisfaction.

Why is SWALLOW a great place to work? They can offer flexible working, a full induction programme and generous benefits. They have a supportive staff team and management and know that it is important to keep smiling and having fun. But the best thing about working at the charity is the feedback that you get from SWALLOW members, every shift as a support worker you will know that the work you do makes a real difference.



A typical day at SWALLOW doesn't exist, with no two days being the same, you could find yourself supporting people to gain work skills one day, and the next supporting them to go to the gym, cinema, or helping them to cook, clean, keep fit and healthy, the list is endless.

If you would like to find out more go to SWALLOW's website www.swallowcharity.org or email Lucy on lucygilbert@swallowcharity.org or telephone: 01761 414034



Here is a quote from someone who works for SWALLOW "SWALLOW is a fantastic place to work, it's like one big family. Our members are supported to have so many amazing opportunities for learning, work and fun. I'm very proud to say I work for SWALLOW, there's so many areas and opportunities of places to work, career progression and you will never be bored."



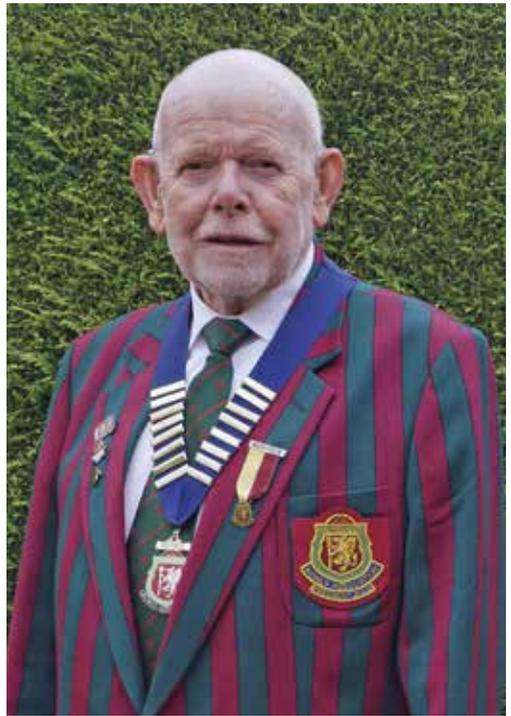
Prattens Bowls Club

Prattens Bowls Club are pleased to announce that Barrie Dando, the Chairman of Prattens Bowls Club for a number of years, has now also been installed as the Mens' President of Somerset Bowls Association for the 2022 season.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Parish Council was hoping and planning to hold a celebration tea party at Westhill.

Unfortunately, due to difficulties in confirming entertainment and contractors, this will not be possible to arrange. We do hope, though, to mark the Jubilee in some way, so watch our website and Facebook and we'll have more in the next Warbler.



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Westfield Parish Council

Precept 2022/23

This article sets out the main areas of the Parish Council's work and highlights where the public money is spent within the parish.

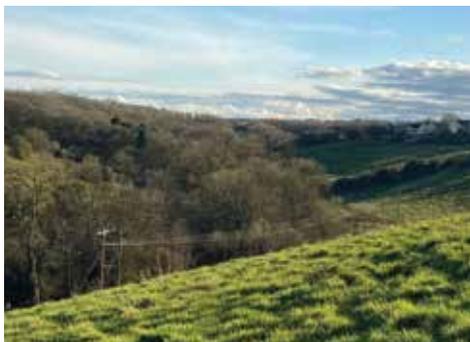
The precept is the levy raised by the Parish Council to fund its planned expenditure for the year. The Council deliberated hard over funding its budget in this exceptional year. Many families are struggling financially as a result of the continuing challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic and the 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 to deliver 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. 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?

- We are a statutory consultee on planning applications and provides a local voice on highways and environmental matters.
- We have 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.
- We fund youth services in the Parish.
- We manage sports and leisure facilities at Norton Hill and Westhill Recreation Grounds on behalf of two Miners' Welfare Trusts.
- 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.
- Public open space at Waterside Valley is a new feature this year and we are committed to managing this land for its bio diversity and accessibility.
- We encourage community spirit by funding events such as the Christmas Lights Switch-on, the summer Fun Day, the Front Garden competition and the Inspirational Citizen award. New in 2021 was the award for the best residential Christmas decorations.
- We support 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.
- We support local organisations through grant funding and make provision in our budget to support St Nicholas Churchyard which is used and appreciated by many residents of Westfield.
- In partnership with community organisations, we provide and maintain six public access defibrillators in the parish.



HOW DID THE PARISH COUNCIL PERFORM IN THE LAST YEAR?

The purchase of land at Waterside Valley, to be held in perpetuity as public open space, is a landmark moment in the history of the parish. Funded with s.106 funds the public consultation beforehand was the strongest yet in terms of numbers of people responding and the strength of feeling that this land should be bought. Grateful thanks to Somer Valley Rediscovered for funding a bio diversity survey of the site which will help shape the Management Plan going forward.

New play equipment is to be installed at both Norton Hill and Westhill Play areas this year, due to existing equipment reaching end of life. This includes the trim trail and basket swing at Westhill and the climber at Norton Hill.

It was sad to see the demise of 14 Ash trees lining the A367 at Norton Hill Recreation Ground due to Ash die back. These have been replaced with Silver Birch saplings.

After the cancellation of the Christmas Lights Switch On in 2020, it was great to see the return of this event in 2021, supported by more people than ever before.

Mindful of the importance of the Westfield Methodist Church and Hall to the community, the Parish Council had it registered as an asset of community value. This means that if the church had

to sell the property, the Parish Council would have a specified window of time to look at purchasing it for the community.

Youth Services continued despite a number of challenges. The Parish Council was pleased to continue to support the provision financially.

We continued to support local organisations with grant donations, including Citizens Advice Bureau, Mardons Carnival Club, MSN and Radstock Silver Band, St Peter's Church, Westfield Allotment and Garden Society and Westfield Voices.

The Westfield Heritage Trails were revisited with some slight changes to the routes and new information boards installed. Why not take a look at them on the Parish Council's website – www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

The fourth annual Inspirational Citizen Award was awarded to three people this year: Debbie Maggs spent time organising events within her street for residents to socialise – barbeque, coffee morning and even a fish and chip supper. Nigel Swift has spent several years making sure the pathways through a section of the Waterside Valley are passable and he mows them regularly. He has also cleared vegetation from a length of the river, keeping it all in check and healthy. Mike Chivers is seen almost on a daily basis in Westfield in his high vis jacket with bags to collect litter that has thoughtlessly been discarded. Mike actually



invents and makes equipment that he can use to get to litter that has been swept into bushes and brambles. He leaves nothing behind. All three are truly inspirational.

The annual Front Garden competition was won by Mr Keith Dalley of Longfellow Road for his diverse, attractive front garden. He said how lovely it is to hear people walking past and 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 won 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. Judged by our very own flowers contractor, the prizes were generously donated by Thomsons Hardware in Radstock.

The new Christmas Decorations award went to Mr Kevin Rabbitts of Ruskin Road who was really made up to have won something and said that he just wanted to cheer people up and put a smile on their faces. Well, he did just that!

This year we continued to use our quarterly newsletter, The Westfield Warbler, to offer a free advert in the Business Directory to any business based in and serving Westfield. Website accessibility is ever more important as we rely on the internet for communication. 2021 saw our new website go live and it is good to see that it meets the new accessibility standards for local councils.

Winter maintenance of the pavements is as important as ever and our heartfelt thanks to the unsung heroes who voluntarily go out in the severest of weather to grit some of the pavements in the parish. Thank you for looking after our community. If you can join this lovely group of people and give a few hours in the cold weather, please contact the Parish Council office – council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



WHAT IS NEW FOR 2022/23

A Management Plan for Waterside Valley is a key element of work in 2022/23 to see the land managed effectively. A public consultation is a vital part of the process.

The Climate Emergency Working Group 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. This year the Working Group liaised with Shell Garage for the installation of an electric charging point, looked at grants available for community tree planting for a community orchard at Waterside Valley and started investigating low carbon heat sources for the community.

We continue to budget cautiously and to ensure we have 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 2022/23 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. We also receive Community Infrastructure payments.

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 2022-23 precept of £218,590 will cost a band D household £114.71 per year or £2.21 per week. This is an increase of 10p 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.



Join Westfield Boules this season

It seems like only yesterday, that we were taking down the banner on our last night of boules in early October last year. Yet here we are, and with life slowly returning to normal, looking forward to the start of the new season.

I do so hope that many more of you will join us on a Tuesday evening for some gentle exercise and fun in a friendly atmosphere. We are a very mixed group of all ages, from mid-twenties to early nineties!

You don't need any experience or any equipment to play, there are no fees to pay, and you don't need to book. So, if you feel like giving it a try, then just turn up any Tuesday at 6pm, Norton Hill Recreation Ground, you will be most welcome.



This year we start on Tuesday 26th April, every week until early October.

WHAT'S ON

MARCH

- 4th** – A night with Elvis at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.
- 5th** – Trinitea Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am – 12 noon.
- 5th** – Live band, Chasing the Beat at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.
- 5th** – Live music with Ryan Turner at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.
- 7th** – Parish Council Meeting, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.
- 9th** – Neighbourhood Team Beat Surgery, Longfellow's Café, Fosseway, 10am – 10.30am.
- 10th** – Afternoon Social with Colin Lewis at Westfield Sports and Community Centre, 2pm – 5pm.
- 12th** – Live band, Elevation at Mardons Social Club from 8pm. Free entry to all.
- 12th** – Live Music with the Dresdons at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.
- 14th** – Environment and Development Committee, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.
- 18th** – Quiz Night at Mardons Social Club, 8pm start. In support of Luckington Carnival Club.
- 19th** – Trinitea Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon.
- 19th** – St Patrick's Irish Stew lunch from 11.30am at Trinity Methodist Church.
- 19th** – Live band, Hair of the Dog at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.
- 19th** – New Era Band at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.
- 23rd** – Finance and Personnel Committee, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.
- 26th** – The Skinny Dippers at Mardons Social Club from 8pm. Free entry to all.

26th – Live Music with Colin Shore at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

30th – Annual Parish Meeting, Trinity Methodist Church Hall, 7pm

31st – Thursday Social with music from Andy Treble, 2pm – 5pm at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

APRIL

2nd – Trinitea Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am – 12 noon.

2nd – Live band, You, Me & The Dance Floor at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.

2nd – Live music with The Woods Band at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

4th – Parish Council Meeting, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.

9th – Live band, Freeze at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.

9th – Live Music with Jay at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

10th – Family Fun Easter Prize Bingo with Luckington Carnival Club, eyes down 7.30pm, at Mardons Social Club.

11th – Environment and Development Committee, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.

13th – Neighbourhood Team Beat Surgery, Longfellow Café, Fosseway, 10am – 10.30am.

14th – Thursday Social with Ryan Turner at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

15th – Good Friday Service, Trinity Church Car Park (weather permitting) 12 noon, led by Rev Ian Rousell and Radstock Silver Band.

16th – Trinitea Coffee Mornings at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon.

16th – Live band, Outatime - 80s tribute at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.

16th – Live music with Impulse at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

What's On continued

17th – Easter Sunday Kids Party, with Rocky's Magic Parties, from 2pm – 4pm, at Mardons Social Club, free entry.

20th – Finance and Personnel Committee, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.

23rd – Live band, Bombshell at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.

23rd – Live Music with Benny Vee at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

28th – Westfield Sports and Community Centre's social, with live music from Pete Holden.

29th – Mardons Carnival Club Bingo at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

30th – Trinitea Coffee Mornings at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am – 12noon.

30th – Live band, Voodoo Seven at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.

30th – Live music with Night Hours at Westfield Sports and Community Centre.

MAY

3rd – Parish Council Meeting, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.

7th – Live band, The Stiff Upper Lips at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.

9th – Environment and Development Committee, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.

11th – Neighbourhood Team Beat Surgery, Longfellow Café, Fosseyway, 10am – 10.30am.

14th – Live band, AngelHeart at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.

18th – Easter Steam Services, Somerset and Dorset Railway, 10am.

18th – Finance and Personnel Committee, The Oval Office, Cobblers Way, 7pm.

21st – Live band, The Caballeros at Mardons Social Club, 8pm. Free entry to all.

22nd – 24th – Spring Mixed Traction Gala, Somerset and Dorset Railway, 10am.

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Grant Funding

Westfield Parish Council has an annual pot of funding for projects that benefit the people of Westfield.

Some examples of recipients in the last quarter of 2021 were:

- ▶ Citizens' Advice received £1,000 towards funding of their Adviceline service, helping residents that are struggling with benefits, Universal Credit, debt, housing employment and much more.
- ▶ Mardons Carnival Club received £750 towards headsets for the personnel running the floats at the carnival to keep in touch with each other easily
- ▶ Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band received £750 towards new jackets for their uniforms. The band is often seen at events in Westfield, like the Christmas Lights switch-on and the Fun Day, performing beautifully for the people attending.
- ▶ Westfield Allotments and Garden Society received £630 towards a project on the allotments at Waterford Park. The allotments are always immaculately kept and the Parish Council was

pleased to help fund a project that went towards the upkeep. They are a tonic for a lot of residents of Westfield and for those that walk past.

- ▶ Westfield Voices received £600 towards the upkeep of the group. Like the Silver Band, they are present at any of Westfield's big events and put a smile on people's faces. The group is open to anyone – just turn up at St Peter's Church on a Wednesday evening and join in.

So, while the groups outlined received some funding to help with their cause, it seems to be a common theme for all providers of grant funding that the pandemic has reduced the number of funding requests that come their way – perhaps no events have been taking place that needed some money to help out. The pot that was opened for the original round of funding before Christmas was not all used and, as a result, the Parish Council has more money to give away.

The second round of grant funding was advertised in January. The process is currently underway and we will update you on the recipients in the next Warbler.

Help Swan Transport drive down their waiting list

Swan Transport's brilliant team of volunteers are so busy that they need more drivers to come forward and volunteer to help people get to essential health and hospital trips or to attend day centres and local clubs.

Swan has seen unprecedented demand for its transport service and has passengers waiting to get to services in the community.

If you have use of a car and want to stay healthy and boost your wellbeing, consider becoming a volunteer driver with Swan and help people get to essential services. Whatever time you can give will

be valued. Swan pay mileage expenses based on the Inland Revenue rates. Training, PPE, and ongoing support is provided and we are following safety advice from the Community Transport Association to keep everyone safe. This valued role is a lifeline to carers and passengers alike and can have huge benefits for both passengers and their volunteer drivers.

Please ring them on 01761 439548 or email swan.transport@btconnect.com and talk to Sarah or Ann, who can explain a bit more and answer your questions.

Swan Transport is part of Swan Advice Network

Radstock & Westfield Big Local

Every year since our inception, we have celebrated the amazing ideas that the good people of our area have by holding our own special Dragons' Den event where local people can win money to benefit their community. The pandemic put a stop to that, and whilst we have continued to award grants to local people for their wonderful local projects, it hasn't been as satisfying or as community-led as our Dragons' Den.



This year, we plan to bring it back and hold our eighth Dragons' Den in July*!

If you live in Radstock or Westfield, then we have brilliant news – you can take part! If you have a great idea for your community, you can WIN UP TO £500 to make it happen!

So, get your thinking caps on, have a chat with your family, neighbours and friends, and work out what will make a positive difference to your area. Previous wins include local history tours, growing spaces, improvements to community buildings, and so much more.

Check out our website or send us an email for more details: www.radstockwestfield.org.uk / info@radstockwestfield.org.uk

About us: The Radstock & Westfield Big Local is a group of residents who volunteer our time and enthusiasm to ensure that over £1million of community money is invested well in Radstock and Westfield. We are always looking for new members willing to commit a couple of hours a month; if you want to help out, then please get in touch!

*Date to be confirmed.

Radstock, Westfield, Midsomer Norton

How to contact us

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/somer-valley/



Steph JONES

PCSO 8743



Mark GRAHAM

PC 3964
Neighbourhood
Constable



Lee HUMPHRIES

PS 432
Neighbourhood
Sergeant



George SIMPSON

PC 3356
Neighbourhood
Constable



Glyn SAMWAYS

PCSO 7485



Olga HAPOVA

PCSO 7205



Lana WASHBOURNE

PCSO 6972



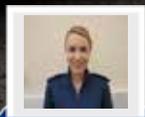
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Plenty to entertain at Mardons!

Recognising the quality of entertainment on offer at Mardons, BBC Radio Somerset recently invited the bar manager for a live interview. On the Friday night show, they discussed a brief history of the social club, the terrific bands, the diversity of its customers and how it has all combined to create a modern and thriving club!

The club is looking forward to even more great bands in the coming months. In particular, 6-piece, Chasing The Beat who are making their Mardons debut. The lively party band perform everything from ELO to ACDC, so should go down a storm!



Chasing The Beat

While keeping things fresh, the club recognised the popularity of its returning bands and are always pleased to see familiar faces. Elevation have been really popular at Mardons for years, but due to Covid, their visit is long overdue. The rock and pop band perform covers from the likes of U2 to Queen, the Beatles to The Stereophonics, Oasis.



Hair Of The Dog

One of the most highly anticipated nights sees the return of Hair Of The Dog. All local lads, they have a massive following and tend to be great fun, playing a lively mix of music that always has the dancefloor packed.

Other fun events coming up ...

The club is pleased to be supporting Luckington Carnival Club in the coming months. Firstly, with a Quiz Night, on Friday 18th March, composed and hosted by Mardons own committee member Glyn Young. His quizzes are always well-supported, with people enjoying the quirky questions and great rounds including, Who Am I? and Family Fortunes. Expect a fun mix of trivia, nonsense and pure guess work, with prizes for the winning team.

On 10th April Luckington are organising a Fun Family Prize Easter Bingo, parents can bring the kids along to join in, it's an event for everyone to enjoy - eyes down at 7.30pm.

The popular 'Kld's Easter Sunday Funday' returns on 17th April, an afternoon party, 2-4pm hosted by local entertainer and balloon modeller, Glyn Davies. It's always great fun and very noisy, it's open to all children, but parents must be on site to supervise their own children. If it's anything like the recent Kids Christmas Party, it should be a great afternoon!

Find out all that's happening, follow:
[Facebook.com/mardonsclub](https://www.facebook.com/mardonsclub)



Freeze return in April

Westfield Voices are back!



We are definitely back!

Our first performance for 2022 was for the Chilcompton Golden Hour in Chilcompton Village Hall. After a rousing start with, "Jubilate" our programme took on a bit of a dreamy theme, including "I Dreamed a Dream", "A Million Dreams", "Dream a Little Dream of Me" amongst others, and finishing with "You Raise Me Up" and John Rutter's arrangement of the Irish Blessing. Jane and Catherine gave the singers a break with some short poems. It was such a joy to be out and singing for an audience again.

We shall now be working on some new songs, interspersed with old favourites, and looking forward to bookings for later in the year.

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 9pm.

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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Waterside Valley

Keen not to let Covid restrictions put a halt to the Management Plan for Waterside Valley, the Parish Council has set up a focus group of local people who are being contacted by electronic survey and Zoom to discuss the future of this wonderful piece of public open space.

The focus group is being asked for their thoughts on items such as pathways, accessibility, planting, grass cutting, nature conservation, hedgerows and many more aspects of the future management of the land. Would you like to be involved? If so, please contact the Parish Clerk – council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



Running alongside the public consultation are two items of commissioned work which will also inform the future management of the site. Firstly, the Parish Council has arranged a RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) risk assessment on the land. The results of this assessment are now with us and we are working hard to comply with recommendations. And, secondly, we are delighted that Somer Valley Rediscovered have commissioned a base line survey of bio-diversity on the land.

Our consultant, Andy King of New Leaf Studio, will be collating all this information into a Management Plan which will go out to final consultation before adoption by the Parish Council.



THINGS TO DO

MONDAY

- Arts and Crafts Club at Trinity Methodist Church, 10 am – 12noon.
- Carer's Cafè, first Monday of the month, 10am – 11.30 am at Mardons.

TUESDAY

- Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm – 4pm
- Boules, Norton Hill Recreation Ground, 6pm (from 26th April)
- Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm, Fast Running Group, Advanced beginners' and intermediate groups. Head to the Facebook page for more information.
- Westfield Voices, 7.15pm – 9pm. Contact 01761 419540 for more information. .

WEDNESDAY

- Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30 pm, Beginners' Running Group. Head to the Facebook page for more information.
- Bingo at Westfield Sports and Community Centre, eyes down at 7.30pm.

THURSDAY

- Wellbeing Walks from the Carer's Centre, the second Thursday of the month. Explore Radstock and the surrounding areas with fresh air and beautiful scenery, book your spot on the Carers' Centre website: banescarerscentre.org.uk, 10am – 12.30pm
- Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm, CATs running group and advanced beginners' and intermediate groups. Head to the Facebook page for more information.

FRIDAY

- Trinity Friday Club, second Friday of the month, 2pm-4pm
- Folk Dance Club, St Peter's Church, 8pm – 10pm.

SATURDAY

- Coffee Mornings at Trinity Methodist Church, fortnightly, 10am – 12 noon.

SUNDAY

- Westfield TT Running Club, morning flour trail run and half marathon training sessions. Visit the Facebook group to find out more.
- Bingo at Westfield Sports and Community Centre, eyes down at 7.30pm



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A word from the Finance Officer, Adam

Hello everyone.

Even though I was introduced to the readers of the previous issue of the Warbler, I felt now would be a good time to elaborate on who I am, my experiences so far since becoming Finance Officer for the Council and to summarise the Christmas Lights Switch-On event, which took place in November last year.

I have lived in Midsomer Norton since September 2003, so Westfield has been close to me, both figuratively and literally, for the majority of my life. Westfield has offered all sorts to me from work experience to the shops and services, to a home for my sister and her family. After months of searching for a new role, I was offered a position within the Council and it was something I was delighted to accept.

I would like to thank the Council, its members and the Westfield community for being so welcoming and kind to me, especially during the first couple of months of being a Finance Officer. Emily was extremely friendly and helpful before leaving the post for me to have from then onward.

The biggest task I have been involved with so far has been the Christmas Lights switch-on event. It was great to see the event returning after its absence in 2020. It was an honour to have played a part in this event, from organising the lights for

Westfield's lampposts, to turning them on during the event. My sister, brother-in-law and little nephew turned up as well to watch the moment it happened, which was nice.

Despite the weather being a bit on the chilly side, everyone had a good time: this was thanks to the food and beverages served, the appearance of Santa Claus and the big, lovely Christmas tree at the centre of it all. The great performances from the local choir and silver band brought the festivities to the area in a wonderful way.



I hope to continue to gain experience, meet more people and play a part in numerous more events in the future, as well as other aspects of the role I am very fortunate to have.

All the best,
Adam

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Local tradesman to 'Sleep-Out'

Local, self-employed plasterer, Jon Durrant, is taking on Julian House's Big Bath Sleep-Out for the second time on Friday 4th March to raise vital funds and awareness for the charity. After being diagnosed with bipolar and suffering with depression and anxiety he found solace in volunteering at the charity's hostel kitchen. He now wants to do even more to help people experiencing homelessness and poor mental health and is encouraging others to do the same.



"People who are experiencing homelessness don't always have access to a GP or mental health services even though around 40% of them have a diagnosed mental health condition," he said. The figure of undiagnosed mental health disorders is thought to be much higher.

After taking part in the Big Bath Sleep-Out at home in 2021, he added: "Had I been forced to sleep out another two or three nights, I would have reached a mental health state where I would have needed to be admitted into hospital again. I genuinely don't know how homeless people cope."

Speaking of his mental health, Jon says: "When I was admitted to the psychiatric ward of the Royal United Hospital I met a disproportionate number of homeless people also suffering from mental health issues. Meeting them really raised my awareness of the relationship between mental health and homelessness.

After I was discharged from hospital, I started to suffer from panic attacks. It was the worse physical symptoms I had ever suffered. It made me agoraphobic and housebound. I knew that I had to do something, so I started taking short bus journeys. At first it was just one stop, then two and so on. It took months to be able to take the bus to Bath.

Once I was able to get to Bath, I needed a reason to stay. I remembered the homeless people I met in hospital, and I saw that Manvers Street Hostel needed volunteer cooks, so I arranged to do a shift. The staff at the hostel were warm and friendly and after just a few weeks I looked forward to cooking for the hostel.

It gave me a routine, social interaction, confidence and self-worth - all the attributes I was missing whilst I was depressed.

Through volunteering, I could see that Julian House's service users had somewhere warm and dry in the day, somewhere to have a hot drink and meal and somewhere to wash their clothes - all the things we take for granted. The staff treated people with dignity, respect and patience. From passing people on the street - you realise that this is not always the case."

Speaking about the event, he said: "I want to take on the Big Bath Sleep-Out again to thank Julian House for what they did for me as well as raising money and awareness. I believe that Julian House can give people the help and support to restart their lives.

I would also encourage other people to take part in the Big Bath Sleep-Out in March. Firstly, with more people attending, the event will hopefully raise much needed funds for Julian House to provide the huge range of services they do. Secondly, I don't think that you can even start to imagine how hard it is to be a rough sleeper until you experience just one night of how it might be."

This year, members of the public can choose whether they'd like to join the Julian House team on Friday 4th March and sleep out in Alice Park, Bath or choose to sleep out in their homes and gardens. The event is suitable for all ages, families, friends and colleagues.

Find out more about the event and sign up here: bigbathsleepout.co.uk

The event is kindly sponsored by Unividual

Railway gets ready for summer

After a successful 2021 operating season, the Somerset and Dorset Railway at Midsomer Norton South Station on Silver Street is currently closed for public operations, but that doesn't mean that there isn't plenty going on.

Throughout January and February, our permanent way team has decided to tackle the task of replacing worn rail and sleepers within the station area. This section of track was one of the first laid when the Trust took over the site in the late 1990's and it has finally expired. The labour-intensive work to replace it commenced on January 2nd where 4 sections of track were prepared for lifting. Ground preparation, sleeper laying, rail assembly and then finally ballasting will all be completed in good time for our new season commencing in April.

Work also continues in the gardens and on the restoration of the collection of wagons and coaches across the station site. The CCT van is being fitted out as an outlet for second-hand books and a model railway display area and will be open in April. Painting has commenced on a brake van and an appeal launched to refurbish the upholstery in the Second Corridor (SK) compartment coach. The existing moquette is a mismatch of what was available at the time of the previous refurbishment and the aim is to bring this up to the same high standard that can be seen in the buffet coach. Work has commenced but the appeal remains open and can be contributed to through our website www.sdj.co.uk

Our 2022 operating season starts on Saturday 2nd April with a weekend of Steam Trains at the station. Easter Sunday and Monday will once again see our steam locomotives in action with a Children's Easter egg hunt and locally sourced hot cross buns and Easter biscuits served in our Buffet Coach. A busy April comes to a close with our three-day steam and diesel gala starting on Friday



Photo credit: P Stevenson

22nd. With a theme of "The changeover years" there will be an intensive timetable of steam and diesel trains and it is hoped the event will see the first operational workings of the 2 car Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU). Keep your eyes on our website and social media channels for more information and tickets. Our full 2022 calendar will also be published shortly and includes the largest number of days running the railway has ever had including further weekday operations with the DMU and the unique experience provided by the Wickham Trolley.

With the increased number of operating days, we are now on the lookout for more volunteers especially within the station shop and buffet coach. Volunteering just one day a month would help us immensely. Not every role is about operating the trains and running the station, we also have some roles which can be done from the comfort of your home. If you've ever thought about getting involved and working with new people, volunteering at the Station could be for you!

If you would like more details, please contact chrisdj@gmail.com



The Parish Clerk

2022 got off to a rapid start with the planting of the 14 Silver Birch Trees at Norton Hill Recreation Ground to replace those suffering from Ash Die-back. This will retain the wonderful foliage which lines the site and forms a barrier with the busy A367.

This year, the Annual Parish Meeting does have to be held in person (as opposed to electronically on Zoom). It is scheduled for Wednesday, 30th March

at 7pm in the Trinity Methodist Church Hall and we hope that you will attend and raise any questions.

Our quarterly play inspection highlighted yet more possible deterioration in the wooden play equipment at both Norton Hill Recreation Ground and Westhill Recreation Ground. Over the coming months, we will be looking at forming a plan to address these issues. In the meantime, it is good to see the wooden trim trail has now been replaced at Westhill Recreation Ground with a bright and robust alternative, as has the climber at Norton Hill.

With signs of spring appearing at last, this is a lovely time to get out into the beautiful public open space at Waterside Valley. At the time of writing, a risk assessment on the land by RoSPA is taking place and this, together with the Management Plan will help the Parish Council move forward.

Lesley Close

Parish Clerk

The Anne Robson Helpline

If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

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Please visit www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

Radstock Folk Dance Club

Radstock Folk Dance Club meet on Fridays at 8 pm until 10 pm in St Peter's Church Hall, Longfellow Road.

If you would like some gentle exercise for both mind and body in friendly company, then please come and join us.

You do not need a partner and instruction is given by one of our Club Callers.

For further information, please contact Jean and Dick Shilton on 01458 841400.

Your Councillors



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Cllr Geoff Fuller
Chair
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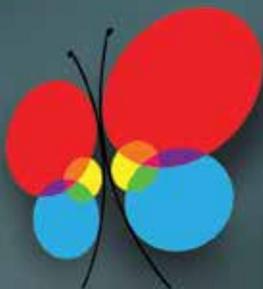


**Westfield
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Any queries can be emailed to council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk and will be answered during normal working hours which are Monday to Thursday 9am to 4.30pm.

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