

The WESTFIELD WARBLER



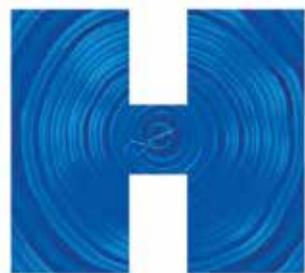
WINTER 2021
ISSUE 40

The
Christmas
Lights Switch-on,
In Bloom success
& lots more
inside!

Produced for Westfield Parish Council



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Welcome from Ignyte

Can you believe we've reached the end of the year? Welcome to the winter edition of the Westfield Warbler which is full of fun things to do this festive season and a welcome return to our What's On and Things to Do pages!

This issue also features a chance to enter a brand new Christmas competition, information on up coming grant awards and everything you need to know about this year's Light Switch On event.

If you want to be included in our next issue, make sure to get in touch with us on news@ignyte-uk.co.uk, we'd love to hear from you!

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The next edition of The Westfield Warbler will be in February 2022. If you would like your group to be included, please contact us by 5th February.

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

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Message from the Chairman

I would like to welcome everyone to the winter edition of the Westfield Warbler.

Firstly, we have some excellent news... Westfield Parish Council would like to inform everyone that the Waterside Valley is now a public open space! The Parish Council is now working on a management plan to protect and enhance the land. We have appointed someone to develop this and have had many offers of help and support from local people. We will give more information on this in the next Warbler.

More excellent news (hopefully!), the Parish Council would like to welcome back the Christmas Lights Switch On for 2021! This is back after the disappointment of last year when COVID put a stop to it.

Plans are underway for this year's event to take place on the 25th November, starting at 6:30pm. All the usual attractions will be in place – Father Christmas, mulled wine and singing. We are obviously being guided by regulations from the Government but very much hope that it can go ahead.

This year's grants have now been allocated by the Parish Council, but there is funding left in the pot and the grants process will reopen early next year, so keep an eye on our website/Facebook/ Twitter for funding for a project that you might be running in Westfield.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Geoff Fuller

Chair of Westfield Parish Council

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A new climber at Norton Hill Play Area

The much-loved climber at Norton Hill play area is now reaching the end of its life and the latest play inspection recommended that it should be replaced.

In October, the Parish Council's Environment and Development Committee looked at a range of tenders and selected a climber which we hope will be well received by the younger community. We will take the opportunity to install bright new safety surfacing under

both the new climber and the adjacent rocker.

Our grateful thanks to B&NES for providing s.106 funding to meet the costs. We are sure that the new climber will be enjoyed for many years to come!

Silver Birch Trees at Norton Hill Recreation Ground

In the last edition of the Warbler, we announced the sad news that 14 of the Ash trees lining the A367 in Norton Hill Recreation Ground would have to come out due to Ash die back. Our thanks to local tree surgeon, Charlie Samler for making such a good job of the work.

Since then, the Parish Council's Environment and Development Committee has discussed tree species and viable alternatives. We are pleased to say that arrangements have been made for 14 Silver Birch trees to be planted this Autumn.

The Silver Birch is a popular native tree with elegant silver bark and gracefully weeping branches. It is a favourite with local wildlife. The bright green leaves provide an airy canopy and in Autumn turn yellow. Yellow-brown catkins develop over winter, providing seeds for the birds.

We hope the new Silver Birches will grow into a beautiful boundary to the site, for enjoyment by those using the recreation ground and those passing through on the Fosseway.

Spread some joy with your Christmas decorations

Have you ever walked past a house decorated for Christmas and felt your spirits lift? If so, this competition is for you!

There's nothing more likely to put you in the Christmas spirit than walking or driving past a house or garden with Christmas decorations outside for the world to enjoy. It does not have to be big, perhaps it's some twinkling lights, or your own unique take on Christmas ...? So why not put together a display which will sleigh the competition and win you the Westfield Christmas Cup.

The two judges will be touring Westfield in the week before Christmas. The winning household will have the Christmas Cup delivered to their door on Christmas Eve by none other than Father Christmas himself!

So, for the amazing chance to have Father Christmas knock on your door on Christmas Eve and present you with the Westfield Christmas Cup, why not get those decorations out and spread the joy!



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Grants from Westfield Parish Council

The Parish Council has an annual grants pot to give out to individuals or organisations that are not for profit and whose work benefits the people of Westfield.

Last year 17 organisations were awarded funding for projects that were advantageous to residents, from the 3rd Westfield Brownies to Mardons Social Club and Mardons Carnival Club, all were grateful for the help received.

Some of the comments received from last year's awards:

"Many families (x 21) in Westfield Parish, have benefited from free and delivered nappies and wipes, thanks to this grant. Thank you so much, from the Small Stuff Baby Bank Committee and Manager."

– Small Stuff Baby Bank

"The carers we were able to support through these Wellbeing Calls were extremely grateful and reported feeling less 'forgotten' at a time when so many services had understandably been suspended or reduced. We have just re-started the in-person Carer Café in Westfield and the returning carers have reported that having regular contact has been important to them."

– Carers' Centre

"The new boiler has made a huge difference and now everyone at the centre is toasty warm! We have already saved time and energy on having to call someone out to fix the old boiler and we estimate that ongoing this boiler will be much more energy efficient and therefore save on fuel bills."

– SWALLOW

"The ability to bring much improved sound with video to the premises, to include the facility being available in the main hall adjacent. The governing Church Council and the congregation of friends and members are so grateful to the Westfield Parish Council for helping to make this achievable, thank you so much."

– Westfield Trinity Methodist Church

"The benefit has been immense not only to members but aesthetically to the view of the allotments from members of the public, it has opened the allotments up, we have so many comments from members of the public and from patients of the doctors surgery next door all members are very pleased with the work that we have put in, it now looks clean and very smart and when the raised and children's beds are complete it will look like a new allotments. So I would like to convey from all allotments members a very big thank you."

– Westfield Allotments

So, as you can see, there are a variety of causes that have received funding. This year's applications are in the process of being considered and news on recipients will appear in the next Warbler.

There is still money in the grant pot though, so if you know of anyone – person or group – that would benefit from funding for a project then please ask them to get in touch. More information will be on the website in January.



News from St Peter's Church

There are exciting times ahead for the Anglican communities of Westfield and Radstock!

Since the retirement of Revd David Izzard in June, St Nicholas' Church has been without a vicar. From 2022, the Parishes of St Peter's, Westfield and St Nicholas', Radstock will join together to form "The Waterside Benefice" under the leadership of Revd. Ian Rousell, who is currently the vicar of St Peter's.

This will necessitate a change of service times in both churches – so from the first Sunday in Advent – 28th November, the main service at St Peter's will begin at 9:30am and at St Nicholas' at 11:15am. Both churches will have a service of Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, St Peter's will have their popular FC service on the 1st Sunday and St Nicholas' their equally popular Café Church on the 3rd Sunday. The other Sundays of the month there will be non-Communion services. Midweek Communion at St Peter's will remain unchanged – Thursdays at 10am.

Christmas is fast approaching and our Christmas services are as follows:

St Peter's, Westfield

- 12th December, 4pm – Christingle Service
- 19th December, 6:30pm – Carol Service
- Christmas Eve, 2:30pm – Crib Service
11:30pm – Midnight Communion
- Christmas Day, 9:45am – Family Service

St Nicholas' Radstock

- 5th December, 7pm – Candlelit Carol Service
- 19th December, 11:15am – Christingle Service
- Christmas Eve, 4pm – Crib Service
1 • 1:30pm – Midnight Communion
- Christmas Day, 11:15am – Family Service

Both churches extend a warm welcome to everyone at any of their services.

For further information, please see our Facebook pages or contact Revd Ian Rousell on 01761 417664

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SWALLOW wins South West in Bloom Award



SWALLOW, the local charity supporting teenagers and adults with learning disabilities, has won an It's Your Neighbourhood Award at this year's South West in Bloom ceremony.

The award was given to the SWALLOW Horticulture group for maintaining the garden at the SWALLOW offices in Westfield. The South West in Bloom judge visited in July and was very impressed with the garden, including the scarecrow, nicknamed "Doris", they scored a level five which is outstanding!

If you would like to support the work of a local charity, SWALLOW is looking for people to run in next year's Bath Half Marathon on 13th March 2021.

To find out more please contact Charlotte Sayers on charlottesayers@swallowcharity.org or ring 01761 414034.



More information on SWALLOW can be found on its website www.swallowcharity.org.

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Youth Connect South West

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.

This summer, YCSW were the lead provider for Teen BreakOut, part of Summer BreakOut led by Bath Rugby Foundation with funding from B&NES through central government. Several young people from Westfield got the opportunity to be part of this scheme and attend summer trips, including Dorset Water Park with a mud run at the end!

The youth work team continued their regular delivery at Westfield throughout the summer. The team were out on detached in Westhill Park with young people getting involved in outdoor cooking, sports activities and creative arts.

Just in time for those dark and cold winter months, the youth work team are now back inside at Westfield Methodist Church opposite the shops on Wells Road.



The session runs on a Tuesday evening from 6pm-8pm for young people aged 11+. The team have already offered cooking, some workshops around issues that affect young people plus lots of arts and crafts. We would love to see some new faces and have a varied programme for the winter months.

For more information about sessions in Westfield or our individual support work please contact Carrie Ford: 07875488718 or visit our website www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk or look us up on Facebook - Youth Connect SouthWest Instagram - @youthconnectsouthwest





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WESTFIELD METHODIST CHURCH HALL
AT THE SIDE ENTRANCE

Waterside Valley - The Big Picture!

Purchased in July this year by the Parish Council, Waterside Valley is held very close to the hearts of the residents of Westfield.

The Parish Council has appointed a Consultant, Andy King, of New Leaf Studio Landscape Architects, to consolidate the Vision and create a Management Plan to enhance the land as public open space, retaining the wildlife value and natural aspect of the site. We would like it to be a space where the people of Westfield and surrounding areas can enjoy the nature, the views and the sense of history and peace which permeates this ground.

So how can we enhance the land? The first step is to draw together the overall vision for the land and to go out to consultation on this in January. January to March 2022 will then be a time for creating the Management Plan – the practical steps needed to take us towards the overall vision.

Ideas which underpin the enhancement of Waterside Valley include a wildflower meadow/wildflower maze, planting single trees to spread

shade for picnicking, a community orchard, picnic benches, making a feature of the natural springs, accessible paths etc.

Those who regularly enjoy this land might have seen the Bio Diversity survey taking place. Funded by Somer Valley Rediscovered, this survey will give a baseline indication of the bio diversity on site and from there we can examine how it might be protected and enhanced.

Chair of the Parish Council, Geoff Fuller, said: "This is another big step in our journey towards creating public open space for all to enjoy. The history of this land is a huge part of the history of Westfield – from the World War II Pill Boxes to the approach to the Miners' Swimming Pool, we are looking to protect our heritage and create public open space for all."



Trinity Methodist Church news

Our Church is gradually getting back to normal after the pandemic and we welcome you to our Sunday morning worship at 10.30am.

For more information regarding our Church life or to hire the premises, please ring 01761 232119.

- Mondays 7pm-9pm.
Arts and Crafts evening.
- Tuesday 2-4pm
Knit and Natter.
- Saturday 10am-12noon (fortnightly)
Coffee mornings, homemade cakes and bacon butties.
- Saturday 30th October 10am-12noon.
Poppy Party celebrating 100 years of the British Legion. Homemade cakes, bacon butties and a raffle.
- November 12th, 2-4pm
Friday club.

- Saturday 11th December
All day coffee, mince pies and lots more Christmas fun.
- Saturday 18th December 5pm.
Nativity film and mince pie evening.
- Sunday 19th December.
Morning worship at 10.30am. Evening carol service at 6pm led by our Minister Rev. Martin Slocombe.

Sue Tandy

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THINGS TO DO

MONDAY

- Arts and Crafts Evening, 7pm – 9pm at Trinity Methodist Church.
- Carer's Café, first Monday of the month, 10am – 11.30 am at Mardons.

TUESDAY

- PEOPLE pop up charity shop, 10am – 1pm at St Peter's Church Hall.
- Knit and Natter, 2-4pm at Trinity Methodist Church.
- Westfield TT Running Club, 7pm at Westhill Club for beginners and intermediates. Visit the Westfield TT Running Group on Facebook for more information.

WEDNESDAY

- Westfield Voices 7.15pm – 9pm at St Peter's Church, contact Lesley Schofield 01761 419540.

THURSDAY

- PEOPLE pop up charity shop, 10 am – 1pm at Westfield Trinity Church Hall.
- First Thursday of the month, Wellbeing Walks from Carers' Centre, 10am – 12.30pm explore Radstock and the surrounding area with fresh air and beautiful scenery. Book your spot on the Carers' Centre website: banescarerscentre.org.uk
- Westfield TT Running Club, 7pm at Westhill Club for beginners and intermediates. Visit the Westfield TT Running Group on Facebook for more information.

FRIDAY

- Folk Dance Club, 8pm – 10pm at St Peter's Church.

SATURDAY

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



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Fosse Way student champions Queen at Somer Valley FM

Daniel Burton, a sixth former at Fosse Way School, has been entered into Somer Valley FM's annual Star Maker Competition with his feature on his favourite band, Queen.

Alongside fellow sixth formers, Jake Tate and Nicole Heath, Daniel takes part in work experience at Somer Valley FM as part of the Somer Valley Education Trust, training provided by the station's charitable arm. All new trainees at the local radio station based at Somervale School soon find out that a desk is not just an item of classroom furniture, but also the central component to broadcasting.

Somer Valley Education Trust's twin educational goals are to enable trainees to develop skills that will enable them to succeed both in the field of audio media, as well as the wider world of working life. The students learn to create and present content for radio, as well as editing, operating the desk and many other production skills.

Daniel's interest in Queen was first sparked when he chanced upon some of the memorable videos for the band's hit singles on YouTube. It came as no surprise when Daniel announced that he would like to create an extended feature on the band for broadcast. In preparation for recording, Daniel undertook some thorough research into Queen's history. This entailed making some interesting discoveries about the early life of front man Freddie Mercury in Zanzibar and early incarnations of the band before the classic line-up came together. After honing a script based on his findings, Daniel selected some favourite songs that represent all eras of the band's history for inclusion in the feature.

Drawing on the impressive repertoire of skills he has developed in editing, Daniel has produced a show that has hugely impressed the staff who work closely with him. His great passion for the music of Queen and warmly engaging presenting style are abundantly evident throughout. Unscripted links between the songs were all created by Daniel in a single take. Daniel's Queen feature is now earmarked to appear in a future



edition of Somer Valley FM's 'Open Mic' programme which is broadcast on Tuesday evenings at 6pm. Listeners in the local area are able to find the station at 97.5FM or else click the 'Listen' button at www.somervalleyfm.co.uk

Daniel's show will now be entered in the Somer Valley Education Trust's annual Star Maker competition. The competition is open to all students who have undertaken training at Somer Valley FM. Entrants are able to submit a feature on music or sport, an interview or a podcast for the competition. As well as prizes, Arts Awards certificates will be presented at the event to reflect the achievements of the young broadcast trainees. One prize is given for the student whose work improves the most during the training programme.

The awards take place on 14th November, so look out for the results online.

Asked if he would like to pursue a career in radio, Daniel responded without hesitation: "Yes I would! I would love to be a presenter."



Christmas Lights

As always, Westfield is prepared and the Christmas lights were fixed to the lampposts in the parish at the end of October to be ready for the big switch on event.



Over the years the Parish Council has extended the lights to illuminate Westfield along the Wells Road and Fosseway. And feedback from local people has always been encouraging, especially last year when the other traditional ways of marking Christmas in the community were temporarily stopped.

This year we are back, Government guidance allowing, and the Christmas Lights Switch On will take place on Thursday 25th November at 6.30pm at the living Christmas Tree at the top of Elm Tree Avenue.



Thursday, 25th N



Switch On



Father Christmas has promised to turn up and we hope that young and old will enjoy the Christmas songs and the illuminations as we usher in the Christmas season.

There will be refreshments so why not come along and enjoy the festivities with a cup of mulled wine and a mince pie.

We look forward to seeing you there.



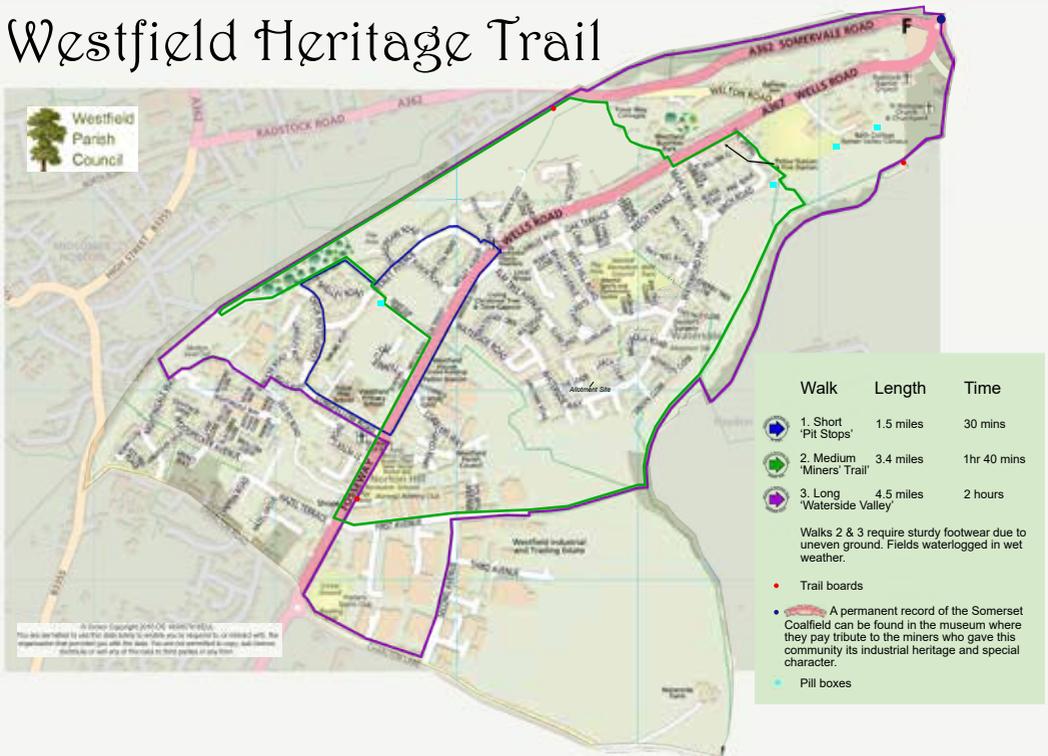
November, 6.30pm

Westfield Silver Band • Westfield Primary School choir • Westfield Brownies switching on the lights

Heritage Walking Trails in Westfield

Now that the Parish Council has purchased some land at the Waterside Valley, what a great time to be doing one of the Heritage Trail walks. The walks are frequented by lots of local residents and there is a lot to see out there.

Westfield Heritage Trail



The Miners' Trail has had to be revised, with a diversion in place as the original path has an area which is no longer a public footpath and not accessible. The new route is published here and the boards and signposts in the parish are getting ready to be updated.

It's safe to say that Westfield is made up of a lot more than the A367 going through the middle! Two of the routes go right through the Waterside Valley which is a very exciting project for the Parish

Council. Our first step is to consolidate a vision for the land and work out how we can safeguard the richness of the biodiversity in the valley. Watch this space for more information as things move along.

Each of the Trail boards has some information about the various walks. You could learn a lot about the parish you live in. Westfield is full of history, from WW2 pill boxes to collieries and one way to discover them is to follow the Heritage Trails and enjoy your surroundings.

WHAT'S ON

NOVEMBER

12th - Friday Social at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm – 4pm. Meet new people, Coffee and Chat.

17th - Read and Rhyme at Radstock Library, 10.30 am.

17th - Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting, 7pm. Join on Zoom, details on the website.

20th - D-State, Mardons Club from 8pm.

25th - Christmas Light Switch On.

27th - Kick The Cat, Mardons Club from 8pm.

DECEMBER

1st - Read and Rhyme at Radstock Library, 10.30 am.

4th - For The Record, Mardons Club from 8pm.

5th - Candlelit Carol Service at St Nicholas Church, Radstock 7pm.

6th - Full Council Meeting, 7pm. Join on Zoom, details on the website.

8th - Westfield BEAT surgery, 9am – 11am, Longfellow's Café, Longfellow Road.

11th - All day coffee, mince pies and lots more Christmas Fun at Trinity Methodist Church, all day.

11th - Bombshell, Mardons Club from 8pm.

12th - Christingle Service at St Peter's Westfield at 4pm.

13th - Environment and Development Committee Meeting, 7pm. Join on Zoom, details on the website.

15th - Read and Rhyme at Radstock Library, 10.30 am.

15th - Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting, 7pm. Join on Zoom, details on the website.

18th - Nativity film and mince pie evening at Trinity

Methodist Church, 5pm.

18th - Xmas Party with Call The Shots – Free entry, Mardons Club from 8pm.

19th - Trinity Methodist Church, morning worship at 10.30am. Evening carol service at 6pm. Led by Rev Martin Slocombe.

19th - Christingle Service at St Nicholas' Church, Radstock at 11.15 am.

19th - Carol Service at St Peter's, Westfield, 6.30pm.

24th - Kid's Christmas Party at Mardons Club from 1pm.

24th - Crib Service at St Peter's, Westfield, 2.30pm.

24th - Crib Service at St Nicholas', Radstock, 4pm.

24th - Midnight Communion at St Peter's, Westfield, 11.30pm.

24th - Midnight Communion at St Nicholas', Radstock, 11.30pm.

25th - Family Service at St Peter's Westfield, 9.45am.

25th - Family Service at St Nicholas' Church, Radstock, 11.15am.

31st - New Year's Eve Party with Limited Edition - Entry by ticket only, Mardons Club from 7pm.

JANUARY

4th - Full Council meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobbler's Way.

8th - Retro Chic, Mardons Club from 8pm.

10th - Environment and Development Committee meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobbler's Way.

15th - Tundra, Mardons Club from 8pm.

19th - Finance and Personnel Committee meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobbler's Way.

Your museum needs you!

Interested in your local heritage? This lovely photograph is of Snails Brook miner's bathing pool and is just one of the many old photos in Radstock Museum's collection. The famous coal mine in Westfield was Wellsway Pit, the scene of the dreadful unsolved murder in 1839 of several miners, the youngest just twelve, by the sabotage of the rope. In those days, ropes were how the miners descended down the shaft. Wellsway is just one of the many coalmines that were dotted across our rural landscape for hundreds of years.

The mines brought with them roads, railways, and the Somerset Coal Canal. The miners who worked in the Somerset Coal Field were a hardy breed, enduring eight hour shifts underground in dark and dangerous conditions that we would never work in today; they worked on coal seams often only two feet high lying on their sides, they endured rock falls, flooded tunnels and working in extreme heat; 'carting boys' dragged the coal away from the coal face, crawling hundreds of yards on all fours, cutting their hands, knees and feet to pieces to take the coal to the main underground roadways where pony-towed wagons would take the coal to the bottom of the pit shaft.

All the miners' cottages lining our local streets, the coal tips, known locally as batches, which shape our environment today now mostly covered in woodland, the Radstock mining wheel, the "volcano" batch at Paulton, the Somerset Coal Canal and the Midsomer Norton South Station and railway line, are some of the many signs left of this once massive industry which stretched from Nettlebridge and Mells to Pensford.

Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum celebrates this rich history and heritage; it remembers the lives of the miners, their wives, who worked



Snail Brook looking up towards Southill and Southill House in Westfield home of the local Collieries manager James McMurtrie who worked for Lady Frances Waldergrave owner of the Radstock Collieries.

equally hard raising enormous families cooking, cleaning, and washing all day long, the children and their role in the running of the home and early employment in the mines, along with their schooling and all the industries, which supported the mines locally. As volunteers at Radstock Museum, we are passionate about keeping our heritage alive and relevant to a modern generation and so it is important that we have enthusiastic volunteers to keep the museum running well into the future.

Somerset Coalfield Life at Radstock Museum is looking for more volunteers to join the team. Did you know the museum is run almost entirely by volunteers? Did you know that the museum is independent and receives no government funding? Did you know that to remain open, the museum relies on funds from admissions and donations? In 2022, the museum hopes to return to its full programme of events and community cafes, as well as staffing its opening hours as usual. The tearoom, which has been closed since Covid, is set to reopen in February next year and the museum is looking to welcome more volunteers to join the rota of tearoom staff to serve drinks and snacks.

If you are interested in volunteering at the museum, you will be rewarded by enjoying the company of a great team of people from all backgrounds, learning about your heritage, learning new skills and having fun along the way. You will meet visitors from all over the country and sometimes the world! You can do as much or as little as you choose and volunteer in an area which interests you joining one of our many teams for example, admissions desk, stewarding, research and documentation, education, events, publicity, tearoom, talks, exhibitions, or fundraising. For a taster session please email: volunteer@radstockmuseum.co.uk.

If volunteering is not for you but you would like to know what's on regarding events such as history talks or family fun, then go to radstockmuseum.co.uk scroll to the bottom of the page and click "sign up here" under "join our mailing list". We look forward to hearing from you.

Keep active this winter

Westfield TT's running groups have continued to be active and are meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7pm outside Westhill Club for beginners and intermediates.

A new Sunday group has also been created for anyone wishing to train for a half marathon for total beginners and more advanced runners being split into two groups. Search for us on Facebook to find out more.

During the covid restrictions, we have been laying a flour road trail for runners to follow and run at any time throughout the day which has proved very popular, so we are continuing with this.

3rd Westfield Rainbows



A new Girlguiding Rainbow unit has opened with seven Rainbows making their promise. 3rd Westfield Rainbows meet at St Peter's Church and is available for girls aged 5-7.

Enquiries to join Girlguiding for young members or adult volunteers can be made at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Big wins for local allotments

At Larch Court and Westfield Allotments we were excited to receive our results for the In Your Neighbourhood category for Britain in Bloom, with Larch Court receiving Outstanding in their 1st year!

Alan Sperring and Kim Parfitt from the allotments said they were over the moon and it was a tribute to the hard work put in by everyone.

Kim emphasised how important the allotments had been throughout the year in helping everyone get through the pandemic. It being a place where you could relax and de-stress while meeting up with friends.

Alan added that he would like to thank Westfield Parish Council and Lazy Days for their vision in developing this scrap of land and all the allotment holders for their dedication and contribution to Britain in Bloom.

At Westfield Allotments (WAGS) they were also pleased to be awarded Outstanding and recognition for their work in developing the pollinator hub and contribution to crop drop.



Alan Sperring and Kim Parfitt celebrate their success.

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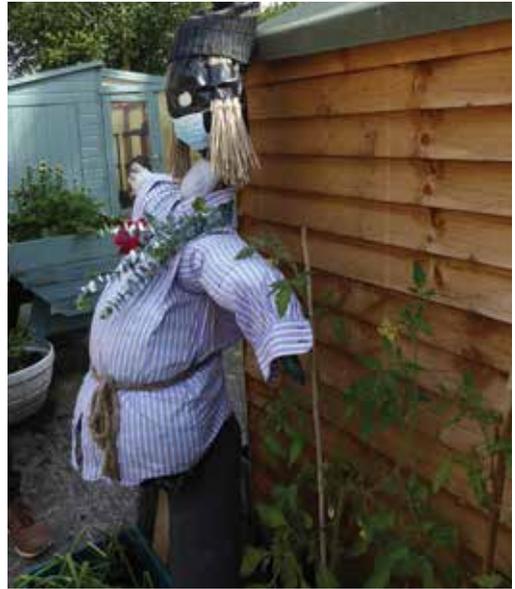
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Westfield in Bloom

Once again, neighbourhood projects have been highly successful in the South West in Bloom competition (part of Britain in Bloom.) 'Outstanding', the highest possible award for 'It's Your Neighbourhood' entries, went to Westfield Allotments and Gardens Society (WAGS), Westfield Primary School, Larch Court Allotments, and Swallows' Office Garden. The last two mentioned were entering for the first time, which is an amazing result.

WAGS even got commended for a special 'contribution to the community' award, but unfortunately were pipped to the post.



These year-on-year successes, and the wonderful displays of the hanging baskets featured in the last issue of the Westfield Warbler, suggest that we ought to be entering the main competition, though for the first year we would be in a different category from Radstock, that for communities with 5,000-9,000 residents. Entries have to display a horticultural 'wow' factor, engagement with the community (read voluntary groups and schools) and environmental projects.

Two South West in Bloom judges have promised to mentor us, and enough money has been donated by individuals to start the ball rolling. So very shortly planning meetings will start, and there will be a formal launch. Eleanor Jackson, who was Secretary of Radstock in Bloom for ten years, says that it is all great fun, especially seeing neighbourhoods transformed, the litter cleaned up, and a general pride in the community develop.

Please contact her on 01761-438968 or 07979968416 or Eleanor_jackson@bathnes.gov.uk or Westfield Parish Council if you think you can help. Meanwhile, congratulations to all who contributed to 'It's Your Neighbourhood.'



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* Myopia progression (SER) by 59% and axial elongation (AL) decreased by 60% compared with those wearing SV lenses.

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Westfield School's pond project

One of the wonderful things about Westfield Primary School is the way in which it uses outside space to teach the children about sustainability and bio-diversity.

A few projects have been helped out by grant money from the Westfield Parish Council pot and the latest one that is coming to fruition now is a pond in the grounds of the school.

The ground was cleared of debris and pictured below are children from Year 6 Garden Club and the new School Value Champions (wearing their special-coloured hoodies) removing the last of the small stones before the pond liner is put in place. The Parish Council gave a grant to the school to go towards a triple layer pond liner and wood to secure it. The children were delighted to find some small fossils when they were clearing the stones – it's wonderful that they can continue to learn from such a great environmental project. They are



looking forward to getting the pond liner in next term and seeing it fill with water.

We look forward to seeing an up-to-date picture in the Spring edition.



Westfield School celebrates the spooky season

The children at Westfield Primary School sowed, planted out and grew their own pumpkins ready for Halloween.

The pumpkins weighed in at 19kg and 20kg and were carved ready for the PTA's pumpkin trail.

Pictured: Westfield kids with the pumpkins and squirrel class pumpkins.



Year 2 Squirrel class at Westfield Primary School have been learning about haikus and have written the following about autumn and Halloween! A haiku is a Japanese poem of 3 lines with syllable pattern of 5,7,5.

Pumpkins are lighting up,
They are very horrible,
They're for halloween.

By Finley and Connor

Pumpkins growing fat
Leaves twirling and swirling
squirrels running fast

By Lauren and Skylar

Conkers falling - ouch!
Colourful, crunching leaves fall
Huge, orange pumpkins

By Lexie and Paige

Squirrels are hunting
Leaves and conkers are falling
Pumpkins lighting up

By Maison and Eddie S

Leaves are falling down
Miss Ross is picking pumpkins
Pumpkins are scary.

By Millie and Sahath

Getting festive at Mardons!

Mardons Christmas Party Night will welcome 'Call The Shots' on Saturday, 18th December. The popular local group perform the best pop and rock anthems and always deliver a lively night, entry is free and everyone's invited.

In the coming months Mardons will continue to offer great entertainment, 'D-State' play a mix of rock, pop and indie and 'Kick The Cat' will present a Blues Brothers, soul, Motown and funk revue.

Six-piece party band 'For The Record' will be visiting in December and one of last year's highlights, 'Bombshell', will make their return. The female-fronted rock band took the roof off the club on their debut appearance with soaring vocals and a wall of sound – they are not to be missed!

All being well, the club will once again be hosting their infamous and ever-popular 'Kids Christmas Party' on Christmas Eve afternoon – there will be all the usual fun, games and general mayhem. The team of volunteers will go all out to wear out the youngsters and give the parents a chance to relax with a few drinks. Of course, there will also be a visit from Father Christmas.



Christmas Party with Call The Shots

This year, Mardons will be celebrating New Year's Eve in style with one of Mardons most-loved bands, the exceptional 'Limited Edition'. Arguably the finest line-up around, Tony, Ken, Matt, Rich and the beautiful Loretta, have the perfect combination of voices, personalities and abilities, each member has the chance to shine.

With boundless energy, limitless enthusiasm and absolute professionalism, Limited Edition will bring a fun-filled night of party music - it will be hit after hit, so be prepared to dance, sing and enjoy a terrific night out as you welcome in the New Year!

Entry will be by ticket only (available from the club bar) and on this night, restricted to over-18s.

Keep up-to-date with everything at Mardons, see all the great entertainment by following them at www.facebook.com/mardonsclub



• Limited Edition are set to dazzle this New Year's Eve

Parking for schools in Westfield



The new Parking Signs have been installed at Norton Hill Recreation Ground.

The pressure of parking during school drop-off times does result occasionally in people without a blue badge using the accessible parking spaces.

If this is something you have done from time to time, we urge you to resist doing so. There are people with blue badges who also need to drop their children off at school and these places are for them. Thank you for being respectful of other people's needs.



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Christmas is coming ... and so are the Lions!



The Lions' Carol float is a familiar sight in Westfield, Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Farrington Gurney, Hallatrow, High Littleton, Timsbury and Peasedown St John. It did not happen last year because of the Covid pandemic restrictions but we are gearing up to take our float around again this year.

The float transports Santa and brings joy to children while raising funds for our charity activities. However, our activities will be much curtailed if we cannot get more help.

Caravan owners, here is an opportunity to test your reversing skills negotiating the float around our streets! We also need people to carry collecting buckets and knock on doors.

We collect from 6pm until 8:30pm during December up until Christmas. If you would like to come and help and, dare I say it, enjoy yourself, please get in contact with any Lion or the secretary, Derek Livsey on 416254.

You can find out more about Lions on our website, www.rmnlions.org.uk



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

The Parish Clerk

As the nights start to draw in, here at the Parish Council office our thoughts turn to the Christmas Lights display and the very real pleasure it is to be able to offer a Lights Switch On event again this year. Government guidance allowing, Thursday 25th November at 6.30pm will see the Westfield Lights being switched on this year by a group of Brownies. Staunch supporters of the Lights Switch on for many years, we felt it was time the Brownies took a turn to hit the plunger and light up Westfield. We hope the event will be all the more valued and poignant following the difficulties and sadness of 2020 and we hope to see you there.

Thank you to everyone who has offered their time and skills as volunteers for the maintenance and enhancement of land at Waterside Valley. The Parish Council has appointed consultants to create a Management Plan. We will be consulting on the big picture for this land and, informed by your views, the consultants will create a detailed management plan which will include the role of volunteers. Thank you for remaining involved and interested and please respond to the consultation when it crosses your path.

You may have noticed some changes in the play areas in Westfield. Our play inspections highlighted some of the timber play equipment needs replacing and to see us through into the future, the Parish Council is replacing with steel. The cantilever arm of the basket swing at Westhill is to be replaced in the coming weeks and, following that, the balance beams will have a makeover. At Norton Hill play area, the old wooden climber is reaching end of life and is to be replaced with a modern equivalent and new safety surfacing.

May I wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Lesley Close

Parish Clerk

Keeping our pavements safe this winter

A huge thank you to our wonderful voluntary Snow Wardens. Not only do they go out in the coldest of weather to grit the pavements, but they repair and maintain the gritting machines so that they are ready to go as the temperature goes down. Thank you. Your voluntary work must be one of the most unseen yet highly valued pieces of community work in the Parish.

The Snow Wardens grit some of the pavements when they can, according to their own time schedules. If this is something which you could give perhaps an hour a week during the cold weather, please do contact the

Parish Council and become part of this small friendly group which does so much for the Parish.

And now, as the evenings get darker and our own driveways get icy, we have some bags of salt grit which we are offering free to anyone who can take them away.

Would you like to use some for your drive, steps, pavement outside your home? Contact us and we can arrange to meet you at the Parish Council's garage so that you can take them away.

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

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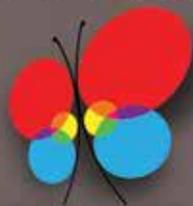


**Westfield
Parish
Council**

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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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