

The WESTFIELD WARBLER



SPRING 2023
ISSUE 45



Produced for Westfield Parish Council



Westfield
Parish
Council



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Message from the Chairman

Welcome to a new year, 2023. I hope everyone is keeping warm and safe.

Don't forget that the Parish Councillors will be coming up for election in May. If you would like to be a Parish Councillor and would like to discuss it further, you are welcome to contact me to do so. Contact details for all Councillors are on the back page.

This year starts with the Annual Parish meeting for the people of Westfield. This is to be held at the Trinity Methodist church in Westfield on the 29th March, starting at 7pm.

The Inspirational Citizen's award is taking place again this year and the winner will be awarded at the Annual Parish meeting. Please take a moment to nominate a good citizen to be recognised by the Parish Council.

To celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, the Parish Council is holding a 'Big Lunch' at Westhill Recreation Ground for the families of Westfield on 7th May. Organisation is coming together for that. See inside this Warbler for more information.

Cllr Geoff Fuller - Chair of Westfield Parish Council

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The next edition of The Westfield Warbler will be in May 2023. If you would like your group to be included, please contact us by 1st May.

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

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Get walking in Spring

With Spring on its way we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Somerset www.walkinginengland.co.uk/somerset has loads of walks to download and print free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said: "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Somerset (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in

one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you."

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

While you are looking, don't forget that we have our own lovely walks in Westfield, including the Waterside Valley. The map for the three heritage walks is here and you can find more information on our website – www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/community/heritage-walks/

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

Westfield Heritage Trail



Recreation Ground gets new swings



Thanks to grants from Awards for All and The Sperring Charity, Westfield's Norton Hill Recreation Ground has some bright, modern swings!

The first is a 'you and me' swing which allows an adult or older child to swing opposite a baby, creating a much more interactive experience.

And the second is a hexagon of five swings facing each other, again for fun and interaction.



The Parish Council thanks Youth Connect South West and Fosse Way School for their valuable thoughts and insights which helped to determine which swings to install and secure the grant funding. We hope you enjoy the outcome.

Chair of the Parish Council, Geoff Fuller, said, "The new swings have given the play area a bright new look and we are grateful they have been installed in time for the Spring. We hope they will be much used."

Beat the Street is coming!

Beat the Street is coming to the Somer Valley this May! Beat the Street is a mass participation outdoor game that takes place over a six-week period.

Players are provided with a special card and earn points by tapping it against sensors called "Beat Boxes" spread out across the Somer valley, including Westfield. Players travel between boxes by walking, running, cycling or wheeling and earn points for themselves and their school as they go, which are added to the local online leader board. More information on Beat the Street Somer Valley will be announced over the upcoming months.

Westfield Inters

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, including a youth group for Westfield Inters. This is open to secondary school aged young people, 11-13 yrs, every Tuesday at Westfield Methodist Church, 6pm – 8pm.

In the winter months, the team have returned to the church weekly and engaged young people in team activities such as a whole night of Taskmaster, challenges that need both lateral and creative thinking to complete, along with teamwork and of course, the return of our own Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here night. From the dingo dollar quiz, team, and individual challenges, guess what creepies are in the box to our infamous eating challenge. Fancy crickets in custard, or worms in jelly? A fun filled night for all. Festive seasons saw lots of arts, crafts and cooking at our weekly sessions.

Coming up in the spring, the team hope to get back outdoors and use the space at Westhill and the Rec to



host sports and activities in the outdoors.

With consultation from young people, the team are looking at ways to use the Waterside Valley, incorporating bushcraft skills and orienteering to nature arts for our weekly sessions, once the weather is less wet and cold.

We welcome new members and young volunteers to join our club nights. For more information about sessions in Westfield, please contact Carrie Ford: carrie.ford@ycsw.org.uk

07816182852

Visit our website www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk

Facebook - Youth Connect SouthWest

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

For the people of Westfield

**Wednesday
29th March | 7pm**

**Westfield Trinity Methodist Church
Wells Road**

**All residents of
Westfield are welcome.**

**Come along and see what is planned for
the coming year and share your views.**

Light refreshments will be available.

Westfield's Christmas Events Round Up

Last Christmas saw another very successful Lights Switch On evening take place. After a very blustery, stormy day, the skies cleared and winds dropped just in time for a record crowd to enjoy the festivities.

Father Christmas was on hand to offer the children a small gift and hear what they were hoping to receive for Christmas. The Radstock and Midsomer Norton Silver Band ably accompanied Westfield Voices with the carols, which were also sung by the whole crowd – and what a lovely sound that was. Westfield Primary School choir entertained us with renditions of Frosty the Snowman and Santa Claus is coming to Town.

We were delighted to present certificates to those groups in Westfield in Bloom that had taken part in the Britain in Bloom competition earlier in the year and received awards. Awards were given to Westfield



Allotments and Gardening Group for allotment sites in Westfield, Westfield Primary School, Fosseway School, which was a first entry, and Swallow.

The Rev Ian Rousell of St Peter's Church gave a thoughtful talk about things to ponder over the festive period. We are very grateful to him for that – at that time of year we do need to think about the reasons we celebrate Christmas.

The lights were excellently switched on by Maisie of Westfield Brownies and Freya of Westfield Rainbows. They were very excited to be taking part and did a wonderful job.

Then there was the Christmas Outdoor Decorations Award, which was judged by Santa himself. Once again the residents of Westfield lifted all our spirits with their colourful Christmas Light decorations. In these dark and difficult times, it was a pleasure to tour the streets of Westfield and marvel at the stunning displays. Well done everyone and thank you. It made the judges' job very difficult with so many potential winners, but in the end, the worthy winners were Mr & Mrs Holcombe at 48 Waterside Road. The garden and their house were an absolute riot of colour, and the judges were particularly impressed by their attention to detail. Mr & Mrs Holcombe were absolutely delighted to win, Mrs Holcombe said: "It has made my Christmas." The trophy was presented by the chair of Westfield Parish Council, Cllr Mr Geoff Fuller, together with a very special VIP, which particularly pleased Mr Holcombe.

YOUTH CONNECT
SOUTH WEST

TUESDAY INTERS YOUTH CLUB

Are you in Year 7, 8 or 9?

Come hang out with friends and get involved in crafts, music, cooking, and other activities at

WESTFIELD CHURCH
6PM -8PM

Westfield Methodist Church,
Wesley Road, BA3 3XA

50p subs and registration required
For more info contact Carrie
carrie.ford@ycsw.org.uk
07875488718

Upcoming elections

Voters will need to show photo ID at polling stations in the May elections.

Changes in national legislation mean that for the first time, voters will need to show photographic ID when they go to the polling station to vote in the local elections.

A passport, photocard driving licence, Blue Badge, Older Person's Bus Pass or a Disabled Person's Bus Pass are some of the documents that will be accepted as proof of identity before voters will be issued with a ballot paper at the polling station. Voters will also need to be on the electoral register.

The need for photo ID is a new requirement, introduced by the UK Government's Elections Act, which comes into effect from 4 May 2023, the day of the local elections.

The full list of acceptable photo ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website. An acceptable form of photo ID that is out of date can still be used if the name is the same as on the electoral register and the photo is recognisably you.

Voters who don't have an acceptable form of photo ID can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate online or by completing a paper form. They can also apply for the certificate in person at the Guildhall in Bath, where staff will be able to take a photograph to accompany their application.

To apply for the certificate, residents will need to provide a passport-style photo, full name, date of birth, the address at which they are registered to vote and their National Insurance number.

Will Godfrey, Chief Executive of Bath & North East Somerset Council, said: "Although the local elections are not until May, we are encouraging residents who want to vote to make sure their name is on the electoral register and that they have an accepted form of photo ID. If you're not sure whether you are registered to vote, you can contact the council to check."

You can check if you are on the electoral register by calling 01225 477333 or emailing elections@bathnes.gov.uk. The deadline to register to vote for the May elections is Monday 17th April. Residents can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate at the same time as registering to vote.

The deadline to apply for a certificate for the May election is 5pm, Tuesday 25th April.

The requirement to show photo ID only applies to people voting in person at a polling station. If you vote by post, you will not need to provide photo ID.

More information is available on the B&NES website.



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Keeping Westfield tidy

Six-year-old Tilly has recently been learning about the importance of keeping our streets and green spaces litter free at her school in Kilmersdon.

During a recent visit to her grandparents' house in Waterford Park, she was not happy (clearly from the photo!) about the amount of litter around the estate near their house. She was keen to help and asked if they could go on a litter pick.

Here is a photo of her (complete with litter picking stick!) and all the rubbish she collected around one cul-de-sac. This was then recycled or put in the bin rather than ending up in our local hedgerows and rivers.

What a fantastic example of how the power of education can give everyone of any generation the chance to set an example to others, as we all look to protect and upkeep our local green spaces.



Neighbourhood Plan Review

Some of us will remember the landmark moment in 2018 when the Westfield Neighbourhood Plan went to referendum and was adopted as planning policy. We breathed a collective sigh of relief when, after four years of consultations, drafts and re-drafts, the Plan passed inspection and was welcomed by Westfield.

Back in 2018, the hard work was community-led, with an amazing group of local residents giving up their time to think creatively about how they would like to shape the future of the parish. It was worthwhile work. The Neighbourhood Plan is referenced regularly by the Parish Council when responding to Planning Applications. Some of the items in the Neighbourhood Plan have already come to fruition – Shakespeare Road play area had a complete re-vamp, the Parish Council purchased land at Waterside Valley for a public open

space, the Pit Path, joining Westfield to Midsomer Norton, now has effective lighting, and an outdoor gym and fitness track was installed at Westhill Recreation Ground. Other areas are taking longer – the A367 through Westfield is still not satisfactory in terms of water drainage, air pollution and traffic management.

Now it is time to update the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. It does not involve a complete re-write, but instead we are looking for local people to give their time to read the Plan and suggest updates. What needs modernising? What are the needs of the Parish in 2023? We would love it if you could give your time, in any way, to help drive the Neighbourhood Plan Review. No need for any expertise, simply an interest in Westfield. Could you do this? Please contact Westfield Parish Council on council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk or phone 01761 410669.

Thank you.

Avon and Somerset Police

I write this article whilst having the pleasure of looking at crime figures for the Somer Valley beat, which encompasses Radstock, Westfield and Midsomer Norton and I am delighted to say overall crime in the last 3 months has fallen by 75% compared to the same period 12 months ago.

Last year for November, December and January we had 230 recorded crimes for the area. This year we only have 183 recorded crimes. I am sure there are many factors to this, but I like to think that some of this will be down to the hard work of the PCs and PCSOs on your neighbourhood team. A lot of their work behind the scenes goes unnoticed but everything we do aims to have a positive impact.

My main focus for the next few months will be working even harder to disrupt the supply of controlled drugs in the area by robust policing of suspected drug dealers. This can only happen if we are in possession of the community intelligence around who out there is supplying drugs. I would urge all residents to speak to the local beat team, call 101 or call crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 to report any concerns or suspicions

they have. With the right community intelligence, I am more than happy to visit any address with my big red key. We have had some great success stories in the last 12 months in relation to drugs including a warrant being executed in Radstock and pro-active searches in local parks where 1000s of Class C pills were seized. Both cases are progressing through court, but I want to build upon this impetus.

In the police, I have very quickly learnt that we cannot please everybody all the time. I have a small team of neighbourhood officers working from Radstock police station and every member of the public will have a different priority, so we have to focus on what we assess has the highest threat. I would remind the local residents that you are fortunate to have a local station where police officers on the response teams parade 24/7. Just because the front office isn't open 24/7 doesn't mean police officers are not working. This isn't always the case locally or nationally in towns of a similar size and long may it continue that Radstock, Westfield and Midsomer Norton are serviced by local officers.

Sgt 432 Lee Humphreys

Westfield Petanque Club

With Christmas now a distant memory, Westfield Petanque Club are turning their thoughts to the new boules season.

Games start this year on Tuesday, 25th of April, 6pm at Norton Hill Recreation Ground. We are not a club in the true sense of the word, as there are no membership fees, no uniform and certainly no formality. Everyone and anyone are welcome to come along on any Tuesday night to join in and play, no booking required.

If you've never played before, don't worry, no experience is needed, and we have plenty of spare boules. So, if you would like a fun evening in the fresh air, just come along, you would be most welcome.

Diana Cooper



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APPLY: www.radstockwestfield.org.uk
info@radstockwestfield.org.uk

*must benefit residents within Radstock – Westfield

WESTFIELD'S INSPIRATIONAL CITIZEN 2023

Each year Westfield Parish Council would like to say thank you to someone who has a positive impact on the lives of people who live in Westfield.

Do you know a kind, practical person whose thoughtfulness has led to residents' lives being enhanced. Maybe there is someone who regularly checks on neighbours to ensure they are safe and well; someone who does people's shopping for them; someone who keeps the neighbourhood clean and tidy.

Whoever that person is, and we know there are lots of them out there, make sure you let the Parish Council know, so that they can be recognised for their care and consideration.

Please let us know by Monday February 27th. On our website you will find the nomination form – www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk. You can nominate from there, or call us on 01761 410669 for more information.

Thank you!



How to Keep your Dog's Coat & Teeth Clean, Healthy and Pain Free

When it comes to taking care of our pet's wellbeing, keeping an eye on their oral health is a massive factor in ensuring they stay fit and healthy. Like us humans, there are a multitude of ways we can keep our pet's teeth in check, and looking and smelling clean all day long. From ultrasonic teeth cleaning to dental chews, we have everything you need to keep your dog's gnashers in check and their smile beaming 24 hours a day.

Bad breath in dogs can be caused by a multitude of reasons and are very common. In fact, 80% of dogs begin to show signs of oral disease by the time they are 2 years old! The causes include food residues on or between the teeth, or residues from play activities like chewing. Even if these reasons for bad breath in dogs are relatively harmless, they should be taken seriously, because if ignored, they can lead to tartar.

Ultrasonic tooth brushing is a great help in removing tartar and preventing build up.

The ultrasound waves are transmitted via each wet toothbrush bristle to the toothpaste, creating millions of micro-bubbles that penetrate deep below the gumline & into the smallest gaps between the teeth & gum pockets. The ultrasound also increases the blood flow to the gums to heal wounds & stop bleeding.

Another vital element of our dog's health is their coats, and thankfully there are a few very easy steps you can

take in order to keep your dogs' coats and skin healthy. A dog's coat and skin make up between 10% and 15% of its entire body weight and is the biggest essential organ of your canine companion's body. Your dog's skin and coat are also a great indicator if there is a problem and is often the first thing a vet will look at when examining them.

Regular grooming and washing with natural soaps and shampoos, alongside treats and chews that are loaded with skin and coat friendly nutrients, are all great methods in taking steps to look after your furry friend's precious coats. We recommend researching what fur type your dog has, as this can influence how frequently they need to be groomed, as well as what brush type needs to be used! Dogs with a curly coat, such as doodle varieties, need to be particularly careful of matting as this can cause pain and discomfort, so regular brushing is needed to prevent this.

So, when it comes to keeping your four-legged friends pain free, whether that's their oral health or their coats, with a few simple snacks, some wonderful washes and glorious grooming products, it's easy to keep your dog's skin, coat and teeth looking and feeling at their very best.

If you need any advice, please do pop into The Dog Groomery, or send us an email!



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Westfield Parish Council

Precept 2023/24

This article sets out the main areas of the Parish Council's work and highlights where 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. Every year for the past three years has felt like an exceptional year, requiring deep and careful deliberation on each item of our budget.

We created the budget in the context of soaring inflation and a cost-of-living crisis, which is life changing for many of us. The Parish Council's priority has been easing the tax burden without jeopardising the recreational facilities in the Parish.

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 provide 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 providing the Parish with a 25% portion of the community infrastructure levy, which it uses to fund projects for the benefit of Westfield. The Neighbourhood

Plan is due for review in the year ahead and if anyone would like to become involved in this process, you will be very welcome.

- 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, Christmas Decorations Award, the Front Garden Competition and the Inspirational Citizen Award.
- 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?

Waterside Valley has been a key focus this year, with a summer of consultations which have shaped our Management Plan. Accessibility and bio-diversity are important features, encompassing paths, entrances, signage and grass cutting. Funding opportunities have been investigated in detail, with huge thanks to B&NES and Somer Valley Rediscovered for including Waterside Valley in their successful WECA bid, securing some £100,000 for Waterside Valley.

New play equipment continues to replace old and this year, thanks to grants from Awards for All and Sperring Charity, we have commissioned new swings at Norton Hill Play Area. These take the form of a 'you and me' swing which allows adults to sit opposite their toddler and a five-way swing.

A new brick planter at Wesley Avenue was commissioned to replace the rotting wooden one. This will continue to hold a hanging basket tree, with shrubs in the planters underneath.

The ever-popular Christmas Lights Switch-On event goes from strength to strength. This year, three new lampposts were commissioned to extend the lights display down to Bath College on the A367.

Youth Services continued to thrive and the Parish Council are pleased to continue to support the provision financially.

We continued to support local organisations with grant donations, including Bath Area Play Project,



which provides a Play Day in Westfield during the summer, Midsomer Norton Dial-a-Ride, Midsomer Norton and Radstock Silver Band, Radstock Museum, Small Stuff Baby Bank, Swallow, Swan Advice Network, Trinity Girls' Brigade, Trinity Methodist Church, West of England Rural Network, Westfield Allotment and Garden Society, Westfield Voices, 1st Radstock Scout Group.

The fifth annual Inspirational Citizen Award was awarded to Rachael and Eddie Liddiard for all the work they did to make the lives of their neighbours so much easier in times of need.

The annual Front Garden competition was won by Mr and Mrs Holcombe of Waterside Road for their strikingly beautiful front garden. The winner of the special Jubilee prize went to Ms Helen Moon for her bright red, white and blue display and the Container Prize went to a beautiful hanging basket display in Highfields.

The Christmas Decorations award 2022 went to Mr & Mrs Holcombe at Waterside Road. The garden and their house were an absolute riot of colour, and the judges were particularly impressed by their attention to detail.

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 2023/24

Plans are being made to start increasing the bio-diversity at Waterside Valley with some scrub clearance and grass cutting. We hope too that we can go out to tender for some accessible pathways.

The Parish Council is looking to move office to Norton Hill Recreation Ground. Fully funded from reserves, this should reduce the Parish Council's outgoings significantly.

The Parish Council is working with Westfield Sports and Community Centre to create changing rooms at Westhill Recreation Ground.

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 2023/24 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 levy 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 2023/24 precept of £225,148 will cost a band D household £117.66 per year or £2.26 per week. This is an increase of 3% or 5p 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 Councils (NALC) who advise on updates to the law and changes in legislation such as GDPR and website accessibility.

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Westfield In Bloom

The daffodils that were planted by Westfield Parish Council are blooming again between Trinity Methodist Church and Ruskin Road making the area as bright and cheerful as possible.

We are now planning for 2023 Southwest In Bloom after a successful first time entry last year. The parish did extremely well and was supported by five It's Your Neighbourhood entries including Fossey School.

Anyone who likes growing things, cares for the environment and wants to make Westfield community proud is invited to an initial meeting at Trinity Methodist Church hall (opposite the Elm Tree Avenue shops) at 7pm on 27 February 2023.

We are particularly looking for any little plots of vacant land which need some TLC and of course volunteers that will be able to water plants if necessary.

Westfield in Bloom will be working closely with the



parish council to harmonise displays and create the 'wow' factor in this coronation year.

Please contact Cllr Eleanor Jackson or Cllr Pat Williams at Westfield Parish Council or on 07979968416.



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Westfield Parish Council's new Administration Assistant, Caitlin

Hi readers! My name is Caitlin and I am the new Administration Assistant for Westfield Parish Council. I started my role with the Parish Council in November 2022 and am really enjoying getting to know the area better, as well as meeting some residents! I'd also like to thank my new colleagues for making me feel so welcome.

The highlight for me so far has to be the Christmas Light Switch-on event. I supported the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk in organising and attending the event. It was a really lovely evening, with lots of festive cheer and a great start to my role here at the Parish Council.

I'm looking forward to seeing what 2023 has in store!



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Event hosted by Westfield Parish Council

*While stocks last

Somer Valley Rediscovered

Somer Valley Rediscovered (SVR) is a partnership project which aims to increase wildlife in the Somer Valley and to make greenspace more accessible.

We have been working with Westfield Parish Council and other partners to secure funding from the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Green Recovery Fund for a 3-year project focused on five key greenspaces in the Radstock, Westfield and Midsomer Norton area, one of which is Waterside Valley.

The funding will be used for nature recovery projects, such as grassland restoration and the management of woodlands and watercourses, which will benefit a whole host of wildlife at Waterside Valley and the four other sites; Haydon Batch in Radstock, and Midsomer Norton Town Park, Wellow Brook Walk and Staddlestones Open Space in Midsomer Norton. The grant will also fund improvements to make the sites more accessible, including welcoming entrances and better paths which will enable more people to enjoy the sites and to spend more time in nature.

For Waterside Valley this means that Westfield Parish Council will be able to start implementing improvements which have been identified in the recent masterplan, such as managing the grassland areas, improving some of the entrances and paths, and creating interpretation boards, giving information about the wildlife and heritage of the area. The grant will enable SVR to organise free events and activities at Waterside Valley, such as bat walks, wellbeing walks and



activities for children. There will also be opportunities for people to get involved through practical conservation volunteer tasks and monitoring wildlife.

The SVR project team is made up of Miriam Woolnough & Jess Taylor – project managers and a project officer and part time volunteer coordinator will shortly be joining the team. For more information, please contact Miriam Woolnough Miriam_woolnough@bathnes.gov.uk



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WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

23rd – Thursday Social with Colin Lewis, 2pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

24th – Quiz Night at Mardons Social Club, 7.30pm. £2.50 per person, teams of up to 6. Email to book.

24th – Family Night Disco 7.30pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

25th – Live band, Freeze at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

25th – Pete Holden, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

MARCH

4th – Live band, VooDoo Seven at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

4th – Shazam, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

6th – Parsh Council Meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way.

9th – Thursday Social with Barry Karldan, 2pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

11th – Live band, The Jukebox Engineers at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

13th – Environment and Development Committee Meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way.

17th – Cheltenham Gold Cup day. An afternoon of Horse Racing & Food, right on your doorstep! Why travel to Cheltenham when you can stay local! Centurion Hotel, Charlton Lane.

18th – Live band, The Caballeros at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

18th – 2 of Clubs, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

22nd – Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting, 10am at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way.

24th – Race Night at Mardons Club, 7.30pm, all welcome.

25th – Live band, The HonkyTonks at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

25th – Just Jed, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

29th – Annual Parish Meeting, 7pm, Trinity Methodist Church Hall.

30th – Thursday Social with Pete Holden, 2pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

31st – Family Fun Easter Prize Bingo at Mardons Club, 7.30pm. Organised and hosted by Luckington Carnival Club.

31st – Family Night Disco, 7.30pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

APRIL

1st – Line Dancing Workshop, 1pm - 11pm. Five local instructor/choreographers in ONE place at the same time for £10.00 for TEN Hours! Book early to avoid disappointment. Prattens Sports and Social Club.

1st – Live band, Elevaton at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

1st – Benny Vee, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

3rd – Parsh Council Meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way.

8th – Live band, The Dark Tones at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

8th – Jay, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

9th – Kids' Easter Party with Rocky's Magic Parties from 2pm at Mardons Club. Free entry and all welcome.

11th – Environment and Development Committee Meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way.

13th – Thursday Social with Steven Cesari, at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

15th – Live band, Jimmy & The Judges at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

- 15th** – The Heartbeats, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.
- 19th** – Finance and Personnel Committee meeting, 10am at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way.
- 22nd** – 80s & 90s Night with Fantastique at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.
- 22nd** – New Era, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.
- 27th** – Thursday Social with Benny Vee, 2pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.
- 29th** – Live band, Walker Close Band at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.
- 29th** – Play it Again Steve, 9pm at West Hill Sports and Community Centre.

ADVERTISE AN EVENT

Please send details of your event to:

news@ignyte-uk.co.uk

Send us your photos of Westfield

If you have any photos of Westfield that you think might look good on the front cover, then send them over to us council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk and, if they're a good fit, we'd love to show them off.

Thanks to Chris Mitchard, again, for the lovely photo on the front cover this edition.



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Front Garden Competition

The green fingered residents among you will be starting to prepare the plants for your front garden about now. Don't forget that the Parish Council will be doing the Front Garden competition again in 2023. Judging is usually in early July.

So get your gardens ready to show off and we may well be visiting it in the summer.



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It's a great time to visit Mardons

Entertainment continues to be well supported with bands old and new providing terrific nights out and fun entertainment for everyone.

Some of the club's favourite bands are set to return in the coming months, Elevation, VooDoo Seven and The Walker Close Band to name just a few. Plus the ever popular HonkyTonks will swing by for another visit.



Fantastique



The HonkyTonks

Following their huge success at last year's summer party, likeable lads, Matt and Jordan of Fantastique are back for more 80s and 90s fabulosity. If you've not been lucky enough to see them before, this is one, you shouldn't miss!

It's always great to introduce exciting new talent at Mardons, and rock and indie covers band Jimmy & The Judges make their highly anticipated debut on Saturday, 15th April, please pop along and give them a warm welcome.

But it's not just music at Mardons, on Friday, 25th March, Kev Doe is hosting another of his brilliant Race Nights, giving everyone a chance to place their bets or get involved by becoming an owner or trainer.

With Easter fast approaching, the wonderful Luckington Carnival Club return on Friday, 31st March, to host their Fun Family Easter Prize Bingo. Last year's was a 'full house' with lots of great prizes. This one is fun for all ages, plus just for the adults, there's the big bonus cash final!

The kids can enjoy another wild afternoon of hijinks as Glyn (Rocky's Magic Parties) returns on Sunday, 9th April for the annual Easter Sunday Funday, starting at 2pm. There will be all the games, treats and of course the magical balloon models... and it's free to all

See all that's happening by following:

Facebook.com/mardonsclub



Jimmy & The Judges

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

Parish Council elections in Westfield are on 4th May. If you have an interest in serving the community in which you live or improving your environment, this could be for you.

There are 11 Councillors who serve Westfield Parish Council. They have three main areas to their work:

1. Decision making – through meetings and attending committees with other members. Councillors decide what activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. You don't have to have any particular expertise, just a will to improve Westfield.
2. Monitoring – Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services.
3. Getting involved locally, which could include being involved with local organisations, taking up issues for

members of the public or meeting with individual residents.

Quite often Councillors say that the time taken to be part of the Council is around 3 hours a week. This is entirely due to the individual – there are those who spend more and those who spend less time. On the whole, being a Parish Councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a good place to work and live.

There is a guidance pack which sets out how to apply on The Electoral Commission website – www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england

In addition, further information about whether you are eligible and what it entails to be a Councillor is on the Parish Council website. Should you have any questions the Clerk would be glad to speak to you on 01761 410669 or email council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

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The Parish Clerk

The new Swings at Norton Hill Recreation Ground have gone in just in time for half term and it is lovely to see them being well used already.

The new planter at Wesley Avenue made of local stone is looking good and plans for its summer planting are underway.

As the financial year draws to a close, we are preparing for the year end accounts and installing

the budget for next year. Ever mindful of the impact on residents, the Parish Council agreed a 3% increase in precept this year. Whilst we have big plans for the building of a Parish Council office at Norton Hill Recreation Ground and changing rooms at Westhill Recreation Ground, both these costs have been budgeted from reserves and CIL funding, thus avoiding the need for a hike in precept.

We are getting some dog bins installed at our public open space at Waterside Valley with twice weekly emptying, and looking at accessible paths for the future.

Lesley Close

Parish Clerk



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the Westfield ward)



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(also BaNES councillor for
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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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