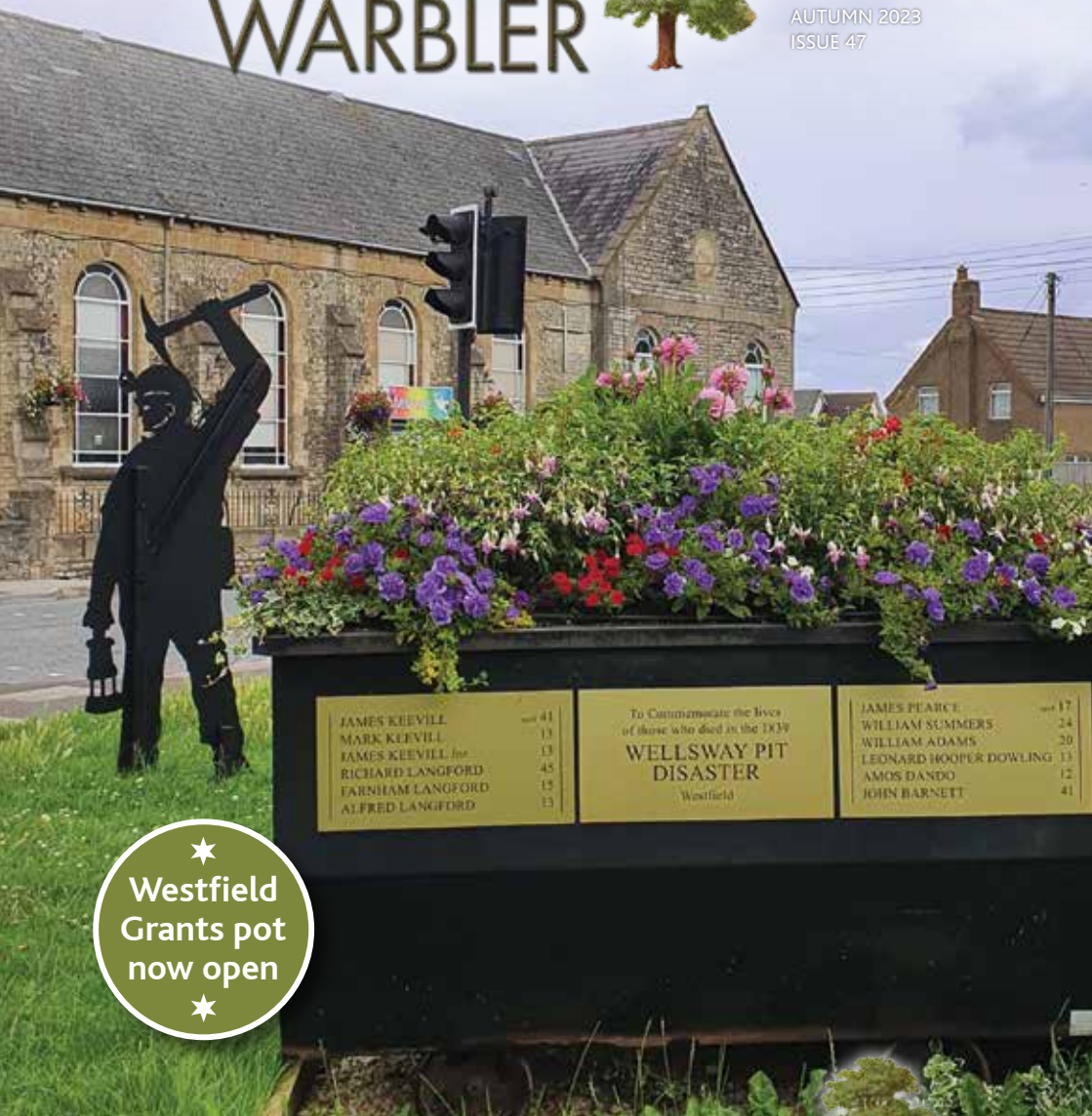


# The WESTFIELD WARBLER

AUTUMN 2023  
ISSUE 47



★  
Westfield  
Grants pot  
now open  
★

Produced for Westfield Parish Council

Westfield  
Parish  
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# Message from the Chairman

**Hello and welcome to this edition of the Westfield Warbler. Despite the unseasonal weather recently, I hope you have all had a good summer.**

September brings with it a new academic year and big changes for our school children, with the move from junior to secondary school for some and for others, the move to university or work. To everyone involved in these changes, we wish you all the best for the future.

We currently have a vacancy for a Councillor on the Parish Council. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in joining us, or would like more information about what's involved, please contact us. Any Councillor would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

I would like to thank Waterside Carnival Club for their donation to purchase a new defibrillator in the Parish. This will be positioned at Westhill Club shortly.

Congratulations to the Council staff for achieving the Cyber Essentials Certificate and taking measures to protect our data. This is something the Council takes seriously.

Finally, the Parish Council Grant pot is now open to any organisation that works to benefit the people of Westfield. More information is on our website.

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

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The next edition of The Westfield Warbler will be in November 2023. If you would like your group to be included, please contact us by 18th October.

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

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# Westfield In Bloom

The Westfield in Bloom network is a new entry in the South West in Bloom competition. Spurred on by their first-time success in 2022, the group of volunteers led by Eleanor Jackson (convenor), Paul Millard (allotments liaison), Pat Williams (treasurer) and Ellen Vaughan (Curo tenants and Shakespeare Road project), built an entry from the award-winning individual projects for 'It's Your Neighbourhood'.

In early July, the judges were taken on a tour of Westfield, starting at Trinity Methodist Church, with its outstanding hanging baskets courtesy of Westfield Parish Council. They visited the Fosseyway School gardens, between the main entrance gate and the café, Westfield Primary School, which really has it all - orchard, re-wilding area, dipping pond and a garden showing a model coal mine, Swallows' Office Garden where

vegetables and herbs for the Swallows' café are grown, Westfield Allotments and Gardens Society's sites, and finally, the new Waterside project. The judges had been reluctant to walk along the stream but when they saw what Westfield Parish Council is achieving and the evidence of residents' consultation, they said it was so good it should be an entry in its own right.





Westfield in Bloom had all the required elements: horticulture excellence, thanks to Rob Wicke's work on the hanging baskets, coal trucks and the Jubilee park at Elm Tree Avenue, ecological projects and environmental awareness and community engagement.

The theme, It's Our Neighbourhood focussed on creating community identity and pride in Westfield.

Thanks are due to all the volunteers in all the projects, including the 'guerrilla gardeners' working on waste land, but especially the Parish Council and the anonymous former resident whose donation made it possible.



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# Young carers from Westfield have their voices heard in House of Commons

Independent charity, The Carers' Centre supported 15 young people, who tirelessly care for their loved ones, to engage in social action. The young carers were able to attend the House of Commons with thanks to Wera Hobhouse MP and Bath Philharmonia.

The young carers performed their own song as part of an orchestra with Bath Philharmonia on 10 July 2023, which showcased the incredible impact of music-making on young carers.

Their song, Listen, was a hit with all of those in attendance, including Shadow Minister for the Arts Barbara Keeley MP, Baroness Bonham-Carter and



Liberal Democrat MPs Wendy Chamberlain and Munira Wilson. The group's message to be heard was loud and clear.



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"We will try everything,

Let's keep going 'til we reach our goal,

Nothing's gonna stop us, we're on our way,

We're young carers, we are the greatest!"

Anyone that cares for a relative or friend, due to an illness, disability or addiction can face enormous challenges, especially as a child. Young carers are providing more care than ever, with less provisions in place. With the added anxieties due to the cost-of-living crisis, young carers are often left feeling isolated, ignored and misunderstood.

A young carer said: "I didn't think politicians knew or cared about young carers, but they do now! I didn't think I'd be confident enough to stand in front of lots of adults and tell them about what we do or what we need, being able to explain through music helped a lot and now I know I'd be able to do it again.

"I think politicians still have a lot to learn about young carers, but doing this today has made a big difference and means we can keep talking to them to get them to listen more."

The Carers' Centre support both young and adult carers across the entire Bath and North East Somerset region. The charity provides a life-changing service dedicated to young carers to support them in the now and help realise their dreams for the future.

Through The Carers' Centre, they get space to talk, build connections with others, leave with tools to continue to support their wellbeing and access opportunities to engage in social action.

CEO of The Carers' Centre, Jacqui Orchard, said: "It is vital that our

young carers are heard, especially by decision-makers. We have supported children with caring responsibilities who are as young as 5 years old. Given the amount of time they spend caring for their relative, the time they need for education and their age, they can often feel left out of the conversations that matter most to them.

"We shouldn't forget that young carers are determined, dedicated and have life skills that are beyond their years. Young carers' voices matter. As they sang in the House of Commons, nothing will stop them, they are the greatest!

"We are so thankful to our supporters and funders that enable us to empower young carers to use their voice and take part in incredible opportunities like this. Music is a powerful tool for a young carer to express themselves, gain confidence and be heard."

You can care for a family member or friend at any age, but it can be especially tough if you are a young person. If you or someone you know wants to talk about caring, The Carers' Centre are here for you.

Please visit [banescarerscentre.org.uk](https://banescarerscentre.org.uk) to find out more or call 0800 0388 885 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm).



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# Westfield Parish Council on Instagram

**Westfield Parish Council now have an Instagram account! You can find us at; @westfield\_\_pc**

We will use this platform to share images showcasing the diverse nature of the area and have started with the hashtag #wakeuptowestfield

Here is a sneak peak of an image we will be uploading soon...

Don't forget to tag us in your posts of Westfield!  
@westfield\_\_pc



## Please keep dogs on leads at Recreation grounds

**In Westfield, we are very lucky to have two lovely Recreation Grounds for the community to enjoy at Westhill and Norton Hill.**

Were you aware that it is Trust policy to keep dogs on leads when accessing the recreation grounds?

It has been brought to our attention recently that dog owners are allowing dogs to roam on the grounds off-lead. This can potentially discourage other members of the community from visiting.

There are numerous reasons why it is Trust policy to keep dogs on leads at the recreation grounds. To name a few; fear of dogs, trip hazards to those using the running track and dog fouling.

Chair of the Council, Phil Wilkinson, said: "Even the best-behaved dogs can sometimes become distracted. The recreation grounds are here for everyone in our community to enjoy. We would encourage all dog owners to abide by the Trust policy and show consideration for all members of the community by keeping their dogs on leads whilst visiting these grounds."

We are also lucky enough to have a community green space, Waterside Valley, where dogs are welcome to be allowed off-lead.

### Polite Reminder

 Please remember that dogs must be kept on leads when using both Westhill and Norton Hill Recreation Grounds 

 **WESTFIELD**  
Parish Council



# Love Parks Week

Westfield Parish Council was amongst hundreds of parks across the country taking part in Love Parks Week 2023.

The campaign, from 28 July to 6 August, brings together local authorities, green space managers, landowners, residents and community organisations to celebrate and support our green spaces and the environment on our doorstep.

Westfield Parish Council held a series of events to mark Love Parks week including:

A 'Lunchtime litter pick' – at Norton Hill Recreation Ground. 'Park Bingo'. 'Photography competition' – entrants were invited to send photos of green spaces or parks in Westfield for a chance to feature in our quarterly magazine, the Westfield Warbler, on our website and social media channels. 'Have your say' – we created a short survey to learn more about what the community think of our local parks and green spaces.



Thank you to everyone who supported the Parish Council in this year's Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks Week campaign.

## Somer Valley Rediscovered

We have had a great summer of events, including Willow Weaving, Outdoor Yoga, Music and Craft, Wildflower Walk and Bat Walks. Keep an eye out for our new website [www.somervallyrediscovered.co.uk](http://www.somervallyrediscovered.co.uk) to see upcoming events and volunteering opportunities.

We also launched a dog fouling campaign which lets dogs do the talking, to encourage owners to pick up their poo. Dog poo can be dangerous to other dogs and human health, especially to children, the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

Jess Taylor, from Somer Valley Rediscovered, said: "In order for the project to improve biodiversity and help people reconnect to their local greenspaces for health and wellbeing, this issue needs to be addressed.

"The SVR Team have been putting up posters and engaging with dog walkers at Waterside Valley and other greenspaces in the Somer Valley, this along with the 'Do It For Your Dog' social media campaign from Keep Britain Tidy, aims to influence behaviour change and to capture the attention of dog lovers and hit home the message that dog fouling is unacceptable."

Dog poo bins can be found at the entrances to Waterside Valley. Do It For Your Dog, bag it, bin it.

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# GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM WESTFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



The annual grant pot is now open. Complete a simple application form for grants of up to £1,000, with larger amounts available in exceptional circumstances, telling us how your project will benefit the people of Westfield.

Your organisation/project does not need to be a registered charity as long as the work it does has charitable aims.

All information and an application form can be found on our website –

[www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/grants](http://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/grants) - or by calling the office on 01761 410669.

Deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023



# Westfield Front Garden Competition

**The time of year has come again to celebrate the wonderful gardens of Westfield. The Front Garden competition is now in its 9th year and how the gardens of Westfield have shone.**

The competition is run at the same time each year and it was interesting to note the difference in blooming times this year, which we were thinking must be down to the weather conditions. A very damp spring followed by a dry spell has changed the times the plants are producing their best colour.

However, the gardens of Westfield didn't disappoint and judging, by our flower contractor Rob Wicke, was as usual very challenging.

The winning garden was that of Mr and Mrs Morgan of Waterford Park. They were very surprised to win the competition as they said there are some lovely gardens in the area.

"The key to a good display is lots of dead-heading!" said Mr Morgan. Cllr Cooper, Chair of the Environment and Development Committee, presented the cups and prizes and said that this garden was a very well-deserved winner.



She said: "Well done to Mr and Mrs Morgan. Their garden is bursting with colour, which is due to all the hard work put into it, with a lot of the plants grown themselves from seed."





The winning container was a stunning display of two baskets together by Kay Pera of Magnolia Road. Kay said: "I'm well chuffed to win this competition - I never win anything!"

Cllr Cooper said: "It was a pleasure to see she was so pleased to win and the baskets were stunning and full of colour".



The prizes were vouchers kindly donated by Thomsons of Radstock and we are very grateful for their continued support.

Rob said: "I was very impressed with the quality of the flower displays, especially considering the difficult weather conditions we've faced this year. Congratulations to everyone who took part, you've clearly taken great pride and care in your gardens and you made it very difficult to select the winners!"



The Chairman of Westfield Parish Council, Cllr Phil Wilkinson, said: "Yet again it appears as though Westfield residents have excelled in producing some superb garden displays. It really does say a lot about the pride our residents show in their front gardens. My congratulations go out to our winners and also to all residents that were happy to be considered for awards by our judges. I am rather thankful that the decision on this year's winners didn't fall to me. Having viewed many gardens when I'm out and about, I doubt it was an easy decision. Once again, congratulations to this year's winners."





This year we were also very pleased to include a cup for the garden of Fosse Way School. This garden is managed beautifully by Darren Hickling, an ex-student of the school. He was sad that most of the colour had gone over by the time of judging, but the garden is always in immaculate condition and a real welcome to visitors of the school and the café.

Darren said: "I'm happy that the garden has



been welcoming and noticed by people visiting the school and café. Look out for some small changes next year."

Cllr Cooper said: "We don't give this award every year, only when we see a deserving community garden. It is a testament to the work that Darren has been doing on this garden that it has caught the eye of anyone who visits – a real pleasure. We felt we wanted to recognise it as being very special."

We look forward to seeing next year's entries to Westfield Front Garden competition.





# Somer Valley Walking Festival

If you and your family enjoy exploring your local countryside and finding out more about the history of your community, why not pop the date the 9th/10th September in your diary and join in the events and walks of the Somer Valley Walking Festival?

All walks and activities are FREE for this seventh year of the Festival. On Saturday, 9th September, it is planned that there will be a family walk from the Midsomer Norton Town Park onto to the cycle path, finishing at the Amphitheatre where there will be nature themed activities for the children. Other activities on the Saturday will include historic walks in Radstock and a longer walk along the route of the Coal Canal.

Following the success of last year's Festival, we will be returning to the Conygre Hall, Timsbury on Sunday 10th September where there will be a number of led walks from 3-10 miles.

Pop the dates in your diary and come and enjoy a small part of our "Wild Isles" For further information:- [www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk](http://www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk)



For Further Information



[www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk](http://www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk)

## Somer Valley Walking Festival Walking Festival

**9th & 10th September 2023**

*All Walks and Activities are Free*



### **Saturday September 9th**

*Family Heritage and Nature Walk - Midsomer Norton Town Park*

*Limestone Link Walk - Along the Coal Canal*

*Nordic Walking Taster - Midsomer Norton Town Park*

*Short Walk - Paulton and Surrounding Area*

*Town Walk - Radstock*

### **Sunday September 10th**

*Venue - Conygre Hall Timsbury*

*A Choice of Walks - From 3 -10 Miles*

*Nordic Walking Taster - Conygre Recreation Field*

*Registration at the Conygre Hall, Timsbury 0930am*

*Refreshments Available after the Walks*

[www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk](http://www.somervalleyramblers.org.uk)

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# Harvest at Westfield School



Squirrel Class at Westfield Primary School had fun harvesting their potatoes and carrots.



They sowed the carrot seed and planted out the potatoes earlier in the year. We sorted out the good carrots to take home and cook and the not-so-good carrots went home for our pet rabbits and guinea-pigs to enjoy as well as us.



# School's Fantastic Futures Week

Westfield Primary School has again held its Fantastic Futures Week for the seventh year running to raise children's awareness of different careers. During the week, the children were very fortunate to learn about a huge variety of different and amazing careers. The school's visitors ranged from local universities, the NHS, architects, engineering, the CPS, the UK Space Agency and the Bristol Old Vic Theatre.



Westfield views the week as an integral part of its programme for pupils' personal development and experiences, rated as outstanding by Ofsted earlier this year. The school is very aware that by the age of 7 or 8, career ideas have already started to form, usually based on people that the children already know. Research has also shown that those as young as 5 years old perceive gender roles in



relation to careers. Unfortunately, children then start to rule out career options from an early age and their choices are often influenced by what they see in the media.

Westfield has worked hard to form strong links with local employers, to ensure that the children have access to role models in a wide range of sectors to help them develop an awareness of career options at an early age. Westfield sees this as vital to ensure that all pupils - regardless of gender and backgrounds - can fulfil their full potential.



Ambition is one of Westfield's important school values, and Fantastic Futures is used to encourage the children to aim high and to be the best that they can be. We may even have inspired our engineers, architects or even palaeontologists of the future!

# Youth Connect South West

**What a busy summer YCSW have had at Westfield youth club.**

Open on Tuesdays from 6.30pm-8.30pm through September, the team will be back in Westfield Methodist Church Hall opposite the small rank of shops.

Our sessions are open for school years 7, 8 and 9 – with a 50p entry charge that goes straight back into the activities we provide on the night (or in most cases, a pizza delivery at planning night).

We have been running lots of sports this summer at the request of young people from football to tennis, cornhole beanbag games to giant Jenga – we have had most young people turn up and get involved.

For those who have not been so keen on the sports, we have been bringing weekly arts and craft activities to Westhill Park, including mask making, rock painting, design a makeup bag to name but a few.

With a return to the church hall and Autumn upon us, the team will be running more cooking sessions in the nicely renovated kitchen and seasonal activities, as well as being on hand offering support and guidance to young people who are facing difficulties.



For more information about youth club in Westfield, please contact;

Carrie Ford, NES Youth Work Team Leader - 07875488718

Facebook - Youth Connect SouthWest

Instagram - @youthconnectsouthwest

Website - [www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk](http://www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk)



**YOUTH CONNECT SOUTH WEST**

**TUESDAY INTERS YOUTH CLUB**

Are you in Year 7, 8 or 9?

Join our youth club and get involved in crafts, music, cooking, sports and other activities at

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# WHAT'S ON

## SEPTEMBER

**2nd** – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am

**2nd** – The Rewinders at Westhill Club, 9pm

**4th** – Midsomer Norton Carer Café at Mardons, 10am - noon

**4th** – Local history club at Radstock Museum from 10.30am

**4th** – Westfield Parish Council Meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way

**5th** – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**5th** – Memory Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30 am

**5th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**6th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**7th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**8th** – Friday Club at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**9th** – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am

**9th** – Elevation, live at Mardons, 9pm

**9th** – Jay at Westhill Club, 9pm

**10th** – Westfield TT Running Club, find out more by visiting their Facebook page.

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

**11th** – Wellbeing café for carers at Radstock Museum, from 1pm

**12th** – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**12th** – Carers' Centre Refreshing Day at Ammerdown Park, speak to the Carers' Centre to book your space.

**12th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**13th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm, For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**14th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook.

**14th** – Thursday Social at Westhill Club, Play it again Steve, 2-5pm

**16th** – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am

**16th** – Reboot, live at Mardons, 9pm

**16th** – Lee Ross at Westhill Club, 9pm

**17th** – Westfield TT Running Club, For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**18th** – Local History Club at Radstock Museum from 10.30am

**19th** – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**19th** – Memory Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30am

**19th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**20th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**20th** – Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting, 10am at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way

**21st** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**23rd** – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am

**23rd** – Tundra, live at Mardons, 9pm

**24th** – Westfield TT Running Club. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**25th** – Wellbeing café for carers at Radstock Museum, from 1pm

**26th** – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**28th** – Thursday Social at Westhill Club, Barry Ross, 2-5pm

**30th** – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am

**30th** – The Walker Close Band, live at Mardons, 9pm

**30th** – The Roulettes at Westhill Club, 9pm

# OCTOBER

**2nd** – Midsomer Norton Carer Café at Mardons, 10am - noon

**2nd** – Local history club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30am

**2nd** – Westfield Parish Council Meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way

**3rd** – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**3rd** – Memory Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30am

**3rd** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**4th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**7th** – Coffee morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am

**7th** – Fantastique 80s/90s night, live at Mardons, 9pm

**7th** – Wellbeing café for carers, from 1pm

**9th** – Environment and Development Committee Meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way

**10th** – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**10th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**11th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**13th** – Friday Club at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**14th** – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am

**14th** – Wired 4 Sound, live at Mardons, 9pm

**16th** – Local History Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30am

**17th** – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**17th** – Memory Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30am

**17th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**18th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**18th** – Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting, 10am at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way

**20th** – Family night disco at Westhill Club, 7pm

**21st** – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church, 10am

**21st** – The Coyote Kings, live at Mardons, 9pm

**23rd** – Wellbeing café for carers, from 1pm

**24th** – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**24th** – Bulb planting at Glebelands, from 10am

**24th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**25th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**20th** – Family night Halloween disco at Westhill Club, 7pm

**28th** – Halloween Fancy Dress Party with Limited Edition at Mardons, 9pm

**29th** – Halloween at the Station, Midsomer Norton Station

**31st** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

# NOVEMBER

**1st** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm, For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook.

**4th** – The Skinny Dippers, live at Mardons, 9pm

**6th** – Midsomer Norton Carer Café at Mardons, 10am - noon

**6th** – Local History Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30am

**6th** – Westfield Parish Council Meeting, 7pm at the Oval Office, Cobblers' Way

**7th** – Memory Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30am

**7th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**8th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**10th** – Friday Club at Trinity Methodist Church, 2pm

**11th** – Remembrance Day, brief silence at the Memorial Stone in Westfield at 11am. Refreshments available at the Trinity Methodist Church

**11th** – Bombshell, live at Mardons, 9pm

**12th** – Remembrance Day, all are welcome to join the Methodist congregation at the Memorial Stone for traditional ceremony. The service begins at the church at 10.30am and resumes there after a minute's silence.

**13th** – Wellbeing Café at Radstock Museum, from 1pm

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

**14th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**11th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**18th** – Sad Dad Club, live at Mardons, 9pm

**20th** – Local History Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30am

**21st** – Memory Club at Radstock Museum, from 10.30 am

**21st** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**22nd** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

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

**25th** – From Jovi (Bon Jovi Tribute) live at Mardons, 9pm

**28th** – Wellbeing Café for carers at Radstock Museum, from 1pm

**28th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**29th** – Westfield TT Running Club, 6.30pm. For details of groups and levels of ability, search for 'Westfield TT Running Group' on Facebook

**30th** – Christmas Lights Switch-On, 6.30pm, Elm Tree Avenue, Wells Road

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**Every Wednesday and Saturday** – Evening Bingo at Westhill Club, 7.30pm

## ADVERTISE AN EVENT

Please send details of your event to:  
[news@ignyte-uk.co.uk](mailto:news@ignyte-uk.co.uk)



# An interview with Paul Pearce



We recently met with members of the B&NES Parks team to discuss the environment in Westfield. Here's an interview with Paul Pearce, Team Leader Parks Projects for B&NES.

## Please could you explain in brief what your role within B&NES is?

It's a very mixed role. I lead on securing funding for and delivering practical improvements and projects across our 179 parks, open spaces and allotments (getting large repairs and upgrades done, mapping our grounds maintenance schedules) and liaising with our ten Friends Groups and other volunteers and community initiatives (like YourPark Bristol and Bath) and responding to customer complaints, suggestions and feedback. With a background in ecology, I'm also helping coordinate the Council's response to the Ecological Emergency with actions in our parks and green spaces to help restore nature.

## Can you explain how your role applies to Westfield?

I led on a large project to review, map and schedule our grounds maintenance regimes across the 364 hectares of land that the Council's Parks Team manages. Before then there were no written or recorded maintenance schedules in place and we had to rely on staff knowing which areas needed maintenance and remembering to do so! I now advise the Operational Maintenance team on the maintenance of verges in and around Westfield.

I'm also leading a project, our new Bee Bold BANES project, where we are working with eight communities across the district to plant thousands of bulbs and wildflowers on verges to restore nature and improve where we live and one of these sites is the Leaze in Westfield. Many of our greenspaces and verges were not designed to be good for wildlife and so our eight sites will be demonstrations of what can be done with a modest budget and the existing maintenance resources to improve these areas for people and wildlife.

## Grass cutting regimes in the area have changed over the years, can you tell us why this is and what impact this has environmentally?

There are numerous reports covering the declines in nature across the world and I would hope that with the success of TV documentaries and campaigns by national organisations, everyone is now well aware of the dire state of nature in the UK and across the world. For instance, in the UK:

- 41% of all UK species have declined since the 1970s
- Pollinators are down 30% since 1980
- 97% of species-rich grassland have been lost in the UK since the 1930s.

This is important because we all rely on nature. Nature provides the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink, and many of the resources we need to survive and maintain our quality of life. In total, more than half of the world's economy is moderately or highly dependent on nature.

Through its Nature Emergency Action Plan, Bath and North East Somerset Council is aiming to restore nature to 30% of the land that it manages in the coming years. BANES' Parks Team recently completed a significant review of the maintenance of our parks, green spaces, allotments, woodlands and road verges to identify areas where nature can be helped to recover and so we aim to do this in areas of open space under trees and on verges that are wide enough to provide decent habitats; but don't need the grass to be kept short to provide places for picnics, ball games, informal recreation and community events. We remain committed to mowing recreational areas frequently.

Our 'Let's Get Buzzing' approach follows the guidance of Plantlife, the Wildlife Trusts and the national No Mow May campaign and mirrors changes introduced by local authorities across the country including North Somerset, Dorset and Cornwall District Councils.

Tall grass is an invaluable habitat for a wide range of different species. For many butterfly species, such as Gatekeeper, Ringlet and Marbled White, native grasses are the only food plant for caterpillars which need longer grass to feed and over winter, grass clumps provide habitats for moths, craneflies and other insects and grass seeds are used by sparrows and goldcrests - so tall grass is an invaluable food source for birds. Other species that will benefit from the undisturbed habitat include amphibians and reptiles and small mammals, such as hedgehogs.

Less frequent mowing also encourages native species such as dandelions, buttercups and daisies which can be some of the best nectar sources for bees.

### **What other things are B&NES doing to improve and look after the environment?**

BANES recently published its Ecological Emergency Action Plan (<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/ecological-emergency-action-plan>) which sets out the various themes of its nature recovery work in the coming years.

### **Can you tell us a bit about the Neighbourhood Nature Areas scheme?**

We would love all of our tall grass areas to be full of wildflowers but re-establishing wildflowers in the landscape relies on planting bulbs and wildflower plugs and sowing seeds and we can't do this everywhere across our 360 hectares of parks, open spaces and road verges. Where we can

secure grants and support from volunteers, we are working with local communities to improve our landscape.

However, residents and community groups can help and our Neighbourhood Nature Area scheme allows people to 'adopt' their local verge or a small area of an open space and garden it to help nature and improve where they live. We currently have nine such sites across the district and would love to have lots more <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/neighbourhood-nature-areas>.

### **We are planning on working together to plant some bulbs at Glebelands in October, can you tell us more about that?**

This is a great example of how volunteers can help enhance our nature recovery areas. Some local people have said that they're unhappy with longer grass on some of the verges in the estate and so BANES and the Parish Council have organised a volunteer day to plant thousands of spring bulbs. The spring bulbs will provide more food for pollinators and brighten up these areas in the spring.

 **WESTFIELD**  
Parish Council

# We're Looking For Volunteers

**What:** Bulb Planting  
**Where:** Glebelands, Westfield  
**When:** Tuesday 24th October, 10am-12pm

Bulbs, bulb planters and gloves will be provided.

If you would like to help, please let us know by contacting us at:  
[council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk) // 01761 410 669



# Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

**At the time of writing, we still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. There may be someone who is interested in the local community and would like to be part of decision-making when it comes to improving the community for the people of Westfield – a continuous ongoing project!**

There is no place for party politics at Parish Council level, just a group of Councillors who would like to see the lives of the residents of Westfield enhanced by their surroundings – for example, the work in the Waterside Valley and the upkeep of the recreation grounds are always under discussion. We have an input into decision making on planning issues, though not the final say, and work with organisations in the parish who are helping others.

Should you be thinking about it, but not yet sure, the National Association of Local Councils are running a webinar where you can get more

information, which is open to everyone.

## DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

This event is brought to you by the National Association of Local Councils and the Local Government Association. It will be held online on Tuesday, 14th November, 12 noon - 1.15pm.

### About this event

Do you want to give something back to your community? Help local people and achieve great things for your local area? Have a positive impact on wider society?

Hear about how you can be the voice of your community by becoming a local councillor.

This event will provide a valuable opportunity to learn about the work and role of councillors and the huge difference you could make as a local leader in your area.

A panel of experts including those who have become councillors at various local government levels will share their insights, experience, and advice. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions, engage in discussions and access the wide range of support available to take action for your community.

Should you wish to be part of this, please contact the Parish Council and we will give you the Eventbrite log in.

[council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)

01761 410669



## Free meet-up for carers and their loved ones

**It's not easy to catch a break when you care for a partner, relative or friend.**

**We welcome you and your plus one to enjoy a cuppa with new friends at the Carer Café in Midsomer Norton.**

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# Bath Area Play Project Play Day

The Bath Area Play Project recently held a family play day at Norton Hill Recreation Ground. Despite the wet conditions, 400 children and parents came along and enjoyed all of the activities on offer!



Chairman of the Parish Council, Phil Wilkinson said: "It was a fun-filled afternoon, attended by many local families. The Parish Council are pleased that the grant we provided is going to good use and that these wonderful play days can continue to be held in Westfield!"

# Many happy returns and singles

## Report from Dan Norris, Metro Mayor of West of England Mayoral Combined Authority

I'm pleased to let readers of Westfield know about Birthday Buses. Please do apply at [www.birthdaybus.co.uk](http://www.birthdaybus.co.uk)

There you can apply for a special Birthday Bus Pass for free bus travel throughout the whole month of your birthday. We have ambitious net zero targets in the West of England and 44% of our carbon emissions currently come from transport. This is a plan to encourage people to try the buses and hopefully switch to them, which in turn, will mean

more fare income and so better buses in the future too. You'll need a digital style passport photo and a local address to apply - and to fill in a couple of quick questions about your travel habits.

### Thinking about a green upgrade to your home?

The new "Retrofit West" Advice Line has been launched. Call 0800 038 6733 to find out about measures that could suit your home and get advice on next steps.

## Join us for a bat walk

Join the Somer Valley Rediscovered Team at Waterside Valley on Tuesday, 12th September for an evening bat walk led by professional bat ecologists.

We will start at 7:30pm with a brief talk about bat ecology and conservation and then go for a gentle stroll around the meadows and along the river looking and listening out for different bat species. We will use bat detectors to pick up the bat's echolocations and work out what species we have recorded. We will finish up at 9:30pm.

In the event of poor weather, we may need to cancel at short notice, in which case we will reschedule.

Please note:

- There is some unstable ground and steeper sections so please wear sturdy footwear.
- Bring a torch!
- All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.
- Could we please ask that dogs are left at home.

Free Parking is available at Church Street Car Park, 13 Church St, Radstock, BA3 3QG. Please arrive by 7:25pm for an 7:30pm start.

Book your place on Eventbrite <https://shorturl.at/wxyDP>

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# Mardons Community Club

With its new title of 'Community Club' and status as a Community Interest Company, the committee at Mardons continue to strive, not only to provide entertainment for fans of both sport and live music, but to offer their facilities for local groups and organisations and to aid in fundraising efforts.

Summer has seen some extremely well-attended fundraising events - both the Quiz and Bingo Night from Luckington Carnival Club saw the club full and tickets for the charity fundraiser in aid of Mind quickly sold out. As always, Mardons would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support.



Limited Edition - Halloween Hijinks

Looking towards the Autumn, there's lots happening and some impressive entertainment still to come ...

The Sad Dad Club are a relatively new band that are making a big impact and garnering a very loyal and growing fan base. Their performances are lively, fun and crowd pleasing, so should certainly appeal to the audience at Mardons.



From Jovi are set to return!

The club is extremely pleased to announce that the ever-popular Limited Edition will be performing at the Halloween Fancy Dress Party once again this year. They've proven themselves time and again and always embrace the spirit of the night, donning crazy costumes!

The end of November promises to be another highlight as the lads of From Jovi return to Mardons for another Bon Jovi Tribute Night. Their appearance at the start of the year quickly took the club to its capacity, with the dance floor filled throughout the evening. The band have been thrilling audiences at shows ever since and receiving high acclaim from all.

There's always lots happening, so pop along and enjoy a great night out with friends and family!

[Facebook.com/mardonsclub](https://www.facebook.com/mardonsclub)



Excitement is building for the Sad Dad Club's debut



# The Parish Clerk

**Thank you to all who turned out to celebrate the Coronation with a Big Lunch at Westhill Recreation Ground. The sun shone and the free food and ice creams were all very much enjoyed. Thank you to all who took part, particularly the wonderful and tireless children's entertainer.**

Is anyone interested in volunteering for an event to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D Day on 6th June 2024? If so, please do contact the Parish Council office for more information.  
[council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)  
01761 410669.

We are working hard to have an extension built at Norton Hill Recreation Ground pavilion to house the Parish Council office and meeting room. This will give long term stability and savings on office rental costs.

It is great to see Waterside Valley being used more and more by community groups. September will see a free bat walk through the valley and, in October, a free hedge laying workshop. In the meantime, EcoWild are now running weekly wellness sessions at the site.

As the days draw in, we are starting to prepare for the Christmas Lights Switch On event on 30th November, 6.30pm at Elm Tree Avenue / Wells Road. We hope to see you there.

**Lesley Close**  
Parish Clerk



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## Waterside Valley update

**Purchasing the final piece of land which joins Waterside Valley with Haydon Batch is something which Westfield Parish Council has wanted for a long time. We are delighted that the completion of the purchase has now taken place.**

Chair of Westfield Parish Council, Cllr Phil Wilkinson, said: "This is excellent news. We have exciting plans for Waterside Valley and this final piece of land creates a corridor of public open space along the length of Waterside."

If you would like to know more about the Parish Council's plans for Waterside Valley, the plan is published here <https://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/community/waterside-valley/>



And if you would like to volunteer for a free workshop on hedge laying at the site, please contact Westfield Parish Council on [council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk) or tel 01761 410669.

# Your Councillors



**Cllr Diana Cooper**  
01761 415155  
diana.cooper@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



**Cllr Geoff Fuller**  
Chair  
07540 998603  
geoff.fuller@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



**Cllr James Honess**  
james.honess@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



**Cllr Ron Hopkins**  
07460 819007 /  
01761 435852  
ron.hopkins@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



**Cllr Eleanor Jackson**  
07979 968416 /  
01761 438968  
eleanor.jackson@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk  
(also BaNES councillor for  
the Westfield ward)



**Cllr Paul Millard**  
Paul.millard@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



**Cllr Robin Moss**  
07543 626184  
robin.moss@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk  
(also BaNES councillor for  
the Westfield ward)



**Cllr Phil Wilkinson**  
01761 431355 /  
07803 927626  
phil.wilkinson@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



**Cllr Pat Williams**  
01761 432630  
pat.williams@  
westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



**Westfield  
Parish  
Council**

The Oval Office, Cobblers Way St Peter's Business Park, Westfield BA3 3BX  
Telephone: 01761 410669 Email: [council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk)  
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