

Annual Parish Meeting 27th March

Produced for Westfield Parish Council

Westfield Parish Council

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Message from the Chairman

Hello to all our residents.

Spring is on the way, with lighter evenings and hopefully, warmer days. Snowdrops and Daffodils are breaking ground and Easter eggs are in the shops!

A reminder that on March 27th at 7pm, the Parish Council will be holding its Annual Parish meeting at the Westfield Trinity Methodist church hall. This is a meeting for the people of Westfield, so please come along.

We will be presenting our Westfield Inspirational Citizen with the 2024 award. If you know someone who does good work for the community of Westfield then please send us your nomination.

Every residential property in Westfield should have received a survey pack. This is vital to the update of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is a Housing Needs survey which helps us to show B&NES what type of homes are needed in Westfield. More importantly it is looking to confirm that we need Westfield homes for Westfield people. Please take the time to complete it online or by post – at the time of publication of this Warbler you will have a few days left to do so.

Phil Wilkinson Chairman

> Want to keep up to date with The Westfield Warbler and Westfield Parish Council on social media?

> > Follow us on social media
> > westfieldwarbler



westfieldparishcouncil westfield_pc

Contents

4	Working for Wildlife
5	Bird Wanders in Westfield
7	Therapy Dog, Jax
8	Youth Connect
13	Westfields of the World
16	Grant Scheme Presentation
21	What's On
23	Fosseway School bulb planting
24	Prattens Bowls
26	Parish Councillor Vacancy
30	Parish Clerk
31	Parish Councillors

The next edition of The Westfield Warbler will be in May 2024. If you would like your group to be included, please contact us by 4th May.

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

The Westfield Warbler is produced by Ignyte Media Ltd, Bathway Farm, Bathway, Chewton Mendip, BA3 4LN. Tel 01761 410141.

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Working for Wildlife in Waterside

If you have been out and about in Waterside Valley recently then you may have noticed some habitat management work taking place.

Some sections of bramble have been cleared alongside the brook which opens up more light into the stream and also returns those areas back to grassland. This work has been organised by Somer Valley Rediscovered and Westfield Parish Council and has been carried out by both contractors and volunteers. Not all of the bramble has been removed, as scrub is still an important habitat for wildlife and it is good to have a balance of both grassland and scrub areas.





The site masterplan, which was created in 2022, showed that the desire for Waterside Valley was to keep the open aspect and increase the diversity of the valley's species by creating a more wildflower rich grassland. For this to happen, the valley will need to be managed. We are hoping to reintroduce a meadow style of management where the grass is cut and baled in the late summer, but for this year only, we will also need to cut the grass in late winter / early spring. Therefore, keep an eye out for tractors working in the valley during March!

If you are interested in volunteering in Waterside Valley, then we would love to hear from you. You can find out more information on our website: https://somervalleyrediscovered.co.uk/somervalley/get-involved/

A REAL PROPERTY AND

Bird Wanders in Waterside Valley

A new well-being opportunity is coming to the Somer Valley, a 2-hour bird wander in Waterside Valley, sharing what we know and love about the birds that feature in our day-to-day lives.

Birdsong is one of nature's most beautiful sounds and what better thing to do than pause and listen? These 2-hour bird wanders are about enjoying being in nature and sharing what we know and love about the birds that feature in our day.

We will enjoy the benefits and delight that birds bring us and although we will learn something about their habits, how to tell them apart and how better to recognise them, we won't be bombarded with long lists of names or be expected to remember anything. Instead, we will be spending time in nature, enjoying and expanding our relationship with birds.

This is a free 6-week course for adults of all ages to explore, reignite and deepen connections to the living world and benefit from the support, health, and wellbeing found in this.

Radstock Folk Dance Club

Radstock Folk Dance Club meet at St Peter's Hall, Longfellow Road, Westfield at 8pm on Fridays from October to July.

We welcome new members, experience is not necessary. You do not need to come with a partner, all our members are friendly and helpful.

£3/evening to include refreshments.

Instruction is given by Club members who are experienced callers.

Contact Dick Shilton 01458 841400 or Heather Leverton 0117 986 6316 or heather.m.leverton@gmail.com Nick, an experienced bird watcher and walk leader from WildPace, will be leading these walks.

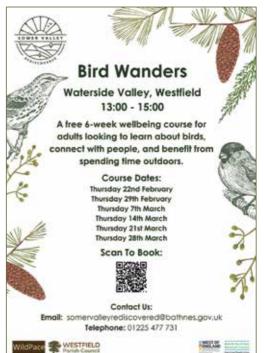
The course will be running through February and March.

We will be meeting at 12.50 to gently explore Waterside Valley, Westfield, spotting and identifying birds together. See the dates below.

We will then finish the walk back at Swallows Community Cafe, Radstock at 3pm.

This course is funded by and part of the Somer Valley Rediscovered project, a strategic green infrastructure project led by Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council, Wessex Water, B&NES Public Health and Natural England, funded from the West of England Combined Authority Green Recovery Fund.

See the QR code on the poster to book online, or contact Somer Valley Rediscovered on 01225 477731.







ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024

For the people of Westfield

Wednesday | 7pm 27th 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.

🌐 www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk 🛛 🗠 council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Fosse Way School's therapy dog, Jax

Charlie Turner (Post-16 student) interviews Lizzie Griffin (Head of Post-16) about our Fosse Way School therapy dog, Jax

Jax is a chocolate Labrador, small for his breed and extremely gentle. He has worked in SEND schools since he was 16 weeks old and he is now 7.5 years old and still loving it. He lives to work with children and is always kind and loving, accepting any sort of cuddles. He loves being taken out for walks, reading with the students and getting lots and lots of treats!

What is Jax's role within the school?

Jax supports students and staff. He helps students to regulate, to access work experience or their work in general, transition in and out of school or between areas/lessons. Jax is also the perfect cuddle companion for students who are feeling low or need help calming down. He also loves being read to or shown students work.

What are the benefits of a therapy dog? How does Jax support the school staff and students?

Therapy dogs offer a calmness for students and help them to form relationships where it may be harder to do so with people. Jax has been trained to withstand a lot of attention and to never react negatively to students who may be rough or pull his tail while they learn about dogs. He is always excited to see them, supporting their self-esteem and is friendly and playful for those who would like to interact more and when the kids find it tricky, they take Jax on our golden mile.

Where does Jax live?

Jax lives in the Post-16 building. He has a crate in the office and spends time in each of the classes. The post-16 students have duties to look after Jax, such as refreshing his water, taking him out and brushing him. Jax is rarely to be found relaxing in Post-16 though and is booked out almost all day every day, with rest breaks between.



What is Jax's favourite game to play?

Jax loves to run and play fetch, but only when he is allowed and he loves jumping in rivers. He will chase a ball but isn't very good at bringing it back! He loves to run alongside students. He adores a tug of war with his rope toy.

What does Jax like to do when he's not at school?

Jax is a very busy dog and needs to keep up his training. He goes wherever his family does and loves going for runs, sleeping on the sofa or in the sun outside, and trips to Sainsbury's! Jax's favourite place to visit is the beach.

What is Jax's favourite food?

Jax is on a strict dog food only diet at work. For special occasions at home he absolutely loves chicken, a little cheese and scrambled egg, banana, and carrots He enjoys an apple for pudding!

By Charlie Turner Post-16

Successful new projects for Youth Connect



This winter the team at YCSW have been running their normal Wednesday night seniors youth club, 7-9pm for ages 13-19, offering a range of positive activities. This session is £1 per week and offers young people everything from round the world cooking to sports competitions and creating unique pieces of art. New members welcome.

The team have also been running some new projects, with the first being a massive success teaching young people the basics of taking a good photo and a final showcase exhibition of works at the library. These projects aim to reach new young people and offer up something new that has an end goal and gives young people a new set of skills. The following project was bushcraft, working with Somer Valley Rediscovered, to get young people out in the local area, use green spaces and learn skills of survival.

These projects have been running on Saturdays from 12-2pm starting at Radstock youth club.

For more information about sessions in Radstock at our youth club, please email or visit our social media pages.

Email - Contact@ycsw.org.uk Facebook - /YouthConnectSouthWest Instagram - @youthconnectsouthwest



Youth Connect South West's Annual Young People's Awards

Youth Connect South West proudly announces the success of its annual Young People's Awards, held on the 9th of November 2023 at The Hilton Hotel, Bath, and simultaneously live-streamed for virtual attendance.

In its 4th year, the ceremony aims to highlight the exceptional personal efforts of young individuals throughout the past year. The event, which started at 6pm, was preceded by a showcase of artwork created at various group sessions including a graffiti project, some crochet animals and pencil art drawings. Guests were then treated to a slideshow of images displaying the impactful work carried out by Youth Connect South West over the past year.

YCSW's CEO, Tracey Pike, expressed her admiration for the resilience and creativity displayed by young people in the Bath and North East Somerset area and beyond. She said: "Young people never cease to amaze me with their ability to overcome adversity with their determination, creativity, and ability to change. These awards and all the young people nominated showcased the best that young people can be. I am proud of these young people and the staff who have enabled them to make such positive changes to their lives and become the people they want to be."

The evening celebrated not only the remarkable achievements of young individuals but also marked YCSW's fourth anniversary as an organisation. Attendees were treated to exceptional musical performances, including a dynamic set by the newly formed youth group, Outloud, who captivated the audience with their confidence. Evie Bodman, a returning performer from the 2021 awards, delivered a powerful performance that highlighted her continued growth as an artist.

The guest speaker for this year's event was Meg Abernethy-Hope who was a past user of Youth Connect's services and is now the Co-Founder of BILLYCHIP CIC. Attendees were moved by a poignant speech where she shared a personal testament to the transformative impact Youth



Connect South West's services had on her life during her formative years. Meg recounted how the support provided by YCSW became a lifeline during a particularly challenging period marked by the loss of her brother. Emotionally expressing gratitude, she highlighted that the unwavering support from YCSW not only helped her navigate the difficulties but also played a pivotal role in steering her towards positive change.

For those who were unable to attend in person, the live-streamed event allowed viewers to enjoy the awards from the comfort of their homes. Youth Connect South West stays committed to providing fantastic opportunities and essential services to young people, fostering an environment where they can thrive and achieve their full potential.

The full event is now available online if you wish to watch, at https://youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk/ypa23

Youth Connect South West is extremely excited to see what achievements are met over the coming year as they prepare for their 5th anniversary next November. Be sure to follow their social media channels for updates!

You can find out more about their work here: www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk.







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SWALLOW Charity focus on employment



SWALLOW Charity launched a new Corporate Friends scheme at the end of last year and it is already having a positive impact locally. Friends are extremely important to SWALLOW, and the charity is very grateful to the organisations that have already pledged their friendship and support.

SWALLOW's new Corporate Friends scheme aims to increase the support that the charity gets from local businesses to enable them to do more. Specifically, SWALLOW wants to give more of their members the opportunity for employment, to make links with local employers so they can understand the huge contribution SWALLOW members can make.

Local Westfield business, Sun Chemical, has supported SWALLOW for a number of years, including running in the Bath Half Marathon, paying for SWALLOW's football team kit, donating their Nectar points so that SWALLOW could buy equipment for their community cafes, raising money through employee events and much more. Plus, each week Sun Chemical pays for the café team to make soup so that they can have communal lunches for their all employees.

SWALLOW is so grateful for the support of Sun Chemical and would like to call on other local businesses to explore different and exciting ways they could work together.

To find out more about how you can get involved and help improve the lives of local people with learning disabilities, please get in touch with Nicky on nickyt@swallowcharity.org or call 01761 414034, or visit the website www.swallowcharity.org





Can you spare a few minutes?

Westfield Housing Needs Assessment



We recognise there is often a need and desire for families, perhaps of different generations, to stay together in Westfield. This survey is designed to gather the evidence to prove the need for local housing for local people, of all ages. We cannot stress enough the importance of completing the questionnaire. It is vital for future generations to have housing allocated to people with a link to the parish. You should receive your survey in the post in the next couple of days.

You still have a few days left to complete the Housing Needs Assessment, scan the QR code to take you to the questionnaire



01761 410 669

council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk

Westfields of the World

UK

Westfield, Somerset



Set against the backdrop of the beautiful Mendip Hills, the small Parish of Westfield in North East Somerset is just 10 miles south of Bath, within easy reach of Bristol, Frome and Wells.

Westfield's mining heritage is reflected in its unique character. There were once three pit heads in Westfield: Wellsway Pit, Norton Hill Pit new head and Norton Hill Pit old head. Now the Parish is distinguished by its wealth of Miners' cottages, two Miners' Trust Grounds and its connection to neighbouring Midsomer Norton town centre by an old pit path.

The main road through Westfield is the A367, Wells Road, leading to Fosseway, which is an old Roman Road.

(Source; https://www.westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/ council/about-westfield-parish-council/)

Westfield, Sussex



171 miles from Westfield, Somerset

Westfield is a rural parish in Rother District in the county of East Sussex, situated approximately 6 miles north of the ancient coastal town of Hastings. The village lies on the A28 in an area of outstanding natural beauty surrounded by farmland and the hills, woods and streams of the Weald.

(Source; https://www.westfieldvillage.co.uk/index. php/about-westfield)

USA

Westfield, New Jersey



3,384 miles from Westfield, Somerset

Westfield, New Jersey is a classic town for modern families. Noted for its beautiful downtown area, excellent school system and convenient commute to New York City, it offers residents the attractions of fine suburban living with an easy route to metropolitan New York. A large segment of its residents commute daily to business in New York and Newark. Excellent train and bus service and easy access to the metropolitan highway network provide commuters with fast and efficient transportation.

Settled by immigrants from Europe in 1720, Westfield was once a popular trail for the Lenni-Lenape Native American tribe whose heritage remains in the names of many existing streets and parks. Originally known as the West Fields of Elizabethtown, the community gradually took its own identity and finally, in 1903, was incorporated as the Town of Westfield. It is a developed community of 6.29 miles with 211 acres devoted to parks.

(Source; https://www.westfieldnj.gov/317/About-Westfield)

Westfield, Massachusetts



3,257 miles from Westfield, Somerset

From the time of its founding in 1669 to 1725, Westfield was the most western town in the Massachusetts Colony. Town meetings were held in a church meeting house until 1839 when Town Hall was erected on Broad Street. This building served as a City Hall from 1920 to 1958. Due to its alluvial lands the inhabitants of this area were entirely devoted to agricultural pursuits for about 150 years. Early in the 19th century the making of bricks, whips and cigars became the principal occupations. Other firms engaged in the production of bicycles, paper products, boilers and radiators, textile machinery, abrasives, wood products and precision tools. The establishment of industry in the community changed its character from an agricultural to a thriving industrial city during the latter part of the 19th century.

Westfield was re-incorporated into a city in 1920.

(Source; https://www.cityofwestfield.org/245/ History-of-Westfield)

News from Fosse Way School

This term in Learning for Life, the 4EK class at Fosse Way School has taken on the challenge to help transform the school's poly tunnel and garden spaces.

Students created surveys to find out which areas around the school needed more care and attention, using maps of the school site to identify key areas.

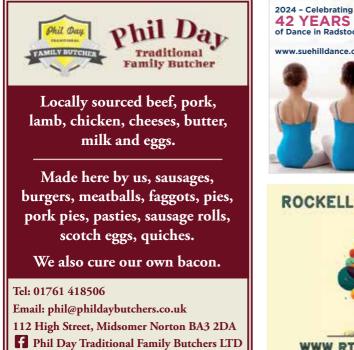
We visited the local garden centre and decided which seeds might grow well. Many of the class are keen to create green areas that can be used by students to relax and spend time with their friends. They have decided they'd like to include scented plants, flowers and herbs, such as lavender, to provide a more sensory garden experience.

The school poly tunnel area has been badly damaged and neglected and the class wants to get involved in giving it a new lease of life. One of our students, who is a really enthusiastic photographer, has taken some great pictures so we can do a before and after display once we're finished.

We will be learning about which plants will grow well in different garden spaces, about the environmental impact of creating green spaces and about the benefit to everyone's mental health.

At a time when many of these students are facing exams and assessments this is a really positive way to spend our Thursday mornings!

Plants will be for sale in Longfellow's Café in the spring.





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Westfield Voices

We have been in great demand over the Christmas season. You may have seen us at the Westfield Lights switch-on, well muffled up against the cold, but since then we have been singing all around the area.

We visited Coombe Lea, Greenacres Court and Bloomfield (see photo) to sing carols with the residents. We sang in the doorway of Tesco's as usual to raise funds for the Children's Hospice and led the candlelight carol service at Trinity Methodist church.



Thanks to a grant from Westfield Parish Council, we now have a very modern sound system that enables our Musical Director, Ruth, to record the accompaniments and play them back with minimal equipment. This makes it so much easier for us to sing in different locations, without compromising the sound quality. We are now rehearsing songs old and new, for our booked performances in 2024. If you like to sing (you don't need to be able to read music), why not come along to St Peter's Church Hall on a Wednesday at 7pm, to see what we do?

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

Latest from Trinity Methodists

We are a busy lively church on the main road in Westfield opposite the local shops.

Our Minister, Rev. David Winstanley, leads regular Sunday morning worship and can also be found leading a short reflection at our Saturday coffee mornings.

We have been blessed with a modern refurbishment to our kitchen, bifold doors between the hall and worship area and, just recently, new glass doors in the porch. We now have a warm, welcoming church for worship and for the local community. As well as church groups, like our Knit and Natter and Friday club, we hire our premises out for meetings, exercise groups, birthday parties and musical activities for young children.

We hold charity events during the year, including Breast Cancer Awareness, Swallow and Macmillan.

In April, there will be a special fundraiser for the New Surgical Robot at the RUH. Please look out for more details on any events on our church noticeboard and railings.

Please contact sue.tandy@btinternet.com for any further information about our church life.















Grant Scheme Pre

Every year, Westfield Parish Council the community of Westfield to apply

This year, we are pleased to announce that we have awarded grants to thirteen organisations. The money donated will enable these organisations to continue providing important services to the residents of Westfield.

The Parish Council wanted to publicly recognise the local organisations that do such good work for the people of Westfield and held an evening of celebration for the grant recipients. The event was hosted at Westhill Club and a buffet was provided, thanks to Terry and Annette Andrews. Grant recipients were invited to the stage to receive their "cheque" and give a brief overview of their organisation and how the grant money will help them achieve their aims.

Grant recipients included: Citizen's Advice Bath, for recruiting and training volunteers; Westfield Primary School, to create an outside classroom; Trinity Girls Brigade, for putting towards a coach to take the girls on their summer camp and Westfield Voices, for updating their sound equipment for performances.

These are just some examples of donations made and new applicants are always welcome.

This year, the Committee was pleased to offer a grant to HeartTalks, which is a new group in the area offering











sentation Evening

invites organisations who support y for grant funding of up to £1,000.

- help and support to any family bereaved in miscarriage or childbirth. Chantelle Walmsley, founder of HeartTalks, gave a moving talk about what the organisation offers to people who are affected by this.
- Chairman of the Parish Council, Phil Wilkinson, said: "It was great to be able to celebrate these wonderful organisations who do so much for our community. The Parish Council is very proud of our grant scheme and the good causes that the money goes towards."
- The evening was a double celebration, as we were also joined by winners in the South West in Bloom competition, which took place earlier this year. Several organisations in Westfield had created some wonderful green spaces and were rewarded for that.
- Cllr Eleanor Jackson invited winners to the stage to be given their certificates by Mr Sean Fletcher, one of the It's Your Neighbourhood judges. Westfield in Bloom were recognised for their contribution to the local environment and a special award for inclusivity was also awarded to Swallow. It was quite amusing to hear that Westfield Primary School were awarded a cup to recognise their wonderful compost heap! Congratulations to all involved.



Westfield Voices Choir rounded off the evening with a couple of lovely songs leaving us very much in the Christmas spirit.

A lovely evening was had by all and we look forward to doing it all again next year!







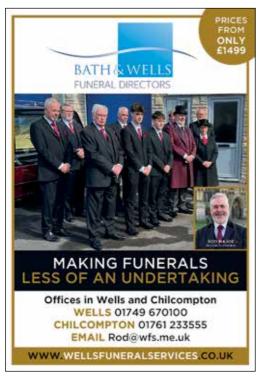


Swan Transport receive Innovation in Volunteering Award

Swan Transport was thrilled to be awarded Innovation in Volunteering following a groundbreaking project working with young people. In 2022, Sarah Williams, Swan CEO, obtained fundraising from the Department of Transport, distributed by the Community Transport Association. The aim of the project was to encourage young people to volunteer with the charity, initiating social interactions between young volunteers and Swan passengers.

Helen Allan was appointed in September 2022 to Coordinate the 9-month project.

The Community Transport Association (CTA) soon realised that the work was innovative in its practice and of significant value as nothing like this had been tried before. Younger people have so far been overlooked in the involvement of Community



Transport. The CTA commissioned a film to be made near the end of the project's completion to highlight the benefits of inter-generational work and youth involvement.

The CTA are a national organisation who organise a conference toward the end of each year for transport operators across England and Wales to get together and discuss good practice. They also celebrate outstanding achievements in the sector with an evening award ceremony and this year, Swan was awarded 'Innovation in Volunteering.' Swan's CEO Sarah Williams and Project Coordinator Helen Allen went to Birmingham in late November 2023 to accept the award and added it to the growing collection. Both Sarah and Helen felt honoured to accept the award on behalf of the fantastic young people who have enriched and benefited our organisation and take us towards a more inclusive and positive future. This work is proof that our young people all over the country have so much to offer and should be valued and invited to the table.

Swan is on the lookout for more volunteer drivers to join our friendly team. If you have a little time, use of a vehicle, and want to help people without transport to get active, contact us to find out more at office@swan-transport.co.uk or ring us for a chat on 01761 439548. We reimburse our drivers mileage at Inland Revenue rates and give ongoing support tailored to you.



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Interview with Damien, Director at Greensward Sports Consultancy

Westfield Parish Council maintains two recreation grounds. We asked our grounds maintenance contractors about the work that goes into doing this. Damien Baudhuin is the Director of **Greensward Sports** Consultancy. Being auite new to the role he has been on a steep learning curve!



Damien, please could you tell us a bit Greensward and your role there?

I've been the new director of Greensward since June last year. My role is mostly based around running the company, from organising the daily operations to growing the business. The part I enjoy the most would be meeting customers and providing the best service we can.

What areas do you maintain within Westfield and what does this entail?

We have been managing both Westhill and Norton Hill playing fields for a few years now. That includes the maintenance of the field and pitches all year round, but also the equipment from the play area, the tennis courts, the hedges, cleaning the pavilion and probably everything you can think of on both sites.

What are some of the common issues that arise whilst carrying out your work?

In general, the community at Westfield has been very welcoming and it great to see the local community using the playing field to their full potential. On the other hand, there have been a few individuals damaging some equipment such as benches being dug out and signs thrown in trees (yes you have read that right). Apart from that, it would be the general public littering or not picking up dog faeces.

What is your favourite thing about working in Westfield?

The great thing about working in Westfield is the wide variety of services required. Furthermore, providing our services to the local community is incredibly rewarding and the contact that we have with the Parish Council is fantastic and they're a pleasure to work with.



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WHAT'S ON

MARCH

1st – 80s night with Duo Reflex and buffet at Westhill Social Club, £12 per head for Jesters Carnival Club.

2nd – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

2nd – Ska Night with Funky Monkey Bubble Klub, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

2nd – Music night at Westhill Social Club, band TBA 9-11.30pm.

4th – Carers' Café at Mardons Club, 10am-noon.

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

5th – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

8th – Friday Club at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

8th – Quiz Night at Mardons Club. Teams of up to 6, £2.50 per person, 7.30pm for an 8pm start. In aid of Luckington Carnival Club.

9th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

9th – Supper and film evening at Trinity Methodists, 6pm.

9th – Super D, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

9th – The Roullettes at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm.

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

12th – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

14th – Thursday Social with Pete Holden at Westhill Social Club, 2-5pm.

16th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

16th – St Patrick's Irish Stew Lunch at Trinity Methodists, open from 10am, lunch from 11.30am-1pm. **16th** – Freeze, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

16th – Alan Drew at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm.

19th – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

20th – Finance and Personnel Committee, 10am, Oval Office, Cobblers' Way.

22nd – Easter Prize Bingo at Mardons. All ages welcome to play. Plus cash flyer for adults only. Eyes down at 7.30pm. In aid of Luckington Carnival Club.

23rd – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

23rd – Haytown 75, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

23rd – Different Beat at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm.

26th - Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

27th – Annual Parish Meeting, 7pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Wells Road. A meeting for the people of Westfield.

28th – Thursday Social at Westhill Social Club, 2-5pm with Bennie Vee.

29th – Good Friday Walk of Witness, short service at Trinity Methodist Church carpark, 12 noon, followed by refreshments at the Church Hall.

29th – Open Mic Night at Mardons Club. Hosted by Ross Kirk, acoustic and electric instruments welcome, 8pm start.

29th – Family night at Westhill Social Club. Free entry - disco with PJD.

30th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

30th – Chasing The Beat, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

30th – Steven Cesari at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm

31st – Kids' Easter Party at Mardons Club, 1pm. Free entry and all welcome.

ADVERTISE AN EVENT news@ignyte-uk.co.uk

APRIL

2nd – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

2nd – Council Meeting, 7pm, Oval Office, Cobbler's Way.

6th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

6th – Bombshell, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

6th – 2 of Clubs at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm.

8th – Carers' Café at Mardons Club, 10am-noon.

8th – Environment and Development Committee Meeting, 7pm, Oval Office, Cobblers Way.

9th – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

11th – Thursday Social at Westhill Social Club, 2-5pm with Colin Lewis.

12th – Friday Club at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

13th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

13th – Fantastique 80s & 90s Night, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

13th – Overboard at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm.

16th – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

17th – Finance and Personnel Committee, 10 am, Oval Office, Cobblers Way.

20th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

20th – Fundraiser for the Surgical Robot at the RUH at Trinity Methodist Church.

20th – The Other Band, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

20th - Shazam at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm.

23rd – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

25th – Thursday Social with Colin Lewis at Westhill Social Club, 2-5pm.

26th – Family night disco with PJD at Westhill Social Club, free entry.

27th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

27th – Dreamscape, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

27th – Play it Again Steve at Westhill Social Club,9-11.30pm.

30th – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

MAY

4th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

4th – The Coyote Kings, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

4th – The Raindrops at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm.

7th – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

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

9th – Thursday Social with Lorraine Leigh at Westhill Social Club, 2-5pm.

10th - Friday Club at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

11th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

11th – Call The Shots, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

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

14th – Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

17th – Supper and Film Evening at Trinity Methodists, from 6pm.

18th – The Skinny Dippers (Night of 80s music), live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

18th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

21st - Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

22nd – Finance and Personnel Committee, 10 am, Oval Office, Cobblers Way.

25th – Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodists, 10am.

25th – The Walker Close Band, live at Mardons Club, 9pm. Free entry and all welcome.

25th – Pete Holden at Westhill Social Club, 9-11.30pm.

28th - Knit and Natter at Trinity Methodists, 2-4pm.

22 - The Westfield Warbler

Fosseway School have been planting bulbs

In the Sixth Form our curriculum is based on the Preparation for Adulthood Outcomes. These include Education, Health, Independent Living Skills and Community.

The community aspect of our learning is really important to the students as it helps to give them a sense of belonging to the community in which the school is located.

As part of our 'community payback' for many years 5EJ had raised beds at Midsomer Norton train station that we maintained. We also look after the patio beds at St Peter's Church in Westfield and now more recently we have embraced the bulb planting challenge offered to us by Westfield Parish Council. The tutor group is also in collaboration with a BANES project called More Tree's BANES where we have collected tree seeds, propagated them, looked after them, planted the saplings when they have been big enough, and then returned these saplings to BANES when strong enough for planting out in the community.

5EJ also do litter picking in the local area.

We like to think that we do our bit to make a difference.



Through these activities the students learn about various gardening techniques, but more importantly they learn to develop transferable skills like resilience, working co-operatively with others, team work etc.

We look forward to the Spring and seeing what emerges from the grassed area that we recently planted the 300 bulbs in. We are hoping for a good show of beautiful daffs to brighten up the area.

Emma Jukes, Post-16 Teacher





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

Prattens Bowls Club

Prattens Bowls Club is situated in Westfield behind the neatly trimmed hedge on the opposite side of the Prattens Westfield Sports and Social Club (just off Charlton Lane).

Not for nothing is bowls known as the Sport for All, with world champions having been aged from late teens to thirties and players into their eighties playing regularly and competitively. Prattens is an outdoors bowls club for people of any age with the outdoor season running from mid-April (green opens 13th April 2024) until mid-September.

Matches for ladies are played mainly in the afternoons, with men playing their games largely on Saturday afternoons and weekday evenings. Mixed matches are mainly on Sunday afternoons and Friday evenings. Prattens also hold social events at the bowls club. For further details, see our website at www.prattensbowlsclub.com where you will find regular updates of what is happening at the club.

Many members have found bowls to be an enjoyable sociable sport to move on to after playing other sports such as Rugby, Netball, Tennis, Football and even some who did not find Golf to their liking. If you would like to try bowls, and why would you not, come along to our Monday club night from 6.00 pm during the season where members (old, new and potential) will be warmly welcomed. We can arrange free assistance to play with bowls being available to borrow – just wear a pair of flat soled shoes. Membership is free to new bowlers in their first season. In order to facilitate access for older bowlers and those with additional needs, we have recently installed a ramp from the car park.

If you are interested in joining, you contact Barrie or Pauline Dando on 01761 412705 for more information.

A second Outstanding from Ofsted within six months

For the second time in the space of six months, the students and staff of Fosse Way School, Westfield are celebrating an outstanding grading from Ofsted for their residential provision.

Fosse Way House homes up to eleven students, who live there from Monday to Friday during term time, before returning home to their families at weekends and holidays. All students have a diagnosis of autism and are supported to access the school during the day, before continuing the development of their personal independence skills and accessing the local community through a rich and varied programme of activities in the evening. All students are provided with an individualised 24-hour curriculum focussing on preparing for adulthood.

Throughout the three-day inspection, students informed the inspector that "they have so much fun" and it was recognised that "children's day to day experiences are exceptional, helping them to develop their social skills and form positive relationships with their peers". Parents said "their children love coming to the residential provision and enjoy the activities". Parents also praised all staff supporting their child for the work they do to support families as well.

The inspector noted that "staff speak about the children they care for with love, pride and respect. This nurturing, caring approach was observed throughout the inspection" whilst also recognising key strengths in safeguarding and positive behaviour support, "children feel safe and are kept safe by staff. There is a strong positive safeguarding culture" and "positive behaviour management continues to be a strength of the residential staff team. Staff are proactive and use the strength of the relationships they build and their knowledge of the children to support them constructively".

The effectiveness of leaders and managers was also recognised as being a strength, "staff recognise leaders and managers as excellent and inspiring



leaders" and "all are innovative and use research effectively to develop the service". The school and residential provision provided evidence of this continuing use of up-to-date research in their daily practice when supporting all two hundred and twenty-seven children across the school, "following a review of the use of reparation, staff have moved to a 'be fair and repair' approach as this is more meaningful to the children and is working well. It also helps children to have a better understanding of their emotions and behaviours".

Head Teacher, Fiona Skinner, said: "I am delighted that Fosse Way House has been recognised as an outstanding provision for two years in a row. We are very proud of the provision, the support it provides for the young people and their families is exceptional."

Residential Education Manager, Jason Towells, added: "I am very proud that Fosse Way House has achieved another outstanding grading, this is testament to the hard work and dedication of the Fosse Way House team and the wider school community in ensuring that the best possible care and education is provided for all students who access the provision and the school."

Councillor vacancy at Westfield Parish Council

Westfield Parish Council is made up of 11 people that have the best interests of the residents of Westfield at heart. It is a non-political group that works to make the environment around us as conducive as possible, either by submitting responses to planning applications in the parish or by enhancing the recreation grounds and the Waterside Valley.

Did you know that the Waterside Valley land was purchased as a result of all Councillors wanting to ensure the land was retained in perpetuity for the enjoyment of the residents who choose to go there and to maintain, or increase, the biodiversity of Westfield?

The Parish Council holds social events, such as the Christmas lights switch on and the Coronation Big Lunch that we held last year. We award grants to community groups each year and applications are discussed by a subcommittee. Involvement in anything like this can be as much or as little time as you are able to give.

These are the sort of decisions you could become involved in should you be prepared to take the option to become a Parish Councillor.

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> Westfield Radstock BA3 3XS Tel: 01761 412109



What would be expected of me?

There is often the concept that, in order to be a Councillor, you need to be retired, or well on the way to retirement. This is not the case. The Parish Council meets once a month on the first Monday (Tuesday if it's a Bank Holiday) from 7pm – not usually for more than an hour and a half and there are two committees -Environment and Development, which considers planning requests, makes decisions on work at the recreation grounds, Waterside Valley and any other issues that affect the environment of Westfield and Finance and Personnel, which does what it says on the tin and discusses financial issues and Personnel. Each of these committees meets monthly as well and if they wish. Councillors can sit on one or more.

The role of a Councillor is also to be the face of the Parish Council and to be available to residents to find answers to any questions that may be put to them. You wouldn't be alone in trying to find the answers – the staff are always on hand to help out!

One of the aspirations of the Parish Council is that Westfield is recognised as a Parish in its own right and not as an addition to Radstock or Midsomer Norton. This is an age-old debate and, whilst we have every respect for our neighbours and are always pleased to collaborate with them on issues that affect all of us, the fact is that Westfield deserves recognition as a force for those that live and work here.

As far as personal development goes it is, of course, also an opportunity to gain valuable skills in leadership, communication and decision making while collaborating with fellow Councillors and engaging with community groups. There is training available for new Councillors, which has been found to be very useful by existing Councillors, so you get help on how it all works!

If this is striking any chords with you, then please get in touch with us. You are more than welcome to come along to a Parish Council meeting to see how it all works or you can call the office on 01761 410669 or email us at council@westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Phil Wilkinson, would also be more than happy to talk through what it means to be a Parish Councillor, get in touch: 07803 927626.



Westfield School search for Warblers!

Squirrel Class in Year 2 took part in some "social science" recently, taking part in the R.S.P.B.'s Big Garden Bird Watch.

The children counted the birds that came into our school grounds and recorded their results. We saw lots of pigeons, blackbirds and blue tits. We also saw a robin and a pied wagtail. We sent our results to the R.S.P.B for them to use to better protect our garden birds. We will be looking to see which birds have made nests in the Spring.





Mardons Club

Mardons is looking smarter than ever following its recent refurb. The new carpeting throughout follows the addition of the new seating last year and is an example of the committee's comittment to keeping the community facility at its very best!

Following a terrific festive period, the club has enjoyed many more great events, race nights, prize bingo and of course, live music. The start of the year has seen a wealth of talented new bands make their debut and there's even more still to come.

The Funky Monkey Bubble Klub will bring their brand of ska at the start of March and promise to get you stomping along to all the greats.

In April, The Other Band will visit, they consist of five talented musicians who love nothing more than performing live, all over the country.

They have created a "Super-band" made up of some faces that may seem familiar. Stephanie Jayne (Lady Arcane, The Lamplighter Project) is a vocal powerhouse who has achieved worldwide success and wows audiences with every note. Steph is joined by Sam Kellaway (In-fear), Craig Barnett (Voodoo Seven), Brendan Lanigan (Laverne Duo), and David Churchill (The Deadbeats);

The Other Band guarantees great music, dancing, and entertainment for a night that you won't forget! Not just another band.....**The Other Band**.



Club favourites Fantastique, Bombshell and The Coyote Kings are all set to return, plus the brand new line up of Freeze will be taking to the stage.

For those wanting to test their knowledge, Quiz Night is on Friday, 8th March (booking details in the What's On section), while those in search of a 'Full House' can call in for Easter Prize Family Bingo on Friday, 22nd. Plus there will be all manner of fun at The Kids' Easter Party on Easter Sunday afternoon.

With plenty of sporting action being shown on two of the area's best high definition big screens, there's something for everyone at Mardons!



The Other Band make their debut Saturday, 20th April

The Parish Clerk

The New Year got off to a great start with the successful allocation of a grant for over £8,000 from Localities to fund our Housing Needs Survey.

The purpose of the Survey is to understand the housing needs of the parish for the next five years and to gather evidence of the need for new homes to be allocated to those with a link to Westfield. We have plenty of anecdotal evidence, but for it to become planning policy, we require an independent survey. The results of the survey will be with us in March. We do hope you take the time either online or on paper to complete the survey. Sadly, the proposed new Parish Council office has had to be shelved due to the rising prices of building materials. So, we remain at our offices in Cobblers Way.

However, condition surveys have started at the former skittle alley at Westhill Recreation Ground, with the aim of converting this to changing rooms to support football at the site.

Tree works at Norton Hill Recreation Ground and Westhill Recreation Ground start at the beginning of May. This includes the removal of the remaining Ash Trees which line the A367 at Norton Hill Recreation Ground and there will be temporary two-way traffic lights in place for the works.

Scrub clearance at Waterside Valley has had a huge impact on the site, opening it up and preparing the

way for grass cutting in March, providing the ground is not too wet. We are, as ever, so grateful to Somer Valley Rediscovered for their support and expertise.

Lesley Close Parish Clerk



100 years of local library services

Within our Centenary year, Midsomer Norton Library & Information Service will be celebrating 40 years of library services in Midsomer Norton.



The celebrations will start on Monday, 15th April for two weeks with lots of activities and events to look forward to.

We'll be promoting our events within the library and on our social media channels, so be sure to follow us for all our upcoming plans! You can find us at:

Facebook: bneslibraries Instagram: bnes_libraries X:bnes_libraries

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

Your Councillors



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



Cllr James Cradock James.cradock@ westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



Cllr Geoff Fuller Vice 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 Phil Wilkinson Chair 01761 431355 / 07803 927626 phil.wilkinson@ westfieldparishcouncil.co.uk



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



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



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)



Could this be you?



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

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 2.30pm.



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