



FREYSTROP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2021



An aerial view by Goff Thornberry posted to the Facebook Freystrop Group in March 2021

The last 2 years have been very different for us all but as 2021 draws to a close we look forward to the New Year bringing new opportunities and an expansion of a revived spirit of community founded when most were confined to the area.

We will not forget those we have lost this year. For a small community the toll has been heavy. Our thoughts and support are given to their families and friends.

The Community Council Elections take place in May 2022. If you are interested in becoming a Freystrop Community Councillor or would like to have more information about the Role and Responsibilities of a Community Councillor please contact the Clerk. Email freystropcc@yahoo.com

Report on Community Council and Village Hall Matters

On re-reading what I wrote for last year's newsletter the last 12 months just seems like "Groundhog Day" or should that be "Groundhog Year". The pandemic just seems to go on and on but hopefully with first, second and now booster vaccine jabs one hopes the effects on the individuals unfortunate to contract the virus will be less severe.

With the Village Hall being closed the Community Council met online via "Zoom" from January to April.

These meetings were set up by Cllr. Ross Harries and were regularly attended by all Councillors, the Clerk and our C. Cllr. Michael John. This enabled local democracy to continue albeit without the ability for the public to attend-something that we will probably have to cater for in the future with what are now being termed "hybrid or multi-location" meetings.



Very few planning applications had to be dealt with in the early part of the year and the pandemic put a hold on the County Council's Local Development Plan No.2 and this has been further delayed due to a Natural Resources Wales Directive on phosphate levels in river catchment areas such as the Cleddau requiring re-evaluation of potential development sites. The Community Council and many residents objected to the siting of a contractors depot on agricultural land adjacent to but outside the village development boundary for Freystrop Cross. Despite these objections the County Council approved the application seemingly ignoring the Community Council's and residents' concerns which were based on valid planning grounds.

Speeding issues continue to be a real bugbear throughout the village and fortunately the "Go Safe" and volunteer camera teams are attending our area on a more frequent basis. The persistence of C. Cllr. Michael John has finally resulted in the speed limits at Troopers Inn cross roads being reduced from 50 to 40mph. Despite warning signage at either end of Targate Road large vehicles are frequently getting stuck at Targate Corner causing consequential damage to adjacent properties.

In May 2022 there will be Community Council (and County Council) elections. So if any resident aspires to become a Community Councillor and wants to know more about local democracy they are welcome to attend our monthly meetings over the coming months.

The Village Hall reopened after the second lockdown on 17th May and the Children's Drama, Yoga and Crochet Groups all returned soon afterwards. Pembrokeshire College also booked the hall for a

series of First Aid courses and these are continuing. A weekly Taekwondo group for juniors meets in the hall on Monday afternoons, the Craft Group are there on Tuesday afternoons and a Latin American Line-Dancing Group meet on Friday evenings. The Freystrop and District WI have now re-started their monthly meetings but they now meet in the afternoon rather than the evening on the second Wednesday of the month. Hopefully the Short Mat Bowls will be re-starting soon with friendly matches. A full list of bookings is displayed in the notice board outside the hall each month.

BDS - the Contractors for the new housing development off New Road - are providing a much-needed extension to the rear carpark at the hall which should be available to use shortly.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter an enthusiastic team of volunteers has been set up to improve the state of the Playing Field and Childrens Play Area on Targate Road. Their first aim is to make substantial improvements in time to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a Village Festival in June 2022.

Finally on behalf of your Community Council, the Village Hall and Playing Field Management Committee and C. Cllr. Michael John may I wish residents both old and new a happy and peaceful Christmas with the sincere hope that 2022 will not be another "Groundhog Year".

David Thomas, Chairman, Freystrop CC

Freystrop Community Council **and** **Freystrop Village Hall & Playing Committee**

Meetings of Freystrop Community Council are held on the second Monday of the month, except for the months of August and December.

The meetings are held at the Village Hall, Freystrop and commence at 7.30pm. All residents are welcome to attend. Please contact the Clerk for further information.

Community Councillors

David Thomas, CHAIR

Esme Utting, Co-DEPUTY CHAIR

George Hughes, COUNCILLOR

Dawn Harries, Co-DEPUTY CHAIR

Ross Harries, COUNCILLOR

Pembrokeshire County Councillor - Llangwm Ward

Michael John

Clerk to the Community Council

Clive Griffith

15 Westaway Park, Rosemarket, SA73 1JL

Email: freystropcc@yahoo.com

Telephone: 07934 655550



County
Council
Report
by
Cllr
Michael
John

Speeding and road safety

continues to be a regular issue raised in the village, and rightly of very high concern to many residents.

The Community Speed watch team, at a recent visit to Freystrop Cross, reported 16 offences in an hour, the highest being 52 and 57mph.

At a previous visit there were 32 offences recorded.

There are also issues on Targate Road and at Little Milford Road amongst others. Troopers Inn has now been reduced from 50 to 40mph which is welcome, following several accidents at the crossroads.

I am in regular dialogue with the highway team at PCC, and with Freystrop Community Council, and will be continue to press for positive actions wherever possible.

I would urge anyone who witnesses any traffic incidents or any near misses to report them directly on 101.

If there are any residents interested in the Community Speed watch group, details can be found at gosafe.org/community-speed-watch/dyfed-powys/

308 Bus Service

Many people have commented recently over the reduced bus service, especially with no Saturday buses. I have been told alterations to the timetable can be considered in the New Year, with any potential changes from Easter onwards.

It would be useful therefore if those who miss the service provide the details of which journeys/days they were previously using, and which services they would use again. PCC will then liaise further with Edwards Bros to see whether or not the timetable can be changed to better meet the needs of customers. Please send comments to pubtran@pembrokeshire.gov.uk.

Haverfordwest High VC School

The new build continues to be progressing on schedule, and will be a fantastic facility which children from our area will benefit from. Being a governor at the school, I was recently taken on a tour of the site by representatives of the main contractor and the project manager. The building and sports complex will be a huge asset for the area and is due to open in September 2022.

An online video with the latest progress can be seen at haverfordwesthigh.pembrokeshire.sch.uk/.

SCAMS

There are always a great number of scams doing the rounds, and I would always advise caution if you are unsure who you are talking to, or exchanging emails with. Always ask for identification from any cold callers and check if any emails and offers are authentic.

Advice from PCC on this can be found at pembrokeshire.gov.uk/trading-standards/scams-and-rogue-traders.

All 16 & 17 year-olds will be able to vote in next May's Local Council Elections.

Although able to vote in the Welsh Government elections 2021, this will be the first chance to have your say in Local Government elections. This is the opportunity to choose who represents you in the County Council, and who will put your voice and views forward.

To be eligible to vote you will need to register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or for more information look at pembrokeshire.gov.uk/elections-and-voting/first-time-voter.

2nd Home Council Tax

Pembrokeshire Council recently made the decision to raise the levy on 2nd homes from 50% to 100%. This is the only measure available to County Councils, and is intended to combat the increase in 2nd home ownership in the county, which has seen an increase since the pandemic. Pembrokeshire has the 2nd highest number of 2nd homes in Wales, and it is not limited to the holiday coastal area. Inland villages, especially around the Cleddau Estuary, have also seen a big increase. This raises the costs, and reduces the housing available to people wishing to remain in their local area.

75% of the money raised will go into building social housing in the county.

The other 25% of funds raised will continue to go to the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant which uses the funds for local and county wide projects. Information on the grant

and eligibility can be found at pembrokeshire.gov.uk/grants/the-enhancing-pembrokeshire-grant.

Welsh Government also have a consultation on this which is open until 17th November, and can be found at gov.wales/consultation-local-taxes-second-homes-and-self-catering-accommodation-html. It is hoped new legislation will be considered by WG following their review. A suggestion would be that new build properties cannot be used as 2nd or holiday homes, or that planning permission is required for change of use?

+++++
I would like to wish all
residents a very
Happy Christmas
and best wishes for a
Great New Year
+++++

It has been a difficult time over the last 20 months or so, and face to face meetings have not always been possible. A great deal of the regular social events where people would meet up have been cancelled, although we are now seeing some resumption of normality. If anyone does wish to speak to me, or for me to visit them for a face to face meeting, please give me a call and I will arrange to do so, whilst observing any social distancing measures etc.

Also, if there are any queries or questions regarding any topics, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I can be contacted on 01437 890175
or cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
You can also contact PCC direct on 01437 764551
or pembrokeshire.gov.uk/resident

St Justinian's Church News

We're pleased to be back to some sort of normal after 18 months of uncertainty during covid. We still abide by certain rules but are able to plan. Regular services are now held at our usual time of 11.30am, except we don't meet on the first Sunday of each month.

Our Christmas Carols Service will be held Sunday 19th December at 3pm.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and invite you to our Christmas Day Service at 10am.

We've been able to hold a few funeral services in church which is helpful to bereaved families. We have one wedding booked which we are delighted about but, as yet, no Baptisms arranged.

We continue with our own gardening with the help of friendly neighbours. A wonderful new mower has been donated, self propelled, which really helps with the slopes. We have a lovely lady plodding on with clearing the cemetery bank, which is a major job.

If anyone has a bulk sand bag that they don't need we would be grateful for it to take the trash away to the tip.

Anyone who doesn't know, the Yew tree in the church grounds is over 800 years old and has a preservation order with National Parks, it's beautiful and well worth a look.



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Submissions for the December 2022 Newsletter may be submitted at any time by emailing :
newsletter@freystrop.wales. Deadline for all submissions is 1st November 2022.

Bethel - Middle Hill Chapel

Carol Service

This year's service is on Sunday 12 December at 2.30pm.

We wish everyone a blessed, peaceful Christmas and all our very best wishes for the New Year.



The History Plaque

The History Plaque depicts scenes from the history of Congregationalism. Congregationalism in Wales began in the reign of Elizabeth I.

It is distinctive in proclaiming the Priesthood of all Believers, and in maintaining the independence of the local Church from central control.

Bethel belongs to the Congregational Federation which was formed in 1972 when the old Congregational Church in England and Wales was dissolved in order to make way for the formation of the United Reformed Church.

This ceramic plaque by local artist Paul Webb was unveiled in August 2000.

Services at Bethel are normally held fortnightly. Contact Esme Utting for details.

The Haverfordwest South Group of Congregational and United Reformed Churches has a website at haverfordwestsouthchurches.co.uk. We are three churches situated in Haverfordwest, Freystrop and Hook who share a joint ministry.



GATE 2 PLATE

FARM SHOP

LOCALS SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Christmas orders for fresh local poultry now being taken

Mayfield Golf Centre, Lower Freystrop
01437 779451

Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park

Our project to invigorate our playing field and create a Recreation Park is now six months old. We have to thank all our volunteers, supporters, businesses and agencies who have gotten us off to a flying start. Thank you for your donations of time, equipment, money and plants.

The Saturday Working Party is taking a break in December but we hope for clement weather on the last Saturday of January between 11:00 and 13:00. Looking further ahead we will add activities for our younger community members. We don't need everybody to wield heavy tools on these days. Come along for a chat and see how we're doing, discuss ideas or add your skill set to the project. Of course, refreshments are always welcome.

We await news of our application to the Woodland Trust for hedging plants. In the meantime we continue to work with Haverfordwest Rotary Club on the establishment of an orchard around the meadow area. In Autumn 2022 we expect to start planting the tree avenue(s) as part of the Queen's Green Canopy; more information on this in the New Year.

Volunteers are working to perfect the layout of structures on the field, ideas for an exercise area/circuit and liaising with parties who can help achieve the goal of a Community amenity with something for everyone to enjoy. This behind the scenes work helps us a great deal.

Whilst work has moved forward on most of the major enhancements very little progress has been made on the rejuvenation of the kids' play area. Ideas and expertise from those who would most benefit is sought. As this is the largest expenditure of the project's scope we have held back from applying for the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Grant wishing to use the funds to get the best for the youngsters.

Pledges to fund seating and tables have been made by a number of residents. We are very grateful for this forward thinking. We will set out a "catalogue" from which you can purchase your own contribution in the New Year. The option to add a memorial plaque to any park furniture will be offered.

Anybody can follow our activities at our public Facebook page at facebook.com/FreystropPark.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

2nd - 5th June 2022

Freystrop will celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with a day of activities at the Recreation Park on Saturday 4 June.

**Tea Party – Bouncy Castle – Bucking Bronco
Pig Roast - Veggie Roast – Raffle – Evening Music**

More details will be given in an April update.

The Craft Club have already started making bunting to decorate our roads. If you have any red, green, blue or white material you do not need the ladies would be very grateful. Cloth may be left with the Craft Club on Tuesday afternoons in the hall or with any member of the community council.



We need volunteers to help organise the day and to help out on the day. This won't take too much of your time but any time is gratefully received. Please let us know how you can help.

Nationally The Big Lunch takes place on Sunday 5 June. We encourage individual areas of the community to organise their own events on this day. The Community Council are happy to assist where they can.





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It's still been a very strange year so far and as you are aware there are still restrictions in place within schools. As events haven't gone ahead so far this year, we are needing your help more than ever to raise funds for the Friends of Hook School to help provide resources for the children. We are hoping to hold our Christmas Fair in December but this would be subject to any changes the Welsh Government may make.

There is still time for anyone who wishes to join our 100 Club to join and it would be £12 for the year and you get the chance to win money each month. The amount of money up for grabs each month depends on how many people join, so the more people who join up, the more money there is to be won. Please contact me at friendsofhookschool@gmail.com if you or any family members would like to join.

We are also still collecting crisp packets

of any variety and the outer packaging which we send back to Walkers Crisps via Terracycle and this gives us a small but constant revenue stream so please get collecting your crisp packets and feel free to drop them off to me at Priory View, Moorland Road, Freystrop.

We are very grateful for all the help we receive from the community and all the money we raise goes to buy equipment for the children to use or to enable them to go out on school trips.

If anyone would like to join the Friends of Hook School committee or feel you can help in any way then please contact the Secretary and Chairperson Anna-Jayne Harries at friendsofhookschool@gmail.com or contact the school directly.

Regards

Anna-Jayne Harries
Chairperson
Friends of Hook School

SUPPORT LOCAL

Paula Davies & her staff
would like to wish their
customers a
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year



We look forward to
seeing you in the
New Year

Tel 01437 765687

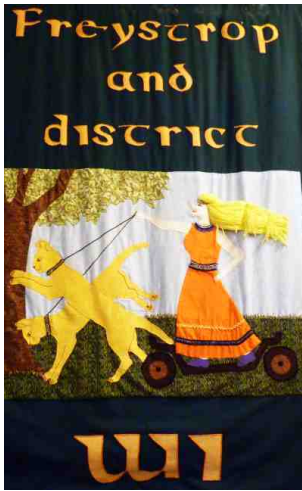
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Weekends
10.30am-7pm



**Lower
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01437 764300



Due to COVID-19 restrictions we have not been able to have our usual monthly meetings. However, Liz Tipping organised some Zoom social get togethers for members to have a chat and this has developed into a regular Zoom social get together with a craft theme.

Roz contacted all members every month by phone to ensure everyone was coping with the COVID-19 Situation.

At last, on 26 April 2021, lockdown restrictions were lifted and we had one of our "short notice get togethers". We met on a beautiful sunny morning for a very enjoyable walk around Broad Haven beach. Smiles all round - fresh air and company at last, but with correct spacing as recommended.

We met again in Broad Haven in May but in the afternoon for a change and finished the walk with coffee and cake in the garden of the cafe.



In July a few members met for a trip and a short walk at the newly opened "Llys-y-Fran Lake". This was followed by coffee and cake on the veranda/balcony of the Visitor Centre - with correctly spaced chairs of course.

Since September 2021 we have been meeting in Freystrop Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month. The meeting time has also changed from evenings to 2-4pm because many members do not like driving at night. We do not meet in August.

As we have in the past, we will have a programme organised for 2022 with speakers/demonstrations.

We are a friendly group of ladies and always extend a warm welcome to new members.

We wish everyone a healthy and happy 2022,
Rosamund Redding (usually known as Roz), President

From our Past: 1900, The Reopening of the American Pit

COAL IN PEMBROKESHIRE

OPENING AN ANTHRACITE MINE NEAR HAVERFORDWEST

A mining venture of great possibilities is being made in central Pembrokeshire, a county which possesses of unworked anthracite coal as many as 215 millions of tons, and that of a superior quality.

The length of the coalfield from Amroth to St Bride's Bay is nearly twenty miles. Commencing at Amroth, the coal runs to Landshipping, crosses under the Cleddau to Hook, and goes on through Freystrop, Cardmaker's Pool (the site of the present pit), Johnston (where the Great Western crosses the field), Bolton Hill, Solberry, Walton West, Little Haven, Broad Haven, Haroldston and Druidston, Nolton, Trefrane, and Southwood, and terminates at Newgale and Eweston, north of Roch Bridge.

It is stated by an expert that the quantity of coal left unworked in the Freystrop, Johnston and Cardmaker's Pool district is undoubtedly enormous.

In the sixteenth century this coalfield was widely known, statistics, incomplete as they then were, recording that anthracite coal was exported from Milford, whilst up to the present even small collieries at Hook, Freystrop and Saundersfoot are worked with some success. That at Hook has a fairly good reputation, but through want of capital, or enterprise, or for some other cause, the coal measures have not been worked on that thorough scale which can alone command success. Culm has of course been dug up in large quantities, and is now sold in the neighbourhood at about 10 shillings a ton.

One of the ablest engineers in Glamorganshire, about [1895], obtained a lease of the minerals in this district. There is now a strong probability that the proposed connection of the Western portion of the Pembrokeshire coalfield with the main line of railway will initiate and develop a lucrative patent smokeless fuel industry. With the exception of a few collieries at Hook, Nolton and Saundersfoot the whole of the coalfield has been practically unworked.

The new colliery which is being opened is near Freystrop, a village about one mile and a half from the Johnston Station of the Great Western Railway, the exact site being a place called Cardmaker's Pool [Farm]. The site of the pit, which is known locally as the American Pit, it having been worked, it is said, during the time of the American War, but one morning the wooden staging caught fire, with the

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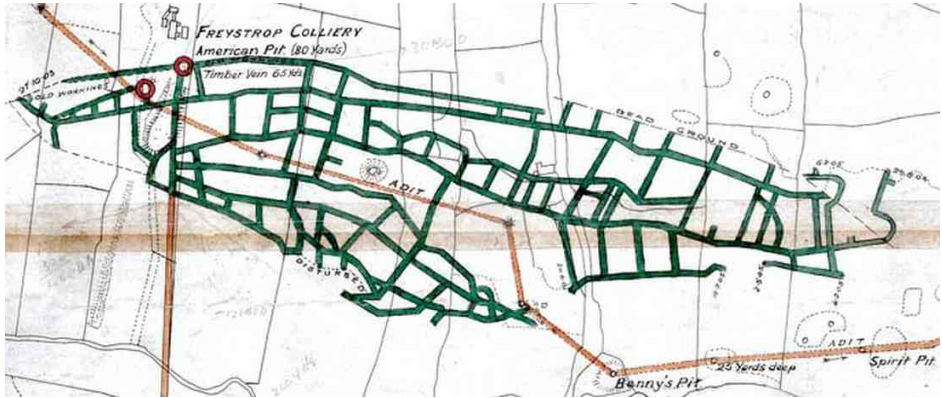
01437 890712

Mathom House, Moorland Road

riitta@riitta.co.uk

result that the sides fell in, and the pit was rendered unworkable. The depth of the pit at this time was 180 feet.

The first task of the new venture is to open-up this old pit. At the present only a few men have been engaged by the agent to start the concern, but it is hoped that in about 12 months' time possibly 200 men will be wanted there. Men are now engaged in laying down the necessary plant in the shape of engines and boilers which have already arrived on the ground.



It is proposed also to construct a private line of railway from the new colliery to the Great Western Line, joining the main track a little above Johnston Station. This connecting line will be of the greatest importance to the company, as it will put the pit within about three miles and a half of Milford Haven and its docks.

The land is owned by Sir Charles E.G. Philipps Bart., of Picton Castle, mayor of Haverfordwest; Sir Owen H.P. Scourfield Bart., of Williamstown; and the Misses Mansel, of Bath, and was leased by them to Messrs D. Evans and F.M. Hann.

The new company has been registered as the Freystrop Colliery Company (Limited). It has a capital of £16,750 in £10 shares.

Sources: Newspapers of July 1900

In September 1901 it was reported that a seam of anthracite had been struck at a depth of 65 yards. The vein was fully 5ft. in thickness. A second shaft was being sunk. 70 were employed at this time and work on the railway line was to commence.

Source: Engineering Journal

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slatecentrewales.co.uk

The Will Meadow Development

An update from Gareth Philips, General Manager



Site drainage is completed and Tarmac to roads commenced on Monday 1st November leading to a clean site.

We have almost completed the Village Hall car park extension with tarmac to final coat also happening next week. It is then in the hands of the solicitor to draw up the deeds to the extension.

We will be starting the service trenches in early November for BT/ Electric & Water which should all be in early 2022.



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Closed on Thursday & Sunday.

01437 891845



Samantha Would like to
wish all her clients a
Merry Christmas & a
Happy New Year.

The salon offers hair, nail
& beauty treatments in a
friendly & relaxed
atmosphere.

Christmas stock is now available to buy at the salon. ☺

Moorland Road, Freystrop

07760 385130

Thank you for your continued support during these
uncertain times, I appreciate you all. x

Freystrop Fare

Migiod

(Migiod Sir Benfro / Pembrokeshire Buns)

These small buns, known also as cace, were given to children as part of their calennig (New Year's gift) on New Year's Day in many districts in Pembrokeshire. They would be baked in large quantities for this special occasion and the children would carry them home in clean pillowcases on their backs.

Generally, each child would be given some two cakes at every house after wishing the members of the household a very happy New Year. These wishes were frequently conveyed in verse or song.

This was certainly a tradition in this area. J.J.R. Phelps, a former headmaster of Freystrop VC School, recalled in an edition of the Pembrokeshire Magazine *"it was the custom to have a bake before Christmas and New Year. Rich yeast cakes were baked in different shapes and sizes"*.



Ingredients

- 675g flour
- 1 tsp yeast
- 75g sugar
- 25g lard
- 25g butter
- 60g currants
- 30g candied peel
- 275 ml warm milk
- 1 egg
- pinch salt
- honey to glaze

Twists:

- * Use a mixture of flours
- * Brown molasses can replace the sugar
- * Vary the dried fruits
- * Add more candied peel

Method

- All ingredients are best incorporated at room temperature or warmer.
- Rub the fat into the flour and add the other dry ingredients.
- Dissolve the yeast in a little of the warm milk and pour into a well in the centre of the dry mixture.
- Beat the egg and add to the milk.
- Add the milk mixture gradually and work with the yeast into the dry ingredients to make a soft dough. You may not need all of the milk.
- Leave to rise in a warm place for about an hour.
- Then knead on a floured board, and divide to form small balls.
- Roll them out lightly with a rolling pin and allow to rise again until doubled in size.
- Bake in a hot oven 200 c, 15 to 20 mins until golden brown.
- Brush with melted honey to glaze.

Freystrop Village Hall Bookings

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Weekly Monthly AdHoc	Junior Taekwondo	Second Monday - FCC Band Practice
Tuesday	Weekly Monthly AdHoc	Yoga Craft	Short Mat Bowls
Wednesday	Weekly Monthly AdHoc	Pemb's College First Aid Second Wednesday - WI	Short Mat Bowls
Thursday	Weekly Monthly AdHoc	Pemb's College First Aid Stage Coach Drama Group	Band Practice
Friday	Weekly Monthly AdHoc	Pemb's College First Aid Latin Line Dancing	
Saturday	Weekly Monthly AdHoc	Priority given to Private Party Bookings	
Sunday	Weekly Monthly AdHoc	Priority given to Private Party Bookings Short Mat Bowls Band Practice	

Key

Red Highly unlikely hall is free
Amber This timeslot has availability
Green Bookings generally available

To Hire The Village Hall
 David Thomas

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