



FREYSTROP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2022

New Road Centenary Walk



POST PANDEMIC - ACTIVITIES RESUME ONCE AGAIN



WI Visit to Carmarthen Museum

Report on Community Council and Village Hall Matters

Yes, its that time again when I have to pen some notes about the Community Council and Village Hall/ Playing Field affairs over the past year.

Thank goodness we seem to at last have a degree of normality with hopefully the worst of the Covid 19 pandemic behind us. This has enabled the Community Council (FCC) to function on a face-to-face basis all year rather than relying on zoom meetings.

The Community Council election in May was not contested as only 6 candidates came forward for the 6 seats. We were pleased to welcome 2 new councillors Anna Simpson and Christine Saunders onto the Council. Sadly Christine has had to resign due to ill health. Discussions are taking place with the County Council (PCC) regarding the filling of this vacancy.

Prior to the election Cllr. George Hughes, Lower Freystrop, indicated he would not be standing and FCC wish to pay tribute to George for his service to the Community over many years.

A new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer was appointed by FCC in April with Russell Lavis taking up the role.

The election for PCC saw County Cllr. Michael John retaining the seat for the Llangwm ward which encompasses Freystrop, Hook and Llangwm. Michael regularly attends our monthly meetings and has always been on hand to deal with issues requiring an input at PCC level.

Contact details of Community Councillors, the Clerk and the PCC Councillor can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The 2 main issues which concern Council are Planning and Highways.

On planning, Freystrop Community Council, who are statutory consultees, continue to find their views disregarded by PCC planning officers when deciding on applications. Our C. Cllr has taken up this issue with PCC on a number of occasions but has been advised that the views of PCC's professional officers are paramount.

The revision of the Local Development Plan appears to have reached a stalemate due to the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) draft directive on phosphates and nitrates entering vulnerable rivers including the Cleddau. PCC planners are having to assess the impact of this directive on potential developments where run-off to the Cleddau might occur. Until this embargo is lifted either by NRW or Welsh Govt. house builders are left in limbo and this will ultimately affect much needed provision of affordable housing in many



communities.

The highway issues of concern to FCC mostly relate to speeding traffic at Freystrop Cross and along Targate Road. The infrequent police and volunteer camera teams do help but it continues to be a real problem. A request to PCC to re-designate Targate Road as “a no through road - access only” route has been rejected. Community Council will be considering the option of funding automatic speed indicating signals for the main road through the Cross. It is hoped that it won't take an accident – as happened at Lower Freystrop - for this matter to receive greater attention by PCC Highways Dept.

We were successful in an application to PCC for a Community Highways Grant which together with £1500 from FCC enabled the provision of a new bus shelter at Lower Freystrop.

Other matters of interest. FCC have obtained a defibrillator from Save a life Cymru which has been fixed to the front of the Village Hall. A training session in its use was held and refresher courses will be held in 2023. Also the Council purchased the redundant Telephone kiosk at the Cross and this will be put to good use as a “Book Swap” facility.

Turning now to the Village Hall. This is hosting a wide range of activities - a list of which can be found in this newsletter - together with contact person's information. Major internal works are planned for 2023 subject to availability of appropriate grant funding. The work will include provision of disabled toilets, improved insulation and broadband facilities.

The recently installed heating system and controls are helping to keep electricity costs under control. A 3 year fixed price contract was secured with British Gas Lite prior to April 2022 which negates any concern about the current energy crisis which is dramatically affecting tariffs.

Freystrop Community Council are indebted to BDS, the developers of the adjacent housing site, for the provision of the additional car parking area at the rear of the Hall.

Finally, I want to mention Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park. The enthusiastic group of volunteers have obtained grants from numerous sources to enable the purchase of a new marquee, provision of a “Chat bench”, hundreds of trees and have also laid out a path around the perimeter of the field. The Childrens' Play Area is also in much need of an upgrade but again grant-funding will be needed to cover the cost of facilities.

We wish the group every success with their efforts.

We will shortly be approaching Advent so may I on behalf of all the Community Councillors, the clerk and County Councillor Michael John wish all residents, old and new, a very Happy Christmas.

David Thomas
Chairman
Freystrop Community Council



County
Council
Report
by
Cllr
Michael
John

Haverfordwest High VC School

The new school was officially opened on Friday 14th October by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. Being a governor at the school, and part of the project team for the last 4 years, it was an honour to be able to attend and view the completed facilities. The building and sports complex, with a full 4G pitch, will be a huge asset for the area.

After several years of disruption during the development, it is great news for the children from our area who will benefit from these fantastic educational facilities. A report on the opening can be seen at:

haverfordwesthigh.pembrokeshire.sch.uk/News/Official-Opening-of-Haverfordwest-High-VC-School/

Deadline for Secondary School Application

Parents of Year 6 pupils in Pembrokeshire will need to apply for a secondary school place for September 2023 by the closing date of 20th December 2022. Applications received after this date will be considered late which may have a bearing on whether the child gets a place at his/her

preferred school. The online application form can be found on the Pembrokeshire County Council website:
pembrokeshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning

Welsh Government 20 mph Roll Out

New legislation was passed on the July 12th 2022 by Welsh Government to introduce a 20-mph default speed on 'restricted' roads across Wales. Restricted roads are residential roads that currently have 30mph speed limit, generally distinguished by the presence of street lighting.

This legislation will come into force from September 2023. There will be an opportunity for everyone to comment on proposals in their area. The proposed benefits of reducing the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in these areas could include:

- reducing road collisions & severity of injury
- more opportunities to walk and cycle in our communities
- helping to improve our health and wellbeing
- making our streets safer; and
- safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Details on the Community Speed watch group, can be found at:
gosafe.org/community-speed-watch/dyfed-powys/

308 Bus Service The lack of any Saturday service continues to be of concern to many. I have raised this issue with PCC and had the following response from the cabinet member:

He stated that "he agreed that there was an ongoing impact of service reductions following Covid-19. The Council had worked

closely with bus companies to try and reinstate services to pre-Covid-19 levels, however, two bus operators had been unable to commit to doing this on all routes due to a shortage of drivers. He would continue to do as much as possible in order to restore full-service provision to pre Covid-19 levels, with the available budget. It was assured that he would continue to work with Welsh Government to ensure funding was available to allow for the enhancement of public transport in rural areas”.

If the lack of a Saturday bus service is affecting you, please send any comments to:
pubtran@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Recycling & Waste Booking slots to access the waste and recycling centres is another topic raised regularly with me and one I have raised at PCC. Earlier this year I asked when will this temporary arrangement (introduced due to Covid restrictions), will be removed and normal operations resumed?”

The response from the cabinet member was... “in November 2021, it had been agreed by Cabinet that the booking system and associated policies for Waste and Recycling Centres would remain in place as a permanent change to the service. This was following the Waste and Recycling Centre Review carried out by a cross-party Waste Working Group. The booking system provided a number of benefits to the Authority.

The availability of same day bookings was being developed, and the aim was to implement this by the end of July. Once introduced, there would be a review in regards to increasing public awareness around the Waste and Recycling Centre booking system. Once sufficient time had passed, there would be an opportunity for a further review including public consultation”.

Since I had this reply, the same day booking system was introduced as planned and is widely used.

If anyone has any comments on this system, or recycling in general, I welcome their views. I will of course pass on any issues of concern to PCC.

2nd Home Council Tax

Pembrokeshire Council made the decision some time ago to raise the levy on 2nd homes from 50% to 100%. Welsh Government have now brought in new legislation enabling local authorities to further raise this by up to 300%. There is also consultation from Welsh Government on the introduction of a tourism levy, similar to seen in some other countries.

If you have any views on either of these proposals, please let me know as PCC may have to make a decision on these over the coming months.

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 continue to hold services on three Sundays every month. There is no service on the first Sunday due to longer family services in the other two churches of the parish.

We were lucky to have a lovely wedding in June, it's been a while since our beautiful little village church had such an event. It's a great location for weddings.

Sadly we also hosted two funerals, a very peaceful place for a farewell.

We continue to do all the gardening ourselves. There were many wild flowers in the grounds this year which makes the bees very happy.

We held a service for the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and we opened our own book of condolence. The church bell was tolled in remembrance alongside bells in the rest of the country.



The harvest service in September was very well attended and the church was decorated with wheat, fruit and vegetables and a traditional harvest loaf was made for the occasion. The £100 collection was donated to Patch.

The not to be missed, **Candlelight Carol Service** is making a comeback this year after its enforced absence.

The Service is on **Sunday 11th December at 5pm.**

It's a magical service with the church being lit just by candles and the singing of traditional Christmas carols.

Everyone is welcome

*Prospective articles for the December 2023 Newsletter may be submitted at any time by emailing newsletter@freystrop.wales.
Hardcopy may be left with the FCC Clerk or any FCC Councillor.
Deadline for all submissions is 30 October 2023.*

Bethel - Middle Hill Chapel

Carol Service

This year's service is on Sunday 11 December at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

Services in 2023

8th January and then fortnightly. All services will be starting at 9.30am

Retirement

Reverend Steve Woods has retired as Minister of our chapel conducting his last service on 28th August.



We have greatly appreciated his ministry, fellowship and friendship over the years that he has been with us. We pray that he may enjoy many happy, healthy and well-deserved years of retirement with his family and friends.

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

Freystrop Community Council and Freystrop Village Hall

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 19:30.
All residents are welcome to attend.
Please contact the Clerk for further information.

Community Councillors

David Thomas, Chair, Trustee of Freystrop Village Hall	Dawn Harries, Co-Deputy Chair
Esme Utting, Co-Deputy Chair	Ross Harries, Councillor
Rebecca Beedon, Councillor	
Anna Simpson, Councillor	

Pembrokeshire County Councillor - Llangwm Ward

Michael John Email: cllr.michael.john@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Clerk to the Community Council Russell Lavis

Sivalrid, Moorland Road, Freystrop. SA62 4LE Email: freystropcc@yahoo.com

Statutory Community Council Documents

View them at pembstcc.co.uk/freystrop-community-council

Parc Hamdden Freystrop Recreation Park

Follow all activities on our public Facebook page at facebook.com/FreystropPark. You do not need to be signed up to Facebook to view this page.

March 2022



The first major planting of trees from the Woodland Trust.

On a perfect Sunday afternoon in the space of 2 hours some 400+ plants were given their permanent home by 12 amazing volunteers.

The western boundary had a mixed hedgerow and a feature hedge of silver birch fronted elder and rowan.

Crab apples are dotted to the south of the meadow area. An area for seating giving either a choice of sun or shade was formed with hazel and wild cherry.

An autumn planting of a further 400 trees has started. Another mixed hedge on the western boundary and a copse of hazel, rowan and crab apple are already complete.

April 2022

A New Community Marquee

The first outing of the new marquee was a chance to chat about the work done and future activities. A small plant sale raised a good sum to help with future costs.



May 2022

The Happy-to-Chat Bench

Norman Industries offered every community in Pembrokeshire a bench to encourage people to get out and meet following the pandemic restrictions.



July 2022
Picnic in the Park

After a year of work it was time to relax and enjoy the changes we'd made.

No working party, just an afternoon of chat, games and some lovely cake.



"Snippets"

Village Hall

- Planning for the undertaking of repairs and some modifications are progressing well. Grants will be applied for to pay for the work. All being well this should be done in August 2023.

Warm Rooms

- FCC are applying for a grant to fund activities in the Hall between January and March. A warm place to meet and socialise is the aim.

Bus Shelter

- Courtesy of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park we have been supplied with a lovely map/information board of PCNP. Have you spotted that it's placed on the left of the rear wall? How do you feel about a version focussing on the Freystrop Community? Send your ideas to the FCC Clerk.

Telephone Kiosk

- A book exchange is up and running in our phone box. Deposit, borrow & swap books. Requests? Leave a note for other readers.

Becca's gems & pyro art

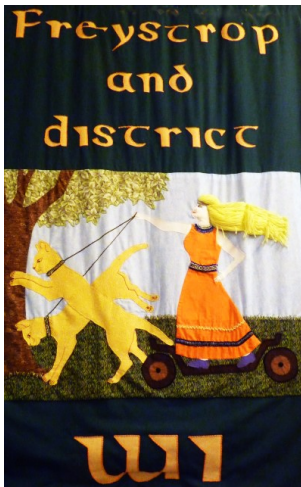


Hand made by Becca
Residing in Freystrop

Find me on Facebook or call 07936527714

Unique hand burnt items and creations, commissions welcome

Something for every occasion



Freystrop and District WI have taken full advantage of the emergence from lockdown restrictions to meet up and enjoy each others company on a regular basis.

The monthly meetings in the village hall have prompted many lively discussions and covered a diverse variety of topics and activities. These have ranged from advice from Dyfed Powys Police on scams and cons (the avoiding of, not the perpetrating of) to enjoying the glorious scents of natural aromatherapy products. And what could be better on a Wednesday afternoon than a tea tasting session (with biscuits)?



Left:
Aberglasney

WI
OUTINGS
2022

Front Cover:
Carmarthen
Museum

Below:
Martha's
Kitchen

To ensure the minimum requirement for tea was maintained we also enjoyed a superb afternoon tea at Martha's Kitchen.

After a delay of two years we were finally able to celebrate our 40th Anniversary with a very enjoyable catered event in the village hall. A competition for the best decorated hat was extremely well supported. Peggy Martin was the worthy winner with a hat covered in beautifully hand crafted roses.

The year's outings began with a delightful walk through a carpet of snowdrops in Little Milford and continued with a lovely day out at St Clears, including a visit to the fabulous Peth au Olive, for a private fashion view (biscuits were again featured).



In Third Place Was Gareth Bevan, But Gareth James Takes First

The Escort Rally Special started in Chimay, a small town in Belgium.

There was a large entry of 150 cars. The rally started on Saturday evening with two 8 mile long special stages in the dark. Then into Sunday with a 150 mile stage to cover.

Myself and Gareth Bevan set off to a good start. By Saturday evening I was leading and Gareth B. was in 5th place.

Sunday was good, weather was dry, and we kept pushing on. The day finished with me in first place and Gareth B. got onto the podium in 3rd place. As this was Gareth B.'s first season this was an excellent result.

Both cars were built in Freystrop.



Gareth James

Mrs Zandra Thomas, CABO Pembrokeshire, has been honoured with the Unsung Hero Award by The British Horse Society.

This award is given to individuals, groups or organisations that have gone above and beyond to contribute to their local equestrian community. Zandra's dedication, over the last 30 years, to looking after and keeping open Bridle Ways in Pembrokeshire was recognised.

The award was presented at the beginning of November by the actor and BHS President Martin Clunes OBE. Congratulations, Zandra

FUTURE KING VISITED THE TIDDLY



As a Royal Naval Lieutenant and a commando type helicopter pilot with a fleet air arm squadron, Prince Charles spent a week at Brawdy flying his Wessex Helicopter to Castlemartin for weapon training in 1974.

He was the only pilot to score a bulls-eye on the rocket range, an achievement worth celebrating.

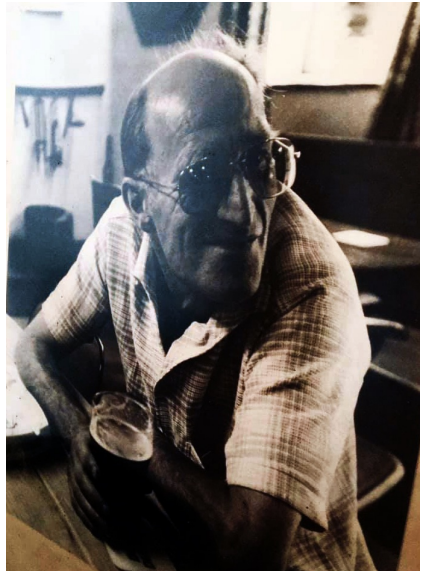
Consequently local newspapers reported that Prince Charles together with about 30 other officers attended a party at the Traveller's Rest (Tiddly) staying for about two hours.

Prince Charles was introduced to licensees Mr Ron and Mrs Ann Pitt and Barmaid, Mrs Freda Clarke of Haverfordwest. Ron said "*He is a real gentleman*". Two plain clothed detectives were present and whilst the party took place in the Lounge Bar, Prince Charles found time to chat to locals in the Bar.

Mr Richard Howells of Hook was a reporter with the Western Telegraph and he recalls interviewing Mr Ron Pitt and Mr Glyn James. Glyn, a well known Freystrop resident, and a Tiddly regular, was affectionately known as Firpo.

In speaking of his conversation with Prince Charles Firpo said "*He knows nothing about farming*".

At the time Firpo was farming with his Uncle, Albert Yeo, at Clayston Farm. Following his conversation with Firpo, Prince Charles has become one of the most famous and knowledgeable organic farmers in the world, and, perhaps it was Firpo who first sparked the Prince's interest in sustainable agriculture on that Winter evening, 48 years ago in the Tiddly.



Glyn James, "Firpo"
Photo from Tim Pounder

New Road Centenary 9 February 2022

Our top cover photo this year was taken on the walk to celebrate the 100 years of the opening of the New Road.

On Thursday the 9th February 1922 a ceremony at Freystrop Cross opened the New Road. Mrs Margaret Harcourt Roberts cut the multi-coloured ribbon with golden scissors and a procession made its way to Hook. Schoolchildren from Freystrop and Hook Schools made up part of the mile long queue alongside the Pembroke Dock Temperance Band, other pedestrians and some vehicles. A "lavish tea" was provided in Hook.



Our commemoration, organised by Hook Community Council, was planned to take place on 12 February 2022 but we took to the road on 12 March following delays for bad weather and clashes with other events.



Gathering by the Millenium Stone it was the first time a large-ish group had assembled in the village for some time. We set off around 1pm accompanied by dogs and a couple of horses planning to meet up with the walk heading in the opposite direction from Hook Sports Club.

As we reached Maddox Moor some urgency crept in as we could hear the band in Hook advancing at quite a pace. We had to get to the car park at the Freystrop boundary before a Hook invasion! The sound really does carry a long way and is deceptive. We arrived at the meeting point with several minutes to spare.



After meeting and greeting several of our band accompanied the Hook walkers back to the club for an

afternoon

tea.

Relax a little with our placename wordsearch

It's a right little mixture of places that still exist (in various states), some renamed properties (some more than once), some locations unknown, some names that may be being slowly lost and some where there are a few options for their siting.

Enjoy, and if you ever have information on these, or any other bits of local history, please share.

Lost Freystrop

M	M	U	P	C	C	I	B	H	I	E	R	S	L	A	N	E	J	F	D	Q
Y	O	M	T	Z	Y	H	F	M	C	S	Y	V	Z	K	B	M	A	I	E	V
R	U	L	R	J	D	B	E	N	N	Y	S	L	A	N	E	C	R	Y	F	B
H	N	Z	E	J	B	E	N	N	E	T	T	S	S	H	O	P	F	X	U	M
A	T	A	T	J	X	W	O	R	G	N	I	D	D	U	P	E	C	I	R	V
D	M	O	A	F	S	W	J	D	Q	R	N	Y	K	P	N	O	O	D	K	B
L	I	T	W	L	W	F	I	F	I	M	S	O	O	E	J	M	P	A	U	V
O	S	A	D	Q	L	R	Y	G	G	C	A	R	E	N	Z	R	R	E	M	B
I	E	H	E	O	T	C	Y	I	C	C	T	U	X	A	Z	A	O	H	A	M
B	R	K	R	Y	Q	X	J	X	Y	O	E	T	A	L	T	F	B	D	H	X
O	Y	G	S	Q	H	Z	K	H	B	N	N	H	H	S	D	S	A	E	N	S
O	T	L	I	V	Y	A	R	E	W	S	T	M	L	E	X	R	T	R	A	D
K	O	X	J	O	H	B	L	B	S	T	N	A	C	G	F	O	T	J	R	T
P	H	Q	H	A	Y	L	S	Z	E	A	N	U	E	G	G	O	N	G	C	Z
O	B	J	C	P	O	B	A	N	D	N	T	S	O	A	B	M	U	W	E	K
T	M	N	W	V	X	A	C	F	N	T	Q	F	Y	T	W	Z	O	R	L	L
P	E	E	P	O	U	T	C	H	I	P	S	A	N	D	L	I	M	E	T	R
G	Q	A	L	I	K	J	I	Z	X	L	Y	O	K	D	U	U	B	W	T	D
I	N	A	P	C	X	U	I	R	F	A	L	E	N	O	L	G	A	B	I	S
F	R	O	O	M	P	E	E	D	O	C	J	Z	L	R	Y	Z	W	H	L	X
T	N	J	B	D	J	S	N	T	H	E	C	U	L	V	E	R	T	V	D	C

BAGLO

CANTS

DEEP MOOR

LITTLE CRANHAM

MOUNT TABOR

REDHEAD

TAGGE'S LANE

BENNETT'S SHOP

CHIPS AND LIME

DIRTY SLOP

MOORS FARM

PEEP OUT

RED WATER

THE CULVERT

BENNY'S LANE

CONSTANT PLACE

HIER'S LANE

MOUNT MISERY

PORTOBELLO

RICE PUDDING ROW

Freystrop Fare

Tomato & Pear Relish

(or Tomato & Apple Relish)

This year has been a bumper one for top fruit and this relish is an ideal way of preserving. The original recipe is from the US where apples are used. From the West Coast of Canada comes this variation using pears.

Most people find the combination a strange idea but it has to be tasted to be believed and appreciated. It is worth the time.

No picture this year, this does not stay in the cupboard for long.

This recipe gives about 1.5kg

Ingredients

- 1kg beef or plum tomatoes, skinned, deseeded and coarsely chopped
- 625g pears, peeled, cored and coarsely chopped
- 300g shallots, or onions, finely chopped
- 6 celery stalks, with leaves, finely chopped
- 2-3 fresh red chillies, deseeded and finely chopped (optional)
- 1 tbsp yellow mustard seeds
- 1 tbsp sweet paprika
- 1 tbsp dill seeds (celery seed can substitute)
- 250ml water
- 1 litre cider or red wine vinegar
- 200g light soft brown, or white, sugar
- 1 tbsp salt

Method

- Into a preserving pan put: tomatoes, pears, shallots, celery, chillies, paprika, dill seeds, water
- Bring to the boil and skim well
- Reduce the heat and simmer. Stir frequently for approximately 20 minutes, or until the fruit is soft and mushy
- Add the vinegar, sugar and salt
- Simmer. Stir occasionally for 1-1.5 hours or until most of the liquid has evaporated and the relish is thick
- Remove the pan from the heat before ladling into hot sterilised jars and sealing
- The jars of relish can be heat processed to extend the storage time from 6 months to 2 years

Twists:

- * Use the same quantity of apples as pears
- * Use crushed coriander seeds instead of dill with apple
- * Salad tomatoes can be used but are wetter, smaller, time consuming and fiddly. But they do work
- * Skip the skinning/peeling of fruit and tomatoes if you like the added texture (not to everyone's taste)

Freystrop Village Hall Bookings

Monday	Morning		Afternoon		Evening	
	Weekly	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Monthly	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	AdHoc	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
						Second Monday – FCC Freystropcc@yahoo.com Band Practice
Tuesday	Weekly	-----	Craft	Sue Rogers 07776 007430	Canine Club	-----
	Monthly	-----	-----	-----	Kim Owen 07974 284325	-----
	AdHoc	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Wednesday	Weekly	-----	-----	-----	Pilates	-----
	Monthly	-----	-----	-----	Hannah Greenwood 07584 120581	-----
	AdHoc	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Thursday	Weekly	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Monthly	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	AdHoc	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Friday	Weekly	Tai Chi	Baby Massage	-----	-----	-----
	Monthly	Olwyn Whitmore 01646 694809	Jo 07855483626	-----	-----	-----
	AdHoc	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Saturday	Weekly	Junior Dance School	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Monthly	Jayne Swan 07904 338324	-----	-----	-----	-----
	AdHoc	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Sunday	Weekly	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	Monthly	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	AdHoc	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Key

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

To Hire The Village Hall
 David Thomas
 01437 890297
 wd.thomas1@btopenworld.com