

COUNTRESS WEAR VILLAGE HALL

AUTUMN 2020

NEWSLETTER



A message from the new Chair...

Good news - it's time to start thinking about coming back to your Village Hall!

Our last newsletter celebrated a successful Autumn of events and promoted our exciting programme for early 2020. Whoever would have thought that our AGM in March would be our last community gathering before the Covid-19 lockdown? Five months on, as our freedoms begin to return, we're delighted to say the Hall is re-opening on the 1st of September. Initially, we'll welcome back small group events and private hires, before classes and events commence on the 14th of September. We look forward to welcoming you back in the coming months.

At the AGM, a new committee was elected and as we welcome four new members and a new Trustee, we're all looking forward to working together and exciting times ahead. On a personal note, I'm delighted to be elected as Chair following Tim's decision to step down after 17 years. We're grateful to Tim for his massive contributions to the Hall's development over the years and we're glad that he continues as Deputy Chair and Trustee.

What's Been Happening

The CWWH committee extend a big thank you to everyone who volunteered during the Coronavirus lockdown. Your offers of help far exceeded the requests for help from people in need. As with so many people in the area, these volunteers were often already supporting elderly and vulnerable folk living near to them. It was great to have your support, **thank you**.

At the AGM, the local group Ludwell Life gave an interesting talk on their work in the nearby Ludwell Valley. Throughout lockdown this fantastic amenity has become an even more popular destination for daily exercise. The extra acres have helped people spread out when the popular riverside walks became busy. Thank you, Ludwell Life.

Countess Wear residents joined in with the 'clap for the NHS and key workers'. On the final clap, the Rotary Club raised £500 in Countess Wear by organising a local collection for the RD&E 'HelpUsHelpYou' Appeal.

In mid June the 'face mask tree' appeared in Lime Kiln Lane. Our secretary, Helen, made over 150 masks and through your generous donations raised over £385 for Hospiscare. Masks were also donated to the Estuary League of Friends for their volunteers and people needing them for hospital appointments.

The Village Hall has been fortunate enough to be able to access grants from Exeter City Council to help during the period of closure. In recent weeks, the committee have been busy planning for reopening and have been in regular touch with all of our hall tutors and hirers. We've also taken advantage of the closure and had the entire downstairs redecorated, refreshed the website and had a spring clean.

Reopening in September

Although we're pleased to be able to reopen the hall, we all know that life will not go back to normal straight away and many of us will continue to feel uncomfortable mixing in larger groups for some time. We want to reassure you that your well-being is always our priority and we'll do everything we can to keep you safe by ensuring the building is Covid-secure for all classes, events and family celebrations. Risk assessments will be completed in line with Government guidelines by the Committee and all those who hire the hall prior to reopening. Things you can also do to help when you visit:

- Maintain good social distancing standards.
- Wash your hands often or use the hand gel provided.
- Wear a face covering whenever possible.
- If you have any symptoms, please stay at home.

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Things To Look Forward To

As Autumn draws closer, we're so pleased to be able to look forward to the village hall's doors re-opening and members of the community being able to get together once more. The timetable of weekly classes will look a little different as some activities aren't able to begin again just yet. However, we do look forward to welcoming back as many of the regular classes as possible including yoga, line dancing and Pilates. This temporary more limited timetable does mean that we do have more space available than usual to hire for your celebrations, meetings or events so please feel free to get in touch to make an enquiry. We also have a couple of new classes in the pipeline to begin this Autumn as well as plans to introduce tennis table at the hall, so keep an eye out for those being announced on our website.

Some of our previously planned events have been rescheduled so we have some new dates for your diaries. These dates are, of course, [subject to government guidance permitting](#) us to go ahead at the time. We also have more details to finalise and dates to confirm for other events, which will all be announced on the website as soon as possible. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any queries, ideas for things you'd like to see happening at the hall or if you'd like to be added to our email mailing list.

September 9th & 11th - Community Coffee Mornings

A couple of coffee mornings for anyone in the community to pop in for a cuppa and a catch up. Starting at 10:30am in the hall. Please send us an email to book your space.

September 25th - Robert Davy, an Extraordinary Man in Countess Wear

An illustrated talk by Ed Williams-Hawkes, a local historian. £5 per ticket, including refreshments. Book at the Tally Ho! pub or online through the TicketSource website.

October 24th - Craft & Gift Fair

The fair returns after last Autumn's success, there'll be lots of local stalls as well as hot drinks and homemade cakes.

Date TBC - Kids Creation Station Workshop

Suitable for all ages, two different crafts to complete with free fruit & squash for kids.

December 11th - Wreath Making Workshop

In partnership with local florists, Occasional Flowers, enjoy this workshop making a festive wreath for your front door. Mulled wine & mince pies will be served.

Dates TBC, w/c December 14th - Christmas Socials

Come and meet your neighbours for festive drinks and nibbles at the village hall.

Hiring the Hall or Meeting Room

Our modern, clean venue is suitable for lots of different uses, for example, family celebrations, workshops and training events. It could also provide an ideal temporary workspace during the current situation. Please feel free to get in touch so we can chat about your requirements.

Main Hall - £15 per hour
Meeting Room - £12.50 per hour



Please keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for more updates. If you're not able to keep up to date online then please let us know so we can arrange a paper copy update for you.

Trustees, Management Committee and Officers 2020-21

Trustees: Alan Suter, Chris Moore, Tim Davies. One vacancy (please get in touch if interested).

Officers: Chair – Carole Raymond **Deputy Chair** – Tim Davies,

Treasurer – Sarah Brimblecombe **Secretary** – Helen Laws

Committee Members: Angela Goddard, Carole Raymond, Chris Moore, Helen Laws, Jess Startin, Jill Weller, Jo Dew-Jones, Mitzie Slater, Sarah Brimblecombe, Tim Davies.