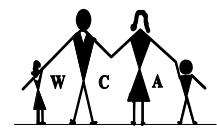




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WESTFIELD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

No.174

NOVEMBER 2020 ~ FEBRUARY 2021



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Westfield Community Association Newsletter No. 174

November 2020

Annie Nijhuis, WCA Chairman:

What a year 2020 has turned out to be. Not the happy thriving Westfield most of us enjoy being a part of. The Clubs and organisations in Westfield, some with representatives on the Community Council, had to cease welcoming their members whilst everyone was asked to Stay at Home back in March. This was particularly bad for those they were set up for e.g. Friendship, Lunch, sports clubs and exercise, Messy church, parents and toddlers - the list goes on. Then the events and fund-raising, all part of our year's activities which we look forward to, were struck off our diaries. The Community Hall was unused for a time but still needed to be maintained and the garden was well tended, though only enjoyed by a few passers-by.

Many residents joined in the weekly clap for the NHS and key workers, recognising that they had to go to work whilst running their own lives. Our food suppliers kept going with a good selection in Westfield reducing our need to leave the village. As the year progressed with constant shifting of the goal-posts, and differing opinions, on how to deal with the airborne infection, we are fortunate that the number of cases is very low in Rother when other parts of the country are far higher.

It has been distressing that Westfield life, which normally caters so well for people who live alone and families alike, has been halted. The Parish Council organised the Community Support Line to help all Westfield residents but get-togethers remained on hold and into November too.

Amongst our residents there are key workers who have had to continue going out - council workers, postal workers, medical staff in all areas including pharmacists, police, firemen, electricians and plumbers, farmers and food suppliers, shopkeepers etc.... so many, they all make up our community. A big thank you to everyone.

Let us hope the new year turns a corner and there are better days ahead. Be kind, keep safe see you soon. *Editorial on page 5*



W.C.A. Newsletter is delivered, thanks to volunteers, to every house in Westfield. Parish Circulation c. 1300

Editor: Mrs Pauline Filsell-Page
0778 607 8588
pauline@fpage.plus.com



**Please note - Contributions by:
January 16, April 18, July 20**

**Publication dates:
February 12, May 14, August 20**

Advertising: one eighth page £12.50
Half page £50 with 10% discount for advance annual bookings. Cheques: WCA

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Air Ambulance	12
Battle Area Bus BACT	34
Bluebell Ridge	10
Bowls	33
Brownies/Guides	9
Cactus	29
Church	18,19
Church Hall	19
Church, Friends of	24
Community Hall	6,7
Cricket	30
Defibrillator	2
District Cllrs	38
Doctors/flu	22,23
Football	28
Homeless, WUT	20
Horticultural	16
Hospice	13,40
HSLFL - Quiz	21
Love in a box	12
Lunch Club	26
People's Page	27
Playgroup	17
Police	4
Ramblings	14,15
School & Dates	8
Scouts	25
Tennis	32
W.I.	11
WCA Council	6,7
Westfield V Rocks	25
Window on Westfield	35-38



Editorial

As we roll towards the end of this difficult year you will see by the content in this issue that Christmas hardly gets a mention. We don't seem to be in the mood. Not only that but the deadline date for copy crept up, almost unnoticed, but many of the regular clubs are, of course, not operating anyway. How the social clubs are missed, along with our friends and family.

The sight of the poppies on Churchfield green and the War Memorial was a mark of normality amongst our disrupted lives but also a reminder of the freedom we have come to expect due to the sacrifice of so many fighting for it. It was understandable that the infamous Westfield Christmas Lights event would be cancelled, but it is only the collection buckets, and we await the delight and colour that these bring for all to see at a safe distance.

Christmas will be different but inventive ideas will arise.

Christmas without extended family is not unusual in many households, mine included. Families are spread all around the world and often physical contact is months, even years, apart. However, it's good to know that Santa Claus is still able to do his very special job.

May I wish you a Happy Christmas, keep safe and well. Be kind. Pauline

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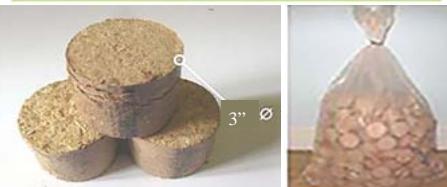
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YOUR COMMUNITY HALL – POST LOCKDOWN ARRANGEMENTS

The Westfield Community Hall in Workhouse Lane reopened to Community activities in September. Alongside East Sussex County Council the Hall is run by the Westfield Community Association (made up of Parish residents and organisations). It might appear to some that it belongs to Westfield School. The School does hire the Hall during the in-term weekdays but the evenings, weekends and school holidays are available for bookings by the Community. We have several regular community focused activities in the Hall and, in normal times, is available for individual hirings for one off parties and events.

Under COVID restrictions in place on 19 October, in order for the Hall to open there needed to be significant changes in the running and cleansing of the Hall by both the School and individual hirers, and in the number who could attend any one event. Therefore, no bookings were available for children/adult parties or where larger groups might gather.

The Community activities are always looking for new members, so if interested please get in touch with the respective activity organisers, all of whom advertise in this Newsletter at one time or another. The activities which were operating in October, and COVID compliant, were:

Saturday morning	both halls	Theatre Sense, Dance and more - Aged 5-18 Years
Sunday pm	Main Hall	Pilates
Monday evening	Main Hall	Short Mat Bowls
Tuesday	Small Hall	Legs, Bums and Tums
Wednesday	Main Hall	Brownies and Guides
		Legs, Bums and Tums
		Pilates
Thursday	Small Hall	Tap Dance (Intermediate, Advanced)

It looks as though it will be some time before COVID restrictions are lifted for us to be allowed to let the hall out for parties or other group activities. If, however, you are qualified to lead non-contact COVID compliant sessions with adults and would like to start up a new activity please get in touch with the Hall Manager *Rachel* 0786 689 4397 and we will consider your proposals.

Stay Safe, *John Barnett* Westfield Community Hall Committee

From *Rachel*, Hall Manager: slots available in the Community Hall - £9.75 per hour

Covid rules - no contact, small groups only (not during lockdown)

Large hall only: Tuesday evenings from 6pm & Thursday evenings from 5.30pm

Either hall: Friday evenings from 5.30pm

N.B. Three full size Table Tennis tables available for use & full size Badminton court

To book or for more information: 0786 689 4397

Westfield Community Association Council

Registered Charity No. 271252

President: Mrs Joan Downing BEM

Chairman: Mrs Annie Nijhuis 47 Baldslow Down Westfield TN37 7NJ
01424 754337 or 07969701099 annieeverybusy@googlemail.com

Vice-Chairman: vacant **Secretary:** John Revell johnrevell@yahoo.co.uk till AGM
Hall Management Committee: **Chairman:** John Barnett

Community Council Meetings held in the Community Dining Hall at 7.30 pm
2020: MEETINGS CANCELLED U.F.N.



Westfield Community Hall

Workhouse Lane TN35 4QJ



WCA Hall Manager

Rachel Harrison

Facebook Westfield Community Hall

phone 0786 689 4397 (n.b. 9am-7pm)

email Westfieldhall@hotmail.com

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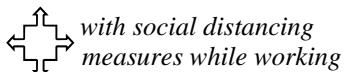
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Winter

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<http://westfield.e-sussex.sch.uk>



01424 751404

At this time every year (October) our article for the WCA Newsletter tends to be a round up of educational and fun activities and events. We would normally be able to tell you about our Harvest Festival, sporting achievements and school trips; we would be looking ahead to a range of exciting activities leading up to Christmas. Sadly, as is the case for all of us, life at school is dramatically different this year and we have not been able to enjoy the usual experiences.

However, the children and staff have adapted to the necessary changes to daily routine and are coping extremely well in their class "bubbles".

A few events have been able to take place.

The whole school celebrated World Mental Health Day on 9 October by taking part in YoungMinds#HelloYellow campaign. The children were invited to wear something yellow for the day and took part in various mental health activities. £156 was raised towards YoungMinds to help young people and their families.

Recently our Year 6 class were lucky enough to take part in a music workshop with a visitor from the Hastings Story Telling Festival.

Unfortunately we are also unable to hold our Christmas Fayre this year, another casualty of the Covid Pandemic.

We look forward to the New Year when, hopefully, we may be able to return to a more normal school life.

Term dates & Inset days

Term 2: 2 November – 18 December 2020

Term 3: 4 January – 12 February 2021

Term 4: 22 February – 1 April 2021

Term 5: 19 April – 28 May 2021

INSET DAYS: 7, 8 & 9 June 2021

Term 6: 10 June – 23 July 2021



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Brownies

WESTFIELD GUIDES and BROWNIES

At the time of writing we have permission to restart meetings with strict social distancing guidelines from GirlguidingUK so we are working towards splitting the Brownies into two groups and having each group in for 2 weekly meetings before the end of the year. We are also setting up an email address so contacting the girls parents will be easier than at present and hopefully will soon have a private Facebook page so we can set the girls challenges and they can send us pictures and messages about what they are doing.

Guides have no plans to meet face to face at the moment but are aware of the constant changing of rules and hope to return in the future.

During the long months of lock down I have found the time to sort the many photos I have from my 40 odd years as a guider and place them in some sort of order in albums and make scrapbooks of our many pack holidays. This set me thinking about all the girls I've met over the years. Some of you live, or have family, still in the village so I wondered if any of you would like to think about becoming guiders or could encourage girls that you know to become Brownies or Guides. We don't get the numbers we used to which makes it a struggle to keep the units going.

I can be contacted on 01424 754927 or 0784 050 6426 or for just Guides Alison's no. is 0775 695 4422

Sally

Poppy Appeal 2020 Westfield

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal this year despite the lack of door to door collections due to Covid-19 restrictions. Westfield's contribution will be far less than recent years, understandably.

Wreaths are placed on the War Memorial by Westfield Church, the Parish Council, Westfield Community Association, Women's Institute, Scouts and Guides & Brownies, Bowls, Cricket and Football Clubs.

Westfield PAO 0778 607 8588



Help Rescue Cats This Christmas

At Bluebell Ridge, Christmas is our busiest time of year and our centre will be full and stretched to the limit.

Animal welfare charities like us have been hit particularly hard because we were unable to close down our services during the lockdown - animals in crisis still needed us, but we were ineligible for most of the emergency funding offered by the government.

Any support you can give will greatly help the cats in our care this Christmas.



Adopt a New Friend

If there is room in your heart and home for a new family member, why not adopt a rescue cat this Christmas?



Make a Donation

Just £10 would provide the gift of comfort to a vulnerable cat. Your donation will give a rescue cat toys, warm blankets and treats this Christmas.



For more information, visit bluebellridge.org or call 01424 752121
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