



Welcome to the October edition of the WERS newsletter!

### **WERS Christmas card**

We are delighted with this year's card designed by Aidan McGregor! The card cleverly incorporates the WERS logo into a traditional design. To see the card in colour go to [www.urc-northernsynod.org.uk](http://www.urc-northernsynod.org.uk), click on Church and World and then on WERS newsletter.

The cards cost £3.99 for a pack of ten and orders may be placed either by emailing WERS or placing an order by telephone. This is a great way to support WERS!



### **And Christmas again .....**

Once again WERS will be holding its Festive Week at its offices in Arthur's Hill.

This year the Festive Week will be from 11 to 15 December. We are collecting the usual sweets, chocolates (no nuts!) and toiletries and will be delighted to receive any donations. If we can have them as near the beginning of December as is practicable that would be very helpful, to give us time to prepare the goody-bags

### **WERS Annual General Meeting**

We extend a warm invitation to everyone to attend the AGM which will be held on Wednesday 15 November at 6.30pm at Westgate Baptist Church, Westgate Road (last year's venue). We are delighted that one of our clients Behrooz Rahimyan has agreed to give a concert after the business meeting. Behrooz is a Persian classical musician who has performed at a number of venues in Newcastle, including a concert as part of Newcastle University's lunchtime series in King's Hall. Definitely an evening not to be missed!

### **Still on the musical theme.....**

Each Christmas WERS supporter Eleanor Kenyon organises a fundraising activity of some kind. This year she is organising a 'Come and Sing Handel's Messiah' to raise money for the emergency hardship fund. The event will take place on Saturday 2 December at St Mary's Church Ponteland. The rehearsal will be from 2-5pm and the performance is at 7.30pm. Singers are asked to book a place (price £5) as soon as possible and there will be limited places for the audience (£3 at the door). Please telephone Eleanor on 01661 823793 or contact WERS for a booking form. There are still places for all voices but tenors and basses would be especially welcome. Come and give your vocal cords a really good workout!

### **Destitution update**

The numbers of destitute clients supported by WERS during September remain very high. Of the 334 clients seen during the month, 213 (64%) were destitute. Each week around £1,000 is given out and it is a great challenge to keep the hardship fund going. We are still looking to increase the amount of money pledged each month through standing orders. If you would like to set up a standing order, please contact the WERS office.



Hannington Street, Byker  
looking for a place in Gateshead

### Outline of Social Enterprise

We are a Company limited by guarantee called Recyke y'bike Ltd (no.5839547) with the Charitable Aims of

- 1 reducing isolation in communities,
- 2 advancing integration
- 3 promoting better mental and physical health through cycling
- 4 providing employment and training opportunities within Newcastle and Gateshead
- 5 advancing the education of the public in the safe use, re-use and maintenance of bicycles.
- 6 Reusing bicycles by reconditioning them.

We are doing this by recycling bicycles, offering training to socially excluded groups in the refurbishment of bicycles and providing opportunities for people to maintain their own bikes, unwanted donated bikes or bikes retrieved from the Police and the Universities (using our tools, personnel and facilities).

We intend to contribute to the National and Local Targets for Recycling by increasing the current recycling rate from 6% to 36% and by reducing landfill disposal from 94% to 64%

We sell low-cost bikes to the public on Saturdays 10.00 – 4.00 and, with the proceeds, fund the enterprise. In the future we will fund the transport of surplus bikes to the charity Bikes for Africa (£10 a bike).

We'd like you to donate unwanted bikes or bits of bikes of any kind and bicycle tools. And we'd like people with enthusiasm for bikes and/or bike maintenance knowledge to join our volunteer group and share their expertise with others.

We're open for donating and volunteering on Tuesdays 10.30 – 3.00 and Sundays 11.00 – 3.00.

Please phone beforehand to let us know you're coming.

Dorothy Crow  
Co-founder & Trustee  
More details 077 3752 6020/ 0191 266 2327  
[dorothycraw@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dorothycraw@blueyonder.co.uk)  
[www.recyke-y-bike.org](http://www.recyke-y-bike.org)

A brand new service at WERS: Welfare Rights Advice

Each Monday morning from 10.30-12.30, Shahanara, from the Black and Minority Ethnic Community Welfare Rights Service will be running a drop-in advice session. WERS is delighted with this new partnership which will be of enormous benefit to clients.

### **Office Details**

**Tel:** 0191 273 7482

**Fax:** 0191 256 7862

**Email:** [wers@btinternet.com](mailto:wers@btinternet.com)

**West End Refugee Service  
St Philip's Vicarage  
St Philip's Close  
Arthur's Hill  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE4 5JE**

### **Office & Clothing Store Opening times:**

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9.30am – 1pm

Wednesday: 11am – 1pm