



The staff and directors of TVHC would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 

Village Halls Charter

Thank you to those halls who have given us feedback on the proposed village halls charter. We will be addressing your comments and in the New Year the charter will be launched. We hope this charter will clearly set out TVHC's commitments and in return the commitments member halls will make.

If your hall has not yet made comments on the charter and would like to do so please telephone Helen on 01833 696650 or email helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk

Charity Number 1116933

Registered Company Number 5980201

The Newsletter of the Teesdale Village Halls Consortium

Giving information on opportunities, ideas, contacts and much more for the management committee members and user groups of community buildings in Teesdale, and other related organisations.

Teesdale Autumn/Winter Events Guide Launch

The new Teesdale Events Guide was launched to local service and events providers at the Morrill Arms Hotel, Greta Bridge on 17th October. Teesdale Marketing launched the guide which covers events from October to March 2008. It is hoped the guide will not only attract tourists to the region but also bring together those who appear in the guide and let local people know what is happening in Teesdale.

Helen Thistlethwaite, Marketing Officer for TVHC who compiled the information in the guide said: "There's a lot going on from October through to March. There are more than 150 events in there and we are building our database all the time."

The events featured in the guide can also be seen on www.visitteesdale.co.uk and are used to compile the What's On listings for the Teesdale Mercury newspaper and Radio Teesdale.

Copies of the guide are available from the Tourist Information Centre in Barnard Castle or from Helen at the Consortium and anyone with an event to promote should email Helen details to events@teesdale.co.uk

Photograph: Helen Thistlethwaite (right) with Jill Cole and Bill Oldfield from Teesdale Marketing at the launch. Photograph courtesy of the Teesdale Mercury.

Information will be collected in January for the next events guide covering events from March – October 2008. If you would like to be added to the contact database so you are notified when events information is required please telephone Helen on 01833 696650



Teesdale Village Halls Consortium CRB Check Service

From January 2008 TVHC will be offering a new CRB Check service to voluntary and community organisations in Teesdale. Helen Thistlethwaite, Marketing Officer for TVHC, has been trained as an appointed person to assist volunteers wanting to apply to have a CRB check carried out.

How it will work

People who work unsupervised with children or vulnerable adults should have a CRB check carried out. You will be assisted with completing a disclosure application form and your required identification documents will be checked (you will be provided with a full list of all the documents that the CRB will accept).

We are working with CAVOS (Community and Voluntary Organisations Sedgefield) who are a registered body with the CRB. Once your forms have been completed they will be checked over by a trained member of CAVOS staff and sent to the CRB where applications take 6 – 8 weeks to process.

TVHC will provide this service locally to assist voluntary and community organisations by offering the expertise of a trained appointed person to help with the CRB process.

Cost

TVHC MEMBER HALLS: Each member hall of TVHC will be able to have 5 checks carried out at £5.00 each – these can be for members of your committee or for volunteers or helpers from your user groups. After the five have been carried out, each check after that will cost £15.00.

ALL OTHER VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS: If the position for which you require the CRB check is voluntary TVHC will charge a £15.00 administration fee for each CRB check carried out.

Contact Helen Thistlethwaite Telephone: 01833 696650 Email: helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk



TVHC Grant Schemes

The Consortium is currently running two grant schemes:

Community Building Improvement Grant Scheme

TVHC has an energy improvements chest that member halls can apply to for grants. 50% of project costs, up to a maximum of £250.00 related to energy improvement work can be applied for.

TVHC Grant Fund

This is a general grant scheme that all member halls can apply to. Grants of 50% of project costs up to a maximum of £500.00 can be applied for.

Grant applications are considered at TVHC's monthly directors meetings. The dates of the 2008 meetings are: 16 January, 20 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 20 August, 17 September, 15 October, 19 November and 17 December. Application forms can be downloaded from the TVHC Grants Scheme page on www.teesdalehalls.co.uk If you have any questions please telephone Fergus on 01833 696652.

TVHC General Meeting Dates 2008

(Venues to be confirmed)

- Thursday 31 January
- Wednesday 30 April
- Monday 30 June (AGM)
- Tuesday 21 October

All meetings will begin at 7.00pm

HOT TIP!

If you signed up to the free one year Experts Online trial remember it will run out early next year so please take advantage of this great service while you can!

Northumbrian Water Environmental Fund

The County Durham Foundation has notified TVHC that they administer a fund under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme on behalf of Northumbrian Water.

Northumbrian Water welcomes applications for grants up to £1000 (although, applications for projects at a slightly higher level may be considered), for the purchase of items associated with small external landscaping projects, for example:

- Seats/benches and tables for picnic areas
- Trees and shrubs
- Planters/raised beds
- Water butts
- Composting
- Bird boxes/animal boxes

If you have a project that may fit and you are interested in applying for a grant under this fund you need to complete an Expression of Interest form which is available from Helen at TVHC or it can be downloaded from www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk

Upon initial approval of that form you will be asked to complete a full application pack. If you would like more information please contact Brenda Dye, Grants Officer for the County Durham Foundation on 0191 383 0055

Computer Boxes Available to Halls

David Hutchinson from Mickleton Village Hall has four computer boxes complete with Microsoft Office 2003 available to TVHC's member halls. Monitors and keyboards may also be available. Donations will be accepted, for more information contact David on 01833 640331 or email tvhc@teesdalenet.com

Chairs Available to Halls

Newsham Village Hall have informed us they have approximately 50 blue stackable chairs available if any hall is interested them. They are open to offers, please contact Rose Davies on 01833 621300.

Special Offer – Tables for Village Halls

We have been notified of a special offer on blow moulded trestle tables – a 10% discount when you order 5 or more tables. Normal prices as follows: **6ft table**, solid or folding - £45 each including delivery. **5ft table**, solid or folding - £42 each including delivery.

Visit www.trestletablesandfoldingchairs.co.uk for full details of the tables.

Durham Dales Climate Change Event

The first ever Climate Change Event for the Durham Dales took place on Friday 2nd November at the Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland Town Hall. Over 70 attendees got to listen to a number of expert speakers, discussing how communities can reduce their environmental impact and respond to climate change. Victor Cadaxa, Wear Valley Community Network Co-ordinator sits on the Dales Environment Group who organised the event on behalf of the Wear Valley and Teesdale Local Strategic Partnerships.

He says "We were thrilled at the turn out as we're already seeing some of the ecological effects of climate change around us in the Durham Dales. These include the early or late arrival of seasons – with the consequent disruption to wildlife, agriculture and our gardens; the arrival and dominance of some non-native insects and an increase in pollen counts. It will affect us all so we urge people to attend because the cost of addressing the problem now is a lot less painful than trying to fix it later on." He continued: "The earth is getting warmer: this is changing the world's climate. Scientists agree it's largely due to us humans. This special meeting was an opportunity for people living and working in the Dales to discuss their thoughts on the impact of Climate Change in this area". For further information or for a full report contact Victor at 2D on 01388 762220



The Castle Players are touring seven of the village halls with their production of Grimm – seven dramatised tales from the Grimm Brothers full of action and fun:
 Friday 14th December 7.30pm **Ingleton Village Hall**
 Tickets: 01325 730250
 Saturday 15th December 7.30pm **Witham Hall**
 Tickets: 01833 631107 or 650827
 Saturday 22nd December 7.30pm **Whorlton Village Hall**
 Tickets: 01833 627419
 Saturday 5th January 7.30pm **Mickleton Village Hall**
 Tickets: 01833 640331
 Friday 11th January 7.30pm **Bowes Village Hall**
 Tickets: 01833 628357
 Saturday 12th January 6.30pm **Scarth Hall, Staindrop**
 Tickets: 01833 660147
 Sunday 20th January 3.00pm **Cotherstone Village Hall**
 Tickets: 07732 571416
 Visit the Castle Players website: www.castleplayers.co.uk

Popperdopplers

is a new concept offering fun workshops with an educational element to very young children (aged 2 to 5). The sessions are to be held during term-time, as well as being available during school holidays. Each Popperdopplers session is designed to be both fun and educational. Use of imagination, play and the natural wonder that children have in everything is encouraged. Apart from the occasional use of classic nursery rhymes, all Popperdopplers material is original. The atmosphere is intended to be calm and inviting. All sessions are relaxed and informal. Parents and carers are free to join in or just sit back and watch and relax! Little ones can attend a one hour **WONDER WORKSHOP** and enjoy a range of activities whilst learning about a particular topic e.g. bees, butterflies, frogs etc.

AMAZING MINI SESSIONS (45 minutes) focus on one subject and are fully interactive. Children can join in with an Alphabet Hunt, 'travel' on a Jolly Journey or have fun and games at the Enormous Numbers session. Also, puppet, Stephan Sock will be making an appearance and causing mischief when he helps to teach simple French in **FUN FRENCH** (45 minutes). The **CHRISTMAS WONDER WORKSHOP** is an ideal opportunity for young children (and adults too!) to get festive. Christmas crafts, games, songs and a magical story can be enjoyed by all. Please book early for your Toddler Group, Nursery, etc, to avoid disappointment.

A Christmas Wonder Workshop will be held at **Cockfield Community Centre** on **Thursday 20th December** from **10.30 – 11.45am**. The cost including refreshments is **£2 per child**. Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult. Watch out for more Popperdopplers sessions in your area in the near future. If you are interested in booking a session for your toddler group, nursery, school etc or would like to find out more please contact Martina Wray on 01388 718078/07759 788231 or email martina@wray411.fsnet.co.uk



Mickleton RnB Club present The British Blues Quintet on Saturday 19th January. The formation of "The British Blues Quintet" was triggered by the return of Scottish vocalist Maggie Bell, to the UK after some 20 years residence in Holland. Maggie, who made her name as the vocalist with 70's band "Stone the Crows", expressed the desire to get out and sing some good ol' R 'n' B again. The band members are Maggie, Zoot Money, Miller Anderson, Colin Hodgkinson & Colin Allen.

The main concept was that with this line-up, the band would have four lead vocalists, each one singing a different style within the R 'n' B genre, which would facilitate performing a program of really varied material. The pedigree of the band members is undeniable - they have been performing with some of the biggest names in rock, blues, and rhythm & blues for the last 40 years.

Tickets cost £15.00: contact 01833 640854 or email sue@mickletonrnb.co.uk Doors open 8pm
News just in...Maggie Bell is to appear with Led Zeppelin at the O2 Arena in December!
 Visit the Mickleton RnB Club website: www.mickletonrnb.co.uk

BEVERLEY ARTISTES
 BRING THE MAGIC OF PANTOMIME TO YOU WITH OUR 2007 TOURING SHOW!

ALADDIN

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IAN CUNNINGHAM as WISHY WASHY
 Starred in "BYKER GROVE" - "BADGER" - "SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION"

FRANCESCA JARVIS as PRINCESS JASMINE
 Starred as "BONNIE MEREDITH" IN "EMMERDALE"

Friday 21st December 7.00pm
 Newsham Village Hall
 Tickets must be purchased in advance: £4 adults, £2 children
 Contact 01833 621300

Telephone: 0191 4562428
 Fax: 0191 4560978
 Email: paul@beverleyartists.lcbroadband.co.uk
www.beverleyartists.com

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR HALL: Library Theatre Touring Company 2008 Productions

The following three plays are available to village halls throughout 2008 at £200 each:

The Kingfisher by William Douglas Home

With echoes of PG Wodehouse, this effervescent romantic comedy takes a light-hearted look at the lives and loves of three fascinating characters. As he peruses The Times obituaries, famous writer Sir Cecil Warburton makes a discovery that has him whistling in the bath! At last, the dull Reggie Townsend has died, widowing the only woman that Cecil truly loved...and lost. With only one thing on his mind – matrimony – he arranges to meet Evelyn under the same tree in his garden where he kissed her years earlier. However, Cecil's expectations of a joyous engagement are foiled as it becomes clear that he hasn't considered any possible objections of his bride-to-be or indeed of his butler Hawkins! A comedy of manners and study of concealed emotions...



Educating Rita by Willy Russell

This is a delightful award-winning comedy which tells how 'Rita', a bright and witty hairdresser but who has only a basic schooling, enrolls on an Open University course and meets her lecturer Frank – a sophisticated academic with a weakness for alcohol. Despite their disparate social background there is an immediate empathy between them. The difficulties Rita experiences in coping with her culture change and the stress it puts on their friendship and her home life makes for a heady mixture of comedy and pathos. It was filmed very successfully with Julie Walters and Michael Caine.

Library Theatre Touring Company present

Educating Rita

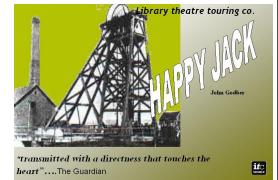
Willy Russell's classic comedy



"...simply a marvellous play, painfully funny and passionately serious; an hilarious social documentary"

Happy Jack by John Godber

'Jack' was at times a miner, a father, a brawler, sometime poet, conman, lover, thug and comedian' In fact 'Happy Jack' is probably a character we all recognise. The central character of John Godber's play is a typical Northern mixture of tenderness, truculence, humour, pride and pig-ignorance. The life of Jack and Liz, his essential 'other half' but at the same time his long-suffering wife, is told through a series of vignettes. These scenes of the drama of ordinary life, sometimes funny, sometimes sad touch a chord of familiarity as Godber's wry incisive humour comes through.



"Transmitted with a directness that touches the heart".....The Guardian

For more information please contact Roger Cook on 01132 504803 or email librarytheatre@talk21.com

Is your organisation making a difference?

How much do you know about the effects of your organisation's work? Whether you're trying to reduce loneliness amongst older people, boost the self-esteem of teenagers, help people back into work or simply develop a sense of community in your village, then knowing whether your work is effective will help you to report to your funders and plan and develop future services.

ruralnet|uk in partnership with Teesdale Village Halls Consortium is running a free two-day course, Understanding and using an outcomes focus at Mickleton Village Hall, Teesdale, commencing on Monday 28th January 2008, with the second day on Monday 25th February 2008.

This free training course for voluntary and community organisations will help you to:

- Assess your organisation's effectiveness
- Learn about what works, to improve your services.
- Increase morale for staff and users by showing that change is happening.
- Demonstrate to funders that you are making a difference.

The course aims to equip participants to introduce an outcomes focus within their own organisation. For this reason organisations are encouraged to send two or three people from their organisation on the course, whether trustees, paid staff, volunteers or a mixture. To make the most of this opportunity, we ask you to commit to:

- all participants attending both days of the course
- fully engaging in the take-away task between the two training days. This involves holding a meeting in your own organisation on outcomes and on the implications of adopting an outcomes focus. The meeting should involve relevant representatives of trustees, paid staff and volunteers.
- taking further actions to introduce an appropriate outcomes focus within your organisation after Day 2 of the course.

You will receive materials and support to help you in these activities.

To find out more about the courses, please phone David Ellis on 0845 1300 411, email d.ellis@ruralnetuk.org or contact Helen at TVHC on 01833 696650 for an application form. The courses are offered as part of the National Outcomes Programme, run by Charities Evaluation Services. The programme is funded by the Big Lottery Fund. This means the training, which usually costs £250, is free to participants. Places are limited, so please register your interest now.

ACCESS TO CHEAPER INSURANCE AND UTILITIES BILLS

Insurance

TVHC is working with RuralClick, a hub of information and resources relating to village halls and community buildings, to offer an insurance scheme called VillageGuard. This is a bespoke insurance scheme just for rural village halls and community centres. The insurer is Allied Westminster and members of the Consortium can get a 5% discount on their quote.

Please find information below, there are also details and a link to the online insurance quotation form on our website at www.teesdalehalls/insurance.asp If you have any questions please contact Fergus on 01833 696652 or email fergus@teesdalehalls.co.uk

Utilities Bills

We are also working with RuralClick to complete an analysis of member halls utilities bills to try and reduce their energy costs. The company RuralClick work with is LSI which has been established in the utility industry for over fourteen years. Their clients have included/include the British Red Cross, Cancer Research UK and the Arcadia retail group. As part of their business service, they offer a comprehensive analysis of halls current gas and electricity expenditure. Their findings together with recommendations are passed back to the group – with whom the final decision rests. Should halls decide to proceed with the recommendations, the individual halls will notice no change or interruption to their supplies, neither will there be any change to the way the halls are receiving emergency services and maintenance, which are dealt with by Transco or their Regional Electricity Company.

If member halls would like more information on this please contact James Lynn on 01833 627357 or email j_a_lynn@hotmail.com



Fire Safety Products

RuralClick can also offer discounted prices on fire and safety equipment to member halls. We have a catalogue in the TVHC office if you require any equipment; please contact Fergus on 01833 696652 for more information.

Visit the Ruralclick website at www.ruralclick.com



VillageGuard
Village Hall Insurance

www.villageguard.com

Allied Westminster (Insurance Services) Ltd is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

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VillageGuard: Only for Village Halls



If your Village Hall is not insured through Allied Westminster, then you are probably paying too much.

Our policies, and the premiums we are able to offer you at quotation, represent a clear understanding of village halls, their good governance, and the more attractive underwriting risks that their rural village locations represent.

When your village hall insurance falls due for renewal, we would welcome the opportunity of providing you with a quotation. We are certain that you will be more than pleased with both the premiums we offer and the very high levels of service and support our personnel are able to provide.

This is why VillageGuard has become a major name for Village Hall insurance across the UK.



For an online quote form visit:

www.villageguard.com

We are pleased to offer Members of the Teesdale Village Hall Consortium a 5% premium discount on our standard quoted rate for their Village Hall Insurance. When you call us, let us know you are a Member of Teesdale Village Hall Consortium, or if completing an online quote form, let us know in the 'additional information' box.

Tel: 01937 845245

VillageGuard is brought to you exclusively by: Allied Westminster (Insurance Services) Ltd Allied House, Holgate Lane, Boston Spa, LS23 6BN

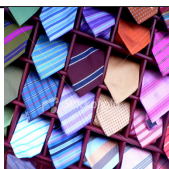
Membership Discount Voucher

Overcoming Barriers to Access

The Disability Discrimination Act affects all service providers including halls being hired to outside organisations. We have been contacted by a company that may be able to help if you think you have areas that may be a barrier to access. ihear Limited is a company specialising in finding the right solution for each situation. They can help you learn about regulations and the many options of suppliers and equipment available. They will help to identify the barriers and provide the most cost effective solution. Their Initial Survey and Report is confidential and free and they specialise in working confidentially with you to provide improved access and communication equipment for the following user groups: hearing impaired, sight impaired, and mobility impaired people. To find out more please contact Liz Joyce at iHear on 01506 407888 or email sales@ihear.co.uk

HOT TIP!

Donate your unwanted ties... The YMCA in Barnard Castle, a member of TVHC, are running the TRY project (textile recycling project) and are in need of old unwanted ties: any style, shape, patterns or characters are welcome. The ties will be used for young people to make new products and sold on. Please have a look in the back of your wardrobe and send them those ties that have not seen the light of day for a while! Please donate your ties to the YMCA, 46 Galgate, Barnard Castle, DL12 8BH. For further details contact Tracy Blandford on 01833 695780



TVHC Website Update

Our website www.teesdalehalls.co.uk is currently being updated and the following changes have taken place:
New Community Resources page: information about equipment that can be hired from Teesdale Leisure Services.

Updated pages on Insurance and Utility Costs with information about RuralClick

Updated information on the net:gain page and workshop dates for 2008

New page: News for Halls which will be regularly updated with relevant news and information we receive.

TVHC Updates page – contains press releases on the Consortium

The Funding pages have been checked and updated.

We are always looking for new images for the website. If you have any new photos of your hall or you take any over the festive period and you are happy for them to appear on the website please email them to

helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk

Durham County Council Education in the Community

Introducing Tina Whittaker, Adult Development Worker for the Dales Area: "The purpose of my job is to promote Adult Education in the area with the view to setting up Adult Classes. We offer a varied programme of classes briefly consisting of:- Aerobics, Sugarcraft, Computer Classes, Jewellery Making, Cooking, Boxercise, Pilates, Languages, Pottery these are to name but a few. Anyone wishing to contact me can do so on 01388 603543 or email Tina_83@hotmail.co.uk"

Barnard Castle VISION

The Barnard Castle Vision website is now live and awaiting your contributions. Whether you want to suggest ideas or express some concerns, the visioning group is keen to open the online debate and is asking for those brave enough to log on and kick things off! You can also just log on and find out more about this potentially transformational project!!!

Visit the website at www.barnardcastlevision.co.uk



The TVHC office will be closed from Friday 21st December and will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January

For further information contact:-

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Visit our website at www.teesdalehalls.co.uk for up to date information on the Consortium and the halls including full events listings. Further copies of this and previous newsletters are available on the Newsletters page of the site.

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium is a company limited by guarantee. It is registered in England and Wales with company number 5980201. Registered Office: Enterprise House, Harmire Enterprise Park, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8XT



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