

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium General Meeting

(Advance Notice)

Wednesday 30th April 7pm
Newsham Village Hall

Energy Audits for Member Halls

£10,000 in funding has been secured from CoRE (Community Renewable Energy) to assess each member hall of TVHC's existing energy usage and to explore the feasibility of renewable energy options at each hall. The tender to carry out the audits was won by Teesdale Environmental Consulting, a company founded by Ewan Boyd from Langdon Beck YHA. Eleven halls have already had their audits carried out and Ewan is compiling an individual report on each. Along with the physical "walk around" audit of each hall, Ewan is analysing the halls energy bills to provide a more comprehensive accurate audit. The remainder of the halls will have their audits carried out in the next few months.

Once all the halls are audited we will have an individual and comprehensive view of all halls, which we can then use to try and secure funding to improve and maintain the halls. We will also have an overview of how much energy is used by all halls in Teesdale and an overall carbon footprint.

If any halls have not yet submitted copies of their energy bills, please send them as soon as possible to the TVHC office.

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.



Free Access to Experts Online via TVHC Website

If you have recently visited the TVHC website you may have noticed an addition to the home page – a section titled Improving Reach from ruralnet|uk. From here you can access the Improving Reach pilot project which gives you completely FREE access to Experts Online and the daily rural news service xPRESS Digest if you register by 31st March 2008. Any users who register by 31st March will have free access to the project until 31st December. Users who register will be asked to participate in feedback about the service to help ruralnet|uk to develop it and find the best ways to reach isolated rural groups. To access the service please go to www.teesdalehalls.co.uk and at the bottom of the home page you will see the Improving Reach section where you can either 'register now' if you haven't used the service before or login if you already have an account.

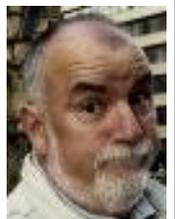
This is a very useful service where you can submit questions from your organisation to qualified experts in:

- Business Planning
- Community Engagement
- Computers & Communications
- Employment Issues
- Finance Management
- Grant Funding
- Legal Issues
- Rural Services
- Board Recruitment
- Project Planning

Take advantage of this FREE opportunity and register before 31 March.

Teesdale Village Halls – as seen on TV!!

You may have spotted some of Teesdale's village halls on ITV1 in January when they were featured on Grundy's Northern Pride. The series celebrates great architecture in the North and the episode on 3rd January focused on village halls. The show featured Romaldekirk Reading Room and John Grundy tested out the sprung wooden floor in the Witham Hall in Barnard Castle with a spot of dancing!! There was even a flash of the TVHC website on the programme! We have a copy of the programme in the office if anyone would like to borrow it, please contact Helen.



HOT TIP!

Promote your events on the radio for free! On the first Thursday of each month Helen presents a 'What's On in the Village Halls' slot on the Morning Magazine programme on Radio Teesdale. Events are chosen from the listings Helen holds but if you would like any events specifically promoting or you have any news stories about your hall that you would like mentioning, please let Helen know.

FUNDING SOURCES UPDATE

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. Grants, up to a **maximum of £250** or up to 50% of project costs, 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, up to a maximum of £500 or up to 50% of project costs can be applied for.

If you would like to find out more or would like an application form please contact Fergus on 01833 696652 or email fergus@teesdalehalls.co.uk Grant applications are considered at TVHC's monthly directors meetings. The dates of the 2008 meetings are: 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, 18th June, 16th July, 20th August, 17th September, 15th October, 19th November and 17th December.

B&Q One Planet Living Grant Scheme

B&Q is working in partnership with environmental impact experts BioRegional, who have developed a global initiative based on ten guiding principles with WWF to become a One Planet business, and B&Q is aiming to help its customers do the same in their homes and communities. Through the OPL Grant scheme, schools, community groups and charitable organisations can apply to their local B&Q store for funding to support a local community project. Projects must support at least one of the following themes:

- Environment/Energy Saving, Natural Habitats/Wildlife, Local Culture/Heritage

The scheme provides £50 to £500 (at retail cost) of B&Q materials, for example, pond liners, plants, peat-free compost for projects such as a pond/wildlife garden or paints labelled low or minimal VOC for redecoration projects. It is important that the project is sustainable. For example, the materials and methods used should not cause environmental damage in the short or long-term. The final result should have long-lasting benefit to the community. OPL Grants do not cover maintenance, so the project should be designed for easy care.

How to apply for an OPL Grant

Step 1: To apply for a grant, applicants will need to contact the environmental champion or store manager at their local B&Q store to discuss project details.

Step 2: A letter, on headed paper, from the organisation is required. This should include details of the organisation and project, materials required, duration of the project and any involvement from the organisation and its aims and benefits. Photographs or plans of the project are optional

Step 3: Once an application form has been completed by the store, and supporting material supplied by the project organiser, it will be sent to the store's regional office who will approve or decline the grant application within a two-week period.

A Very Special Birthday Celebration

"There is a very special birthday this spring that we hope will not go unnoticed in Teesdale. Radio Teesdale is celebrating its First Birthday, having been broadcasting full time for a whole year. The Birthday itself will be celebrated on Friday 28th March at a community event at the Jersey Farm Hotel, running from the afternoon into the evening. We hope that the output is enjoyed and valued by the Teesdale community – the station can be found on 102.1 and 105.5 FM and programmes include such regulars as the Breakfast Show and Drivetime with an emphasis on the local – featuring What's On and interviews with local people.

Radio Teesdale is also lucky to have many enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters to host a variety of specialist music shows, from Punk to Classical, from Folk to Rock. Full details of the schedule are on the website at www.radioteesdale.co.uk

The First Birthday marks a great achievement for this community project, run by volunteers. Great ambition and dedication has been needed both to set up the technical equipment necessary and to create the varied broadcasts. And the ambition of the project does not stop now – Radio Teesdale would like to be part of the lives of everyone in Teesdale, as listeners and as contributors. To get involved, e-mail studio@radioteesdale.co.uk or ring 01833 696750

Any Village Hall groups can get details of their events etc. on Radio Teesdale by contacting us via e-mail or phone, as above – or why not learn how to create your own audio for broadcast? – we can show you how."



Cat Chapman, Birthday Celebration Co-ordinator

Teesdale Post Offices facing closures

Six Teesdale sub-post offices face closure as part of the latest stage of the Post Office's 'modernisation' programme, Network Change. The six post offices which could close are: Bolam, Boldron, Hutton Magna, Romaldkirk, Toft Hill and Winston. There will be a six week consultation period before any proposed closures can go ahead. Local residents are being urged to make their voices heard by Helen Goodman, MP for Teesdale who has launched a petition on her website <http://helengoodman.co.uk> You can also send your comments to Post Office Ltd, Freepost Consultation Team or telephone 08457 22 33 44. The consultation is due to end on **Wednesday 26th March.**

The government criteria for access to post offices require that 99 per cent of people live within three miles, and 90 per cent of the population to be within one mile of their nearest post office. The proposed closures are part of the Post Office's plan to close 2,500 branches out of a current network of 14,000.

Age Concern Handyvan Service in the Dales

This service has now been running successfully since July last year and aims to keep people safe from accidents so that they can remain independent and in their own homes for longer. Madeleine Walton, Community Worker, Teesdale Day Clubs has helped lunch club members use the service and says "This opportunity for older people to get help and support from a reliable source and have someone come along to do those small jobs that help make daily living much easier. I would urge anyone to contact Age Concern and ask about this service". Anyone 60+ can access the service and receive a free home risk assessment. Age Concern handypersons will either do the jobs there and then, or return with the materials needed. Jobs include fitting tap washers, replacing light bulbs and fluorescent tubes, fixing loose carpets, fitting smoke alarms, doorbells, grab rails, additional stair rails and draft excluders. Moving furniture and fitting telephone extension cables can also be done. Outside jobs include securing loose flagstones, making small repairs to gates and fences. The service does not include gas, electrical or roofing work or larger building works. The service is free, but a voluntary donation towards the cost of materials is greatly appreciated from those people who are not on benefits. Any individual who thinks they might benefit from this service can telephone Age Concern South Area Office on 01388 720064, fax 01388 722354, e-mail southarea@ageconcern-durham.org.uk, or write to Age Concern Durham County, South Area Office, 31 Rosewood Grange, Chilton, County Durham DL17 0JR.



Community Money Matters – FREE!

In co-operation with CASH (Community Accountancy Self Help) Community Matters have produced a new publication 'Community Money Matters.' This is a comprehensive guide to financial management and accounting for small charities and community organisations. It has been written by Paul Boielle, who is one of CASH's Community Accountants and is also a trustee and treasurer of a community association. The book is available as a free download: visit <http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/resources/docs/Moneymatters.pdf>

Teesdale Events Guide Launch



Photo: Helen Thistlethwaite TVHC, Jill Cole, Hazel Coppack and Bill Oldfield, Teesdale Marketing

The launch of the Teesdale Spring/Summer events guide took place at the Bowes Museum on Tuesday 26th February and was well attended with the guide being very highly praised. There are over 400 events in this summers guide, around 100 more than in the guide for the same period last year! The guide is available from the Tourist Information Centre in Barnard Castle and in local shops and other outlets throughout Teesdale.

TVHC Member Halls: If you would like some events guides to display in your hall please contact Helen on 01833 696650 to arrange a convenient time for her to deliver some guides to you. Alternatively member halls can pick up the guides from the TVHC office at Enterprise House.

HOT TIP! Visit www.rsonline.org.uk to find out information about rural issues. The Rural Services Network is a group of more than 250 organisations working together to improve the delivery of rural services across England. Network members include local authorities, public bodies, businesses, charities and voluntary groups across the spectrum of rural service provision. The network has three main purposes:

- **Representing** the case for a better deal for rural service provision
- **Exchanging** useful and relevant information
- **Developing and sharing** best practice

The Rural Services Network exists to ensure services delivered to the communities of predominantly rural England are as string and effective as possible.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR HALL

The next two pages contain useful information and details of groups and organisations who have contacted TVHC who would like to offer their services to member halls. Please take advantage of these opportunities, if you would like more information contact Helen on 01833 696650

Brother Crow

Brother Crow are a folk/acoustic duo, based in Weardale, County Durham who are currently looking for theatrical, folk club and festival bookings to promote the recent release of their debut CD, entitled "One For Sorrow", and the release of their second CD, planned for sometime during 2008.

They perform original songs on guitar, mandolin, tenor banjo and ten-string bouzouki. Their narrative epics about the people, places and historical events of their local area combine well with fine songs about family life, romance, personal experience and introspection. They have recently been receiving a great deal of radio exposure in the North East, either by playing live in the studio, or with featured tracks from their debut CD.

They are interested in holding shows in Teesdale village halls; they don't usually ask for a guaranteed minimum fee, but instead are happy to perform for a percentage of the door, usually 75%.

For samples of their music please visit www.brothercrow.co.uk (for clips) or www.myspace.com/brothercrowfolk (for full songs). If you would prefer a demo CD, please contact them and they can mail one to you.

For more information please contact 01388 526093 or email info@brothercrow.co.uk



Getting the Best from Community Matters: NE Regional Conference

Saturday 15th March 10am – 3pm
Jarrow Community Centre

9.30am Arrival and Refreshments.

10.00am Welcome by Geoff Lowe, NE Regional Representative on Community Matters National Executive Committee.

10.15am Community Matters –services to members.

10.45am Coffee and Networking.

11.00am Issues from members – the opportunity to flag up and then discuss in small groups your own issues/concerns/challenges.

12.00pm Lunch and the opportunity to look at feedback from groups.

1.00pm *Workshop 1: Engaging Young People in Your Community Organisation* – Christine Morrison. *Workshop 2: Hearing about some regional funding successes and Participative Funding.*

1.45pm Reversal of workshops

2.30pm Next steps

3.00pm Close

Please contact Helen at TVHC if you would like a booking form for this event.

Last Word Productions musical theatre group are currently promoting their new show Opening Night – a musical theatre revue to venues in this area for performances in October/November 2008 or February/March/April 2009.

Opening Night a musical theatre revue

Ever wanted to know what really goes on back-stage, after the curtain goes down? last word productions – musical theatre group put the spotlight on a company in turmoil on opening night.

Seen from three perspectives: the young, inexperienced chorus girl on her first professional job, the old hooper who is always the understudy, never the lead and the frustrated rehearsal pianist who would do anything to get on stage rather than be in the pit, you will enjoy the opening night jitters, scandals and mayhem that is live theatre! Songs will include a great mixture of classic musical theatre, little known gems and current West End material interweaving a new and original plot.

Audience feedback from recent shows:

"I am so sorry for the people who missed tonight's show [Everyday Decision]. Terrific talent and enthusiasm made for a very enjoyable night...I am so glad I had the chance to experience your performance."

Audience Member, Dalton Village Hall 2007

If you would like to discuss anything, please contact Sue Moore on 0208 450 2872 / 07880 731 950. or email lastword@onetel.com You can also visit their website at www.lastwordonline.co.uk

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR HALL continued

Beverly Artistes Agency LTD

Present their

2008 Touring Pantomime

Sleeping Beauty

With a professional cast

Great songs

Bags of Festive Fun

Book now to guarantee your date on
Sleeping Beauty

2007 Reviews:

"Can we thank you for the excellent panto you provided. The cast were brilliant with the children and the whole show was very professional."

Mr. Alan Campbell, Blakelaw Social Club.

"With the running time of 1 and a half hours the production holds the interest of the appreciative audience."

What's on Stage North East

"This is the second year we have booked Beverly Artistes touring pantomime. Once again the children had a fantastic time."
Coxhoe Primary School

For more details of availability contact
Beverley Artistes on
0191 385 4163 (6 lines)

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium CRB Checks

TVHC is now offering a CRB Check service to voluntary and community organisations in Teesdale.

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.

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

Aerobics Classes

"My name is Jenny Pears, I have recently moved to St Helen Auckland from Carterton in Oxfordshire. My husband is in the RAF and he has been posted to RAF Leeming, hence why I have moved to the area. I work full time for a company called SFEDI at Newton Aycliffe Industrial Park. I have been teaching aerobics for over 2 years, I used to teach 2 aerobics classes in the evenings per week in my local village hall. I had a brilliant group of ladies who attended the classes come rain or shine. The numbers of participants were approximately 10 – 12 per class. I taught dance aerobics on a Monday night and Hi and Lo impact aerobics on a Wednesday night, we had a really good time whilst keeping fit! The classes were very motivated which helped to encourage each other to do that bit more and feel the benefits from coming to the class. I thoroughly enjoy teaching, it's good to know that people are benefiting from my classes and have seen the changes in both weight loss and body shape. I am flexible in my approach to teaching, if participants had specific areas they would like to focus on I will do my best to tailor my classes to suit all needs and capabilities. I can't wait to start teaching again! Qualifications held: YMCA Level 2 Exercise to Music, YMCA Level 2 Gym Instructor, YMCA Dance style aerobics workshop, BPM Step instruction workshop, Salsa Fit Workshop."

Jenny would like to set up aerobics classes in halls within Teesdale. If your hall is interested and you would like to discuss it further with her please contact Jenny on 07771 982805 or by email

jennypears26@yahoo.co.uk

Streetscape Products and Services

Streetscape is a company with over 25 years experience in the playground industry. Their range includes safer surfaces (including wetpour repair), sports surfaces, seats/bins/bollards and they have also introduced playzones which offer a selection of playground equipment such as play houses, springers, activity panels and tables, sandpits and trim trail. They also supply sun canopies and a variety of after school activities. They are based in Selby in North Yorkshire and provide free site surveys, quotations and drawings (without obligation). For more information please contact Hazel Stuart on 01757 706172.

Teesdale Village Halls – Booking Contacts

B/C Parish Hall	Stephen Guy	01833 630732
B/C Witham Hall	Chris Best	01833 631107
B/C YMCA	Tracy Blandford	01833 695780
Barningham	Susan Prytherick	01833 621320
Boldron	Valerie Tiplady	01833 638210
Bowes and Gilmonby	Sue Henley	01833 628357
Butterknowle	Pamela Morson	01388 710708
Cockfield	Keith Quigley	01388 718165
Copley	David Whitfield	01388 718172
Cotherstone	Ann Thorn	01833 650658
Eggleston	Christine Bell	01833 650798
Evenwood	Reception	01388 830290
Gainford	Susan Robson	01325 730093
Hamsterley	Jaquie Holloway	01388 488323
Hutton	James Lynn	01833 627357
Ingleton	Sue Davey	01325 730140
Lands	Kath McCann	01388 710937
Langleydale	Mary Hutchinson	01833 637359
Lunedale	Margaret Dent	01833 640763
Marwood	Peter Stubbs	01833 638589
Mickleton	Marion Hutchinson	01833 640331
Middleton in Teesdale	Glenda Calvert	01833 640382
Newsham	Rose Davies	01833 621300
Ovington	Barbara Levett	01833 627456
Romaldkirk	Sue Simpson	01833 650369
Scarth Hall	Malcolm Turner	01325 733272
Stainton	Jane Teesdale	01833 638348
Stainton Grove	Sue Chapman	01833 630780
Startforth School	Angela Blackett	01833 638280
Toft Hill & Etherley	Martin Clark	01388 835712
Whorlton	Regina Rutland	01833 627280
Winston	Don Raper	01325 730811
Woodland	Dora Robinson	01388 718383

Enjoy a Music Evening at Cotherstone Village Hall

Following the outstanding success of last year's music events, Cotherstone Village Hall is hosting 2 spectacular acts on Saturday 26th April.

Moses - Two brothers from Whitley Bay - Awesome live, slightly folk-y, excellent songs and harmonies and very witty banter too.

The State of Georgia - female singer / keyboard player and hopefully her cellist. Likened to Kate Nash / Tori Amos / Regina Spektor.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles. All funds will go to Friends of Cotherstone School. Doors open 7.30pm, music starts at 8.00pm. Tickets are excellent value at £4 in advance, £6 on the day, please contact Chris Tyler on 01833 650491

Teesdale Athletic Club

We are a small friendly club who cater for all abilities meeting at Teesdale Sports Centre, Strathmore Road, Barnard Castle. Club Training nights are Tuesday and Thursday 6.00 – 7.15pm. The Junior Development group meet in the main sports hall on Tuesdays 5.00 – 6.00pm. Why not come along and give it a try, whether you are training for the Raby Castle run, the Great North run or just want to keep fit. It's great to have company when you are out running.

Members can advise on all the local road races, cross country, fell running, orienteering and track and field. For more information contact Liz Lamb on 01833 638970 or visit

www.littleredfrog.com/teesdaleac

The Cheeky Burger

This is a new snack van run by Jill Harrison sited at Abbey Bridge lay-by offering hot food using fresh produce, free range eggs, local meat produce etc. She has complied with all necessary legislation via Teesdale District Council and the Food Standards Agency. She looks forward to serving you with her high quality food.

For further information contact:-**Business and Development Manager:**

Fergus Arkley

Tel : **01833 696652**

Fax : 01833 631909

fergus@teesdalehalls.co.uk

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.

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