

**Teesdale Village Halls Consortium
Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday 30th June
7.00pm

Lands Village Hall
Agendas will be sent out shortly for this meeting

Goodbye to Ruth!

Ruth Denham, Project Office for TVHC will be leaving the Consortium on 1st July to take up the position of Sales Ledger Controller at Castlebeck in Darlington. Ruth has been with the Consortium since September 2006 and during her time here has developed the very successful SETH energy project for the halls and helped and supported many learners through our various training contracts with the Learning and Skills Council.

We would like to thank Ruth for all her hard work during her time with TVHC and wish her all the best for the future.

Marwood Social Centre Fundraising Success!

A domino drive that took place on 11th April raised £124.50 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service. The money was presented by the social centre chairman Peter Stubbs to Lyn Simmons who attended on behalf of the ambulance service and thanked the players and Marwood Social Centre for their support.

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.

The Consortium celebrates its successes!

TVHC celebrated two major achievements at their latest general meeting at Newsham Village Hall which was attended by many of their member halls. We have recently been successful in achieving the MATRIX quality standard for providing high quality, up to date and impartial information, advice and guidance services both to our member halls about issues such as new legislation and funding, and to the learners who we provide free training for through a number of contracts with the Learning and Skills Council. During the assessment TVHC was particularly praised for "embedding a culture of continuous improvement and having clear leadership at all levels."



The Consortium was also celebrating another success for their delivery of the net:gain programme which helps voluntary and community groups implement an IT plan that can improve their service quality. At an event in Rugby Fergus Arkley, Business and Development Manager for the Consortium, was presented with the Achievement Award 2008 for having the most delegates who have completed the net:gain programme. TVHC have been previous winners for their delivery of net:gain in such illustrious categories as Outstanding Delegate Support. Fergus Arkley said of the two achievements:

"I am delighted that the Consortium has been recognised for its hard work and level of support to rural communities. These awards illustrate that the Consortium is moving forward whilst still helping our vibrant network of village halls."

Photograph: Fergus Arkley, Helen Thistlethwaite & Ruth Denham with the awards

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FERGUS!



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: 18th June, 16th July, 20th August, 17th September, 15th October, 19th November and 17th December.

Northern Rock Foundation Grant Programmes 2008 - Update

Northern Rock Foundation has reopened its grants programme for high-quality and high-profile culture and heritage projects in North East England and Cumbria. The programme will be worth £2 million in 2008. They are now seeking applications to support performing arts, contemporary craft, design and new media, exhibitions, festivals and collaborations, as well as professional training for people working in these areas. The Foundation plans to invest in a wide range of imaginative and ambitious work, and to promote the region's creative talent. Through their work on disadvantage, they support projects that, for example, use the arts to work with young people at risk, people with mental health problems and homeless people. The Culture and Heritage programme will continue to complement that, by providing dedicated investment in excellent, high-profile projects that everyone can enjoy, but which also contribute to the area's continuing regeneration and growing pride. Alongside Culture and Heritage, their programmes which are open for applications are:

Independence and Choice: services for people with mental health problems, people with learning disabilities, older people and carers;

Building Positive Lives: one-to-one help for young people at risk, homeless people, substance misusers and groups that face prejudice and discrimination;

Safety and Justice: reducing the incidence and impact of domestic and sexual violence, abuse and hate crimes.

The Trustees have also decided that as part of their support for older people's projects in Independence and Choice, they will now invest in organisations providing welfare benefits advice and targeted benefit take-up campaigns.

Overall, they are continuing their policy of funding fewer, better grants, and engaging with applicants and grant-holders to help them maximise their effectiveness. They are also making grants for work across the North East and Cumbria. If your work fits within one of these four programmes, you can apply now in the normal way.

In February 2008, the Chancellor announced that the Foundation would receive a minimum of £15m a year in 2008, 2009 and 2010 from Northern Rock, as part of the arrangement under which the bank was taken into temporary public ownership. The Foundation's Trustees intend to spend at least £11 million through their grant programmes this year. Organisations that already have grants and those that receive them in the future can be absolutely assured that we have funds set aside to meet all our outstanding commitments. Grants awarded over several years will be paid as planned. More information can be found at www.nr-foundation.org.uk or by telephoning 0191 284 8412

Durham County Council Education in the Community Supplementary Grants

As Bill Niblo from Durham County Council Education in the Community department explained at TVHC's general meeting in April, halls can apply for supplementary grants towards the cost of undertaking essential structural repairs or replacements. Copies of the application form can be obtained from Helen at TVHC or for more information about the grants contact Education in the Community on 01388 662577

Lloyds TSB Foundation – new online eligibility test

The Lloyds TSB Foundation has introduced an online eligibility test on to their website to help organisations check if they are eligible to apply for funding. The Foundation offer three grant making programmes including the Community Programme; this supports charities that enable disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in their communities. The funding is for both existing and innovative new work, core and project funding and for applications of funding of one to three years. For more information and to complete the online eligibility test visit www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk or telephone the Grant Manager for the North East and Cumbria on 07802 337481

FUNDING SOURCES UPDATE (continued)

Youth Opportunity Fund and the Youth Capital Fund

These funds are:

- For all young people 13-19
- To give young people a real voice in decision making
- To engage disadvantaged and hard to reach young people
- To enable young people to benefit from positive activities
- To enable young people to enjoy sport and recreational activity
- To encourage the personal and social development of young people
- To improve outcomes for young people
- To increase the well being of young people
- For investment in youth facilities
- The funds are managed by young people who will be supported in making decisions about the allocation of funds.

Groups of young people should apply for the funds; applications must be young person led but will require a supporting organisation. There is only one application form to complete then if the application is successful money will be allocated from the relevant fund. A maximum of £4,000 is available from the Youth Opportunities Fund. Youth Capital Fund grants have to be a minimum of £2,500. Adults such as youth workers, teachers, sports coaches and parents can help with developing plans and completing the application form. Applications can be made at anytime and a decision on your application will be made within six weeks.

For more information please visit www.everychildmatters.gov.uk

TVHC Member Halls Energy Audits – Deadline for Utilities Bills

If your hall hasn't yet submitted three years worth of energy bills which is vital data for your energy audit, please do so by Friday 27th June at the latest. If you would like some assistance with this please contact Ruth on 01833 696700 or email ruth@teesdalehalls.co.uk

easyfundraising - has your hall registered yet?

easyfundraising is a FREE fundraising service where funds can be raised for any charity, trust, school, club, good cause or community group simply by shopping online. You can choose from over 500 of the UK's best known retailers including many popular names such as NEXT, Amazon, Debenhams, John Lewis and HMV, and when you shop online using links on the easyfundraising website up to 15% from every purchase you make is donated to the cause you choose to nominate. We are encouraging all of our member halls to register on to the easyfundraising website to allow their local users and supporters to raise funds for them when they shop online.

Halls can register on the website by visiting <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/referral/10331> and completing a simple questionnaire. Alternatively you can contact Helen at TVHC on 01833 696650 and she can help you with the registration process.

Tables for Sale

Ideal for use by parent and toddler groups, The Witham Hall in Barnard Castle has 8 rectangular (1200 x 600mm) and 2 trapezoidal tables (1190 x 500mm) for sale. The tables are still in good condition with metal legs and Formica tops. To purchase new they would cost in the region of £55 – 60 and they are selling them for £15 (or best offer). If you are interested in viewing or purchasing the tables please contact Chris Best on 01833 631107

Health and Safety Executive – Example Risk Assessment for a Village Hall

The Health and Safety Executive have produced a case study to show how a village hall management committee should carry out a risk assessment on their hall. An example of how the risk assessment should be laid out is given; this addresses what are the hazards, who might be harmed and how, what are you already doing, and what further action is necessary. This is a very useful document and can be downloaded from

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/casestudies/villagehall.htm> or contact Helen on 01833 696650 for a copy.

Charity Commission Declaration of Eligibility for Newly Appointed Trustees

The Charity Commission have produced a useful document that charities can use when appointing new trustees on to their management committees and boards. They have produced a sample form that new trustees sign to declare that they are not disqualified from acting as a charity trustee; this will give you written proof that you have checked their eligibility and is recommended to be done by the Charity Commission.

The form can be found at www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Library/supportingcharities/pdfs/sampledeccc30.pdf or contact Helen on 01833 696650 for copies of it.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR HALL

The next two pages contain useful information and details of groups 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

Portable Appliance Testing – David Shaw

After successful completion of the Certificate for the Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment (Code and Practice for In Service Inspection) course which was funded by Teesdale Village Halls Consortium through one of our Learning and Skills Council contracts, David Shaw a local Teesdale resident is now offering a Portable Appliance Testing service.

Testing costs £25.00 per hour; as a rough guide it takes 6 minutes to test a simple appliance that does not require any remedial action. Costs can be minimised by having appliances available at one location.

David can be contacted on 01833 650675 or email davidshawa1@tiscali.co.uk

Expert Support Continues for Rural Communities

ruralnetuk is pleased to announce an extension, to the end of December 2008, to the Improving Reach project supported by Capacitybuilders. This project aims to provide support to isolated rural voluntary and community organisations enabling them to manage their business and deliver their services more effectively. Could your organisation benefit from extra staff at no extra cost? As part of the Improving Reach project you could have just this through Experts Online. Experts Online delivers advice and guidance to the not-for-profit sector on a whole range of business related topics, simply ask your question and within 48 hours receive a reply; you can also read previous questions and answers, download sample documents, templates and guidelines and read up to the minute funding alerts. Questions are answered by real people with real experience and expertise in the voluntary and community sector. Current areas of expertise are:

- Business Planning
- Community Engagement
- Computers and Communications
- Employment issues including Health and Safety
- Finance Management - including Accountancy
- Grant Funding
- Legal Issues
- Project Planning
- Rural Service Delivery

Access to all this is FREE to the end of December 2008. For more information please contact Helen 01833 696650 or email helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk

Search begins for County Durham's Top Village

The search has begun for County Durham's Calor Village of the Year 2008 and competition organiser Durham Rural Community Council (DRCC) is encouraging entries from every village in the county with a population of 5000 or less. The prize money stands at over £400.

The competition is designed to look at four areas of village life: People, Environment, Communications and Business, with judges seeking out "well-balanced, pro-active and caring communities that have made the best of local opportunities to enhance the quality of life for all inhabitants". In 2007 a wide variety of villages entered the competition, which is designed to promote community involvement in village life with the added 'spice' of friendly competition.

Sponsorship is provided by Calor – the UK's leading supplier of LPG (liquefied petroleum gas). DRCC's competition organiser, Ken Hazelwood, commented: "The 2007 county event was very successful with a very high standard of entries. Following last year's success, prizes for the highest marked County Durham villages are being given again in 2008, and we're encouraging both old friends and new local communities that have not participated in previous years to get involved in this year's countywide competition. Entering the local competition is a great way for community groups - working together with the support of residents and the parish council where possible - to achieve a common goal. The results can be extremely beneficial and provide a real boost for the whole community."

Later in 2008, one of the winning villages from County Durham will have the added honour of being nominated to go forward and represent their county in the prestigious Calor Village of the Year® for England competition 2008/9. This will give that village the opportunity of gaining recognition at national level as well as a share of a prize fund totalling more than £40,000.

The closing for the county competition is MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2008 and entry forms are available now. Entry forms can be requested by telephoning Ken Hazelwood on 01207 529 621 or by emailing ken@durhamrcc.org.uk to receive a form electronically or through the post as required.

HOT TIP!

Protect your halls computers and home PC's by downloading AVG's latest free version 8.0 of their basic antivirus and antispyware protection for Windows. To download visit <http://free.grisoft.com>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR HALL continued

NHS Direct: Presentations for your Hall

The Consortium has been contacted by Elaine Jackson, Clinical Team Leader and Patient Public Involvement Champion at NHS Direct who is offering to come to any of our member halls to deliver a short presentation about NHS Direct. She would like to speak to as many groups as possible to give them a better understanding of the services provided by NHS Direct. She can deliver a short power point presentation to your group; she will bring all the equipment required with her for this.

If you feel this would be of interest to your hall or any of your user groups please pass this information on to them.

Elaine Jackson's telephone number is 0191 2381184 or she can be contacted by email elaine.jackson@nhsdirect.nhs.uk

The Love Train Disco!

This is a newly located mobile disco business based in Barnard Castle. They are a professional team of three with an excellent state of the art sound and lighting system.

They are looking to establish themselves in the local area and would like to offer their services to the halls throughout Teesdale. More information about the Love TrainDisco including prices, booking and contact details can be found at

www.thelovetraindisco.co.uk or by contacting 01833 631701 or 07983 966417



The Choir III Project

The team behind the BBC documentary 'The Choir' are developing a new series for BBC Two. Choirmaster Gareth Malone passionately believes that singing can bring people together and he would like to work with residents of one UK neighbourhood on a community singing project that will culminate in an ambitious live performance. Everyone will be invited to get involved – children, teenagers, adults, senior citizens, schools, local businesses etc. The team would like to appeal to individuals, organisations and community groups to contact them and nominate locations. They are looking particularly for places that are home to a diverse population but where there are few points of contact between different groups. If you would like to find out more about the project telephone 020 7284 2020 or email vickymitchell@twentytwenty.tv

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

This scheme works in partnership with over 60 voluntary groups in Cumbria, County Durham and Northumberland to bring high quality, professional theatre, music, dance and craft events to village halls, schools and community centres. There are currently 9 of TVHC's member halls involved with the scheme and Highlights would like to know if any halls currently not involved in the scheme would be interested in joining. For more information please contact Highlights on 01768 353954

Children's Dance Classes

Daniela Hunt who has completed a number of the Consortium's training courses would like to run evening dance classes for children 4 – 10 years old in any of the member halls of TVHC. Children will learn how to choreograph and will be taught jazz, modern and contemporary dancing. The classes will be fun and interesting. Daniela is CRB checked and holds the Early Years First Aid and Appointed Person Workplace First Aid qualifications.

A fee of £3 per child will be charged for the classes depending on hall fees. To find out more please contact Daniela on 07855 537746

Recruit volunteers for your village hall or community centre

The Volunteer Centre, Teesdale and Wear Valley is a service facilitated by 2D (Voluntary & Community Support) which aims to promote, support and develop volunteers and volunteering in the area. They offer a quality service to all local volunteer groups & organisations. Groups who would like to involve volunteers to support their work should register with the Volunteer Centre because:

- They will advertise your volunteering opportunities free of charge.
- They actively participate in, or organise events under the regional and national campaigns to market volunteering. Such as Volunteers Week and Make a Difference Day etc.
- They promote volunteering through their newsletters, the Internet, in local and regional press, and information points throughout Teesdale and Wear Valley.
- They have an extensive list of contacts from all sectors, which they frequently network with.
- They are able to offer training in specialist areas to suit the requirements of each individual organisation.

As well as referring volunteers to meet your organisations needs, there are also opportunities available for employee volunteering. An individual could offer their professional skills in a particular role or take part in a team challenge, a team building exercise where employees can put something back into the community.

So if you need volunteers, you also need 2D! Contact 01388 762220 visit: www.2d.org.uk

National Hubs Joint Publications Guide

The National Hubs were six national partnerships set up to improve support for the voluntary and community sector by offering free services, information and support in six areas of expertise:

Finance, Performance, Governance, Workforce, ICT and Volunteering. The National Hubs have now re-focused from the six National Hubs to nine National Support Service workstreams. Following the launch of these, work has been undertaken to ensure that the resources and assets remain available to the voluntary and community sector in the future. The National Hub has produced a joint publications guide which pools together valuable hubs publications in one accessible place and has been produced so organisations can benefit from a range of resources long after the life of the hubs.

Some examples of the publications available are: A-Z of Good Governance, What Management Committees Need to Know, Guide to Financial Management etc.

The guide can be downloaded from <http://www.improvingsupport.org.uk/latest/hubs-joint-guide.html>

Appointment of Independent Members of Durham Police Authority

Durham Police Authority is committed to ensuring that County Durham and Darlington have an efficient and effective Police force and to do this they need to listen to and act upon the views of their local communities. With effect from 1 October 2008 they will have three vacancies for members of the public to work with them to help shape the way they operate; at least one of those appointed should also be a lay justice.

What's involved?

- Attend all Authority meetings and appropriate committees and panels
- Participate in public consultation on local policing issues, including evening meetings
- Keep abreast of developments in both local and national policing and
- Represent the authority in discussions with interested parties

A commitment of 10 – 12 hours per week is required, for which an allowance and expenses are payable.

Who are they looking for?

- People with good communication skills and a willingness to seek out and listen to the views of all sections of the local community on policing issues
- Relevant skills, experience and knowledge e.g. in management, business, finance, community or race relations
- An ability to represent a broad range of local communities and challenge accepted views in a constructive way.

Who can apply?

If you are over 18 and live or work within the Police Authority Area (Durham County and Darlington Borough) and have done so for at least 12 months prior to 1 October 2008 and are not otherwise disqualified you are eligible to apply. They would like independent members to represent as diverse a range of people as possible and welcome applications from all eligible people irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, disability or other factors.

The closing date for applications is Thursday 26th June 2008.

For more information and to apply contact The Chief Executive, Durham Police Authority, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL. Telephone 0191 383 3491 Email durham.pa@durham.gov.uk or visit the website at

www.durham-pa.gov.uk

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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