

TEESDALE HALLS NEWS

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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.



Merry Christmas from Teesdale Village Halls Consortium!

Helen, Sue, David, Rosemary, Joyce, James and Christine would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your support throughout 2008 and we look forward to seeing you all in 2009!

Investor in People Success!

The Consortium has been successful in maintaining our Investor in People standard after our three year review in October. We were praised for maintaining a clear vision, well structured planning and monitoring, good communication and continuous improvement.

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. Copies of this, and previous newsletters are also available on the website.

TVHC Training Opportunities for Member Halls

The Consortium is delighted to announce that we have secured funding from the Neighbourhood Learning for Deprived Communities fund to provide a variety of training opportunities for our member halls management committees and user groups in the New Year.

We will be running five courses at various halls around the Dale:

- Emergency First Aid for Appointed Persons
- Early Years First Aid
- Award in Food Safety in Catering
- Award in Health and Safety
- Fire Marshal

All courses will be accredited and delivered by St John Ambulance. The aim of the training is to give volunteers from the halls the opportunity to further develop their skills and knowledge and to make the training as accessible as possible by holding the courses in local community venues.

The courses will take place in February and March 2009; halls will be contacted in the New Year with a list of dates and venue for the courses.

Come and see the TVHC Tree at St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival 2008!

The Consortium has sponsored a Christmas tree at the incredibly popular festival in St Mary's Parish Church in Barnard Castle. The festival in the past has been a great attraction for both visitors and local people and this year will see fifty decorated and illuminated Christmas trees which have been



sponsored by local businesses and organisations lighting up the church. The festival starts on Thursday 18th December when the Friends of St Mary's hold a preview evening between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. Entrance is by ticket purchased in advance; tickets cost £5.00 and include mulled wine and canapés and are available from Reverend Alec Harding on 01833 637018. The festival then runs from Friday 19th . Sunday 21st December. Entrance will include refreshments (mulled wine and mince pies) and costs £2.50 for adults and £1.00 for children. Opening times of the festival are:

- **Friday:** 4.00pm . 8.00pm
- **Saturday:** 11.00am . 7.00pm
- **Sunday:** 2.00pm . 6.00pm followed by church carol service at 6.30pm

All of TVHC's thirty three member halls will be represented on our tree so please go along and support this great local festive event!

FUNDING SOURCES UPDATE

The Veolia Environmental Trust

This trust awards grants under the Landfill Communities Fund and they support a wide range of community and environmental projects throughout the UK. They have five categories for grants and under Category D one of the types of projects they are able to fund is community halls . new, conversion and refurbishment. To be eligible for funding, organisations must be within five miles of a facility operated by Veolia Environmental Services (UK) plc, and Glaxo Smithkline in Barnard Castle is one of these facilities. To apply under this particular category your hall must also be within ten miles of a landfill site; it appears that landfill sites within Teesdale are the Kilmondwood Quarry at Bowes, Lartington Water Treatment Works and Cockfield Waste Disposal Site. You can find out more information at www.veoliatrust.org Please contact Helen on 01833 696650 if you would like to discuss this further as there could be some halls meeting both criteria who may be able to apply for funding.

TVHC 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 £500** 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 Helen on 01833 696650 or email helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk Grant applications are considered at TVHC's directors meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.

Community Services in the Community – Teesdale District Council

Teesdale District Council operate an outreach service in which Community Customer Services Officers travel throughout Teesdale to offer advice and information about the Council's services to the most isolated or vulnerable residents, in their homes or at community locations.

They offer advice on a wide range of council services including:

- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit
- Recycling
- Bulky Waste Collections
- Dog Warden
- Environmental Health
- Planning
- Council Tax
- Leisure Services
- Concessionary Travel
- Housing Information
- Any other council services

They have recently introduced new monthly drop in sessions as follows:

LOCATION	DATE	TIME
Gainford Doctor's Surgery	Fourth Monday of the month	1.00pm . 2.00pm
Butterknowle Village Hall	Second Tuesday of the month	11.00am . 12.00noon
Scarth Hall, Staindrop	Second Wednesday of the month	10.30am . 11.30am
Cockfield Doctor's Surgery	Second Wednesday of the month	1.00pm . 2.00pm
Evenwood Randolph Centre	Fourth Wednesday of the month	10.30am . 12.00noon
Middleton in Teesdale UTASS Offices	First Thursday of the month	10.00am . 12.00noon
Middleton in Teesdale Children's Centre	Third Friday of the month	10.00am . 11.00am

For more information about the service please contact Teesdale District Council on 01833 690000 or email enquiries@teesdale.gov.uk

Office space to rent within The Witham Hall

This is ideal for a small charity or a community organisation and can accommodate one or two people. The Witham is in the centre of Barnard Castle, close to car parks and on-street parking.

The office is 2.7 x 3.9 m and is part furnished including wall mounted and free standing shelves. A computer and telephone point is available and the occupier would be responsible for all telephone charges. Rental includes heat and light. Six-month let available at just £90 per month.

For more information or to view contact Chris Best on 01833 631107.



North East Regional Leadership and Management Programme

Is your organisation based in the North East Region employing between 2 – 9 people?

If so, you may be eligible for a grant of £1000 to support accredited development designed to meet your specific needs. This grant applies to:

- Managing Director/Owner Manager
- A Second Key Director/Manager

Is your organisation based in the North East region employing between 10 – 249 people?

If so, you may be eligible for a grant of £1000 to support accredited or non-accredited development designed to meet your specific needs. This grant applies to:

- Managing Director/Owner Manager
- A Second Key Director/Manager

For further information contact Focus Training and Development on 01325 355633 or email info@focustd.co.uk

HOT TIP!

An issue has recently been raised by one of our member halls about the rebuild value of their hall as stated on their insurance policy. The value is outdated and does not represent the full current rebuild value of the hall; therefore they are currently having this valuation updated by a surveyor.

We would advise that all halls check their insurance documents for this and if necessary have a new valuation carried out.

Introducing Extended Services to TVHC Member Halls

Extended Services is a country-wide, government initiative all about supporting the child in line with the Every Child Matters Agenda and the long term vision of schools being at the heart of the community providing access to services and activities that often extend beyond the school day. Extended Services works in partnership with other schools and the public, private, voluntary and community sector to offer access to a range of activities and services that meet the needs of pupils, their families and the wider community. There are 18 schools in the Teesdale & Staindrop Cluster that by 2010 are aiming to provide access to: high quality 'wraparound' affordable childcare, a varied menu of after school activities, community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities including family and adult learning, support for parents and swift and easy referral to a range of specialist support services. There are now two Extended Services Coordinators working across the Teesdale & Staindrop Cluster: Gill Adams coordinates the extended services provision at Teesdale School and its partner Primary Schools and Ros Evans coordinates the extended services provision at Staindrop School and its partner Primaries. Some of these services and activities already happen in schools and community centres including village halls but Gill and Ros would like to increase that amount in collaboration with the Village Halls Consortium. Gill and Ros are hoping to attend one of TVHC's general meetings in the New Year to discuss this further.

Gift Aid

Malcolm McCallum, Treasurer of Barnard Castle Golf Club gave an informative talk to member halls who attended the TVHC general meeting on 4th November at Gainford Village Hall. If you would like to find out more about how your hall can benefit from Gift Aid please visit the HM Revenue and Customs website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/gift-aid.htm where you can find advice on the Gift Aid rules, and apply for a free Gift Aid toolkit on CD ROM to help you run an effective Gift Aid Scheme. This is a step by step guide which helps you to apply to make Gift Aid repayment claims, understand the rules of Gift Aid, fill in the Gift Aid repayment forms and understand what records you need to keep. You can also order a free toolkit by telephoning the HMRC Charities helpline on 0845 302 0203 (open from 8.00am . 5.00pm Monday to Friday) and select option 6 for Gift Aid.

Your Community – Northern Echo

Have you ever wanted to write for The Northern Echo? Fancy a spare time hobby that's fun as well as fulfilling? Want to play a greater role in your local community? They are currently recruiting a network of local correspondents to write for the web. They will give you tips and training on how to write and structure your stories. You will be paid a lineage rate for everything they publish. If you like the sound of becoming a correspondent, drop them a line, email Assistant Editor Nigel Burton at newmedia@nne.co.uk

Laughter in the Village

Bob Harding Jones has contacted TVHC about his one man entertainment show which he would like halls in Teesdale to consider. The show is described as hilarious stories about village life . past and present and witty comments on modern living. Bob blends his experiences as suburban boy turned farm worker, dairy farmer, ambulance paramedic and family man to provide a memorably uplifting entertainment.

If you would like to find out more please visit www.bobharding-jones.co.uk

Motion Picture Licensing Company – Umbrella Licence for the public performance of DVDs

Information to allow the public performance of DVDs within clubs and organisations that may wish to show films in places such as village halls and community centres:

Home videos and DVDs are intended for private, domestic use only as per the warning which appears before the film. Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, videos and DVDs shown outside of one's home, qualify as a public performance and are illegal unless correctly licensed. The film industry realised there needed to be an easy, low cost licensing option.

The simple solution is the MPLC Umbrella Licence®

The licence gives you unlimited use of thousands of videos and DVDs. It represents a growing number of over 80 premium Hollywood producers including Walt Disney, Touchstone, Dreamworks, Twentieth Century Fox, Paramount and Universal. (We hold a full list of the producers and distributors in the office)

Key restrictions

1. No advertisement may be made of the title to the general public, but you can advertise through media that you generate yourself i.e. notice boards, newsletters etc
2. No charge may be made to view the film.
3. The licence is only applicable to the named organisation and location.
4. The films shown must be a legal copy of that film.

Key benefits

1. Allows the use of legally rented or purchased DVD copies- either your own library or those purchased/rented.
2. Unlimited showings all year round
3. No reporting of title use or audience figures
4. Low administration as the licence agreement renews automatically 60 days before the start date
5. We hold the agreed rate year on year, subject only to minimal cost of living increases. If required, extra cover will be added to the agreement at the time of renewal, at the current rate.

Please find below an indication of the cost for clubs to show films as part of their activities and is based on the membership of the club:

0 - 49 members = £50.00 + vat per year
 50 - 299 members = £75.00 + vat per year
 300 - 499 members = £175.00 + vat per year
 500 - 1499 members = £250.00 + vat per year

For more information please contact David Taylor, Senior Licensing Representative for MPLC on 01323 649647 extension 3512 or email dtaylor@mplc.com

Thank you to Ian Pillar from Durham Rural Community Council for supplying us with this information

Some stories of success from TVHC member halls...

A great example of a management committee taking ownership of classes within their hall

Gainford Digital Photography Classes

A number of Gainford residents decided among themselves that they would like to have some digital photography classes. Over recent years there had been some very successful computer classes in the Village Hall which made use of laptop computers owned by Teesdale Village Halls Consortium and on enquiry it was agreed that these now rather elderly laptops would still be available on loan for further classes.

The possibility of the new class was aired round the village, advertised in Parish News and in village shops and a group of about 12 people expressed a firm commitment to a course of 10 classes. The computer room in the village hall was booked and Glyn Heaviside, recommended by TVHC, agreed to collect the laptops and to teach the class. His fee was agreed and added to the charge for the room in the village hall. This was divided by 12 and each pupil was asked for his or her respective contribution.

The first 10 lessons were so enjoyable and instructive that we arranged a follow up course and found ourselves able to understand our cameras and to do many clever things! A new beginners course is running this autumn.

We felt quite pleased that we had put on these courses without the need for paperwork and assessments. It only needs one or two people with a little organisational skill. Email addresses also help enormously.

Thank you to Bill Goyder from Gainford Village Hall for providing this information

Trustee Training – Running Effective Meetings

Please consider these questions:

- Do your meetings ever over run?
- Is the chair in control of the meeting?
- Is there too much jargon used?
- Are effective decisions made?

We are currently looking into the possibility of organising some trustee training in conjunction with Community Matters next year, in particular on how to run effective meetings. We would like to establish the demand for this type of training so if anyone from your hall would be interested in attending and updating their knowledge please let me know by telephoning 01833 696650 or email helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk

Local organisations working together to support community buildings

Butterknowle Rehabilitation Sessions

A partnership approach has successfully taken place between Teesdale Leisure Services, County Durham and Darlington Primary Care Trust and TVHC to set up a series of stroke and multiple sclerosis rehabilitation sessions at Butterknowle Village Hall. The weekly sessions involve the use of specifically tailored exercise programmes to suit individual needs and those attending the sessions are referred from physiotherapists and GPs. At present there are four people attending the sessions at the hall from Butterknowle and the surrounding area. Sessions are also ran at other venues throughout Teesdale, Weardale and Wear Valley.

Andy Brown, Jades Fitness Suite Manager who delivers the sessions said:

Butterknowle is a great venue to hold these sessions with excellent accessibility and facilities, and a very helpful management committee who have been instrumental in setting up the sessions. It is hoped additional rehabilitation sessions will be ran in other community venues in 2009.+

To find out more about the rehabilitation programmes contact Andy Brown at Teesdale Leisure Services on 01833 696342 or email andrew.brown@teesdale.gov.uk



Photograph courtesy of Teesdale Leisure Services

Useful Websites

www.acas.org.uk

ACAS has recently re-launched its website following customer feedback. The new site features better navigation as well as providing tailored guidance for both employers and employees.

Users can sign up for a free quarterly newsletter with information about changes in employment legislation and advice on good practice. The site includes downloadable checklists covering a range of employment matters including hiring new staff, staff management and retention, disputes and discipline and equality and diversity, and the ACAS model workplace with suggestions on how managers, employees and their representatives can make their workplaces more effective.

www.ctxchange.org

The Charity Technology Exchange (CTX) programme gives registered charities and charitable housing associations access to donated or discounted technology products from a number of partners including Microsoft, Symantec and Cisco.

The website has a catalogue of these products which can be searched by manufacturer and category or downloaded as a PDF file. Users can also access the GRANTfinder funding database which has details of more than 4000 UK and EU grants, loans, venture capital and advisory programmes.

Other features include links to charity regulatory bodies, HM Revenues and Customs charities page, programme partners and other suppliers of donated or discounted technology products and other relates resources, and access to Mailshell, a spam filtering programme for Windows users.



TVHC Criminal Record Bureau Checks Service

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium is offering a Criminal Records Bureau check service to voluntary and community organisations in Teesdale. Helen Thistlethwaite has been trained as an appointed person to assist those wanting to apply to have a CRB check carried out. People who work unsupervised with children or vulnerable adults should have a CRB check carried out. TVHC can assist with completing a disclosure application form and carry out a check on the required identification documents.

The Consortium is offering this service in conjunction with CAVOS (Community and Voluntary Organisations Sedgefield) who are a registered body with the CRB. TVHC wants to provide this service locally to make the process as simple as possible for voluntary and community organisations in Teesdale. For more details please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk

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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