

Advance Notice

Launch of the Area Action Partnerships

Teesdale AAP Area

Wednesday 22nd April

6.00 – 8.00pm

Teesdale School, Barnard Castle

Bishop Auckland, Shildon and the Gaunless Valley AAP Area

Tuesday 12th May

6.00 – 8.00pm

Jubilee Fields Community Centre, Shildon

Further details will be sent on these events when they are received by TVHC.

Newsletter Contact Helen Thistlethwaite

Telephone: 01833 696650

Fax : 01833 631909

Email: helen@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. Copies of this, and previous newsletters are also available on the website.

HOT TIP!

In your halls energy audit report one of the recommendations if you have fluorescent lighting strips may have been to consider changing the strips and invest in adaptors to help you to save energy. The Consortium has been contacted by TEP Electrical Distributors Ltd. who are based in Valley Street in Darlington who are a supplier of the more energy efficient tubes and adaptors as well as a wide variety of other lighting products. If you would like to discuss with them how you could save money on the lighting in your hall please contact Mike Prior on 07803 989995.

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.

Durham County Council Key Customer Service Access Points

From April all of the main council offices in the county will become key access points for the new council. Customers will be able to access all of the former district council services such as planning, licensing, refuse collection, benefits, council tax and pest control for their local area, as well as a number of additional county council services including reporting problems with highways, pavements and street lighting, requesting a waste permit or accessing social care information.

In addition a new service will be available from County Hall for customers to request services. They will take your request and pass it to the relevant service as opposed to merely redirecting you to another council office or department.

The access point for Barnard Castle will remain at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle DL12 8EL. The opening times are Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm

One Website for all Council Services www.durham.gov.uk

From April a new website will replace the existing county and district council websites. The new site will make it easier to do business online. You can use the website to contact the council any time, day or night. You will be able to:

Pay for it – use their electronic payments system to pay Council Tax, rent or any other council bill.

Report it – tell them about any problems – for example a faulty street light, damaged highway or a missed bin.

Apply for it – request a service by using their online form.

Have your say – about services and projects the Council is working on.

Know your Councillors

The six unitary authority councillors for Teesdale are:

Jo Fergus – Barnard Castle East 01325 730344

josephine.fergus@durham.gov.uk

George Richardson – Barnard Castle East 0191 3725811

george.richardson@durham.gov.uk

Richard Bell – Barnard Castle West 01833 650580

richard.bell@durham.gov.uk

Barbara Harrison – Barnard Castle West 0191 3725813

barbara.harrison@durham.gov.uk

Pauline Charlton – Evenwood 0191 3725861

pauline.charlton@durham.gov.uk

Stephen Hugill 0191 3725862

stephen.hugill@durham.gov.uk

FUNDING SOURCES UPDATE**Small Lottery Grants Schemes in England April 2009 – 2010**

There are a number of Lottery schemes offering small grants for local communities and individuals:

Arts Council England – Grants for the Arts

This scheme is for individuals, arts organisations and other people who use the arts in their work. Grants are for activities over a set period which engage people in England in the arts, and help artists and arts organisations in England carry out their work.

- Grants to individuals range from £1,000 up to £30,000 and will pay for activities lasting up to three years
- Grants to organisations range from £1,000 up to £100,000 and will pay for activities lasting up to three years

Contact: 0845 300 6200 or visit www.artscouncil.org.uk for more details.

Big Lottery – Awards for All

This scheme funds voluntary and community groups, schools and health organisations, parish and town councils whose projects achieve one of these four outcomes:

- People have better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills
- Stronger communities with more active citizens working together to tackle their problems.
- Improved rural and urban environments which communities are better able to enjoy
- Healthier and more active people and communities

Grants from between £300 and £10,000 are available. Projects must be completed within one year.

They aim to provide an initial decision within six weeks of receiving a completed application form.

Contact: 0845 4 10 20 30 or visit www.awardsforall.org.uk for more details and an application pack.

Heritage Lottery Fund

- **Young Roots** – this scheme makes grants to involve 13 – 25 year olds in finding out about their heritage, developing skills, building confidence and promoting community involvement. Grants available of between £3,000 and £25,000
- **Your Heritage** – this scheme supports projects that relate to the local, regional or national heritage of the UK and that help people to learn about and look after their heritage. Grants available between £3,000 and £50,000

They offer advice and help before you apply, the application forms are short and simple and they can offer you a mentor to help you run your project. You can apply at any time and will receive a decision on your application within 10 weeks of them receiving your completed application

Contact: 020 7591 6042 or visit www.hlf.org.uk for more information.

Sport England – Small Grants Programme

Sport England's small grants programme funds community projects that encourage people to become involved in sport and ensure that they have a quality sporting experience. The scheme also helps people to improve their performance in their chosen sport. The scheme is for not for profit sports clubs, voluntary and community organisations, local authorities and education institutions. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available for revenue and small capital projects.

Application is via a single stage online form. They offer advice and support to applicants and the whole process, from receipt of application to decision, will take no longer than six weeks.

Contact: 08458 508 508 or visit www.sportengland.org for more details.

TVHC Grant Scheme

This is a general grant scheme that all member halls can apply to up to twice a year (1st January – 31st December 2009). 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.

Grant Funding available for Community and Voluntary and Community Groups

- Has your group been working in the community for longer than twelve months?
- Does your group have an average annual turnover of less than £30,000?

You may be eligible for funding from the Grassroots Grants programme which is administered by the County Durham Foundation on behalf of the Office of the Third Sector. If you are interested in applying for a grant for either capital or revenue costs you can do so by contacting Brenda Dye, Grants Manager or Emma Lunn, Grants Administrator on 0191 3830055 or by email brenda@countydurhamfoundation.co.uk or emma@countydurhamfoundation.co.uk

You can also visit the website www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk where you can download or fill in the Expression of Interest form online.

BT Community Connection Awards 2009

The Community Connections Scheme targets community and voluntary groups that could benefit from internet access and ICT but don't necessarily have the resources. The Scheme offers community groups the opportunity to apply for an awards package, valued at £1300, which consists of a multi-media internet-ready computer, a contribution towards one year's broadband internet access through BT Total Broadband, and a Community website.

The Awards also reflect the massive developments in technology and the scheme continually evolves with different programmes to provide community and voluntary groups with not only equipment, but also the skills needed to use ICT to its full potential.

Information on applying to the Awards will be made available on the website when they are launched later this month.

For further information visit: www.btcommunityconnections.com

Key Access Locksmiths

John Upton from Barnard Castle has set up a locksmith and security company Key Access Locksmiths. He will provide a mobile service for residential and business properties throughout Teesdale and beyond. As well as replacing faulty locks or providing emergency break ins John will also offer a mobile key cutting service and security advice. He will also install a range of security and crime prevention devices including safes, dummy CCTV cameras, motion detectors and parking posts. Key Access locksmiths offers a 24 hour seven days a week call out service as well as advance bookings. For more information contact John Upton on 07530 990589 or visit www.keyaccesslocksmiths.co.uk

Organ Available from Toft Hill and Etherley Community Centre

Toft Hill and Etherley Community Centre have an old fashioned organ which is available free of charge (anyone interested will need to collect).

If you would like more details about this please contact Alison Overfield on 01388 833293 or email etherleypc@btinternet.com

Kick About Kids



After School Community Football Coaching

Eggleston Village Hall

Friday Evenings from 3rd April 2009 at 5.00pm
Sign up and info session: 20th March '09 @ 7.00pm
£2 per session per child

Please Contact
Tommy Lowther
Mob: 07739763079
E-Mail: Kickaboutkids@aol.com
Website: www.Kickaboutkids.net



“ RACIST AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR HAS NO PLACE IN FOOTBALL ”
THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Policing by Appointment

"I am writing to share with you an exciting step forward in the delivery of local policing within our area that I hope will bring benefit to the communities we all serve and represent.

From Monday 23rd February 2009, Durham Constabulary is trialling a new concept of policing in the Wear & Tees and Sedgefield areas. The team, staffed by local uniform officered officers from our response teams will undertake what we are calling "**Policing by Appointment**". The concept is to focus simply on providing a more localised element to the communications function, delivering a response through programmed and agreed appointments when convenient to the caller, rather than just turning up some hours after the initial call, when our demand has traditionally allowed.

The force has acknowledged that at times, we are promising the public more than we can deliver. Operational demands, high call volume and external factors have led to dissatisfaction amongst the customers we strive to serve.

The essence of this new and exciting project focuses primarily on offering non-urgent callers the option of being seen by a Police Officer at a time and date that suits them. This is to be done by offering those callers a scheduled appointment known as the "Diary Car" or an immediate referral to a different agency. The aim quiet simply, to alleviate the frustration from not knowing when the officer will turn up.

This new approach will focus on two distinct methods of dealing with incidents. The first approach will be trialled from 23rd February and will be the 'scheduled diary car'. This will be staffed by uniformed core response officers, who will attend at a specific time and date agreed with the caller. The appointment system will run from 9am to late evening, over a seven day period. The aim is to deal specifically with incidents that although require a Police Officers attendance do not require an immediate/priority response.

A second system will be introduced in March which will be staffed by members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. These will be appointments offered to customers to attend a Police Station at a scheduled, agreed time. These appointments will run throughout the week, from a designated easily accessible location. They will be attended on an appointment system run via the communications department at Bishop Auckland, where members of the public are given an hour face to face appointment with an officer to deal solely with their enquiry/issue. These 'Station Appointments' will be held firstly, at Newton Aycliffe Police Office, however the ultimate aim over the forthcoming weeks is to develop the 'station appointments' around various locations within the Wear & Tees and Sedgefield areas.

The success of this in other Forces has been phenomenal; all have seen positive results from staff and public alike. A trial over the last six months in the Darlington area has yielded an increase in public confidence and satisfaction with the level of service, and we have been working since autumn to adapt the project to fit our communities across the South of County Durham where it is a feasible and beneficial process.

This also ties in with the advent last month of **PACT** (Police and Communities Together) meetings which see a new and invigorated approach to engaging with our communities – the chance for the general public to meet with and discuss their communities policing needs with their local neighbourhood officer, or team. The PACT meetings allow every neighbourhood to set priorities which they and the police will work on together to improve the community and life within it. Although only just starting at the beginning of 2009 these represent another new great way of working together to improve the areas of Sedgefield, Teesdale and Wear Valley.

Although this is only a brief overview of this new project, I am sure in time that the success of this will be evident. The main aim for the people within our communities is that we prioritise our calls to reflect the ever changing needs of the communities, attending more incidents quickly as they happen, and by using the time freed up from better resource allocation to be more visible and responsive. This will give a better front line service to the people living and working within our areas.

I urge you to support our initiatives in this area as we respond in transforming our service provision to adapt to the feedback we receive from the public and the new, more involved and customer focused way of working as we strive to improve through 2009. "

Bill Dutton
Chief Inspector
South Durham Command
Durham Constabulary

Invitation to a County Durham Residents Association Event - 'Our Health, Our Future'

Friday 20th March St Catherine's Community Centre, Market Place, Crook, DL15 8NE 9.00am – 4.00pm

- Learn more about how the NHS works locally
- Have your say on how local communities should be involved in improving health locally
- Give your views on how we avoid a postcode lottery
- Find out how to spot the signs and symptoms of cancer
- Share your experience of: local dental services plus much more...
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Places are limited – for more information or to book your place please contact Christine on 01740 650475 or email laddercentre1@btconnect.com

Community Representatives sought to support Ambulance Service improvements

As you may be aware, NHS County Durham (County Durham Primary Care Trust) is investing over £600,000 to improve rural ambulance services in Weardale and Teesdale. The additional funding will be used to recruit additional community paramedics to ensure that more patients who dial 999 are reached sooner.

Representatives from Weardale and Teesdale communities played a vital part in securing this funding, having demonstrated the specific health needs and challenges of rural areas. It is important that local people continue to work with NHS County Durham and the North East Ambulance Service to ensure that the planned changes deliver the service improvements they are intended to.

Two volunteers from each Dale (Weardale and Teesdale) are therefore being sought to become members of a formal Rural Ambulance Service Implementation and Monitoring Group. These individuals will help to develop service standards from the patient perspective, review and challenge performance data and help to develop and cascade information to local communities. A full outline of the community representative's role and responsibilities is enclosed.

You and/or your organisation are invited to consider nominating yourself and/or a member to join this group. Anyone interested is asked to demonstrate how they satisfy the requirements of the role outline by completing an application form (available from Helen at TVHC on 01833 696650); the deadline is Friday 26 March, 2009. The final representatives will be selected according to how best they fit the requirements criteria. Any necessary support and training will be provided by the Patient, Carer and Public Engagement Team. For an informal chat or further information please do not hesitate to contact Jill Simpson on 01388 452248.

Should you and/or your organisation wish to become involved in rural health issues generally, but are not specifically interested in the ambulance service improvements, NHS County Durham would still very much like to hear from you. We are looking to develop a virtual panel of people from both rural and urban areas. To what extent you wish to become involved is up to you; you may like to receive information about local health developments, you may be keen to give your views about a particular health issues or you may wish to contribute more fully by attending meetings and events. Simply tell us how you want to be involved and what aspects of health you are interested in – contact Michelle Jessiman on 01388 452247 or Jill Simpson 01388 452248. **Jill Simpson - Patient, Carer and Public Engagement Development Manager**

Free Swimming in County Durham

From 1 April 2009, if you are aged 18 or under or 60 and over, then you qualify for free swimming in County Durham. All ten public swimming pools in County Durham are included in the scheme which gives you the chance to swim without paying during any public swimming session at any of these pools:

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| • Glenholme Leisure Complex, Crook | Woodhouse Close Leisure Complex, Bishop Auckland |
| • Freeman's Quay, Walkergate, Durham | Teesdale Leisure Centre, Barnard Castle |
| • The Louisa Centre, Stanley | Belle Vue Swim Centre, Consett |
| • Chester le Street Leisure Centre | Peterlee Leisure Centre |
| • Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre | Spennymoor Leisure Centre |

To enjoy your free swimming you must register at your local pool. The registration process differs from pool to pool, so it's important that you contact your local pool to find out their specific requirements. Once you have registered you will be able to swim at any of the pools listed, during public swimming sessions and in accordance with the pool's own admissions policy (these also differ from site to site, so please check). This programme will run for an initial period of 2 years. Specific terms and conditions may also apply at your local pool. Contact individual centres for further details. The contact telephone number for Teesdale Leisure Centre is 01833 696366 or you can visit the website at www.teesdaleleisure.org.uk which has information on the pool opening times.

A night less ordinary on offer in Teesdale

The Highlights Rural Touring Scheme for Cumbria, the North Pennines, County Durham and Northumberland has been announced as one of 200 organisations and theatres to be offering free theatre tickets to young people as part of a new national scheme.

Called A Night Less Ordinary, the free ticket scheme has been developed by Arts Council England, supported by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and is designed to get more young people into theatres across the country. The £2.5 million scheme will provide 618,000 free theatre tickets to anyone under 26 in more than 200 venues across England, between February 2009 and March 2011.

"As part of the national scheme," explained Rosie Cross, Co-Director of Highlights, "we can offer free tickets to anyone under 26 for any of our drama shows from the launch this week through to March 2011."

"Our target is to give away around 750 tickets over two years and we want those free tickets to be just the tip of an iceberg. We want to use the publicity associated with A Night Less Ordinary to encourage young people across our region to think of theatre in a local village hall or venue as something that is an opportunity for them. We already have young promoters groups taking shape in Northumberland and in Penrith and we want to extend this sort of active participation. We also aim to create opportunities for young people to get to know the performers and technicians who are involved in our touring events."

The Highlights Rural Touring programme for the Spring includes several productions that will qualify for the free tickets:

- Little Red ... You Know Who! by the Freehand Theatre Company
- The Shakespeare Ladies Club by Alison Neil
- The Devil's Doctor by the Shifting Sands Theatre company
- The Lost Forest and Alice and the White Rabbit by Indigo Moon Theatre
- Akseli Klunk, a physical theatre and puppet company from Finland
- Fur Coat and Magic Knickers by the Misfits Theatre Company

"Some of these are family productions aimed at younger children and their parents," said Rosie, "but many of them are aimed at a much wider age group and would offer an exciting evening out for young adults wanting to try something different without spending a lot - hence A Night Less Ordinary. The other advantage of rural touring shows is that they can be on your doorstep with no transport issues - for instance, The Devil's Doctor is on in Hamsterley and Kirkoswald in March, Akseli Klunk at Whorlton and Hamsterley in April and Fur Coat and Magic Knickers in Armathwaite and Ireshopeburn in May."

The national programme is being promoted in the free Metro newspapers in major cities, on MSN Messenger, via Blyk Dialogue on mobile 'phones and through Facebook and Bebo social networking sites.

"Even with all this publicity, we also need our regular audiences to help us to spread the word," said Rosie Cross, "and encourage young people - from 3 to 26 - to take advantage of what's on offer where they live."

A brochure with full details of the Highlights Rural Touring programme, including all the productions that qualify for free tickets, is available from libraries, Tourist Information Centres and local promoters across the area or from the Highlights offices in King's Head Court in Appleby. There are also additional Cumbria-Wide publicity materials supported by Youth Support Services. Details can also be found on the Highlights website at www.highlightsnorth.co.uk and at www.anightlessordinary.org.uk

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