

*Charity Number 1116933 Registered Company Number 5980201*

**The Newsletter of the Teesdale Village Halls Consortium**

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

**Teesdale Village Halls Consortium AGM**

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July  
 7.00pm  
 Stainton Village Hall**

Agendas and minutes will be sent out nearer the time

**Newsletter Contact  
 Helen Thistlethwaite**

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Visit our website at

[www.teesdalehalls.co.uk](http://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!**

Don't forget to use the easyfundraising website when planning your holidays to raise money for the cause you choose to nominate. TVHC and many of our member halls are registered with the scheme so you can help to support them whilst you shop online. Some examples of the current donations: Expedia 1.75%, Thomson £7.50, lastminute.com 2%, Travelodge 2%, Butlins 2.5%, Churchill travel insurance £9.00, Post Office travel insurance £4.00. For more details and to register if you haven't already done so please visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

**Farewell to Langleydale School Community Centre**



The Consortium would like to express our sincere thanks to the management committee of Langleydale School Community Centre which has recently closed. The centre was a school until the late 1970's when it was taken over by the committee and reopened as a community centre which regularly held dances and was the base for Barnard Castle Young Farmers.

The centre has closed as the current committee, many of whom have been involved since the start of the community centre, felt it was time to stand down and unfortunately despite a public meeting earlier this year a new committee could not be formed.

We would like to thank the committee for their support of the Consortium over the years and wish them all the best for the future.

**Future Teesdale Village Halls Consortium Training Opportunities**

In April the Consortium was successful in gaining funding through the Neighbourhood Learning for Deprived Communities Fund (NLDC) to run four training courses: Award in Food Safety, Award in Health and Safety, Moving and Handling Principles and Emergency First Aid for Appointed Persons. These courses are running over the next few weeks and we have had a great response to the publicity for them with the courses getting filled up quickly.

We are planning to apply for more funding to run further courses in the autumn; the proposed courses are:

- Award in Food Safety in Catering
- Award in Health and Safety
- Emergency First Aid for Appointed Persons
- Early Years First Aid (for those working with children)
- Fire Marshal
- Risk Assessment
- Moving and Handling Principles

If you would like to register your interest and be placed on a waiting list for any of the above courses please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk) with your name, telephone number, address and the course(s) you are interested in.

### Area Action Partnership Launch Event – Summary

The official launch meeting of the Teesdale Area Action Partnership (AAP) was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. 127 people attended the launch and due to demand a second event was held on 30<sup>th</sup> April which was attended by a further 11 people. One of the main aims of the first meeting was to choose the name for the AAP and in a vote on the night Teesdale Action Partnership came out as the final choice. Another aim for the meeting was to develop five priority themes for the AAP to focus on over the coming year. There were many issues discussed on the night including tourism, crime and safety, recycling and the economy.

From the discussions and a voting process the following priority themes were developed:

1. Support for older people (53 votes)
2. Public transport and accessibility (52 votes)
3. Clean streets and environment (41 votes)
4. = Job prospects and training (28 votes), = Support for the community and voluntary sector (28 votes), = Access to Broadband (28 votes)
7. Play facilities and leisure (22 votes)
8. Affordable decent housing (18 votes)
9. Activities for young people (16 votes)
10. Working with the travelling communities (15 votes)

With regards to the AAP board, over 50 expressions of interest to become a public representative on the Board have been received to date (the board is made up of seven public representatives, seven elected members and seven representatives from partner organisations).

**Next Steps** – the next step will be for a panel to select members for the AAP's board. The panel to select members for the Public representatives on the board will be made up of elected vice chairs from both the public sector partners and elected councillors, alongside a representative from the local Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) organisation and the AAP coordinator (an employee of Durham County Council). The selection process will happen between now and the end of June. The first meeting of the Teesdale Action Partnership board will take place mid June (date and venue to be confirmed).

For more information about the Teesdale Action Partnership please contact Andy Coulthard on 01388 816166 or email [andy.coulthard@durham.gov.uk](mailto:andy.coulthard@durham.gov.uk)

### Charity Commission Threshold Changes: Accounting and Reporting

In September last year the Government agreed to make a number of changes to the financial thresholds in the Charities Acts following a public consultation. These changes will, as planned, take effect from 1 April 2009. The changes to accounting and reporting thresholds are:

- the threshold for requiring accounts to be externally examined is raised from £10,000 to £25,000,
- the threshold for the preparation by non-company charities of accruals accounts is raised from £100,000 to £250,000
- the assets element of the audit threshold is raised from £2.8 million to £3.26 million and the lower income trigger for this is raised from £100,000 to £250,000, and
- the threshold for registered charities to submit their annual accounts and Trustees Annual Reports to the Commission is raised from £10,000 to £25,000

The revised thresholds will apply to financial years ending on or after 1 April 2009. For further information about these changes visit the Charity Commission website [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) or telephone 0845 300 0218

### Advance Notice - Teesdale Learning Provider Forum Open Days

The Teesdale Learning Provider Forum which comprises Teesdale Village Halls Consortium, Teesdale Training, Education in the Community, LEAP and Extended Services are going to be organising a series of open days in September to promote learning opportunities in Teesdale. These follow the hugely successful events which took place in March and attracted over 150 people. The planned dates and venues of the open days are:

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 4.00 – 7.00pm  
**Enterprise House, Barnard Castle**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 4.00 – 7.00pm  
**Randolph Centre, Evenwood**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 4.00 – 7.00pm  
**UTASS, Middleton in Teesdale**

More details will be available in the local press nearer the time.

### TVHC Grant Scheme

This is a general grant scheme that all member halls can apply to up to twice a year (1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk) Grant applications are considered at TVHC's directors meetings normally on the third Wednesday of each month.

### Looking for Local Crafters

County Durham Craft Fairs are looking for local crafters from Teesdale and the surrounding area to complement their current exhibitors to run a series of summer fairs in some of Teesdale's village halls. Their regular fairs include jewellery, cards and paper crafts, photography, art, woodwork, patchwork quilts, needlework, skincare and dolls houses. They also include a 'make and take' for children called Krafty Kids where children can make something for £1.00 whilst their parents/guardians browse the stalls. All stalls will cost £15.00 for the Teesdale Village Hall Summer Fairs. If you are interested and would like to check stall availability please contact one of the numbers below:

- Joy 07762 120495, Michelle 07854 850841 or Norma 07786 374255 or email [bookings@countydurhamcraftfairs.co.uk](mailto:bookings@countydurhamcraftfairs.co.uk)

Please visit their website [www.countydurhamcraftfairs.co.uk](http://www.countydurhamcraftfairs.co.uk) for the latest updates and planned dates of the craft fairs in Teesdale.

### Free Play Work Seminar

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00am – 2.00pm,  
Randolph Centre, Evenwood, DL14 9RE

'Everything you ever wanted to know about Play Work but were afraid to ask!'

Are you:

- A parent
- A volunteer
- A community leader / worker
- Interested in training to become a Play Worker
- Already working with children and young people, but would like to improve your skills

.... then this seminar will offer lots of practical ideas on how to provide valuable and enriching play experiences for children, along with advice for those who wish to know more about Play Work as a rewarding career.

Included in the day:

- A presentation by expert speakers
- A range of practical Play Work activities and ideas
- Information on training and employment opportunities
- Buffet Lunch

This event is FREE. Please ring Susan Duggan on 01388 528955 to reserve your place.

### Young People CASH Clinic

(Sexual Health Clinic) YMCA Barnard Castle  
Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month  
4.30 pm — 6.00 pm

Offering the following services:

Someone to talk to, Contraceptive pill, Emergency contraception, Chlamydia Screening, Pregnancy testing, C Card, Implants.  
Free confidential information and advice.

For more details contact: YMCA Barnard Castle,  
46 Galgate, Barnard Castle, DL12 8BH  
Telephone 01833 695780 or visit  
[www.barnardcastleymca.org.uk](http://www.barnardcastleymca.org.uk)

### Teesdale Business Awards 2009

Lots of businesses in Teesdale are bucking the trend and achieving real success in a difficult economic climate and to celebrate the Enterprise Agency for Wear Valley and Teesdale have launched the Bucking the Trend Business Awards 2009. To enter you need to be a business in Teesdale and entry forms need to be returned to the Enterprise Agency by 5pm on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June. You can download the awards entry form from [www.theenterpriseagency.co.uk](http://www.theenterpriseagency.co.uk) or call Janet Seaman on 01833 696600.

### CALOR Village of the Year 2009

The CALOR Village of the Year competition provides a great opportunity for County Durham's rural communities to put their village through its paces. This is a search for the most vibrant, enterprising and sustainable communities but, as with all competitions, it's the taking part that counts. All entrants reap real benefits from working together as a village, engendering a genuine sense of community spirit. This is a chance to road test your village - to find out new opportunities for improvement, and to keep your community going from strength to strength. Tanfield Lea and Whorlton led the way in 2008. This year it could be your village.

If you would like a copy of the guidelines and the entry form please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk)

**Free Built to Achieve Workshops** a programme of free workshops specifically aimed at social enterprises, voluntary and community groups, charities, co-operatives and community interest companies in the North East. Each interactive 3-hour workshop will provide practical, informal training in small groups to encourage knowledge and idea sharing. To book a place contact Leanne Elliott on 0191 281 5777 or email [leanne@btob.co.uk](mailto:leanne@btob.co.uk) or for more information on workshop content and trainer profiles visit [www.builttoachieve.co.uk](http://www.builttoachieve.co.uk)

Date	Key Area	Session Title	Trainer	Venue
08/06/09	Business Planning	First Steps – Starting a Social Enterprise	RED	Middlesbrough Teaching and Learning Centre
09/06/09	Business Planning	Effective Business Planning	SES	Middlesbrough Teaching and Learning Centre
12/06/09	Financial Mgmt	Budgeting, Forecasting and Cash Flow	TLT	Northumberland (venue tbc)
15/06/09	Financial Mgmt	Managing Costs	TLT	Northumberland (venue tbc)
16/06/09	Governance	Building a Winning Team	TLT	The Glebe Centre, Seaham
18/06/09	Sales/Marketing/Promotion	Market Research	Alpha	The National Glass Centre, Sunderland
19/06/09	Sales/Marketing/Promotion	Developing & Using a Marketing Plan	Alpha	The National Glass Centre, Sunderland
24/06/09	Governance	Organisation Management	TLT	The Glebe Centre, Seaham
29/06/09	Performance and Quality Mgmt	Product and Service Development	SES	The Education Centre, Stockton
30/06/09	Performance and Quality Mgmt	Social Return on Investment (SROI)	SES	The Education Centre, Stockton
08/09/09	Human Resources/Volunteer Mgmt	Leadership and People Management	RED	Northumberland (venue tbc)
09/09/09	Human Resources/Volunteer Mgmt	Working with your Team (Staff and Volunteers)	RED	Northumberland (venue tbc)
14/09/09	Commissioning/Winning Contracts	Competing for Public Sector Contracts	Biz Vision	Tyne & Wear (venue tbc)
15/09/09	Commissioning/Winning Contracts	Successful Bid Writing	SES	Tyne & Wear (venue tbc)
21/09/09	Business Planning	First Steps – Starting a Social Enterprise	RED	Durham area (venue tbc)
22/09/09	Business Planning	Effective Business Planning	SES	Durham area (venue tbc)
25/09/09	Financial Mgmt	Budgeting, Forecasting & Cash Flow	TLT	Tees Valley (venue tbc)
28/09/09	Financial Mgmt	Managing Costs	TLT	Tees Valley (venue tbc)
01/10/09	Sales/Marketing/Promotion	Market Research	Alpha	Northumberland (venue tbc)
02/10/09	Sales/Marketing/Promotion	Developing & Using a Marketing Plan	Alpha	Northumberland (venue tbc)
07/10/09	Governance	Organisation Management	TLT	Tyne & Wear (venue tbc)
08/10/09	Governance	Building a Winning Team	TLT	Tyne & Wear (venue tbc)
13/10/09	Performance and Quality Mgmt	Product and Service Development	SES	Durham area (venue tbc)
14/10/09	Performance and Quality Mgmt	Social Return on Investment (SROI)	SES	Durham area (venue tbc)
19/10/09	Human Resources/Volunteer Mgmt	Leadership and People Management	RED	Tees Valley (venue tbc)
20/10/09	Human Resources/Volunteer Mgmt	Working with your Team (Staff and Volunteers)	RED	Tees Valley (venue tbc)
22/10/09	Commissioning/Winning Contracts	Competing for Public Sector Contracts	Biz Vision	Northumberland (venue tbc)
23/10/09	Commissioning/Winning Contracts	Successful Bid Writing	SES	Northumberland (venue tbc)
03/11/09	Business Planning	First Steps – Starting a Social Enterprise	RED	Tyne & Wear (venue tbc)
04/11/09	Business Planning	Effective Business Planning	SES	Tyne & Wear (venue tbc)
09/11/09	Financial Mgmt	Budgeting, Forecasting & Cash Flow	TLT	Durham area (venue tbc)
10/11/09	Financial Mgmt	Managing Costs	TLT	Durham area (venue tbc)
13/11/09	Sales/Marketing/Promotion	Market Research	Alpha	Tees Valley (venue tbc)
16/11/09	Sales/Marketing/Promotion	Developing & Using a Marketing Plan	Alpha	Tees Valley (venue tbc)
19/11/09	Governance	Organisation Management	TLT	Northumberland (venue tbc)
20/11/09	Governance	Building a Winning Team	TLT	Northumberland (venue tbc)
19/01/10	Performance and Quality Mgmt	Product and Service Development	SES	Tyne & Wear (venue tbc)
20/01/10	Performance and Quality Mgmt	Social Return on Investment (SROI)	SES	Tyne & Wear (venue tbc)
27/01/10	Human Resources/Volunteer Mgmt	Leadership and People Management	RED	Durham area (venue tbc)
28/01/10	Human Resources/Volunteer Mgmt	Working with your Team (Staff and Volunteers)	RED	Durham area (venue tbc)
02/02/10	Commissioning/Winning Contracts	Competing for Public Sector Contracts	Biz Vision	Tees Valley (venue tbc)
03/02/10	Commissioning/Winning Contracts	Successful Bid Writing	SES	Tees Valley (venue tbc)

### Village Carnival Dates 2009

Saturday 6 June: **Mickleton Carnival** Contact Sue Brown 01833 640854  
 Saturday 13 June: **Eggleston Carnival** Contact Dave Smith 01833 650702  
 Saturday 13 June: **Ingleton Village Fayre** Contact Hazel Whitehead 01325 730250  
 Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 June: **Bowes Carnival** Contact Rosie Cross 01833 628343  
 Friday 19 – Sunday 21 June: **Cotherstone Fun Weekend** Contact Jenny Watson 01833 650668  
 Saturday 11 July: **Staindrop Carnival** Contact Vicky Lowe 01833 660055  
 Saturday 1 August: **Middleton in Teesdale Carnival** Contact Shaun Andrews 01833 641069  
 Saturday 15 August: **Romaldkirk Fair** Contact Harry Dick 01833 650224  
 Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 August: **Hamsterley Hoppings** Contact Sue 01388 488368



### BT Community Connections Award – deadline for applications approaching

Community and charitable organisations, working in any field of community benefit, located throughout the UK who have not received an award from BT Community Connections before can apply for a laptop and a year's free broadband connection.

Each Award package consists:

- A multi-media internet-ready laptop
- One year's free broadband internet access
- Access to a free community website building tool [www.communitykit.co.uk](http://www.communitykit.co.uk)
- Access to the Recipero support centre to help you build your website
- Ability to request a visit from a BT Volunteer
- Access to free PR and other online resources
- Access to the BT Community portal which will allow you to create your own online profile
- Access to BT Community Space to enable you to network with other community groups who have received a BTCC Award

Postal applications must be received by 9 June and online applications must be submitted by 11 June. Winners will be announced week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> August. For more information and to download the application form visit [www.btcommunityconnections.com](http://www.btcommunityconnections.com) or telephone 0845 257 6792

### Police and Communities Together (PACT Meetings)

PACT meetings stand for Police and Communities Together and have been designed to identify and address community needs. Residents can raise matters which are clearly having effect on their neighbourhood. Such issues will be discussed at the PACT meetings and if appropriate formulated as a local priority. Priorities will be very time, location or incident specific and of a low level e.g. parking problems, occurrence of anti social behaviour, graffiti. During the four week period the police, and if required other agencies will focus on the problem and report back at the next meeting. The concept of these meetings is in line with the new South Durham policing Pledge which is aimed at local police, partners and the community working together to tackle issues of concern. Where possible they will look to include residents in the actual solutions.

There are four PACT areas in Teesdale:

- **The Dales:** covers Middleton in Teesdale, Eggleston, Mickleton, Romaldkirk, Cotherstone, Lartington and The Upper Dales area.
- **South Teesdale:** covers Barningham, Greta Bridge, Bowes, Ovington, Boldron, Hutton Magna Whorlton, Westwick and the A66 area.
- **Barnard Castle town:** covers the town, Stainton Grove and Startforth.
- **Gaunless Valley and East Teesdale:** covers Cockfield, Staindrop, Gainford, Woodland, Copley, Winston, Butterknowle and areas in East Teesdale.

The dates and venues of the PACT meetings are advertised on the Teesdale Village Halls Consortium website. Forthcoming dates are:

Dales Meeting: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 7.00pm Middleton in Teesdale  
 South Teesdale: Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm Ovington Village Hall  
 Dales Meeting: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 7.00pm Eggleston Village Hall  
 South Teesdale Meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 7.00pm Bowes Village Hall

For more information contact Officer PCSO 6636 Liz Finn on 0345 6060365

### vinspired.com

V is an independent charity aiming to inspire a new generation of volunteers (aged 16 – 25) in England. They do this by funding voluntary organisations all over England to create inspiring, diverse opportunities and by helping to overcome barriers that stop people from taking action to improve lives, communities and the planet. Their aim is to create a culture where volunteering comes naturally and where the benefits of volunteering are understood and celebrated. It is possible to search for volunteering opportunities by postcode on the website; some current local opportunities in Teesdale for young people include shop assistant for Oxfam, support worker for performance functions at the Witham Hall in Barnard Castle, theatre assistants for the Castle Players and a fundraiser for the 1<sup>st</sup> Barnard Castle Scout Group. For more information visit [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)

### Age Concern Durham County – Mobile Information and Advice Service

Age Concern County Durham makes their information and advice sessions available in Teesdale through a mobile service. The service runs sessions providing people over 50 with advice and information on most issues which affect their lives. Referrals are also taken for detailed benefits checks and applications.

The sessions run in Teesdale as follows:

- Second Tuesday of the month **Butterknowle Village Hall**  
10.30am -12.00noon (with Teesdale Community Officers)
- Third Wednesday of the month **Witham Hall, Barnard Castle**  
9.30am – 11.30am
- Fourth Wednesday of the month **Randolph Centre, Evenwood**  
10.30am – 12.00noon (with Teesdale Community Officers)
- Second Thursday of the month **UTASS, 9 -11 Church Row. Middleton in Teesdale**  
10.00am – 12.00noon

For more information please contact Eleanor Lister on 01388 720064 or email [eleanor.lister@ageconcern-durham.org.uk](mailto:eleanor.lister@ageconcern-durham.org.uk)

### Visit County Durham – Durham Deals

The official tourism website for County Durham features a number of special offers called Durham Deals to help you enjoy more of Durham. Amongst the offers are 2 for 1 entry at the Bowes Museum, Diggerland, Kilhope Lead Mining Museum and the Durham University Botanic Garden. For more information and to access the special offer vouchers please visit [www.visitcountydurham.com/site/durham-deals](http://www.visitcountydurham.com/site/durham-deals)

### Advance Notice – National Minimum Wage increase from October 2009

The Government have announced that the UK National Minimum Wage will rise by 7p to £5.80 per hour from October 2009 for adult workers. In addition, the rate for 18 – 21 year olds will increase by 6p an hour to £4.83 and for 16 and 17 year olds by 4p an hour to £3.57.

### 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](mailto: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.

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