

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.

Funding Central

This is a new website to be run by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) for the Cabinet Office, bringing together information on over 4,000 grants, contract or loan funds. The website will also provide access to tools and resources supporting third sector organisations to develop sustainable funding strategies. Visit www.fundingcentral.org.uk

Newsletter Contact Helen Thistlethwaite

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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.

Important Changes for Management Committees of Community Buildings – Licensing

A press release was recently issued by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE):

“ACRE and the Rural Action Community Network welcomes the changes to the Licensing Act 2003 announced by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport that will take effect from today (29th July 2009). The Legislative Reform (Supervision of Alcohol Sales in Church and Village Halls) Order 2009 will allow volunteer committees managing community buildings to take joint responsibility for the sale of alcohol in their buildings instead of being required to appoint an individual as the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS). Small communities whether rural or urban have found it very difficult to recruit and fund a volunteer DPS who was willing to take on the responsibility and required training. Management committees will need to ensure that the sale of alcohol is included in their Premises Licence and be able to demonstrate clearly to their local licensing authority how they operate and that there will be appropriate supervision of alcohol sales at different types of events.”

If your hall does currently not have the sale of alcohol included in your licence and you would like to review this in light of the above changes please contact Durham County Council's licensing department at Teesdale House, Barnard Castle on 01833 690000. There will be some fees to pay to amend your current licence.

Printer Available

The Highlights Rural Touring Scheme have kindly notified us that they have a printer/photocopier available that they no longer require due to an upgrade to a colour one. It is a Minolta Di200 black & white A3 and A4 with full service history and is in excellent working condition.



The printer is available for a small fee and would need to be collected from the Highlights office in Appleby, Cumbria.

If you are interested and would like to find out more please contact Helen Swaby at Highlights on 01768 353954 or email helen@highlightsnorth.co.uk

TVHC welcome two new halls

The Consortium welcomed two new member halls at their AGM in July – West Auckland Memorial Hall and the Lipscomb Hall in Cockfield. With the recent closures of Langleydale School Community Centre and Cockfield Community Centre the Consortium's membership remains at 33 halls.

We look forward to working with our new halls and details of them will appear soon on our website at www.teesdalehalls.co.uk where information about all our member halls as well as the services offered by Teesdale Village Halls Consortium can be found.

Sports Classes Available to Halls

There is funding available to run physical activities in your hall which will cover the hall hire and tutor costs. The funding will cover sports or physical activity sessions for all ages, for example football, cricket, basketball, adult exercise and aerobics classes, walks, and new age kurling. Other activities that contain an element of sport or physical activity can also be considered. There is no minimum number of participants required for the sessions and participants will have to pay a charge; the amount will depend on the particular activity.

If your hall is interested and you would like to find out more please contact George Richardson, Community Sports Network Officer for Active Teesdale on 01833 696346 or email george.richardson2@durham.gov.uk

Live in Teesdale?

Want to know about the benefits and opportunities volunteering can bring you?

Rachel Brayfield, Development Support Worker at 2D, the Council for Voluntary Services for Wear Valley and Teesdale, will be at the UTASS office in Middleton in Teesdale from 10.00am – 12.00noon and the Witham Hall in Barnard Castle from 1.00 – 3.00pm on the following dates:

- Thursday 3rd September
- Thursday 15th October
- Thursday 12th November
- Thursday 10th December

For more information please contact 2D on 01388 762220 or email enquiries@2d.org.uk

Participatory Budgeting Event

Durham Rural Community Council would like to invite you to attend an event taking place at County Hall Durham on the 3rd September at 10.00am. The aim of the event is to give you an insight into the relatively new concept of Participatory Budgeting (PB) and to find out how you can make it work for your community.

During the morning there will be presentations from the national Participatory Budgeting Unit who will explain the development of PB, its features and benefits. There will also be a representative from Newcastle City Council explaining how they have been able to make PB work for them and their communities and finally, Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement will give us his perspective on how he sees PB developing for the benefit of communities in County Durham.

Participatory Budgeting is the process by which local people have a say in how money is spent in their area. It generally involves the budgets of public sector organisations such as the local authority, health authority or police. Community groups are given the opportunity to 'pitch' for a share of a limited pot of money to deliver a worthwhile project in their area and then local people are given the authority to decide whether or not they are supported. It is a competitive process but relatively simple and one of the best aspects of the process is that the decision is immediate.

If you would like to find out more contact Lesley Millgate at Durham Rural Community Council on 01207 529621 to reserve a place or email lesley.millgate@durhamrcc.org.uk

Free Property Advice for Charities and Voluntary Organisations

RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is proud to be able to make available Charity Property Help, a pro bono service designed to assist charities and voluntary organisations, by providing free support and guidance on all property matters in the UK. Many charities and voluntary organisations, from village halls to multinationals need advice on property matters. Charity Property Help is designed to ensure that these organisations are able to manage their property assets more effectively. Launched in partnership with The Return Foundation, NCVO and CFDG; Charity Property Help will provide registered charities and voluntary organisations a **one hour consultation** with an RICS regulated member firm **free of charge**. Here's just some of the areas RICS regulated member firms can offer advice and information on: property maintenance, environmental issues, lease, renewals and tenancies, and planning issues.

For more information visit www.charitypropertyhelp.com or telephone 0870 333 1600

HOT TIP! If your village hall car park is used by people other than those using the village hall, consider putting an honesty box into the car park for people to leave donations for their parking towards your village hall funds.

Flexible Families Programme

The North East Enterprise Agencies are currently delivering a programme called Flexible Families which has been funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and is supported by One North East. It is a new type of support aimed at parents/carers of young children and parents-to-be who would like to explore opportunities for self-employment but have never before considered it as a viable option. The support offered will help them to understand any potential barriers they may face to becoming self-employed, and how they might overcome them. Obstacles might include the need to develop key skills, increase personal confidence or help in developing trading opportunities. However, in essence, the objective of this project is personal development. The parent or carer may have an existing hobby or skill or just some free time, which encouragement and support could transform into a business idea. Their role will include working on a one-to-one basis with the client, to help identify barriers, skills needs, and potential opportunities. The programme offers completely flexible support, so that the client can work around existing commitments, ultimately helping them to get over any skills barriers with as little effort as possible (e.g. literacy, numeracy, IT, confidence building). With their support, the client can begin to explore the prospect of earning extra money, whilst working around family or other responsibilities. If anyone is interested in the programme and would like to find out more please telephone Brenda on 01388 776688

Teesdale Learning Provider Forum Open Events in September

Following their hugely successful open events in March, the Teesdale Learning Provider Forum is holding three more events across the Dale in September.

Local organisations have come together to form the Teesdale Learning Provider Forum with the aim of planning and delivering adult learning in Teesdale. The Forum is made up of representatives from Teesdale Training (part of Bishop Auckland College), UTASS, LEAP, Extended Services, Teesdale Village Halls Consortium, Education in the Community and MIND. The aim of the group is to jointly promote learning opportunities. The whole idea is to work together to plan learning provision and pool resources in order to provide a range of learning opportunities to meet the needs of the local community.

Many of the courses advertised will commence in September and October; however courses will run throughout the year and suggestions and ideas for future courses are welcomed from members of the Teesdale community.

The Teesdale Learning Provider Forum are holding three events as follows:

- **Wednesday 2nd September** 4.00 – 7.00pm Enterprise House, Harmire Enterprise Park, Barnard Castle, DL12 8XT
- **Thursday 3rd September** 4.00 – 7.00pm Randolph Centre, Stones End, Evenwood, DL14 9RE
- **Thursday 10th September** 4.00 – 7.00pm UTASS, 9 – 11 Chapel Row, Middleton in Teesdale, DL12 0SN

Information and taster sessions will be available at these events. If you have any enquiries please contact Elaine Laurie, Chair of the Learning Provider Forum on 01833 696616 or by email elaine.laurie@bacoll.ac.uk

Durham County Council Advice Roadshows

Durham County Council community customer services officers are joining forces with Sure Start colleagues to offer advice sessions for young parents. Information on benefits and energy saving as well as health visitor, community police and fire service advice will be on offer.

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Evenwood – Randolph Centre	Tuesday 22 September	9.30am – 11.30am
Barnard Castle – Scout Hut	Wednesday 23 September	1.00pm – 2.45pm
Toft Hill – Community Centre	Tuesday 29 September	9.30am – 11.30am
Stainton Grove – Community Centre	Wednesday 30 September	9.30am – 11.30am

Changes to Emergency Care for Adults and Children at Bishop Auckland General Hospital

Changes are planned to accident and emergency (A&E) and children's services at Bishop Auckland General Hospital. This is in line with Bishop Auckland's future role as a centre for planned care, with a 24 hour urgent care centre.

From 1 July until 1 October 2009:

- The urgent care service at Bishop Auckland Hospital will provide treatment 24 hours a day for minor illnesses and injuries
- Bishop Auckland General Hospital A&E will be available between 8.00am and 12.00 midnight only
- Emergency care for seriously ill children will be centralised at Darlington Memorial and University Hospital of North Durham for the whole of County Durham

From 1 October, A&E for all seriously ill patients will be at Darlington and Durham. The urgent care centre will continue to offer care to all other patients 24 hours a day.

This means that from 1 July:

- Adults who may be seriously ill should not be taken to Bishop Auckland General Hospital between midnight and 8.00am
- Children who may be seriously ill should not be taken to Bishop Auckland General Hospital for treatment at any time

Instead call 999 or take them to A&E at Darlington Memorial Hospital, University Hospital of North Durham or your other nearest A&E department.

Information taken from a leaflet published by County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services, NHS County Durham, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

NHS Health Trainer Service

"My name is Steve, I work as a Health Trainer based at Willington Health Centre. The role of the Health Trainer is to provide a friendly, accessible service for local people to enable them to live a healthier lifestyle. They can assist local residents with advice and support, and can signpost to specialist services if required. They will provide the tools to build confidence and encourage a client's to reach their personal goals around healthy lifestyles, eating, smoking cessation and increasing physical activity.

For some people Health Trainers can be the first step to improving their health. Health Trainers, such as myself, are drawn from local communities and trained to reach those who want to adopt healthier lifestyles, but who have not been able to engage with traditional services. Behaviours are a major cause of ill-health and premature death. By setting personal goals and learning strategies to achieve these targets, people can develop a greater sense of control and improve both their health and well-being.

Health Trainers meet with individuals to:-

- Boost clients' motivation to change;
- Teach skills to take control of their health and related behaviours;
- Help clients to focus on their achievements;
- Build confidence to support the changes that they want to make;
- Discuss how the client wants to improve their health;
- Provide information to help decide the most appropriate course of action;
- Help set personal goals that are unique to the individual's need;
- Help set an action plan to achieve personal goals.

Health Trainers have regular contact with their clients to review progress and provide ongoing support. The service aims to target people who are not sure about what they can do to improve their health or where to start, or lack the confidence to be referred directly to an existing service. Health Trainers can accompany clients to services if needed. My contact number is 01388 742579 or 0191 5692841'

North East Voluntary and Community Sector Awards 2009

The search is on again to shine the light on the sector's stars, its nomination time for the North East Voluntary and Community Sector Awards 2009. Anyone can make a nomination, including for themselves or their own project. This year's winners will be presented with their awards at a glittering ceremony with three course evening meal in September. The awards are organised by VONNE to celebrate the great work being done by volunteers and charities across the region. The categories for this year are: Most Exciting Project, Most Inspiring Campaign, Volunteer of the Year, Outstanding Organisation, Outstanding Leadership and Young Leader. For more information visit <http://www.vonne.org.uk/awards> or telephone 0191 233 2000

Finding and Keeping Your Trustees

According to the Charity Commission latest newsletter effective trustee boards are more important now than ever; but they know that many charities struggle with recruiting and integrating new trustees. Charity Trustee Networks (CTN) has launched two initiatives to help:

Trusteefinder

This is an online bank of 6,000 trustee vacancies which can be searched to find vacancies anywhere in the UK. Charities and trustees can register for free on the website and post their own trustee vacancies which can then be searched by anyone looking for a trustee role themselves. To post a new vacancy go to www.trusteefinder.org.uk Other sites which offer volunteering services include REACH www.reach-online.org.uk and the national volunteering database www.do-it.org.uk

Developing Codes of Conduct

Virtually all boards encounter issues such as conflicts of interest, uncertainty about responsibilities or difficult one to one relationships. The commitment by a board to a code of conduct, however informal, can help to prevent these types of problems or tackle them effectively when they occur. CTN has produced *Codes of Conduct for Trustees*, a free to download practical resource to help trustees work well together, avoid problems on the board and provide tools to address them should they arise – without things getting personal. Codes of Conduct for Trustees includes sample codes of conduct, useful tools, signposting to other resources and case studies showing how other charities have used codes of conduct. It is available to download from www.trusteenet.org.uk/resources/codes-conduct-trustees-ctn-booklet

Free Toolkit to help Community Organisations

Hi there,

I'm writing to let you know about a new **free** resource to help your village hall. The project I work on has created the Brighter Futures Together toolkit for the North East region. Basically, it's got lots of simple factsheets about how to help your community become stronger and more sustainable. That means sustainability in its broadest sense, not just the green bits!

It can give you ideas about activities you might like to try in the community, such as health projects, transport, starting a community shop or supporting fair trade. The choice is yours! There's also advice sheets that could cut your costs (such as energy-saving) as well as more general ones on fundraising and communication.

The toolkit is primarily web-based, at www.brighterfuturestogether.co.uk, but there are also hardcopies available for distribution where required. I am conscious that for some of you, internet access can be problematic.

Therefore, **if you would like a folder sent to you**, please let Helen know, or contact me directly. If you have web access, do have a look around the website and get stuck in!

Finally, we're hoping to share examples of good work that community groups are doing across the region. If you have a sustainability project that you would like to inform others about, do let us know, either via the website or directly. I hope you find the toolkit useful, and do tell other people about it too!

Yours faithfully,



Ben Jewell
SCNEI Development Worker

Making Your Mobile Ex-Directory

From the middle of July all UK mobile phones will be on a directory which means that anyone will be able to access your number for the payment of a fee. It will cost £1.00 and use databases of numbers it claims are freely available for purchase and in the public domain. Anyone searching for a number can type the name and location of the person into the 118800 website. It claims to have some 15 million numbers in its database. If the company has the number you want, your contact details will be sent to them in a text message. With the phone version of the directory you call the number and again they will check whether they have the person's details on their database. If they do, they will call them up while you are still on the line and ask them whether they are prepared to have your call put through to them. In neither case is the mobile phone number given over to the person making the request. Both services cost £1.00.

If you do not wish to be on this list you must 'opt-out.' To remove your number from this directory database go to the webpage www.118800.co.uk and then select 'Ex-Directory.' You need your mobile phone with you as you will immediately be sent a text with a code you must then re-input to become ex-directory

Thank you to the Blue Gentian for this information

Crockery and Cutlery Available

There are 50 place settings of Woods Iris cups, saucers, tea plates and dinner plates plus some spares; and cutlery - knives, forks and dessert spoons available from Ingleton Village Hall. The crockery and cutlery is in good condition and donations will be accepted. For more information please contact Hazel Whitehead 01325 730250

Recycle 1000 Used Mobile Phones for the Third World

This is advance notice of a campaign being organised by Barnard Castle Rotary Club to encourage people to recycle their old mobile phones, reduce waste and raise funds for the Third World. The campaign will involve setting up a number of collection points across Teesdale where people can take their old phones to be recycled or refurbished. Publicity materials and collection boxes/labels will be supplied. If you would like to support this campaign by permitting your hall to be one of the collection points please register your interest with Helen at TVHC on 01833 696650 or email helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk The campaign will be starting mid October.

Compass Rose Ceilidh Band

This is a Darlington based band that plays for dancing throughout County Durham, Teesside and North Yorkshire. Their line up includes electric violin, guitars, flute, whistles and percussion, and they can provide a complete evenings entertainment. The caller will talk and walk everyone through each dance with the emphasis on having a good time. They play a variety of great music from around the British Isles and beyond. For availability and cost please contact Terry Wisker on 01325 245692/07807 172328 or email terry.wisker@googlemail.com You can also find out more about the band at www.compassrose-band.co.uk

Learning Concepts Ltd.

"At Learning Concepts Ltd our aim is to make your learning experience as easy and enjoyable as possible. We have a range of stimulating and exciting courses that you can study wherever and whenever you choose. Whether you are studying for career advancement or for personal growth you will always have a friendly welcome and support from an experienced tutor to help you to achieve your true potential. Learning Concepts Ltd is the largest learndirect centre in Sunderland and has an extensive range of on-line, printed and CD based courses covering numeracy, literacy, information technology and business management. Courses are suitable for individuals who want to improve their life skills or career prospects, and also for employers who want to increase the knowledge, skills and capability of their workforce. Many courses are funded, but the 'blended' approach to development offered by Learning Concepts Ltd makes training and development a very cost effective solution." Courses offered by Learning Concepts Ltd. Include Business and Management, IT, Food Hygiene, Maths and English and bespoke courses. For more information please telephone 0191 5660978 or visit www.learningconcepts.co.uk

Is your hall looking to purchase audio or visual equipment?

IDN (Information and Data Networks Supplies Limited) is a company which supplies audio and visual equipment including data projectors, interactive boards, voting systems and plasma screens. If your hall is regularly used for meetings or training sessions or you show films this equipment may be of interest to you and as some of the equipment is portable it could be purchased between a number of halls and used as a shared resource. There is a catalogue available in the office if you would like to find out more, or you can visit their website www.idns.co.uk or contact John Riddell on 07760 751419.

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.

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