

TEESDALE HALLS NEWS

Charity Number 1116933 Registered Company Number 5980201

Newsletter of 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.

TVHC General Meeting

Tuesday 23rd February
7.00pm West Auckland Memorial Hall
Speakers: Land Registry and Durham
County Council Community Buildings
(Please note this meeting has been
rescheduled from 24th February)
Representatives from all our member
halls are welcome to attend.

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.

FREE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS TRAINING SESSION

with Ian Pillar, Village Halls Adviser,
Durham Rural Community Council

Friday 12th March 10.00am – 1.00pm Newsham Village Hall
Newsham, North Yorkshire, DL11 7QZ

The three hour session will cover:

- Licensing Act 2003 – how it affects halls
- PRS Licence
- PPL Licence
- Cinema Clubs
- Gambling Act 2005
 - Fundraising Activities
 - Alcohol as Prizes
 - Children

This session is open to representatives from all TVHC member
halls.

To book places or for more information please contact Helen on
01833 696650 or email helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk

Awards for All Grant Success for Winston Village Hall!

Congratulations to Winston Village Hall who have secured a £10,000 grant from the Big Lottery through their Awards for All England programme which aims to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. The grant will be used towards the overall £25,000 cost of major renovations and improvements to the hall. The plans include upgrading the main hall, making the entrance more welcoming, installing a new kitchen, improving toilet facilities and providing new seating.

Over the past three years the committee have worked tirelessly to make improvements to the hall including re-roofing the building, installing double glazing with the benefit of a grant from the County Durham Community Foundation, and have also improved lighting, installed energy saving measures, painted the exterior of the hall and repaired guttering with the help of grants from sources including Teesdale Village Halls Consortium. The hall itself has contributed around £30,000 towards the improvements from their reserves built up over the years from the proceeds of their 150 Club draw and share of the hugely popular Winston Follies Annual Music Hall profits.

The committee have also reported that since the recommendation from their energy audit carried out by Ewan Boyd of Tees Environmental Consulting of zoning the heating in the hall, their heating bill has been reduced by 30% (2009 compared to 2008). This is a great result in terms of both energy and cost savings and a number of other halls are in the process of implementing energy saving measures identified through their energy audits to make halls more sustainable for the future.



Public Liability Insurance for Small Groups

All groups, however small, should consider taking out Public Liability insurance. These days, fuelled by the TV adverts for lawyers and claims handling companies, there is an ever increasing prevalence to making claims.

For example, if at a meeting of a group, someone spills a cup of tea on the floor, and someone else slips on it and hurts themselves, either the person who spilt the tea, or the group as a whole, could be sued for compensation. Public liability insurance would cover that risk.

I know of a case a few years ago where an elderly lady tripped and broke her hip. The cost of that claim was £23,000 plus legal and other costs. Fortunately the group concerned had public liability insurance which took care of everything.

In the event of someone making a claim, a lawyer acting for that person will bring everyone he thinks may possibly be held liable, into the action, and every one of those people or organisations, even though they may ultimately be held to not be at fault, will need legal representation to act on their behalf. Public liability insurance would provide that.

It is not enough for a group to assume that it is covered by the insurance of say a village hall or community centre. It would have to be able to demonstrate that it is controlled by the management committee of that organisation. If it has its own constitution, or a separate bank account it is unlikely to be able to do so, in which case it would need to take out public liability insurance in its own name if it wanted protection.

I am in discussion with an insurer about the possibility of arranging insurance for small groups which do not own or occupy their own premises, at a premium I hope will be in the £50.00 - £60.00 per year range. Before anything can be finalised I need to be able to give the insurer an idea of the number of groups which would be interested.

Please let me know of any groups interested so that I can take the matter further.

Ian Pillar
Village Halls Adviser, Durham Rural Community Council

Contact Details

Telephone: 01207 529621

Email: ian@durhamrcc.org.uk

Scottish Country Dancing Classes – places still available

Hutton Magna Village Hall, Thursday Evenings 7.30 – 9.00pm Course Fee £18.00 per person

Course Dates: 18th March, 1st April, 22nd April, 6th May, 20th May

Our dance tutor is Fiona Turnbull, well known as a very skilled and competent Scottish country dance teacher. The course will begin with 'easy' ceilidh dances before gradually moving on to some more challenging set dances. It will all be fun and sociable for everyone whether they come with or without a partner.

For more details or to book a place please contact Shan Walker on 01833 627577 or email shanwalker@hotmail.co.uk

Large Wall Clock Available

We have a large white plastic wall clock available free to any member hall who could make use of it, please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk

Grassroots Grants Funding Still Available – Don't Miss Out!

County Durham Community Foundation (formerly County Durham Foundation) have informed us there is still Grassroots Grants funding available for any halls or other community and voluntary groups who haven't accessed it yet. They have £130,000 left of the allocation for 2010-11 and would expect this to be allocated by the end of August. The purpose of this funding is to support small voluntary and community groups/organisations to develop their capacity and provide them with the ability to respond to their community's needs. The grants provided can support capital or revenue purposes; the minimum grant that can be applied for is £250.00, the maximum is £5000.00.

Groups are encouraged to apply **now** if they are looking for running costs as opposed to capital as they cannot allocate any funding after 31 March 2011; eg if they can present an application for running costs at April's panel meeting they will only be able to award eleven months and this will decrease throughout the year so a grant awarded in June could only be for nine months costs. Equally, if an application for capital items is delayed, the fund may be exhausted.

The main eligibility criteria for the fund are:

- Your group should have been working in the community for longer than 12 months
- Your group should have an average annual turnover of less than £30,000

You can download or fill in the Expression of Interest form at

http://www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk/applying_for_a_grant/grassroots-grants2.htm

Alternatively please contact Brenda Dye, Grants Manager or Emma Lunn, Grants Administrator on 0191 383 0055 or email brenda@cdf.org.uk

2D Voluntary & Community Support Presents...

A Night Out of the Ordinary

Theatre Night, Tuesday 9th March, at the Eden Theatre,
Bishop Auckland Town Hall
Refreshments from 6pm Show starts at 7pm

'Not in my name' realistically portrays the aftermath, community impact and personal consequences of a fictional terror attack in a small northern town and ends with an interactive discussion.

If you or your group would like to experience something new & enjoy a night out of the ordinary then contact 2D for your **FREE** tickets on 01388 762220
e-mail: enquiries@2d.org.uk

2D Theatre Night is offered in conjunction with Safe Durham Partnership

Have Your Say Day

On Friday 16th April from 10.00am – 2.30pm 2D will be holding a free information day for voluntary and community groups in Teesdale at Marwood Social Centre.

Brief Overview of the Day:

- 9.45 – 10.00am Registration, coffee and introduction
- Does the Voluntary and Community Sector understand the purpose of the Area Action Partnerships (AAP's)?
- Doing Business with the Public Sector
- From District to County - For Better? For Worse?
- Durham and Darlington Fire Service
- 1.30 – 2.30pm Lunch and Marketplace

Further details will be announced shortly. To express your interest please contact 2D on 01388 762220 or email enquiries@2d.org.uk

Get Fit in 2010 with Teesdale Leisure Services

Teesdale Leisure Services based at Teesdale Sports Centre in Barnard Castle have a selection of new events taking place this year:

Sunday 21st March Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile

Sport Relief is back – and it's coming to Teesdale! Barnard Castle is set to host one of the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Miles and needs local people to show their support by entering now at www.sportrelief.com The 1, 3 and 6 miles set off at 10.00am and 10.30am. Teesdale Sports Development Team say:

"From teeny tots with their mums and dads to super sprinters up against the clock there's something for everyone on the big day – whether you do 1, 3 or 6 miles. Best of all, the money you raise by getting sponsored will be used to transform lives forever."

For more details contact Sports Development on 01833 696366

Sunday 28th March 10.00am – 12.00noon Try a Triathlon!

A brand new opportunity exclusive to Teesdale, the Try a Tri programme is aimed at first timers and for those who fancy a new challenge to get fit and healthy. The programme will be led by British Triathlon coaches with sessions catered to suit your individual fitness, goals and lifestyle. The sessions will cover a mixture of swimming, running and indoor cycling so no bike required! Participants can choose to do all three or just one or two of the activities. Anyone aged 16 or over can attend; sessions cost £5.00.

To book your place please contact Michelle Scott on 01833 696344 or email michelle.scott@durham.gov.uk

Sunday 11th April 7.30am – 12.00noon Teesdale Aquathlon

The first ever swim/run competition in Teesdale, covering the distances of a 400m pool swim and a 3 mile run. Open to those aged 16 and over.

British Triathlon Federation members £12.00, Non British Triathlon Federation members £15.00

Enter at www.trihard.co.uk or contact Michelle Scott on 01833 696344, email michelle.scott@durham.gov.uk

Boxercise Classes

Weekly Boxercise classes are running at Evenwood Sure Start Centre on Mondays 9.30 – 10.30am and Middleton in Teesdale Sure Start Centre on Mondays 1.45 – 2.45pm (these will change to being Aerobics classes after Easter). They are free to Sure Start members and childcare will be provided and £4.00 to other members of the public.

Please contact Michelle Scott on 01833 696344 or email michelle.scott@durham.gov.uk for more information

News Release from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)**Good news for rural community buildings – 10 February 2010**

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and the Rural Community Action Network (RCAN) welcome today's announcement about future funding from the BIG Lottery Fund. A dedicated capital funding stream is expected to be launched in the Autumn as part of the BIG Lottery Reaching Communities programme. It is likely to fund medium sized refurbishments, new builds or extensions to community centres, village halls or other community use buildings meeting local community needs and aspirations.

Capital funding is desperately needed by halls and community centres across the country to improve and modernise an ageing stock of buildings that provide vital services and activities in rural communities.

The key findings from ACRE's national survey of rural community buildings in 2009 indicated that 60% of halls responding to that survey were planning major improvements in the next five years and 10% require urgent repairs to keep them in use.

"We are really pleased to hear that BIG has responded to the call from halls and all their support organisations for a capital fund for this vital work. In rural areas village halls and other similar community buildings are the focal point for developing solutions for provision of essential services", says Deborah Clarke, ACRE's Village Hall Information Officer.

A significant amount of volunteer effort is put into managing rural community buildings, including fundraising activities, but without additional capital investment many halls would be unsustainable.

ACRE looks forward to the prospect of working with BIG as part of a stakeholder group during the lead up to the Autumn launch.

TVHC will keep you updated with developments on this programme. You can also find information at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

News Release from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)**Surface water charges - good news for village and community halls in the North West – 25 February 2010**

ACRE welcomes the announcement by United Utilities Water Company that it is to continue its moratorium on surface water charging for a further year (2010/11), and extend it to include eligible village halls and community centres.

During early 2009, following the announcement of the moratorium, ACRE and the Rural Community Action Network (RCAN) made strong representation to United Utilities Water Company, DEFRA and Ofwat regarding the failure to include halls and community centres in the 2009/10 moratorium. ACRE also had concerns that this would lead to exclusion in other areas in the future.

Jim Bradley, Cheshire Community Action, said: "This is the solution to the overcharging problem that the village halls in Cheshire have worked for. It proves that with time, group effort can bring about meaningful changes when dealing with large national organisations and government. The support from the halls in Cheshire, local MPs and other regional voluntary organisations was crucial and fully appreciated."

United Utilities are writing to all existing moratorium customers explaining what will happen to their charges from April 2010 and to eligible village halls and community centres that are currently known to them to let them know how they can apply to benefit from the moratorium. There is a short application to fill in. To find out more information visit www.unitedutilities.com/sitearea

" This announcement together with the Government's decision to legislate to allow water companies to give concessions to community and voluntary groups through the Flood and Water Management Bill, which is progressing through Parliamentary stages, demonstrates recognition of the valuable role that these facilities play in their communities. Volunteers managing halls do not need the added burden of increasing costs particularly in the current climate", says Deborah Clarke, ACRE's Village Hall Information Officer.

TVHC will keep you updated with the Flood and Water Management Bill.

TVHC welcomes its 36th member hall

Gilling West Village Hall is the latest hall to join Teesdale Village Halls Consortium, taking our current membership to 36 halls. Our governing document allows us to include halls from Teesdale and the surrounding area and Gilling West is close to two of our other member halls, Dalton and Gayles Village Hall and Newsham Village Hall.

Attached to Gilling West Village Hall is the John Ross education and conference centre where rooms and an IT suite are available for hire. There are also courses ran in the John Ross suite including art, Sage accounting, Italian, digital photography and computer help. For more information please contact Martin Towell on 07969 046361 or email johnrosssuitegillingwest@yahoo.co.uk

There are a number of activities ran within the hall but Gilling West Badminton Club is in danger of closing due to a lack of members so if you live in the area and fancy joining they meet on a Tuesday evening in the village hall – no experience is necessary and age is no barrier. Anyone interested please contact Chris Armitage on 01748 850211.

Feasibility Study Work: Weardale, Wear Valley and East Durham

We have been commissioned by Durham Rural Community Council and 2D to carry out some feasibility study work in the districts of Weardale, Wear Valley and East Durham. This involves interviews with halls in these areas outlining the work of Teesdale Village Halls Consortium and finding out their interest in consortium working. A report will be produced at the end of these studies to summarise the findings and to outline ways in which Consortiums could be formed if halls in these areas feel it would be beneficial to them.



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas.



Built To Achieve – The Conference

Wednesday 28 April, Radisson Blu Hotel, Durham, 9.00am – 4.30pm

A free Business Link event for social enterprises and voluntary and community organisations, looking to succeed and grow in the North East

This conference is your chance to develop your social enterprise or voluntary and community organisation, exploring routes to investment, innovation and growth. Key topics will include finance and funding, and public procurement and commissioning – helping you create your enterprises' strategy with the help of experts. The conference will also take a look at regional plans for social enterprise in 2010 and beyond.

Full programme details and further information on Built to Achieve – The Conference will be posted on www.builttoachieve.co.uk or for further information or to book your free places email businesslink@btob.co.uk or call 0191 281 5777.

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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