

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.

### Advance Notice - Teesdale Village Halls Consortium AGM Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 7.00pm Mickleton Village Hall

#### TVHC Training Project secures funding

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium has secured funding from the North Pennine Dales Leader programme towards a TVHC Training project that will run in the North Pennine Dales Leader area over the next two years.

The funding has allowed Teesdale Village Halls Consortium to become a Chartered Institute of Environmental Health registered training centre and over the next two years the Consortium will run a regular programme of courses in the following accredited qualifications:

- CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering
- CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work
- CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace

Local tutors have been contracted by the Consortium to deliver the qualifications. The North Pennine Dales Leader area covers Teesdale, Weardale, and some areas of Derwentside and South Tynedale, and over the two years courses will be arranged in all of these areas.

The first programme of courses will take place in June and July as follows:

Monday 28 June **CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work** Winston Village Hall

Tuesday 6 July **CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering** St Mary's Parish Hall, Barnard Castle

Thursday 15 July **CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work** Eggleston Village Hall

Monday 19 July **CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace** Whorlton Village Hall

Places are subject to learners meeting eligibility criteria.

All courses run from 9.00am – 5.00pm and cost £50.00 per person which includes registration, certification, course book, lunch and refreshments.

For more information or to book a place please contact Helen Thistlethwaite on 01833 696650 or email [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk)

The TVHC Training project has been part funded by the North Pennine Dales Leader programme. The funding is being made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union, and is managed by One NorthEast in the North East region.



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

**TOPS Small Grant Fund**

Teesdale Action Partnership is offering small grants to voluntary and community groups in response to the local needs identified by residents. The money is expected to make a difference at a local level and involve local communities in reaching decisions.

The TOPS (Teesdale Older People's Support) small grants fund aims to support local groups and organisations working within the Teesdale Action Partnership area who are improving the lives of older people. Groups can apply for grants between £50 - £1,500 depending on the criteria. Priority will be given to those applications that cover the following identified issues: access to, and promotion of, services such as transport issues and activities for older people.

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium is administering this fund on behalf of 2D. For more information or an application pack please contact 01833 696650 or email [tops@teesdale.co.uk](mailto:tops@teesdale.co.uk)

All voluntary and community groups are welcome to apply and while matched funding is encouraged, fully funding a project will be considered.

**TVHC Grant Scheme**

This is a general grant scheme for TVHC's member halls for capital or revenue projects; up to 50% of project costs up to a maximum of £250.00 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 on the third Wednesday of each month.

**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. 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.

The main eligibility criteria for the fund are your group should have been working in the community for longer than 12 months and 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](http://www.countydurhamfoundation.co.uk/applying_for_a_grant/grassroots-grants2.htm)

Alternatively please contact Brenda Dye or Emma Lunn, on 0191 383 0055 or email [brenda@cdcf.org.uk](mailto:brenda@cdcf.org.uk)



Over the past few years, Durham Rural Community Council has organised the Calor County Durham Village of the Year competition in this area. This year, Calor have decided to support communities by concentrating their efforts to tackle rural fuel poverty, therefore their competition will not be taking place. The good news is that Durham Rural Community Council has decided to stage its own competition with even bigger prizes!! The new competition is modelled on the original tried and tested scheme utilising the same objectives. The entry form asks questions about activities and initiatives across four areas: community, business, sustainability and communications. Durham Rural Community Council are providing two prizes of £1,000 for the winner and £200 for the runner up.

**Entry Conditions:** The judges are looking for: "Well balanced, pro-active, caring communities which, irrespective of size, are making the best of local opportunities in order to enhance and sustain a better quality of life for all inhabitants. The population of competing communities cannot exceed 5,000. The closing date for entries is 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010, with judging taking place between 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010. The winners will be announced on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Durham Rural Community Council's Annual General Meeting.

For more information or to request an application pack please contact Ken Hazelwood on 01207 529621 or email [ken@durhamrcc.org.uk](mailto:ken@durhamrcc.org.uk)

### Home Based Business Network Group

This group is aimed at people who work from home, with the monthly meetings (usually the second Wednesday in the month) being very relaxed with either a member or a visitor giving a short 10 - 15 minute talk followed by networking over coffee and home-made cake, a small charge of £3.00 is asked for. Current members businesses range from Accountants/Secretarial Services, Film Makers, Home Bakers, Website Design. A member of staff from The Enterprise Agency for Wear Valley & Teesdale and also Business Link try to attend to give any guidance and helpful information.

Further information can be found on the Enterprise House website [www.e-house.co.uk](http://www.e-house.co.uk) or by contacting Lynn Todhunter on 01833 696750 or e-mail [info@e-house.co.uk](mailto:info@e-house.co.uk)

### TV Available

There is a 32" wide screen silver Sony TV with matching stand with glass fronted halls available to a village hall or community centre in Teesdale. For details, please contact Hazel Browne on 01833 640194.

### Even better ways to explore Teesdale online and promote your events

The Teesdale tourism website [www.exploreteesdale.co.uk](http://www.exploreteesdale.co.uk), which is owned by Teesdale Marketing, has recently undergone a number of improvements to its Events Calendar to assist in the promotion of events taking place across Teesdale.

It is now possible to view the events calendar in various formats – today, this week, this month, next month or all events. Users can also search between specific dates and choose a location e.g. Eggleston. From these options events listings can be printed which will be especially useful for visitors to the Dale as well as for local residents.

The website has also been improved to make it more user friendly for event's organisers and it is now possible for them to submit events through the website which will then be validated by Teesdale Village Halls Consortium who maintain the website's events calendar. The website also now has the facility to include a photograph with each event.

Helen Thistlethwaite, Projects and Marketing Officer for Teesdale Village Halls Consortium said: "I would encourage all Teesdale's event's organisers to familiarise themselves with the improvements to the website and to take advantage of this opportunity to submit their events and promote them through Explore Teesdale which attracts more than 8000 unique visitors each month. I would also encourage local residents and visitors to the Dale to visit the website and view the many events that are taking place in Teesdale over the coming months."

To view the website please visit [www.exploreteesdale.co.uk](http://www.exploreteesdale.co.uk) or for more information on submitting events please contact Helen Thistlethwaite on 01833 696650 or email [events@teesdale.co.uk](mailto:events@teesdale.co.uk)

### Affordable Computers for Charities

#### Refurbished computers from only £99 including VAT

IT Schools Africa, the charity that distributes refurbished PCs to schools in Africa, is now offering low cost computers to UK charities.

**About the Computers:** these are high specification, 2<sup>nd</sup> user computers from leading brands such as Dell, HP and Compaq. The computers have been refurbished to a high standard in their workshop and are in full working order.

**Software:** The computers are pre-installed with Microsoft Windows XP (Home or Pro edition) operating system. For an additional £20 they can install Microsoft Office 2003.

**Upgrades:** Subject to availability, they can offer the following upgrades: 1GB Ram £10, 17" flat screen monitor £20, 100GB Hard Drive £20.

**Laptops:** Laptops are also available, contact using the details below for details of current stock and prices.

**Delivery:** £15.00 per computer

The computers are 2<sup>nd</sup> user and may have some small cosmetic damage such as small scratches/marks and old labels on the cases. As far as possible they will try to provide matching equipment but monitors and base units may be from different brands. Software is supplied without discs or manuals. The three month warranty is return to base. Purchasers must provide evidence of registered charity status.

For more information telephone Phil Layton on 01242 228800 or email [pccsales@itschoolsafrica.org](mailto:pccsales@itschoolsafrica.org)

You can also visit the website at [www.itschoolsafrica.org](http://www.itschoolsafrica.org)



**Are you aged between 16 and 25 interested in a career in the Arts?**

Do you want to learn more from Artists working in Museums and Galleries? Come along to The Bowes Museum and take part in taster sessions led by artists and actors.

For further information on getting involved on the following dates please contact Lisa Jeffries, Fundraising and Special Projects Manager, The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP, telephone 01833 690606 ext 217 or email [lisa.jeffries@thebowesmuseum.org.uk](mailto:lisa.jeffries@thebowesmuseum.org.uk)

**Free Training Sessions for TVHC Member Halls – Register Your Interest**

Following the very useful sessions ran by Ian Pillar on licensing and governance, we would like member halls to register their interest in attending a session on any of the following subjects:

- Health and Safety and Property Management
- Charitable Status, Insurance and Hiring out Premises
- Finance – Charity Commission requirements, bookkeeping systems, VAT, funding returns
- Employment – legal definitions of employed and self employed, employees rights, minimum wage, implications for honoraria

Please register your interest in any of these sessions by telephoning Helen on 01833 696650 or email [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk) by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June**.

**Recycling Project Goes Mobile**

Two Teesdale organisations have joined forces to reduce landfill and help combat polio.

Teesdale Conservation Volunteers has agreed to collect used mobile phones for recycling on behalf of Barnard Castle Rotary Club which is collecting old phones as part of a global fundraising campaign to eradicate polio.

One of the practical arms of Teesdale Conservation Volunteers, known as Rotters, has just started daily collections of green garden waste to turn into compost. This season, however, local residents can now hand over their used mobile phones for collection too. People are asked to make it easy for the Rotters collectors by simply putting their phones into a plastic bag and tying it to the handle of the Rotters green garden waste bag.

The Rotary Club in Barnard Castle has already raised more than £600. It works in partnership with Envirofone Ltd. sending them to their recycling centre in Macclesfield.

For more information visit [www.twitter.com/eradicatepolio](http://www.twitter.com/eradicatepolio) or [www.eradicatepolio.co.uk](http://www.eradicatepolio.co.uk)

**Running Group and Exercise Classes – get fit for the summer!**

Ladies - make the most of the light nights and join the ladies only running group on Monday evenings 6.00 – 7.00pm starting from Teesdale Leisure Centre.

You can also take part in a FREE walking group which takes place every Wednesday at 1.00pm until the end of September at various locations around Teesdale. There will be a mini bus supplied from Teesdale Leisure Centre to the start of the walk locations and to bring the walkers back again. There is also a Low Impacts Aerobics class taking place also on Monday evenings from 6.15 – 7.15pm at the Scarth Hall, Staindrop.

**Would any hall like a Pilates, class, Aerobics class or Thighs, Tums and Bums on a Wednesday afternoon? There is an instructor available to teach at this time.**

For more information please contact Michelle Scott on 01833 696344 or email [michelle.scott@durham.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.scott@durham.gov.uk)

***Barnard Castle and District Guides***  
*Request the pleasure of your company at their*  
**Summer Ball**

*to celebrate 100 years of Girl Guiding*

*at*

*The Morrill Arms Hotel, Greta Bridge*

*on*

*Friday 25th June*

*Three course meal plus dancing to*

*'Invitation Only'*

*Tickets £35*

*All proceeds towards the building of a new Guide Hut*



**Girlguiding UK**

*girls in the lead*

*Tickets available from:*  
*Miss Jennie Stafford*  
*Cross House, Bowes*  
*Barnard Castle DL12 9LG*  
*Telephone: 07866 235307*

*Black Tie preferred*

*Bar open from 6.30pm*  
*Dinner served at 8pm*  
*Carriages at midnight*

*Cheques made payable to:*  
*'Barnard Castle District Guides'*

*Corporate sponsorship deals available*

### Lou Brown Music

I have been contacted by Lou Brown Music with some information on artists currently available for booking: **Patsy Matheson, with Clive Gregson - Currently booking September 2010 (selected dates available) and April 2011**

Patsy was one quarter of the very successful Waking the Witch, who sadly disbanded 18 months ago. She's known Clive for years, and was delighted when he asked to be part of her solo gig. When they play together, it is mainly Patsy's material (she sings, writes and plays guitar and mandolin), and Clive accompanies her on guitar, mando and accordion. She also insists that he sings at least a couple of his own songs - it would be a terrible waste if he didn't!

You can find out all of their bio information on either [www.clivegregson.com](http://www.clivegregson.com) (you'll know all about him anyway, but he's played with everybody really - Richard Thompson, Boo Hewerdine, Eddi Reader and of course Christine Collister) - and [www.patsymatheson.co.uk](http://www.patsymatheson.co.uk). There's also a really nice clip of them being very silly at a gig in Loftus last year - on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uu9WlmPDMcA>.

**Lou Brown - Currently booking October/November 2010 and March/April 2011**

Lou's live work includes a 21-date tour of USA and headline shows to crowds of over 200 people. She's played several high profile support slots for artists such as Hazel O'Conner, Paul Young, Boo Hewerdine, Steve Tilston, Clive Gregson, and the legendary Albert Lee, along with Diana Jones, Po' Girl, Julie Fowlis, Eilen Jewell, Karine Polwart and Megson. Lou's debut album is getting increasing airplay, on both BBC, commercial, and internet radio stations, she was a featured artist in session on 'BBC Introducing...' in the South, and her song 'These Arms' was recently was played on the UK's most popular radio show, 'Wake Up to Wogan'. She's just finished recording her second album with Clive Gregson. Find out much more [www.loubrownmusic.com](http://www.loubrownmusic.com).

"One of my Glastonbury highlights." - Johnnie Walker, BBC Radio 2

"A fine voice" - Jeff Smith, Head of Music, BBC Radio 2 & BBC 6Music

"Check out the lovely, lovely new album from Lou Brown. She's brilliant." - Chris Addison, actor and comedian

"Lou Brown is definitely an artist to watch out for." - Acoustic Magazine

"Why on earth [do] we give the time to such an array of dross on TV when talents like Lou Brown get barely a mention." - Americana UK

"You will not hear better songs than those anywhere this year" - Clive Gregson

"We've got her album, it's really good." - Megson (BBC Folk Awards 2009 & 2010 nominees)

**For more information please contact Dom Kippin at Lou Brown Music on 07515 970316 or email [dom@loubrownmusic.com](mailto:dom@loubrownmusic.com)**



### Rural Jobs Fund (a rural employability project)

Available in Teesdale, Weardale and parts of Wear Valley, Bishop Auckland College employs a team of pre and post employment support mentors who will provide Information, Advice & Guidance & mentor clients to achieve sustained employment. This project will provide a direct link with local job opportunities through an employer engagement team, managed by Teesdale & Wear Valley Enterprise Agency, supporting individuals to gain the skills and confidence needed to get a job.

To qualify for support through this project your personal circumstances must be one of the following:

- Receiving Incapacity Benefit
- Unemployed and not yet receiving benefit
- Not in education, employment or training (NEETs) at 17+ and 18-24 years old unemployed for less than 6 months
- 25+ years old unemployed for less than 18 months
- Lone parent
- At risk of losing your job

For more information contact the 'Your Choice' Phone line: **01388 743188**

### 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**

**Telephone:** 01207 529621 **Email:** [ian@durhamrcc.org.uk](mailto:ian@durhamrcc.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. 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. Please contact Helen on 01833 696650 or email

[helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk)

### Newsletter Contact - Helen Thistlethwaite

**Telephone:** 01833 696650 **Fax :** 01833 631909 **Email:** [helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk](mailto:helen@teesdalehalls.co.uk)

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.

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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