

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.

Teesdale Village Halls Consortium welcomes Welsh visitors

TVHC were approached by Lisa Jones from AVOW (Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham) earlier this year as they had discovered TVHC through our website and wanted to arrange an exemplar visit to find out about the Consortium and the work we do.

This is Lisa's account of the visit:

"In October last year I organised for a group of my Community Buildings network members to visit Monmouthshire in South Wales. I knew they have a good network set up there supporting community buildings and when I started my current role as Community Buildings Development Officer, I was passed a link to their website (www.monmouthshire-halls.org.uk). Through this I made links with the development officers there and the visit was arranged. The idea was to take members of community buildings (i.e. committee members, volunteers or trustees) to another area outside of Wrexham to see how other areas run their buildings, share ideas on events/funding/hints and tips on best practice, see what support is available in other area, see good ways to use space and see refurbishments and generally just to see that people in other areas struggle with the same issues that we do in Wrexham and see how other places deal with these struggles.



Visit to Carlbeck Centre, Lunedale

The trip was a success and when I mentioned that I would be doing another similar trip, people jumped at the chance to come again and those who missed out last time were quick to book a place on this next one.

I had a few links to other areas - again which I had gathered from websites and directories. One of these was Teesdale Village Halls Consortium - which I think is a great website/directory. The Consortium covered Teesdale, County Durham which is a very rural area. Before I made contact I was nervous about doing a second trip as the first one was so good - I knew a second trip had a lot to live up to. However I needn't have worried - as soon as I made contact with Helen and introduced myself, we quickly started swapping e mails and ideas for the trip and I began to feel excited about it. Helen was a massive help and organised a lot for me and gave me contacts such as hotels, caterers etc as I needed so many quotes to keep on file for my project.

Between us talking on the phone and swapping countless emails the overnight trip was organised for June 2010 and was a HUGE success. Seventeen people in total went on the trip from various buildings in rural Wrexham and all agreed that the trip was inspiring and really useful for them.

Eight buildings in Teesdale were visited in total over a two day period. At each and every building we were taken to we were met with a really warm welcome and met some lovely people - also committee members, trustees and volunteers. Everyone we met was more than willing to answer any questions or show us around their buildings which was great.

As well as this, we visited the local radio station, who invited us there after hearing about the visit. Cathryn Williams my manager spoke about why we were in the area and everyone enjoyed looking around the studio. The trip also received local newspaper coverage where we featured in two papers and had our picture taken.

The trip as a whole was a great success, thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. During and after the trip people from Wrexham have said how much they enjoyed it and learnt a lot from it. Comments have been made how this trip was even better than the first one which is great to hear. The trip has been inspiring and ideas are flying about at the moment how we in Wrexham could continue to work with Helen and the Consortium in the future and share ideas and best practice in the future.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU to all in Teesdale for such a great trip which was thoroughly enjoyable due to the buildings, the food, the accommodation, the beautiful scenery and most importantly the people we met - Thank you!"

From the Consortium's point of view, we also found the trip very interesting and enjoyed the opportunity to show off our excellent halls and the dedicated volunteers who look after them. It was also very useful for us to learn how buildings are ran and funded in other areas and it was a great experience for everyone involved!

TVHC Training Courses September – December 2010

CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work

- Friday 17th September 9.00am - 5.00pm Copley Village Hall
- Tuesday 5th October 9.00am - 5.00pm St Thomas Church Hall, Stanhope
- Mon 18th and Tues 19th October 4.00pm - 8.00pm (both evenings must be attended) Whorlton Village Hall
- Tuesday 2nd November 9.00am - 5.00pm Gainford Village Hall

CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering

- Friday 24th September 9.00am - 5.00pm Ingleton Village Hall
- Thursday 7th October 9.00am - 5.00pm St Thomas Church Hall, Stanhope
- Tues 12th and Wed 13th October 4.00pm - 8.00pm (both evenings must be attended) Marwood Social Centre
- Thursday 4th November 9.00am - 5.00pm Woodland Village Hall

CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace

- Mon 27th and Tues 28th September 4.00 - 8.00pm (both evenings must be attended) Stainton Village Hall
- Wednesday 20th October 9.00am - 5.00pm St Thomas Church Hall, Stanhope
- Monday 1st November 9.00am - 5.00pm Middleton in Teesdale Village Hall

All courses cost £50.00 per person which includes registration, certification, course book, lunch/supper and refreshments.

For more information or to book a place contact 01833 696650 or email 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



CIEH Registered Centre

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

Free goods available to community groups

Giving World Online (GWO) is a scheme set up to help to community groups and charities access free surplus goods from businesses and organisations whilst at the same time helping reduce the amount of goods sent to landfill.

In the next three months GWO will be engaging with businesses in the North East region to encourage them to use GWO's free service to redirect their surplus goods onto charities and groups that could make use of them for their beneficiaries.

This service is available to all charities and community groups im particularly smaller organisations which are volunteer-led or operate on very limited funds.

For further details visit www.givingworldonline.com

ADVANCE NOTICE:

TVHC General Meeting Thursday 7th October 7.00pm Bowes Village Hall

Teesdale Action Partnership – TOPS Small Grant Fund

This fund is to support local groups and organisations working within the Teesdale Action Partnership area who are improving the lives of local older people. Groups can apply for grants from between £50 - £1500.

Some of the successful groups so far from Teesdale are:

- Abbeyfield Barnard Castle Society Ltd. - accommodation refurbishment
- Evenwood and Ramshaw Community Association - lunches for the over 55's
- Staindrop Women's Institute - visit to the Wensleydale Creamery
- Bowes Agricultural Society - purchase new equipment
- Mickleton Wednesday Club - day trip
- Teesdale U3A - purchase new equipment
- Cockfield Christmas Lights - Christmas tea for elderly residents
- Cotherstone Clowns - Christmas lights and switch on event for older people
- Hutton Magna Village Hall - cinema equipment
- Teesdale Heritage Group - computer equipment
- Scarth Hall, Staindrop - new cooker
- Eggleston Carnival Committee - Christmas party
- Bolam History Society
- Churches Together Barnard Castle and Startforth - Food Safety training
- Newbiggin WI - Christmas trip
- Staindrop Over Sixties Club - Christmas trip

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Current funds will be exhausted by the amount of current applications we are processing and therefore we are not in a position to send out any more application forms on request. However, 2D is applying for another round of money to continue the TOPS small grants fund so please check www.teesdalehalls.co.uk for details.

Note to TVHC Member Halls – if you have posters or leaflets displayed in your hall advertising the TOPS fund, please can you temporarily remove these but keep hold of them as they will be needed if another round of money is secured. Thank you.

Teesdale Broadband Service Survey

As a result of the Barnard Castle Vision Project 'Digital Dales', in partnership with the South Durham Enterprise Agency, Teesdale Action Partnership, local businesses and residents, Networks by Wireless Ltd (NbW) has a contractual agreement with Durham County Council to deliver a WiMAX broadband solution in Teesdale. The Contract has a completion date of March 2011.

The Project is to deliver maximum broadband coverage in Teesdale bringing a minimum 2Mbps synchronous service to dwellings and businesses in Teesdale that currently have no broadband or 'not enough' broadband. The network will be capable high speed, Next Generation Access, for those who wish to subscribe to that service.

The network is being constructed by Networks by Wireless working in partnership with Durham County Council ICT Services. Desk-based and ground survey work began in May. Having completed the design process for the network they are now moving on to the mobilisation phase. The new Teesdale Broadband service will roll out gradually as the network is deployed with the first areas seeing a service available in August and September.

If you might be interested in receiving the new Teesdale Broadband service, you can register interest by visiting <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2yghffhgb4yrqs6/a014vgchm7fwy/questions>

This will enable you to receive updates about and an invitation to join the new network as soon as it is available. Please note this is not a commitment to take a service, it is an expression of interest.

For more information please contact Chris Ord at the South Durham Enterprise Agency on **01833 696600**

FREE Amateur Dramatics Costumes and Props

Newsham Village Hall have a huge amount of costumes and props, in various conditions, suitable for amateur dramatics that they would like to give away to anyone who would like to collect.

For more information please contact Rose Davies on 01833 621300

Don't miss your chance to win a solar panel system for your organisation...

An energy company is offering charities and community groups the chance to win a solar panel system worth £3000. ACIS Renewable Energy is giving away a solar PV system to mark the launch of the government's Feed in Tariff scheme (FIT).

Once installed at the winning group's location, the panels will provide an income via the FIT scheme and save the organisation money on its electricity.

The FIT scheme guarantees to pay anyone generating their own electricity a set fee per unit of power they produce. It enables anyone to make a return of up to ten per cent per annum for 25 years.

To enter the competition contact John Forth at ACIS Renewable Energy 0800 0237024 or email

jforth@aisenergy.co.uk

Agnew and McAllister Duo

TVHC has been contacted by Aisling Agnew who performs in a Flute and Guitar Duo with Classical Guitarist Matthew McAllister and 2011 will be the 10th Anniversary of our Duo. They are putting together an extensive programme of concerts workshops and commissions running through the whole year. Their repertoire is extremely varied and our performances and programming are critically acclaimed across the globe. They have performed many times in venues such as The Wigmore Hall, Concertgebouw, Bridgewater Hall, Purcell Room, Scottish National Portrait Gallery and many more. You can view video clips of their recent performances:

San Jose, Costa Rica <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgybSY7Snrw>

Enkhuizen, Holland <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqcrylvmPJI>

Salem, Oregon, USA <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtY6FNjsUjQ>

They would be delighted to present a concert in Teesdale; you can find out more by visiting www.aislingagnew.com or www.matthewmcallister.com or telephone 0141 3394296 or 07791 953812

Burnt Houses Rock Band



Burnt Houses is a rock band who would like to offer their services to assist any charitable event on an expenses-only basis (which is flexible according to the size of the event).

On 7th August they played at The Sage, Gateshead for the Great North Air Ambulance, and also released the charity CD 'Find Me', all royalties from which will go to the Great North Air Ambulance. The day prior to the Sage they played at the Church barbecue at the village of Burnt Houses.

They also played on 12th August at Paradise Farm, Woodland in aid of Help for Heroes, and will play at Hamsterley Club for Help for Heroes on 18th September.

If anyone would like us to play at their fund-raising event, please get in touch.

They would like to emphasise they do their best to publicise the events at which they are going to appear i.e. radio, press, posters etc. which helps with support. TVHC will also assist with the publicity of any fundraising events organised.

For more information about the band please contact Anthony Hutchinson on 01388 710088, email hutch1956@tiscali.co.uk or visit the Burnt Houses Facebook site.

Kit Holmes – Guitarist/Singer

TVHC has been contacted by Allan Greenwood who takes bookings for the Yorkshire born guitarist/singer Kit Holmes. Kit has recently completed a tour of nine village halls in Somerset and will be performing at three village halls in Wiltshire in October; Allan would like to find out if any member halls of TVHC would be interested in booking Kit for a performance.

Background – Kit played for the Oxfordshire Touring Scheme in March to a sell out audience; feedback from this was:

“ We came away feeling like we had heard something very special. Kit is obviously quite a talent and apart from her virtuoso skills on the guitar/violin, she manages to build a great rapport with the audience. I like her warm and relaxed style! The whole evening was seamless - even with the guitar changeover! Her choice of music covered a broad span of styles and there was something for everyone to enjoy.’

Last summer Kit was asked to perform for the **Anne Frank Awards** at the BBC Theatre, London - she gave a master-class at **Paul McCartney's LIPA**, played for the Honorary Doctoral Ceremony for **Andy Kershaw** and **Bill Bryson** at Leeds University and had a headline show at the **International Guitar Festival of Great Britain**. She headlined, on Friday night at this year's **Nantwich Easter Festival** and has also been booked to perform this summer at **IvyLive Festival, Newton Abbot Festival** and **Nozstock Festival**.

For audio extracts, video and tour dates please visit Kit's MySpace at: <http://www.myspace.com/kitholmes>

To contact Allan please email a.greenwood123@btinternet.com or telephone 07941 239093

Community Alliance Events

101 Ways to...tell your story – have a voice – make a case – engage your community

Wednesday 29th September 10.00am – 2.00pm, Pioneering Care Centre, Newton Aycliffe

Do you produce an annual report, use computers, publicise events, have a website, publish a newsletter, consult members and your community... Every community project communicates with its members and the public, but what else can you do to reach people and attract attention...

Have you ever thought about creating a video diary, using Facebook, collecting local news to share with others, setting up a blog, community centres radio....

This one day event explores lots of different ways that community groups can reach new people, learn new skills, add to their activities, promote their work...

- Community Radio in Action – linking up with existing radio stations
- Community media – more than one way to broadcast – creating stories to bring people together
- Training up community reporters to produce local news and comment – local pilot in Hartlepool
- TV regionally and locally – getting engaged with local programming

This event is free for members of bassac, Community Matters and DTA with a small charge of £10.00 + VAT for non members. Only 25 places available on a first come first served basis at each event.

New Horizons – Developing enterprising organisations

Friday 22nd September 9.30 – 3.30pm The Durham Centre, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham

The single biggest 'headache' for community organisations is how to fund the future. Where once organisations relied on grants, earned income from room hire and their own fundraising, now contracts, commissions, trading, loans..are all being considered. As a result many organisations are looking in detail at how to utilise their experience, their building, and their services to create income from their work.

This one day conference looks at how to create organisations that take an enterprising approach in developing sound financial futures for their work.

Participants also have the opportunity to enter the Bears Lair (or almost a dragons den) to present a proposal that could win them a 'bag of support – a tailored package of £250 + 6 days business support to take their idea forward.

If you are interested in attending either of these events, please contact Helen at TVHC for a booking form.

Radio Teesdale 24 Hour LIVE Radiothon

Broadcasting on 102.1 & 105.5fm & online at radioteesdale.co.uk

LAST year Radio Teesdale held its 24 hour LIVE Radiothon. In 2010 we are planning something even bigger and better.

From 12 noon on Friday 1st October to 12 noon on Saturday 2nd October, Radio Teesdale will be holding it's second 24 hour LIVE Radiothon. 24 hours of live radio with 24 different presenters, 24 business sponsors and as many community guests as possible. "We really want this year to be as community orientated as possible," said Katey Wallace, Organiser of the 24 hour LIVE Radiothon. "We want to involve as many people as possible in the broadcast over the 24 hour period. Hopefully everyone will know of someone taking part in the Radiothon and get behind them and support," she said.



Katey in the studio

There is also a chance to win prizes with a raffle draw every hour. Katey added, "24 Businesses have been extremely kind to us and have donated all sorts of prizes from £35 car valets to meals for two as well as tickets to this year's pantomimes. It's going to be the biggest event we've held so far and we are looking for the Teesdale people to get involved by either by listening in, buying raffle tickets or actively getting involved in the broadcast." It costs Radio Teesdale £60,000 a year to run the station. There is no guaranteed income, so funding has to be obtained through competitive grant applications, completed contracted work under service level agreements, advertising, sponsorship and general fundraising like the Radiothon.

If you or your community group would like to get involved with Radio Teesdale and/or the Radiothon in any capacity please get in touch with either Katey Wallace or Station Manager, Peter Dixon, on 01833 696 750. A full list Radiothon prizes and details of some of the groups involved can be found at www.radioteesdale.co.uk

Over 50's Healthy Living Project

Do you know anyone who would benefit from coming along to one of our Healthy Living courses? These three week courses have been organised for the benefit of older residents and are funded by Teesdale Action Partnership.

The two hour sessions will be held at local venues throughout Teesdale and will be led by experienced tutors who have delivered similar courses in the dale for many years. We aim to make each session a fun and friendly occasion as well as being informative. There will be information available from other health and wellbeing organisations.



Delegates will be encouraged to cook at least two dishes from scratch and will then sit down together at the end of each session to enjoy what they have prepared.

The courses are free of charge and all ingredients and equipment are provided. We can even pay transport costs for anyone who has difficulty getting to the venues.

If you know someone who does not normally join in organised events or would like a bit of encouragement or support to get involved why not come along with them – the more the merrier!

To find out about courses in your area just contact Lesley Millgate at Durham Rural Community Council on 01207 529621 or email lesley.millgate@durhamrcc.org.uk

Weardale and East Durham Feasibility Studies

TVHC was commissioned by Durham Rural Community Council to carry out feasibility study work in the former local authority districts of Weardale and East Durham between January and June this year to establish the level of interest community buildings in these areas have of participating in consortium working. This work was funded by the North Pennines Dales Leader and East Durham Leader funding programmes, and involved interviews with committees of community buildings in these areas outlining the work of Teesdale Village Halls Consortium and finding out their interest in consortium working. A report with recommendations has been produced for each area and these will be available shortly to view on the www.teesdalehalls.co.uk website.

Similar feasibility study work will be taking place in the Wear Valley area between August and December; this work has been commissioned by 2D.

Do you need up to £10,000 to help fund a project?

Are you a member of a not-for-profit group, school, parish or town council or health body?

Why not come along to a funding advice session at Woodhouse Close Methodist Church, Bishop Auckland on Monday 13 September 2010 at 2.00pm or St Thomas Church Hall, Stanhope on Thursday 16 September 2010 at 10.00am. The session will include a presentation by Big Lottery Fund staff on the Awards for All grant programme- this will involve a quick workshop and a fun quiz! 2D will also be on hand delivering sessions on how they can help you access funding!

To book your place contact 2D on 01388 762220 or e-mail enquiries@2d.org.uk by Friday 10 September

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

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.

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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