



VILLAGE-VOICE

Welcome to the sixth edition of VILLAGE-VOICE
an email bulletin specifically for management committee members and user groups
of village halls and community buildings across County Durham

Free Resources for Your Committee

Assessing the Maximum Occupancy of Your Building

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service have prepared an information sheet with the objective of providing guidance in assessing safe occupancy of a building, premises or an area of premises as part of a fire safety risk assessment. This is a useful tool if you are unsure of your building's capacity – if you would like a copy please email helen.brown@durhamrcc.org.uk

The Bribery Act 2010 – Briefing

The Bribery Act 2010 was brought into force on 1st July 2011. It reforms the criminal law to provide a new, modern and comprehensive scheme of bribery offences that will enable courts and prosecutors to respond more effectively to bribery at home or abroad.

DRCC has been made aware that some funders are requesting that voluntary and community organisations in receipt of grants are made aware of the act and ACRE which is the umbrella body for all the Rural Community Council's has put together a briefing paper that may be useful to these organisations. If you would like a copy of this please email helen.brown@durhamrcc.org.uk

September Training Opportunities

Looking After the Money - Thursday 29th September 10.00am – 11.45am Park House, Lanchester

This workshop is aimed at small and medium sized community organisations. You don't need previous experience of accounting. The session will focus on the development of a financial policy to guide the decisions of your organisation and the creation of financial procedures to implement the policy. The purpose is to provide a simple, logical framework which will safeguard trustees from financial risk and give your organisation confidence in handling money.

Everyone attending the workshop will receive a full set of briefing notes and template documents to take away.

Cost – FREE

One Click Accounts - Thursday 29th September 1.30pm – 3.45pm Park House, Lanchester

This workshop is for treasurers, reluctant treasurers and would be treasurers. It offers a simple no nonsense approach which will allow you to produce monthly and annual reports at the click of a mouse. This is book keeping made easy through the use of a straightforward computer system aimed at organisations with a turnover of less than £25,000. Delegates attending this session will receive guidance on how to use the system, and a manual which will cover every step of the process.

Cost – A non-refundable charge of £10.00 per delegate – everyone attending will receive an electronic version of the accounts package which is valued at £15.00

To find out more or register your interest please contact Lesley Millgate on 01207 529621 or email Lesley.Millgate@durhamrcc.org.uk

Information Updates

Are you a North East voluntary or community group or organisation looking to buy, build or redevelop your own building?

Could you use the advice of an architect, project manager, financial expert or business consultant? If so, then don't miss out on your chance to take part in the Places for Everyone programme. Places for Everyone gives organisations the knowledge and access to expertise needed to undertake capital development projects. The process begins by attending an Introductory Workshop (£50.00 + VAT) giving you all of the background knowledge and initial advice you need.

Participants then receive two days free consultancy from one of the Places for Everyone experts, plus access to an online bank of expertise and advice on where to get funding for everything from a feasibility study to interior refurbishment. The final workshop takes place on Thursday 10 November 2011 at PNE's offices, Pink Lane in Newcastle upon Tyne, so don't miss out on your place!

For more information or to book your place on the workshop, visit www.placesforeveryone.org, telephone 0191 438 7999 or email development@pne.org

Does your organisation undertake activities to help individuals overcome barriers to training and employment?

The ESF Community Grants 2011 – 2013 fund will provide awards of up to £12,000 to groups undertaking activities including help with basic skills, work experience, training advice and guidance, job search assistance, confidence building, personal development and support to overcome barriers to training and employment. The target group is unemployed and economically inactive people over 18, with particular priority given to black and minority ethnic groups, people over 50, women, lone parents and those with health conditions or disabilities.

Applications will be assessed by a panel every four months (June, October, and February). The deadline for applications is six weeks before a panel meeting. Successful applicants will be required to attend a post-approval contract meeting one week after the panel meeting - grant awards are dependent upon attendance at this meeting so please check the dates on our website to ensure you are available before applying.

ROUND ONE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 12/09/2011

The fund is being managed by the County Durham Community Foundation; if you are interested in applying for a grant and are based in County Durham or Darlington please visit www.cdcf.org.uk/european-social-fund or call 0191 378 6340 for more information

Charity Commission video to help charities file their Annual Return and update their details online

The Charity Commission has developed new video tutorials to help charities file their Annual Returns and update their details online. Charities with an income over £10,000 must complete an Annual Return and all charities are required to keep their details up to date on the Register of Charities. Last year 86% of charities submitted their Annual Returns and updated their details online. From 2011 onwards all charities are being asked to submit the required information online, via the Charity Commission's website.

To help those charities who have not previously submitted information online, the Commission has produced a helpful video showing how easy it is to complete the Annual Return through its website. The video tutorial explains, step-by-step, how charities can update their financial information and amend the details that are shown about them on the Register of Charities. In addition to the video tutorial the Commission has re-designed the Annual Return and enhanced its online written guidance.

For more information please visit http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_ar11.aspx



www.villagesos.org.uk

Village SOS was set up by the Big Lottery Fund in partnership with the BBC to help rural villages across the UK to regenerate their communities through new business ventures.

In 2010, ten projects were awarded Big Lottery Fund Village SOS grants to start their own community enterprises. The development of six of the village enterprises features in the Village SOS six-part TV programme on BBC One.

Big Lottery Fund hopes that viewers will be inspired to develop their own community ventures, to secure the future prosperity of their villages or local areas, protect local amenities and bring communities closer together.

Village SOS Active has launched alongside Village SOS to help rejuvenate the UK's rural communities, many of which have been badly hit by the loss of local amenities and the economic downturn. The website, www.villagesos.org.uk will direct you to the best source of funding for your community business and you might be eligible to take part in the Village SOS Active competition, which has £5m in awards of £10,000-£30,000 to give away to the brightest ideas for new rural social enterprises that will make a lasting difference in their communities. For advice and information call **0845 434 9123**

Durham Police Authority Community Awards 2011

Durham Police Authority has launched a Police Authority Community Awards scheme which aims is to celebrate the good work of local people which often goes unrecognised and/or unrewarded, who have helped to keep their communities safe.

A nomination process will identify winners from each of the six main categories, followed by an awards ceremony to be held on 1st December 2011 at the Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham. Each winner, their nominator and two guests (4 in total) will be invited to the ceremony (including dinner) when the winner will be presented with their award. The six categories are:

- Caring
- Serving
- Volunteering
- Achieving
- Courageous
- Dedicated

If you know someone (or a group) who helps to keep their community safe and you feel they deserve to win a Police Authority Community Award, nominate them today! Nominations can be made online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/dpa-awards2011> Nominations close 16 October 2011.

For further information about Durham Police Authority, or the awards scheme, visit: www.durham-pa.gov.uk or call 0191 3835511 for a nomination form

Your Views and Comments

We would welcome your views and comments on this e-bulletin; please also let us know if there are any topics you would like covering in future issues. Please feel free to circulate this e-bulletin amongst your committee members and if anyone would like to receive it directly in the future please ask them to contact me on the details below.

VILLAGE-VOICE Contact

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