



VILLAGE-VOICE

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

The BOSS Project – Free Training Opportunities

The BOSS (Back Office Services Support) is a partnership of Durham Rural Community Council, Community Action Northumberland and Tees Valley Rural Community Council. It is supported by the BIG Lottery Fund to investigate the need for 'back office services' for rural community groups providing services to others, and is managed by Tees Valley Rural Community Council.

The BOSS Project will run training workshops across the region as part of a series of Pilot Projects designed to promote good practice in the management of voluntary community organisations:

Looking after the Money **Thursday 7th April 10.00am – 11.45am Park House**

A session to develop financial policies and procedures for community groups with the aim of reducing financial risk, giving confidence in handling money and producing transparency in annual accounts

One Click Accounts **Thursday 7th April 1.30pm – 3.45pm Park House**

This session is aimed at the treasurers and reluctant treasurers. It offers Book keeping made simple through the use of a straightforward computer software programme which produces monthly and annual reports at the click of a mouse.

To register your interest in any of the training opportunities please contact Ian Pillar on 01207 529621 or email ian@durhamrcc.org.uk

Forthcoming Event



The North Pennine Dales LEADER Local Action Group are holding their annual event at the Best Western Derwent Manor Hotel, Allensford, Northumberland, DH8 9BB on Thursday 24 March 2011 between 2.30 - 4.30pm. The event will showcase the achievements of the North Pennine Dales LEADER, hearing presentations from some of the successful projects, and discussing priorities and potential gaps. There will also be an opportunity to meet with Local Action Group members, discuss potential new project, and get involved by becoming a Local Action Group member. The guest speaker will be Dr Stuart Burgess OBE, Chairman of the Commission for Rural Communities. Please contact Sue Ellwood on 07789 266 491 or e-mail sue@northpenninedalesleader.co.uk to reserve your place.

Opportunity to promote community stories

David Honeywell is a Community Correspondent for the Durham Times who is looking for any community stories to feature in the paper; these can be anything from local charity events, Scout and Cub, Brownie & Guides events, music and public events to sport grassroots, council events etc. This is a free opportunity so if you have any stories from your hall or community centre please contact David on 01642 275052 mobile 07907 511564 or email david.honeywell@yahoo.co.uk

Funding Opportunities for Village Halls and Community Centres

Green Fund

Customers on EDF's Green Tariff pay a small premium on their electricity bills. EDF matches their contributions and use this to help support non-profit organisations who wish to install small scale, environmentally friendly generation on their sites, who otherwise would not have been able to afford to do so. Since 2001 the Green Fund has made awards worth over £4.4m in total. Eligible organisations include schools and universities, local community buildings, museums and churches.

The Fund will provide money for the purchase, installation and project management of a low carbon energy source for the buildings. Generation technologies can be any which produce heat, electricity or other power, provided it has passed a successful trial phase. Energy efficiency cannot be funded.

Applications will be assessed against five core values: Holistic approach to energy, Sustainable technology choice, Educational, Spreading the message and Innovative.

For more information visit <http://www.edfenergy.com/products-services/for-your-home/our-services/green-energy-fund.shtml#> or contact greenenergy@edfenergy.com / 0800 051 1905

Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Trusthouse gives grants for running costs or one-off capital costs to charities and not-for-profit organisations in accordance with criteria that are regularly reviewed and decided by the Trustees.

In July 2008, the Trustees reviewed its grants policy and decided to concentrate on projects addressing Rural Issues and Urban Deprivation:

Rural Issues: they accept applications from organisations which are addressing issues in rural areas. 'Rural' in this context means cities, towns, villages and areas with 10,000 or less inhabitants. They are interested in, for example, projects providing transport for the elderly, disabled or disadvantaged; contact networks for the young disabled; projects which encourage a sense of community such as community centres and village halls; employment training schemes especially those promoting local, traditional crafts; projects addressing issues such as drug/alcohol misuse or homelessness.

Urban Deprivation: they will accept applications from local or national charities or not-for-profit organisations which are working with residents of urban areas (i.e. more than 10,000 inhabitants) which are classified in the latest government Indices of Multiple Deprivation as being in the lowest 20%. They are interested in, for example, youth clubs; training schemes to help people out of unemployment; drop in centres for the homeless.

For more information please visit www.trusthousecharitablefoundation.org.uk

Case Study – Hett Village Hall

Hett Village Hall is an ex-army World War Two nissen hut, purchased second hand by residents' subscriptions in 1956. It remains the only facility in a village of about 80 houses and 240 residents. Hett does not have a shop or Post Office, and the bus service into and out of Durham has ceased. Its public house has been closed twice, now opens erratically and is again for sale. The Village Hall facilities were minimal and insufficient to meet the needs of the community. Electrical wiring was original, heating was particularly poor and there was no hot water on site. East Durham



LEADER was pleased to support this project to improve provision, allowing continued use of the building. In addition to the Village Hall Association's own events, community groups and private individuals are increasingly using the hall as a venue for family functions. Vital services such as the Police, Parish Church, Womens Institute, a choir group, and the Parish Council now also use the facility regularly, thereby retaining a formal presence in the village.

If you would like your hall or community centre to be featured as a case study in a future edition, please email helen.thistlethwaite@durhamrcc.org.uk or telephone 01207 529621. Project supported by:



Online Fundraising Ideas for Your Community Buildings

Shop Online and Raise Funds for your Hall or Centre for FREE!

easyfundraising
.org.uk

There's now a really easy way for you to raise funds for your hall or community centre - simply by logging on to the web!

Shop Online and Raise Funds

Nowadays, many of your supporters and user groups will use the Internet to do their shopping so wouldn't it be great if you could raise funds whenever they do?

easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores including Amazon, Next, Debenhams, John Lewis, Toys R Us, Marks and Spencer and over 2000 other top name stores. Whenever your supporters shop with any one of them using the links provided on the easyfundraising site, they'll generate a donation for your Village Hall or Community Centre of up to 15% of the purchase price every time! It really is that simple!

It's completely free to register and use for both you and your supporters and it won't cost them a penny more to shop and raise funds for you in this way. In fact they could even save money as many retailers give exclusive discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' when you shop through the easyfundraising site.

When you register with easyfundraising you'll also get a free charity search engine, easysearch, where your supporters can raise funds for you whenever they search the web. An average searcher can generate around £25 a year for you at no extra cost!

What's more, when you register with easyfundraising, you'll get access to free marketing support such as flyers, newsletter wording and other useful tools to help you promote the scheme to your supporters.

For more information please visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk/new_charities_organisations/

eBay Charity Online

If you're a charity, eBay for Charity can help you raise funds and boost your profile with well over 20 million eBay users in the UK, and 250 million worldwide. There are 3 main ways for you to get involved:

- Receive donations from eBay sellers
- Sell your items on eBay
- Hold a special auction

Receive donations from eBay sellers

Anyone can give to your charity when they sell on eBay. Sellers can donate between 10% and 100% of each item's sale price to your charity. MissionFish, a registered charity that helps other charities raise funds online, will collect the donation from the seller, claim Gift Aid (if eligible) and pass the money on to you. MissionFish takes a small deduction from each donation to cover its processing and administrative costs.

Sell your items on eBay

Selling on eBay is a great and efficient way to reach millions and raise funds whether you've got a supply of donated items, merchandise or anything else you'd like to sell. There are schemes in operation by community groups where they request unwanted goods from local residents; these are then sold on eBay and either part or the full amount of the sale is given as a donation to the community group. Alternatively, some community groups offer to sell goods for local residents on eBay in exchange for some volunteering work; in these cases the resident would receive the full value of the sale on the understanding that they would carry out some volunteering tasks for the community group who set up the sale on their behalf.

Hold a special auction

Special auctions tend to do extremely well on eBay. The reason is simple - people love unusual and exciting things, and eBay is an incredibly efficient way to allow millions of people to get involved. It's impossible to describe exactly what makes an auction special, but they tend to have one or more of the following features: 'Money can't buy', one-of-a-kind items, items with celebrity or star associations, unique or extraordinary items, extremely valuable items. These kinds of items or experiences capture the public imagination and engage people whether you have one auction or many. They can drive awareness, attention and hopefully, raise a lot of money for your charity.

For more information please visit <http://pages.ebay.co.uk/ebayforcharity/charities.html>

Running a Village Hall or Community Centre? Looking for quality insurance at reasonable cost?



Durham Rural
Community Council

has the insurance solution for you!

At Durham Rural Community Council we pride ourselves in providing high quality, cost effective insurance solutions carefully developed to meet the specialised needs of Village Halls and Community Buildings. Our cover is underwritten by Zurich Insurance plc, one of Britain's leading insurance providers. We can also offer a discount of 5% on insurance premiums for any Village Hall or Community Building that achieves Hallmark Accreditation Level 1. Please call Ian Pillar on 01207 529621 or email ian@durhamrcc.org.uk for more information.

Litter Free Durham's Big Spring Clean

Litter Free Durham, supported by Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council, is organising a Big Spring Clean across both the county and borough. It will run from 19 March 2011 to 16 April 2011, covering the last four weeks before the start of the school Easter holidays. You can help by organising a Litter Pick in your locality. Litter Free Durham will give you advice and help. Just let them know the date, time and location of any pick so that they can help you with publicity.

E-mail springclean1@litterfreedurham.org.uk, visit www.litterfreedurham.org.uk or call 0757 2531725 for more information. Advice and assistance can also be obtained from Durham County Council by contacting the Senior Pride Officer for your area:

- East area (formerly Durham City and Easington districts) Pauline.Walker@durham.gov.uk
- North area (formerly Chester-le-Street and Derwentside districts) Helen.Douglas@durham.gov.uk
- South area (formerly Sedgefield, Wear Valley and Teesdale districts)
Clare.Hubbard@durham.gov.uk

Litter Free Durham is a voluntary group within the County Durham Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

Village Halls – Buy It, Swop It or Flog It....

Does your hall have any items you want to sell, swop or give away, or are you looking for something in particular for your hall?

If yes, please send the following information:

- Description of items to sell or required
- Price (if applicable)
- Contact details: name, telephone number and/or email
- Photograph (if applicable)

by email to helen.thistlethwaite@durhamrcc.org.uk or telephone Helen Thistlethwaite on 01207 529621 and we can circulate the information to our vast network of village halls and community centres throughout County Durham.

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

Helen Thistlethwaite, Rural Development Officer

Email: helen.thistlethwaite@durhamrcc.org.uk Telephone 01207 529621