



PRESS RELEASE

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Grayrigg reopens after green refit

THE first green refurbishment under the Sustainable Village Halls project will be officially opened this Saturday (July 19).

Residents of Grayrigg and surrounding villages and hamlets will be coming together to celebrate the completion of the two year refurbishment that has turned their cold, high energy using community facility into a warm, modern energy efficient centre.

Voluntary Action Cumbria's Village Halls Adviser, Carl Glynn said: "The Sustainable Village Halls project funded 13 energy efficiency audits across South Lakeland, which highlighted ways village halls could be improved to increase their energy efficiency. The project was a partnership between VAC, Cumbria County Council, Cumbria and Lancashire Renewable Energy Network and the Lake District National Park Authority.

"As well as the energy efficiency audits, the project also gave the halls a free renewable energy generation audit. This assessed each hall's suitability for installing the most appropriate renewable energy technology, for example an Air Source Heat Pump powered and Solar Photovoltaics at Grayrigg. Both audits provided a shopping list of improvements that could be made to make the halls greener.

"The impact of improving the energy efficiency at Grayrigg Coronation Hall has been to create a warmer, more efficient and welcoming building. Since work was completed the usage of the hall has significantly increased, which includes the new locally run Bar Night, which was originally planned to be run monthly but due to popular demand it now runs every fortnight.

"The hall serves not only Grayrigg but also the parishes of Lambrigg, Docker, Patton and Whinfell. There are no other meeting places or pubs for local people to gather, so the newly refurbished Village Hall has become a major gathering point for socialising through the Bar Nights and other events. It has become the hub of the wider community."

Work on Grayrigg Coronation Hall was supported by several funders, community fundraising and donations, and it is the first of 13 village halls to complete their refurbishments.

VAC and CLAREN provided advice and support for the communities involved. The main funding for the project was through Cumbria County Council and the Lake District National Park.

Carl added: "The energy saving advice given to the communities to help make their village halls warmer and more energy efficient could be applied to private households creating an additional positive knock on effect for the whole community."

- Ends -

Photos:



Grayrigg Village Hall



Locals enjoy the first Bar Night at Grayrigg Village Hall

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Notes to Editors:

Voluntary Action Cumbria

- VAC is Cumbria's Rural Community Council and a registered charity.
- VAC is working with people and communities to improve the quality of life in rural Cumbria.
- VAC is an independent organisation able to work with a wide range of partners on an open and equitable basis.
- Established in 1948, for 60 years VAC has been supporting communities that are socially, economically and environmentally vibrant where the needs of all are considered.
- To find out more information, please visit VAC's website: www.ruralcumbria.org.uk