



V O L U N T A R Y
A C T I O N
C U M B R I A

Village Hall Update October 2000

Welcome to the October edition!

We hope you have all had a good summer and are looking forward to a lively winter of activity at the hall.

We have been very pleased at your responses to the change in the Village Hall Advice service and the uptake at the recent workshops. Included in this edition are details of the next events looking at issues we are most commonly asked about and you most commonly come up against especially when making funding applications. The workshop has been structured in two parts to enable you to focus on ensuring you meet key responsibilities or enabling you to extend good practice in management. A certificate for attendance at both sessions provides you with further evidence of your commitment to the community. To register for one or both sessions simply fill in and return the form at the back of this newsletter. Why not display a copy of the programme/registration sheet in the hall - it might encourage some new people to consider finding out what its all about and then joining the hall committee!

We would also like to thank the increasing number of you who use the ***Advice Request Forms*** to contact us with new issues. Jonathan and I both only work part time on village hall advice and the forms are a huge help in ensuring we can respond effectively to new enquiries alongside ongoing work. Understanding that "5 working days" in a part time post is actually within **2.5 weeks** in reality also enables **you** to give us adequate warning of the support you need when you have meetings to respond to and your own deadlines to meet.

Just to clarify the areas that Jonathan and I cover:

Jonathan

looks after Allerdale, Copeland, Barrow and **South Lakeland to the west of the M6**

Anne

looks after Eden Carlisle and **South Lakeland to the east of the M6**

Village Hall Committee's Roles & Responsibilities Event
16th November 2000

Members of Village Hall Committees are faced with an array of roles and responsibilities to fulfil – they are not usually complicated but a clear understanding of the issues is needed to ensure best practice at the hall. It is also often key to achieving grant assistance. We are offering both existing and potential Village Hall Committee members the opportunity to attend two free events, which may help clarify these responsibilities. Attendance at both events will enable you to undertake tasks to demonstrate good practice and completion will lead to a certificate. If you prefer to attend only one of the events please ensure that you mark this clearly on the attached registration form.

7pm on Wednesday 15th November 2000 at Stainton Village Hall, nr Penrith

Village Hall Committees Roles & Responsibilities

This event will detail the main roles and responsibilities of Village Hall Committees including

- ◆ Discussion of the governing documents
- ◆ How to keep up to date and ensure good practice
- ◆ Requirements to meet legislation ranging from disabled access to provision for children

7pm on Wednesday 6th December 2000 at Stainton Village Hall, near Penrith

Managing Your Village Hall

This session will look at committee management and hall management issues including:

- ◆ the people involved
- ◆ methods and procedures to ensure clarity and keep things simple but effective
- ◆ hall maintenance and planning for the future

If access to this venue presents a difficulty but you still wish to benefit from this information, please contact us as if there is sufficient interest we will consider repeating the event elsewhere next year.

For more details see the programme and registration sheet

or contact Anne Bilbrough at Voluntary Action Cumbria
01768 242130

- ***NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE NATIONAL LOTTERY CHARITIES BOARD***

Since our last edition of Update in July, the Village Hall Advice Team at VAC has been informed that the requirements then stipulated by the National Lotteries Charity Board (NLCB) have been slightly amended. We share your frustration that halls who have registered for an application pack do not automatically receive the new guidelines. However for those of you in the process of preparing an NLCB application we would strongly advise that you contact the NLCB on **0845 7919191** and seek clarification of the likely impact on your project and request a copy of the updated Property Applications guidelines.

If you require further assistance please contact

Jonathan on 0777 9045673 if your hall is in the district of Allerdale, Copeland, Barrow or South Lakeland(west)

Anne on 01768 242130 if your hall is in the district of Carlisle, Eden or South Lakeland(east) **see map**

- ***ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOP***

September's workshop on ***Energy efficiency in community buildings***, which had to be postponed due to the fuel crisis, successfully took place on Friday 6th October. The event was very well supported and highly praised and it is anticipated that it will be repeated in other parts of the county to maximise its benefits. The workshop aims to enable all of those attending to conduct their own energy audit when they return to their own hall to identify improvements which will make the village hall cheaper to run and also more sensitive to the environment.. We would like to hear from anyone interested in attending such an event so that we can plan venues, dates etc which will be most appropriate. Please register your interest with Jonathan on **0777 9045673**. The NEA also has a free information pack "Energy Efficiency in Community Buildings" available by phoning 0191 261 5677.

- ***LOOKING FOR A STAGE?***

Ireby Globe Hall is about to undergo major refurbishment and they are looking for a good home for their old stage. It's about 20ft long, 6-7ft deep and 3ft high with an extension to make it 12ft deep. The stage is good solid wood and is fixed in position so you'd need a gang competent with a screwdriver as well as in possession of a long trailer.

Any Hall Committee interested should contact John Bibby on 016973 71382. I am sure that a contribution from the recipient to the Globes restoration fund would be much appreciated.

- **IS ANYONE OUT THERE WANTING TO SET UP A VILLAGE SHOP?**

Village Retail Services Association (**ViRSA**) are holding a one day seminar which will provide you with guidance on all aspects of funding and purchasing a Village Shop.

**The Seminar is on Tuesday 5 December 2000, from 9 am to 5 pm.,
at The Angel Inn, Topcliffe, Thirsk, North Yorkshire.**

Costs are £100.00 per couple and £50.00 single as a result of generous support by the
Countryside Agency

For further information contact:

ViRSA, The Little Keep, Bridport Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1SQ
Tel: 01305-259383 Fax: 01305-259384 e mail: virsa@ruralnet.org.uk

supported by



- **THE VILLAGE HALL ADVICE SERVICE**

If you have questions, concerns or desires regarding your local village hall, please talk to us. Specifically we can offer advice and information on:

- **Project planning and development**
- **Fundraising and building comprehensive funding packages**
- **Serving your community**
- **Technical and legal advice**
and much, much more!

Please remember that we are here to help in any way that we can, so if you feel that your village hall management committee could use some help, advice or guidance please contact. Anne Bilbrough or Jonathan Walkingshaw at the following address, using an **Advice Request Form** whenever possible:

**Voluntary Action Cumbria
The Old Stables
Redhills
Penrith
Cumbria
CA11 0DT**

Tel.: Anne (01768) 242130 Jonathan 0777 9045673

Fax: (01768) 242134

Vac@dial.pipex.com

Remember, the **Advice Request Form** enables us to deal with your enquiry more efficiently thus improving the service you receive from us!