



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

~ December 2002 ~

Inside...

Confused and worried about the Disability Discrimination Act 1995? Book a place on our **Disability Discrimination Act Training Event** on January 16th.

We have some more suggestions for **Funding**, as usual, including the Lake District National Park Authority's new Sustainable Development Fund and the Northern Rock Foundation's new priorities.

How Accessible Are You? Perhaps you can't afford large-scale alterations to the Hall, but there are things you can do to make the building more accessible. We suggest some simple, inexpensive actions to take.

How, exactly, can we help you? Just inside the back page we summarise what our **Village Hall Advice Service** can do for your Hall and your Committee.

Take advantage of some of the Training Courses and Funding Fairs on offer in the County. Details in **Dates For Your Diary**.

There's money still available in his financial year for Halls in Eden. More information on **Eden Village Hall Grants** on the back page.

And More....





How Accessible Are You?

Village Halls exist to serve the whole community. If village hall committees are to make sure that their building and activities are genuinely accessible and available to **everyone**, a special effort, and a sensitive, understanding approach is needed.

While the requirements of people in wheelchairs might be obvious, it is easy to overlook the needs of people with 'hidden' problems, such as asthma or epilepsy. One of the main barriers to accessibility can be the negative attitudes people encounter, even when this is not intended. A positive approach is needed - seeking out and encouraging people who are unsure about using the building. The aim, which can take years to achieve, should be to offer the same facilities and opportunities to everyone.

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) is aimed at ending the discrimination that many people with disabilities face daily. The DDA, however, is only part of the of codes of practice, regulations and legislation that require and encourage service providers to make their facilities and buildings accessible.

So where do you start? Obviously, when a new building is planned it is important to consider accessibility at a very early stage. Your District Council should be able to help you here, and your local Access Group will also have ideas.

But of course, most Village Halls in Cumbria are not new, and some are very old indeed. Major alterations are difficult and expensive, but there ARE inexpensive, simple actions you can take to improve the accessibility of your Hall in the short term. Here are some ideas:-

- Mark out some large parking bays near the front door.
- Have a portable ramp made to cover steps.
- If you have double doors, make sure one is not kept permanently locked.
- Move your door-handles to a height of 1040mm above floor level.
- Lower your notice boards so that the top edge is no higher than 1500mm from the floor.
- Keep corridors free from obstacles.
- If you do have a disabled toilet, PLEASE don't store things in the space designed for wheelchairs to pull alongside the toilet itself. The height of the mirror is often overlooked, too!
- Leave spaces for wheelchair users when setting out seating for performances.
- Use contrasting colours for handles, sockets, switches, doorframes, edges of steps etc.

These are just some of the things you can do with minimal expense and effort to make your Hall accessible to the whole community.

We don't have the space to go into the provisions of the DDA in detail - please come along to our training event in January (details on page four) or ask us for ACRE Information Sheet No. 32.

(From ACRE Information Sheet No. 25)

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Help the Aged Millennium Award Scheme

The award scheme will provide grants to people who are over 55 that want to improve their local community. Projects could include setting up a club, carrying out physical improvements in the community, or running classes. The scheme offers training and workshops to the award winners. **For more information contact: Awards hotline: 0870 770 3280**

Co-operative Community Dividend Scheme

Grants are available for small community groups, voluntary organisations, co-operative and self-help groups across the region. Grants range between £100 and £5000 and are aimed at disadvantaged areas in which the Co-op trades. Leaflets on the Community Dividend Scheme are available in your local Co-operative food stores. **To find your nearest store visit: www.co-opdirectory.co.uk**

Northern Rock Foundation

The funding objectives for the Foundation will soon be changing. No new applications will now be accepted under the old priorities, as the new programme is valid from 1 January 2003. The predominant objective of the new programme is to help disadvantaged people (because of age, disability, displacement, geography, prejudice and discrimination etc.) The Foundation has also simplified the areas it will work in these are; **Cumbria**, Durham, Northumberland, the Tees Valley and Tyne & Wear. Grants will be in the form of core support, project grants and capital grants. **For more information contact: Northern Rock Foundation, 21 Lansdowne Road, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE3 1HP. Tel: (0191) 284 8412. Visit: www.nr-foundation.org.uk**

Shell Better Britain Campaign (SBBC) Interactive Fund

Grants up to £2000 are available for community-based groups for projects demonstrating both community and environmental benefits. Projects must make a positive difference to the local environment and address wider environmental issues and must be led by the community.

For more information contact: enquiries@sbbc.co.uk

English Nature - Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ASLF)

The ASLF grants scheme aims to help support community and other groups to boost biodiversity and geological conservation around quarries. The overall objective of the scheme is to help turn aggregate extraction into a sustainable industry by contributing to the development of the UK biodiversity plans, enhancing site access for recreation and tourism, education, and by improving the quality of life of those affected by aggregate extraction. **For more information visit: www.english-nature.org.uk or e-mail enquiries@english-nature.org.uk or Tel: 01733 455101**

Lake District National Park Authority - Sustainable Development Fund

The grant is open to individuals and organisation both inside and outside of the LDNP. Grants are awarded to sustainable development projects that further National Park objectives. Grant support will not normally exceed 75% for community groups and 50% for other organisations. Priority will be given to projects that involve one or more of the following:

- Involve young people
- Combat social exclusion
- Bring organisations together to co-operate in tackling problems or promoting new ideas
- Demonstrate initiative
- Have little access to alternative public funding
- Lever in contributions from other sources
- Add value or new dimensions to existing sustainability projects

For more information contact: Alison Lax, Sustainable Development Officer, Lake District NPA, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7RL. Tel: (01539) 724555

Changes for small charities – Charities Commission

In the future, smaller charities (charities with an annual income under £10,000) will not have to submit an Annual Return; they will also be able to make straightforward decisions without having to justify them to the Charity Commission. This will allow the Trustees to have more responsibility for their organisation and enable decisions to be made quickly and efficiently.

For help and advice contact your Rural Community Officer or go direct to the very helpful Charities Commission:-

20, King's Parade
Queen's Dock
Liverpool
L3 4DQ.

Tel: 0870 333 0123 Fax:0151 703 1555

www.charity-commission.gov.uk



Disability Discrimination Act

Are you worried about how your Hall is going to meet the requirements of the Act? Struggling with plans for disabled toilets and wondering where to put the ramps?

We believe there is a lot of uncertainty about what village hall committees need to do and we know many people are gravely concerned about the issue.

As a result, we have planned a training event for village hall committee members based around the requirements of the Act and how to meet them.

****FREE!****

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT TRAINING EVENT

Thursday 16th January, 7 - 9 pm
at Crosby Village Hall
(Nr Maryport)

Places will be limited – You **MUST** book!
Contact Debbie Keir or Cathie Fleming
on 01768 242130

! Dates for your Diary !

20 January 2003 - **Community Fund Training Day** (WestCoast)

Contact:- Anne Bell at West Cumbria CVS on 01946 852955

29 January 2003 - **Carlisle Funding Fair** – Cumbria Park Hotel

Contact:- Kay McGregor at Carlisle CVS on 01228 512513

19 February 2003 - **South Lakeland Funding Fair**

Further details available soon

12th March 2003 – **Funding for Village Halls**

Further details available soon

26 June 2003 - **West Coast Funding Fair**

Further details available soon

16 October 2003 - **Eden Funding Fair**

Further details available soon

The Village Hall Advice Service

How can we help you?

The Village Hall Advice Service is organised by your local RCO. The Advice Service aims to:-

**"Help develop projects that meet
social needs in communities."**

In doing this we aim to:-

- ❖ Respond to queries within one month when the yellow Advice Request Form is used.
- ❖ Keep files as a resource for committees and new committee members.
- ❖ Act as a link to a Legal Advice Service offered through Action for Communities in Rural England, (ACRE) the national organisation for Village Halls
- ❖ Produce the Village Hall Update, a newsletter we hope you will display in your hall
- ❖ Be a link to a network of other relevant initiatives and agencies.
- ❖ Provide general funding advice.
- ❖ Be an advocate for community buildings in rural areas.
- ❖ Co-ordinate a training programme.
- ❖ Receive the ACRE information sheets and bulletins and pass out relevant information.

ACRE Information Sheets

VH1-Planning Fees for Village Halls
VH2-Parish Council Help for Village Halls
VH3-Post Offices in Village Halls
VH4-Village Hall Insurance Re-Building Costs
VH5-The Children Act 1989
VH6-Village Halls and Registration for VAT
VH7-Villager Halls and Insurance Cover
VH8-Understage Storage
VH9-Public Entertainment Licenses
VH10-Alcohol in Village Halls
VH11-The Charities Act 1992 & 1993
VH12-Phonographic Performance License
VH13-PRS (License Fees under Tariff CB)
VH14-Asbestos
VH16-Trustee Model Information Pack for
New Village Hall Management Committee
VH17-Trustees - Roles and Responsibilities
VH19-The National Lottery
VH20-Health and Hygiene in Village Halls
VH21-Overnight Accommodation in Village
Halls

VH22-Village Halls as employers
VH23-Village Halls and Community Centres -
Funding their provision
VH24-Village Halls and the Payment of Rates
VH25-Making Village Halls Accessible
VH26-Coping with VAT on Fuel and Power
Supplies
VH27-Setting up an IT Resource Centre in a
Village Hall
VH28-Business Plan
VH29-Bingo in Village Halls
VH30-The Village Hall Heating
VH31-The Village Hall Floors
VH32-An Introductory Guide to the DDA
1995
VH33-Gaming and Lotteries
VH34-Sales of Goods
VH35-Trustee Liability and Trustee Indemnity
Insurance

If you would like copies of any of these ACRE Information Sheets, please send in your request on the yellow form.

A new Model Hiring Agreement will be available soon from ACRE. If you would like a copy, drop you request in on the yellow Advice Request Form and we'll send one out to you.

We wish Julia Wilson all the best as she leaves us to go on maternity leave. Julia will be back in May 2003.

Julia reminds us that we still have Eden District Council **Village Hall Grants** to give out for refurbishment works and Building Condition Surveys in this financial year. Phone 01768 569524 (the usual Eden RCO number) and leave a message on Julia's voicemail. Messages will be checked regularly, and someone will get back to you.

Who's Who? – Your Rural Community Officer

Here is our usual quick guide:

Gail Knöpfel	-	South Lakeland
Anna Scamans	-	Copeland
Debbie Keir	-	Allerdale
Cathie Fleming	-	Carlisle
Julia Wilson	-	Eden



Cathie is covering Carlisle for us, while Jennie Wilkinson is on long-term sick leave.

And finally.....

If you have any information to share or success stories to shout about, please contact either Anna Scamans or Cathie Fleming at:

Voluntary Action Cumbria
The Old Stables
Redhills
Penrith
CA11 0DT
www.ruralcumbria.org.uk

*Wishing You a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New year!*



Don't Forget!

Please make sure you display a copy of this Update in your hall, so that other people can benefit from the information!

* * *

We have enclosed a copy of the Advice Request Form. Please, please, please use these as your way of getting in contact with us. It helps us meet your needs in the most efficient and appropriate way. Once the forms are received back in the office the right Officer for your area will get back to you within 10 working days whenever possible. and