



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

## ~ Summer 2003 ~

### *Inside...*

Our next **Training Event** will be looking at **Energy Efficiency & Saving on Heating Bills**. Think ahead to winter, and come along on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

We take a first look at the new **Licensing Act**. Read and absorb – this will almost certainly affect you.

As usual, you'll find we've spotlighted a few potential grants for you in **Funding Information**.

Have you considered joining the **National Village Halls Forum**? We've enclosed an invitation to join from the Forum, and ask you inside for your thoughts.

We outline our new-look **Village Hall Advice Service** and give you the dates of our new **Village Hall Surgeries**.

Read our cautionary tale about **Flooring** – many thanks to the hall concerned for the information.

Plus **Dates for your Diary, Who's Who** -

*And More....*



## The Licensing Act 2003

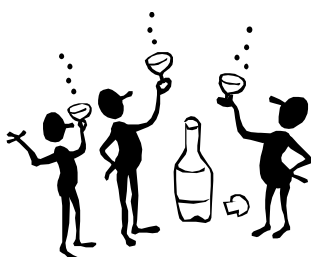


*This briefing contains initial information and guidance - it is not a definitive guide!*

Under the new Licensing Act responsibility for alcohol licensing passes from the magistrates court to local authorities, which are already responsible for licensing for public entertainment.

The key changes that affect village halls are as follows:-

- Premises Licences replace Public Entertainment Licences/Community Premises Licences. Premises Licences will be needed in order to hold public entertainment, film shows, indoor sporting events, performances of live or recorded music, dance performances and plays.
- A Premises Licence can include the sale of alcohol. In this case the applicant has to name a Premises Supervisor who is the holder of a Personal Licence to supervise the serving of alcohol.
- The facility for voluntary organisations to obtain Occasional Permissions to sell alcohol themselves is withdrawn, as is the facility for publicans to obtain Occasional Licences to sell alcohol off the premises and for interval bars under stage play licences. These are replaced with the facility to obtain Temporary Event Notices to sell alcohol, of which a maximum of 12 can be obtained for any one premises p.a.
- The provision of bottles of alcohol as prizes in raffles and tombolas are exempt from the need for a licence, under certain conditions.



The Act will begin to come into effect in **March 2004**, with a transitional period lasting till January 2005. From March 2004 it is expected that existing licensees would apply for a Premises Licence on a 'caretaker' basis, which may be on the same terms and conditions as existing licences. From Jan 2005 Premises Licences and Personal Licence will come into effect.

During the passage of legislation, the government made it clear that holders of a Personal Licence do not have to be on the premises when alcohol is sold, but that all sales would come under their authority (unless a Temporary Event Notice is held, in which case the 'premises user' authorises the sales).

It will be up to local authorities to implement a licensing procedure, and set a Licensing Policy - it is important that village hall committees are in the consultation loop from the start. Contact the licensing department at your local authority and make yourselves known!

The government gave an assurance in response to lobbying that no fees would be charged for Premises Licences for village halls, parish halls, community halls, church halls or similar community buildings. Fees will be charged for Temporary Event Notices and for Personal Licences. These are expected to be roughly in line with those previously charged for Occasional Permissions.

At the moment, we here at VAC are learning with you about the new Act. If you have specific questions, record them on the yellow form in as much detail as possible and send them in to us. We can collect them and get advice from ACRE for you. Thank you!

(Taken from an ACRE briefing dated July 2003 - a New Information Sheet will be produced once all the new procedures are in place)

## £ £ £ Funding Information £ £ £

### The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation Loans Programme

This is a £3 million fund offering loans to the voluntary sector. Initially it will run from May 2003 for up to 3 years. The minimum loan is £10,000 and the maximum loan is £250,000. Loans will be made in the Foundation's areas of interest and funding priorities outlined in their guidelines. Where they are unable to make a grant a loan might be an alternative way of giving support. They are unlikely to make loans for bridging finance. Before making an application and for more information about the Foundation's funding priorities see their website: [www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/loans.html](http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk/loans.html) or Tel: 020 7297 4700

### Comic Relief - UK Grants

The UK Grants programme aims to tackle poverty and promote social justice by helping people make lasting, positive changes in their lives and their communities. Their aims are to:

- Reach the poorest and most disadvantaged people
- Help people to find solutions to the problems they face
- Help groups who face discrimination get their views heard and their needs met
- Support groups which are user led
- Raise public awareness of the rights, needs and hopes of disadvantaged people
- Support work which influences policy at national, regional and local levels.

To be as effective as possible in meeting their aims, during 2003-2005 they will give funding to five specific areas. Applications will only be considered under the following programmes: Supporting Young People; Fighting for Justice; Domestic Abuse; Refugees and Asylum Seekers; Local Communities Working for Change. For more details of these programmes see the website: [www.comicrelief.org.uk](http://www.comicrelief.org.uk)

Applications are particularly welcome from projects that specifically benefit women, older people, disabled people, people who live in rural areas etc. They give grants to voluntary organisations and self-help groups, paying particular attention to parts of the UK which often miss out on funding, especially towns and cities outside London and rural areas.

For an application form and guidelines please send an SAE (57p postage) to UK Grants Team, Comic Relief, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7TP Tel: 020 7820 5555 Fax: 020 7820 5500 Textphone: 020 7820 5579 E-mail: [ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk](mailto:ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk)

### Cumbria Community Foundation

The Foundation is a grant making charitable trust set up to support voluntary groups helping disadvantaged people across Cumbria. They manage a number of grant programmes including:

- Community Champions - for individuals with good ideas to get new activities started in their community
- County Grants - small grants for small groups
- Cumbria Key Fund - for groups supporting people into work
- DAT Community Chest - substance abuse hotspots
- Business Buddies - help and advice from professionals for voluntary groups
- Local Network Fund - grants for groups providing activities for children and young people aged 0-19 years

E-mail: [enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org](mailto:enquiries@cumbriafoundation.org) Website: [www.cumbriafoundation.org](http://www.cumbriafoundation.org)

Tel: 01900 825760

~ Bits 'n' Pieces ~

### Child Protection Policy

We have an example of a child protection policy if you would like to see a copy.

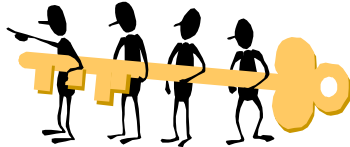
### Honorarium/Renumeration?

An honorarium is a single, one off payment to someone in circumstances where the payer is not bound to pay it and the payee does not expect the payment. The payment of someone to lock and unlock the village hall on a regular basis is not an honorarium, it's remuneration.

### National Village Halls Forum

You will see that we've enclosed an invitation from the National Village Halls Forum to village hall committees in Cumbria to join that organisation.

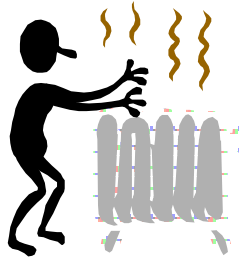
Please make sure this invitation is tabled at your next Committee meeting. In addition, will you let us know, using the yellow form, what you think? It would be useful to us to know how you feel about the Forum!



### Fool-Proof Floors?

Recently a village hall we work with passed on to us this cautionary tale:- They had paid a large amount of money for a new floor, and only found out when faults started appearing that the contractor they had hired had no experience of that kind of work. They now face a heavy bill for remedial work.

The moral of this story? Always check your contractor is a specialist in the area you need! Ask for references from similar work, and do all you can to ensure you get exactly what you want.



**\*\*FREE!\*\***

**TRAINING EVENT**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>  
September, 7 - 9 pm**

**at Voluntary Action Cumbria, Penrith**

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY & SAVING ON HEATING BILLS

- Energy Efficiency
- Possible sources of funding
- Opportunities for renewable energy

**Places will be limited – You MUST book!  
Contact Julia Wilson on 01768 242130**

## ! Dates for your Diary !

16<sup>th</sup> October – **Eden Funding Fair** – Penrith Rugby Club

**Contact:-** Diane Jackson at Eden CVS on 01768 242138

24<sup>th</sup> October – **Running a Community Building** – Victory Hall, Broughton-in-Furness

**Contact:-** Don Quigley at CVA South Lakeland on 01539 729168

**!!Also see our Village Hall Surgeries on the back page!!**

# Changes to the Village Hall Advice Service

Our successful Advice Service for Village Halls is continuing, but owing to funding constraints, VAC no longer have as much time as we would like to spend on advising and supporting Village Halls. As a result, we're having to be a lot more effective with our time - working smarter, not harder!

**In future, part from exceptional cases, we will not be able to visit individual village halls to give advice.**

Instead, we ask you to participate in our **new annual programme of Village Hall Surgeries**, which will be happening almost every month and in every district.

## *You Can:-*

- Book a fifty minute advice session with a RDO
- Attend short and sharp training sessions at each Surgery

## *You Must:-*

- BOOK a session - we can't help those who just turn up!
- Send any relevant paperwork in advance
- Tell us the specific advice you are looking for in advance

## *We Will:-*

- Give you our undivided attention for your fifty minutes
- Provide refreshments
- Have useful literature there for you to browse through and order if you wish

## *The Surgeries:-*

Surgeries will run from 1pm through till 9pm, with twelve advice sessions available for booking, and an hour long training session at 4pm.

10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	South Lakes -	Greenodd VH
25 <sup>th</sup> Sep	Energy Efficiency & Saving on Heating Bills	Training Event
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Carlisle -	Laversdale VH, Nr Brampton
28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Copeland -	Gosforth Public Hall
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Eden -	Voluntary Action Cumbria
27 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Allerdale -	Culterham VH, Mawbray
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Health & Safety and Village Halls	Training Event
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	South Lakes -	Stavely VH
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Carlisle -	tba
18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Eden -	tba
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Copeland -	tba
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Allerdale -	tba

## *To Book:-*

To book an advice session, please call your Rural Development Officer or, if you are booking far enough in advance, send in your request on the yellow form. We will either call you to discuss your needs and allocate you a slot, or send you a booking form. Please provide as much detail as possible on the booking form, so we can prepare properly, and bring any resources we might need.

## We're nearly there!

In the last Update we explained that our RDO Team was not quite at full strength - very soon it will be!

**Sarah Mitchell** will be joining us as Rural Development Officer for Allerdale and Copeland very shortly, and at that point there will be an Officer to cover every District in the County - we're looking forward to getting back to full coverage. For the moment, please continue to direct your enquiries for the Allerdale & Copeland districts to **Lorraine Smyth**.

**Anna Scamans** has moved across to cover Eden and Carlisle, and is busy getting to know new parishes, villages, projects and people.

## Who's Who? – Your Rural Development Officer

Here is our usual quick guide:

<b>Julia Wilson</b>	-	<b>South Lakeland &amp; Furness</b>
<b>Anna Scamans</b>	-	<b>Carlisle &amp; Eden</b>
<b>Sarah Mitchell</b>	-	<b>Copeland &amp; Allerdale</b> (from Sept)
<b>Louisa Alston</b>	-	<b>Assistant RDO</b>



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## Village Halls and VAT

ACRE have provided us with an updated Information Sheet (Number 18) on *Village Halls and VAT on Building Work and Other Purchases*, which has been approved by HM Customs and Excise. If this would be useful to you, please request a copy using the yellow sheet.

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## And finally.....

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

**Voluntary Action Cumbria**  
The Old Stables  
Redhills  
Penrith  
CA11 0DT  
[www.ruralcumbria.org.uk](http://www.ruralcumbria.org.uk)  
01768 242130

## Don't Forget!

## Display a Copy!

Please put up a copy of this Update in your Hall, so that others can benefit from the information.

\* \* \*

We have enclosed a copy of the **Advice Request Form**. 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 as soon as possible. and