



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 2004 ~

Inside

A welcome note from Carl Glynn, the new Village Halls Adviser and Support Officer.

As usual, we've summarised some **Funding Information** for you, also reminding you about your local Neighbourhood Forum.

Come to our **Rural Services Event** and see examples of how other Halls have funded services provided in their building.

For **Village Halls in Eden** – please remember that Eden District Council offer grants especially for access, and general improvements. More information inside.

Don't forget, if you need help or advice, book a slot at one of our **Village Hall Surgeries**.

A new Information Sheet on **Health & Safety Legislation and Village Halls** is now available.

And More .



The Village Hall Update is the newsletter of Cumbria's Village Hall Advice Service.
It is produced by Voluntary Action Cumbria for the benefit of Village Hall Committees across the County.

Are you Ready?

With October 2004 just around the corner, we thought it a good idea to remind people not to panic about the **1995 DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT**.

About the Act

The DDA aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face.

The Act makes it unlawful to treat disabled people less favourably than other people for a reason related to their disability. From October 2004 service providers have to make reasonable adjustments to the physical features of their premises to overcome physical barriers to access.

Don't Panic

This doesn't mean that on October 1st someone will visit your Hall with a padlock and chain to shut you down. Far from it.

The Act accepts that some service providers may be unable to make these adjustments for a number of reasons:-

- **Money** Many Halls have very little income; some are running at a loss; and most funders are not interested in giving grants just for DDA compliance. We know this. So does the Act. If you simply can't find the money for expensive works, then it is not reasonable to do the work.
- **Physical Restrictions** If you don't have the space to put in a ramp, it's not a reasonable adjustment to make. If you have no land on which to provide disabled parking, that's not reasonable either.
- **Health and Safety** If providing access to all would put the health and safety of any person at risk, then you are justified in not making an adjustment.
- **Providing a Service** The Act does not ask a Hall to make changes that would make it impossible to provide an

acceptable service to other members of the public. If you could provide access, but only if you took up so much of the main hall that the local badminton club could no longer play there, you're not required to do so.

That said, it is essential that Halls work towards being as accessible as possible.

Basic Steps

These are the first steps towards accessibility that all Halls should, by now, have taken.

- **Access Audit** Carry out an Access Audit. Contact your local Access Officer for help, or get in touch with your local disability association. Or, with guidance, you can produce an Audit yourself. Ask us for help. Remember it's not just about wheelchairs! Consider large print hiring agreements, and fundraising for an induction loop.
- **Access Plan** The Audit will have pointed out things you need to do. When are you going to do them? How will you fund them? Put down on paper how you intend to achieve the work needed. Don't forget that accessibility starts *outside*.
- **Consult your Users** Talk to your user groups. What are their priorities for access improvements? Incorporate their views into your Plan. Be upfront - tell people what you are doing and share your successes and your setbacks.

View the DDA as an opportunity to ensure you are providing the best possible service to your community

Your local Access Officers:-

Allerdale:	Mike Serginson	01900 326505
Barrow:	Kevin Morrison	01229 894256
Carlisle:	Margaret Easton	01228 817183
Copeland:	Heather Morrison	01946 852692
Eden:	Ray Beare	01768 212159
S. Lakeland:	Alun Brown	01539 717191

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Neighbourhood Forums

Don't forget that your local Neighbourhood Forum is a good source of grants for any community group or project. Contact your local office to find out when their next grant panel is and if your project is eligible. Carlisle (01228) 606315; Eden (01434) 382128; Barrow (01229) 894312; Allerdale (01900) 325011; South Lakeland (01539) 773180 or (01229) 894103; and Copeland (01946) 855020.: www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums

The Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund, responsible for rolling out more than half of all Lottery good cause funding, came into being on 1st June 2004. The new organisation, formed from the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund, is now consulting extensively on the direction of its future programmes. During the summer of 2004, the Big Lottery Fund will ask the public to help determine its priorities. Details of the public consultation are available on the Big Lottery Fund's website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/consultation Contact: The Big Lottery Fund, Head Office, 1 Plough Place, London EC4A 1DE. Helpline: 08454 10 20 30. Fax: 0207 211 1750. Textphone: 0845 039 0204. E-mail: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk

Strengthening Rural Communities

This new fund from Rural Regeneration Cumbria, organised by the Cumbria Community Foundation offers Grants of up to £10,000 (match funding required) for rural projects that address one of the following:-

- Rural poverty
- Social exclusion due to rural isolation
- Poor access to services
- Additional stress, isolation and economic difficulties resulting from foot and mouth
- Community based activities that contribute to local economic development

More information from Clare Edwards on 01900 825760. www.cumbriafoundation.org

Nationwide Foundation

The Nationwide Foundation supports projects focusing on tackling disadvantage and deprivation through two themes:

- ◆ Rural Communities involving education, training and support of people disadvantaged through their rural location
- ◆ Volunteering Programmes involving children and young people leaving care, and crime and justice

Grants are between £500 and £10,000 and are normally made on a one-off basis. Contact: The Nationwide Foundation, Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon SN38 2SN Tel: 01793 655113 (Monday Thursday, 9.30am 1.00pm) Website: www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk

Cumbria Pro Help

Cumbria Pro Help provide a one stop shop for voluntary groups looking for specialist professional input free of charge. Contacts: Lynn MacNaughton on 01768 868940. E-mail: lynn.macnaughton@bitc.org.uk Louise Close-West on 01900 825760. E-mail: louise@cumbriafoundation.org



What happens when the lights go out?

Cumbria County Council Emergency Planning Unit

The Emergency Planning Unit's role is to produce and regularly review the County Council's contingency plans for civil protection in the event of a major incident. One area of concern is that severe weather, perhaps involving the loss of utilities, could play havoc in rural communities.

The Unit is looking at ways in which they could reduce any suffering in the immediacy of such an event. Cumbria has many rural communities and it is realised that Village Halls are one of the central planks for the continuation of village life, and that they represent the spirit of the community. The Village Hall could therefore be a place of safety for the community, and a place where the authorities could muster to help people affected if such an incident occurs.

The severe weather experienced by parts of the County in January demonstrated that speed of action would go a long way to help mitigate the effects. Ken Johnson will be in touch with your Hall shortly to further discuss the Unit's plans.

Eden Village Hall Grants

Are you a Village Hall in Eden looking for funding for improvements to your hall? Installing a better kitchen? Double glazing? A new floor?

Eden District Council offers grants of up to £4,000 (or 40% of project cost) for general improvements and £750 (or 75%) for access improvements. There is also a Building Condition Survey grant.

For more information on the main grant scheme, contact Anna on 01768 869529 (or send in a request on the yellow sheet). For details of the Disabled Access Grant contact Ray Beare on 01768 212445.

~ Rural Services Event ~

Ever wondered how to get hold of all that regeneration money that's out there?

This event can help!

In the future, Village Halls will be funded for the services they provide, not the building they provide them in. This event will show you ways other Halls have raised money for services, and introduce you to funders who are interested in projects of that type. We also hope to engage you in the debate about how you can achieve this in your own Hall.

On 29th September, at Thornthwaite cum Braithwaite, near Keswick.

! Dates for your Diary !

29th September- **Rural Services Event** - Thornthwaite cum Braithwaite, 5pm

Contact:- Carl Glynn on 01768 869525. *See above.*

14th October **Eden Funding Fair** - Penrith Rugby Club

Contact:- Eden CVS on 01768 242138

27th October - **Principals of Fundraising** - Shap Village Hall 7pm

Contact:- Carl Glynn on 01768 869525

22nd November Training:- **Village Hall Management Healthcheck** Venue tba

Contact:- Carl Glyn on 01768 869529

!! Also see our Village Hall Surgeries on the next page !!

Village Hall Surgeries

Dates for the 2004 Village Hall Surgeries are below. Owing to funding constraints, we are unable to come out and visit individual Village Halls. Instead, you can book a fifty minute slot at a Surgery in your district, where advice, literature and training will be available.

You MUST book a session in advance. To book, please call your Rural Development Officer or send in a yellow form with your request.

The Surgeries:-

Surgeries will run from 1pm through till 7pm, with advice sessions available for booking.

15 th Sept	Allerdale -	Venue tba
14 th Oct	Carlisle -	Dalston Victory Hall
10 th Nov	South Lakes-	Venue tba

In Eden:-

Eden District Council fund us to continue to do development work with Eden Halls. In this district, we can still come out, visit you at your hall and work with you closely. For this reason, we have not set up any Eden Village Hall Surgeries. Please call Anna if you require help.

Fuel Bills Going Through the Roof?

Is your Hall cold, draughty and expensive to heat? Is it underused during the cold winter months? Are you looking at heating options and where to source funding? Do you want to reduce your Hall's overall running costs?

If you have answered yes to any or all of these questions, then have you considered installing clean and renewable energy to provide power and heat?

When coupled with complementary insulation measures and other energy efficiency practices, significant savings can be made on annual running costs.

So what is renewable energy? Renewable energies come from sources that will never run out, such as the sun, wind, flowing water, or from sources that can be replaced such as plants and trees.

Not only do renewable energies help to keep the community clean, they also provide lower annual fuel bills, which opens up a host of funding opportunities. There is even the possibility of generating

additional income by selling surplus energy to the National Grid.

Whilst renewable energy systems can be more expensive than traditional systems to purchase, there are grants around to help offset these costs, and when combined the other energy efficiency measures the savings you can make on future running costs means that it really does make sound financial sense.

If you think that this is something that your Hall needs to be part of, contact CLAREN which is part of the nationally funded Community Renewables Initiative providing free and impartial advice and helping facilitate small-scale renewable energy projects.

For further information telephone Elizabeth Bruce 0845 601 8874, email e.bruce@snw.org.uk or visit the website www.claren.org.uk

Who says money doesn't grow on trees?

NEW ACRE INFORMATION SHEETS

We have updated versions of the following Information Sheets:-

~ **Health & Safety Legislation and Village Halls** ~

If you would like a copy, please request one on the yellow sheet enclosed.

A message from the new Village Halls Adviser Carl Glynn

Hello again! I say hello again, as most of you will already know who I am by now through the Village Halls in Cumbria Summer 2004 survey. For those of you who don't know, I'm Carl Glynn, and I joined the Rural Development Team as Village Halls Adviser and Rural Support Officer here at Voluntary Action Cumbria in late April, which seems so very long ago now.

I am available to offer the Village Halls Advice Service every Tuesday, from 9am to 5.15pm, when I will be at my desk to take your calls on all Village Hall queries.

On every third Tuesday of the month I will be available until 8pm, so please make sure you mark Tuesdays in your diaries as Village Halls Advice days!



Who s Who? *Your Rural Development Officer*

Here's your quick guide:

Julia Wilson	South Cumbria	01768-869524
Anna Scamans	Carlisle & Eden	01768-869529
Sarah Mitchell	West Cumbria	01768-869520
Carl Glynn	Village Hall Adviser	01768 869525



Contacting Us:-

We know it can be hard to get hold of us. Some of the team are only in the office part-time, and we are often out at meetings. We are now trying to leave details of when you can catch us in the office on our voicemail, but if you can use the yellow form, that makes it much easier for us to manage requests for our time. Thank you.

Village Halls in Cumbria Survey

Please, please, please, if you haven't already sent in your completed survey, do it soon!

The survey is extremely valuable and will be beneficial not only to your Hall, but to all Village Halls in Cumbria. The results of the survey will be used by VAC to lobby on behalf of Village Halls, and also by funders to set priorities and targets – don't miss out on telling your story!

And finally

This is **your** newsletter, so if you have any matters you would like highlighted, please let me know and I'll do my best to include them. Contact Carl Glynn at;

Voluntary Action Cumbria
The Old Stables
Redhills
Penrith
CA11 ODT
carllynn@ruralcumbria.org.uk
01768 869525

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.