



# Village Hall Update March 2001

## **Apologies!**

I'd like to begin by apologising for the inaccurate advice delivered in our last Update (January 2001) regarding the Performing Rights Society (PRS). Our publication suggested that those halls that use music should pay a tariff of 1% of all income generated where any music has been used. In actuality those halls that use music should pay a tariff of 1% of all income generated. This is a less desirable situation; however it does reduce the amount of administration necessary to calculate the appropriate PRS contribution. As always, if you have any comments questions or queries regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact VAC.

## **Funding News**

### **Funding Day**

A funding day is being organised by VAC in collaboration with West Cumbria CVS. It will take place at the Waverley Hotel in Workington on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2001. For More Details contact Alison Phillips on 01768 242130 [alisonphillips@ruralcumbria.org.uk](mailto:alisonphillips@ruralcumbria.org.uk)

### **NLCB: changes afoot**

From April 2001 the existing main grant programmes of Community Involvement and Poverty & Disadvantage will merge to form a single programme aimed primarily at the alleviation of poverty. However applicants eligible under the previous criteria will still be able to apply. Applications made under the existing programme criterion can still be submitted until June 2001. The NLCB will also be renamed as the Community Fund. Though one thing has not changed – the telephone number. For application packs tel.: 0845 7919191.

### **Community Trees Fund**

The Tree Council Community Trees Fund 2001 provides support for community and voluntary organisation, community councils and individuals to plant trees on community land or land to which the community has access. For more details contact The Tree Council, St. Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY. Tel.: 020 7828 9928 Website: [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

## **Carnegie UK Trust Village Hall Grants**

These grants are aimed at Village Halls in areas with a population of less than 5,000 people for the purpose of widening the use of the building for the community. For example the Carnegie UK Trust might be interested in supporting the introduction of Post Office facilities, an internet access point or the development of a health surgery. Application forms are available from the Carnegie UK Trust, Comley Park House, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 7EJ. Tel.: 01383 721445 Website: [www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk](http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk)

## **The Northern Rock Foundation**

VAC has been recently advised by the Northern Rock Foundation that it still fund's projects in Cumbria. For details contact: The Northern Rock Foundation, 21 Lansdowne Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1HP. Tel.: 0191 284 8412 E-mail: [generaloffice@nr-foundation.org.uk](mailto:generaloffice@nr-foundation.org.uk) Website: [www.nr-foundation.org.uk](http://www.nr-foundation.org.uk)

## **The Football Foundation**

Grants are available to strengthen links between football and the community, and to use football as a force for good in society! Those of you that manage, or would like to develop a sports field might be able to benefit from grant aid for a project which provides new facilities or promotes the sport of football. For more details contact The Football Foundation, 25 Soho Square, London W1D 4FF. Tel.: 020 7534 4210 E-mail: [enquiries@footballfoundation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@footballfoundation.org.uk)

## **Sportsmatch Community Sports**

This is a government initiative to stimulate private investment in sports. Any not-for-profit group can apply for the sponsorship of sporting equipment. For details contact Sportsmatch, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 25-27 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP. Tel.: 020 7233 7747 e-mail: [info@sportsmatch.co.uk](mailto:info@sportsmatch.co.uk) website: [www.sportsmatch.co.uk](http://www.sportsmatch.co.uk)

## **Charity News**

### **Streamlining the Registration Process**

Registering as a charity with the Charity Commission is a legal obligation for those people managing a community building or village hall. In the past this has often proved to be a long and laborious task. However the Charity Commission has recently completed a consultation process regarding charity registration and has made a number of changes to the application pack as a result.

If your hall has not yet been registered as a charity please call the Charity Commission's Central Switchboard on 0870 333 0123 today to request an application pack. Remember that VAC is able to provide help and support through this process, do not hesitate to call us if you need a helping hand.

*(Charity Commission News, Issue 13, December 2000)*

## **Payment of Trustees**

It is a little known fact that the law as it currently stands frowns upon the payment of charity trustees. Consequentially the practice remains widespread throughout the county and it has been noted that that the payment of charity trustees is particularly prevalent amongst village halls. Payment often falls into one of the following categories:

- Payment for “being a trustee”
- Payment for a service provided to the charity
- Payment of an employee who is also a trustee of the charity

Whatever the situation a charity wishing to pay a trustee must make an approach to the Charity Commission to request the power to do so, even if the charity’s governing document contains the power to do so. The Charity Commission can be contacted by telephone by dialling 0870 333 0123, their website address is: [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)

*(Charity Commission News, Issue 13, December 2000)*

## **Other News**

### **Climate Change Levy**

This levy is charged to those hall committees that pay 17.5% VAT on their energy consumption. Most village halls in Cumbria qualify for a much reduced rate of VAT (5%) on fuel, however if your hall is not benefiting from this reduced rate, please contact VAC. The Climate Change Levy (CCL) can have huge financial implications for those to whom it applies. However as always we are here to provide what help and support we can.

### **Village Hall Insurance**

It has become apparent that there are still some village halls which are insured under the parish council's policy. For a village hall management committee in this position the consequences, should there be a major claim, could be devastating.

It seems clear that this situation usually arises because the parish council believes that being the Holding or Custodian Trustee for the hall means that it should arrange the insurance. This is not so. A holding or custodian trustee has neither the duty nor the right to arrange insurance any more than it has the right to involve itself with any other aspect of the management of the hall. To use the insurance jargon a council has no insurable interest in the property for which it is custodian trustee.

However this is not the only potential problem for the management committee. If the committee does not arrange separate public liability insurance, but relies on the parish council's policy, the management committee has no cover since it is not named as an insured in the policy.

In situations where the village hall is owned by the parish council and leased to the charity, insurance of the building may be the responsibility of the council and the terms of the lease will make this clear. However the management committee of the charity will still need separate cover for public and employers liability and for any contents owned by the charity.

A parish council wishing to help the village hall can still pay the premium for the hall's insurance by making a grant to the charity. What is important is that the policy is in the name of the management committee. As always contact VAC if you have any questions or queries surrounding this issue.

*(Peter Lawrence, AON Risk Services, February 2001)*

### **Licensing Changes**

The Deregulation (Sunday Dancing) Order 2000 came into effect on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2000. This means that for the first time Charities and non-profit making bodies will be able to hold fund-raising dances on a Sunday.

The Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 came into force on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2001. The Act tightens the law on the sale of alcohol to underage persons in advance of the Government's wide-ranging reform of the licensing system. It has created a new offence of purchasing alcohol on behalf of a minor.

*(ACRE, Village Hall Adviser's Mailing No. 1, January 2001)*