

Victory Hall goes online

The Victory Hall, Broughton in Furness, is the most recent village hall in Cumbria to go online. The Victory Hall has a dedicated page on the Broughton in Furness website. If any other village hall is interested in exploring the potential of creating a website for their village hall, contact VAC for details. To view the Victory Hall's webpage log on to www.broughton-in-furness.co.uk

Au Revoir

Just a note to let you all know that I am leaving Voluntary Action Cumbria in pursuit of intrigue and excitement in a foreign land! My wife and I are leaving for Peru to explore the Andes in June, and due to the extended nature of the trip I am forced to hang up my Village Hall Advisor hat for the last time.

My absence will not cause any inconvenience as measures are being taken here at VAC to ensure that my workload is covered until a replacement can be appointed.

In closing I would like to say that it has been a pleasure working alongside you all over the last two years, and I would like to thank you for all your kindness and the endless flow of tea and biscuits.

Regards,

Jonathan Walkingshaw



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 May 2001

Foot & Mouth Disease

The county has been devastated by the current crisis and we all do what we can to help. Enclosed is a leaflet for the Cumbria Community Foundation's Recovery Fund, please make this available in a public place or pass on the details to those in most need. The Northern Rock Foundation is also keen to fund charitable organisations offering their services to people in infected areas. For more details of this scheme contact Leo Finn on 0191 281 8337.

If you require any further information on sources of financial support for those suffering the impacts of the crisis, please feel free to contact VAC's funding advisors on 01768 242130.

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

The Carnegie UK Trust's new fund is available now. The grants of up to £10,000 will be available to widen the use of village halls as centres of service for the community. Contact: Carnegie UK Trust, Comely Park House, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 7EJ tel. 013830721445.

Opportunities

The Sari Milla Trust has been in touch with VAC to request our help. The Trust is looking for venues in the area that are available for hire. The Trust wishes to deliver a presentation and slide show about life in Nepal. Nepalese crafts will also be available to purchase at the event. If you are interested in hosting such an event contact Stephen Cottam on 01524 761093.

Sustainable Construction for Village Halls

The Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development has produced a publication entitled Sustainable Construction for Village Halls and Community Buildings: A Guide to 21st Century Building. This publication may provide valuable information to those of you looking to build, extend substantially upgrade or renovate you hall, enabling you to make your community building more efficient and cheaper to run. The book costs £10 including post and packaging and is available form the Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development, Town Hall, Bow Street, Langport, Somerset TA10 9PR Tel.: 01458 259400 Fax.: 01458 259396
E-mail: charlottewilson.stsd@ukonline.co.uk
Website: www.sustainablehousing.org.uk

Cumbria Voluntary Sector Training Forum

There are many training opportunities available to the voluntary sector throughout Spring and Summer this year at venues throughout Cumbria. Courses address such subjects as time management, the Data Protection Act 1998, finding funding, minute taking and how to chair a meeting. See the yellow enclosure for more details.

Payment of Trustees

The policy of the Charity Commission is that if there is a specific circumstance where a Trustee will be doing some work for a Village Hall, e.g. building work, then the Hall Committee can write for special permission to allow that person to be paid even though they are a Hall Trustee. The Commission will respond within 15 working days to such a request. The address to write to for this permission is:

The Charity Commission
Charity Support Division
2nd Floor
20 Kings Parade
Queens Dock
Liverpool
L3 4DQ

Also, it is worth mentioning that for good practice it is wise for Village Hall Committees to get three quotes for building work before employing a builder to carry out work on the Hall.

Film and Video Licence

Village halls that wish to show films and videos will need to obtain a licence from the local district or borough council. There are exemptions:

- If there is no charge or private gain
- If the show is private and there is no private gain
- If the premises are used for no more than 6 film and video shows a year. However in this case you must give 7 days notice in writing to the district or borough council, and the fire and police authorities.
- If you have an exemption certificate from the Home Office. To get this certificate you must prove that you are a non-profit making organisation, and films and videos are shown for not more than 3 days in any seven day period.
- If you form a film or video society that is non-profit making and allows only its members to attend performances, and the takings are used only for the expenses incurred by the performance.

However it will still be necessary to obtain copyright and royalty permissions as any performances in a community building are considered to be public.

There are a great many intricacies involved in showing films and videos outside of the home. If this affects you, please contact VAC for more details on 01768 242130.
(ACRE Village Hall Adviser's mailing No. 5 19th April 2001)

Free Software

'Apply Yourself' is free computer software that helps groups write good, thorough funding applications by building it up in a clear and structured way. It is available from FunderFinder, 65 Raglan Road, Leeds LS2 9DZ tel. 0113 243 3008 website: www.funderfinder.org.uk
(ACRE Village Hall Adviser's mailing No. 5 19th April 2001)

Eden District Halls

Please find enclosed a copy of the Eden District Council's Summary Performance Plan. Those who would like a full copy should contact Cathy Connolly at Eden District Council on 01768 212137 or download it from their website: www.eden.gov.uk

A quality service?

Just to check how we're doing and how we can improve our service, we have enclosed a questionnaire. This document will be used directly to mould VAC's Village Hall Advice Service in the coming year.

Please take time to complete this document and return it to us in the pre-paid envelope enclosed.

Contact us:

If you've got a problem, and nobody else can help, be sure to get in touch!

**Voluntary Action Cumbria, The Old Stables, Redhills,
Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0DT tel. 01768 242130**