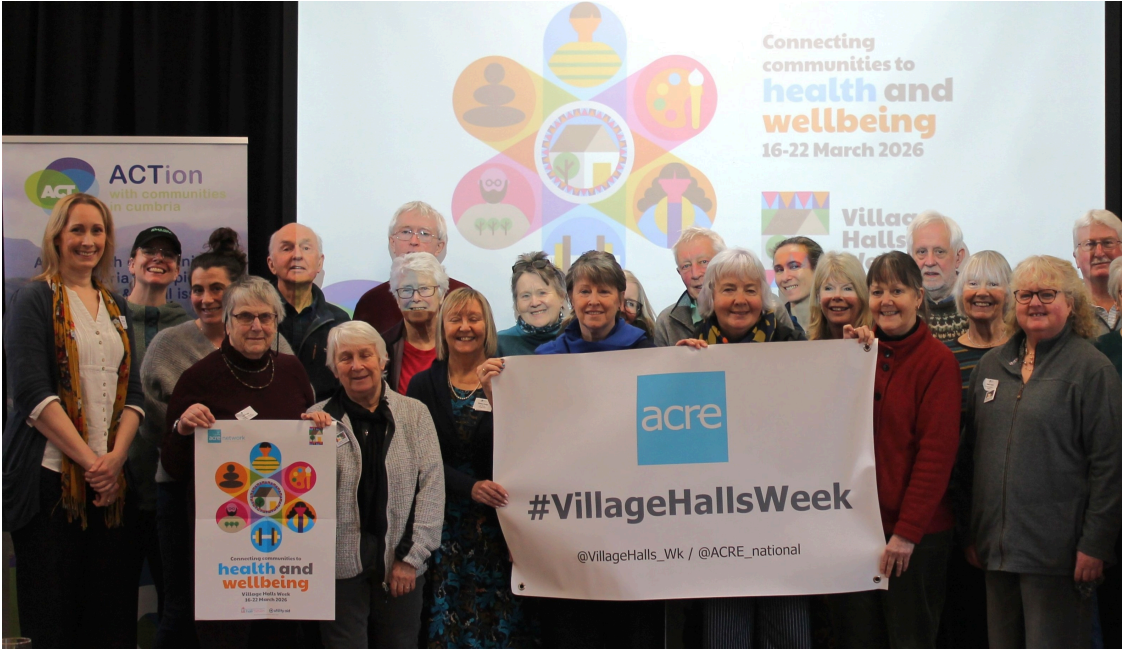


ACT News



Village halls hailed as the heartbeat of rural life in Village Halls Week 2026

We had a great time celebrating Cumbrian halls in Village Halls Week and hope you did too. The launch event at Braithwaite Institute on Saturday 14th March attracted volunteers from halls across the county, in person and online, to hear about how halls help keep people healthy, active, and connected. [Read more](#)

Cumbria Community Transport CONFERENCE

First Cumbria Community Transport Conference a resounding success!

On 10th March, [Sustainable and Integrated Transport for Ullswater](#) (SITU) held its Cumbria Community Transport Conference at The Quiet Site, Ullswater. It was wonderful to see so many community transport groups and local organisations coming together to hear from a range of inspiring speakers and engage in workshops designed to envision the future of community transport in Cumbria. Read more [here](#). ACT is looking forward to continuing to work with SITU and other community transport groups as conversations from the event progress. If you want to get involved, [get in touch](#).

Community Buildings News



Defibrillators and free CPR awareness sessions at halls

Having a community defibrillator located at a village hall ensures that potentially life-saving defibrillators are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Find out more about the simple steps to ensure defibrillators are accessible, well maintained, and registered. Free CPR awareness sessions to village halls across Cumbria also available from North West Ambulance Service. [Read more](#)

Free charity guide to banking

New guide from CAF Bank helps explain the key things charities should consider when choosing or reviewing their banking arrangements. It's written with the charity sector in mind and provides straightforward advice to help you make informed decisions. [Read more](#)



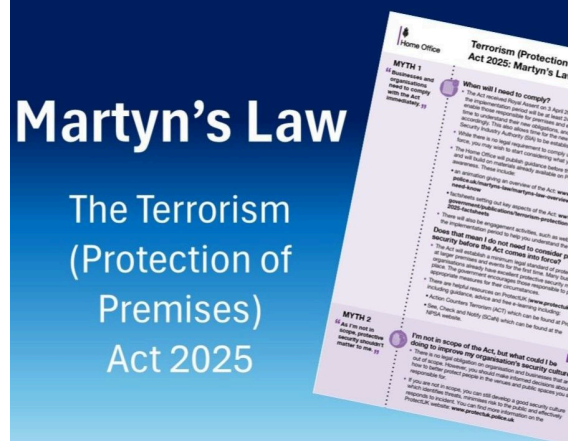
Guidance on Energy Bills

Non-commodity charges on commercial electricity bills increase this month. The changes are quite significant and may have an impact on budgets.

Stephanie Steele, Partnerships Manager at Utility Aid explains what this might mean for charities and not for profit organisations, and breaks down the structure of energy bills. [Read more](#)

Are you up to date with Martyn's Law?

Important news for anyone who runs premises or organises events. Martyn's Law is the new legislation intended to 'ensure the public are better protected from terrorism, by requiring certain public premises and events to be prepared and ready to keep people safe in the event of an attack.' What you have to do depends on how many people it is 'reasonable to expect... may be present at least occasionally'. [Read more](#)



News from Friends and Partners



Great Big Green week 6-14th June 2026 - funding for your event

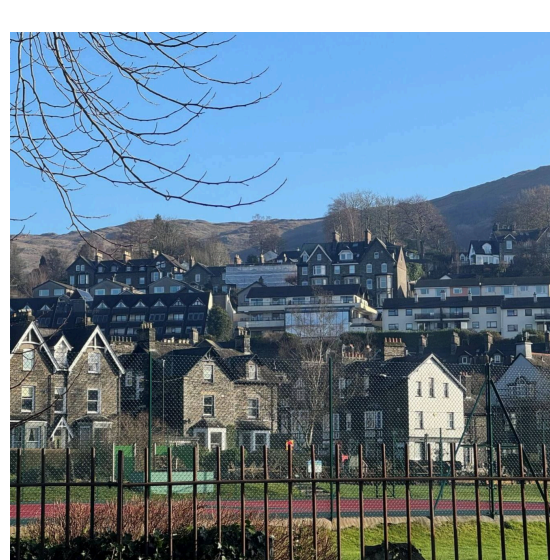
Grants of up to £300 are available for community groups across Cumbria to organise events during Great Big Green Week. Funding supports activities that bring people together around climate action, nature and sustainable food.

Help to inspire local change and strengthen communities. Apply [here](#) before 4th May deadline.

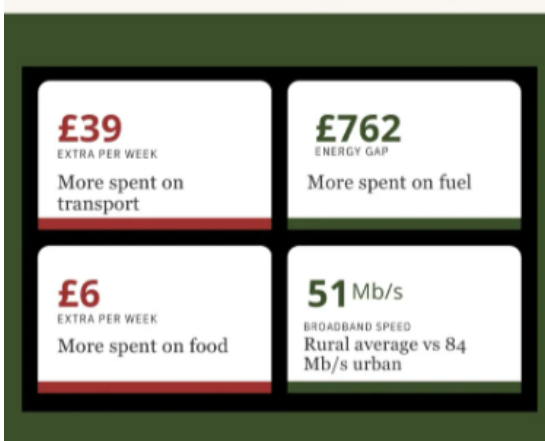
Friends of the Lake District: Fairer housing, stronger communities

Our campaign aims to support local communities in the Lake District by reducing the amount of empty and under-used homes. Read more [here](#).

You are invited to sign a petition for legislative changes to rebalance the housing market, ensure more homes are lived in year round, and restore thriving, sustainable communities throughout the Lake District.



This is a 'rural penalty'



New report into Rural Poverty in Britain exposes 'rural penalty'

The Labour Rural Research Group has published its 'Rural Poverty in Britain' report. [The report](#) highlights the hidden poverty that exists in rural areas and the 'rural penalty' faced by rural households.

It calls for a comprehensive Rural Strategy and makes a series of recommendations to address the issues raised



The Food Cumberland Partnership has some guidance for people planning a Big Local Lunch, to help your event run smoothly, with low waste and with care for sustainability. It includes tips on preparation, quantities and storage as well as some great ideas for adding fun and informative activities to your social. Email foodpartnership@cumberland.gov.uk for more information



Grants for your Cumberland Big Lunch!

The Annual Big Lunch is coming up (5-8 June) and The Food Cumberland Partnership is offering grants of up to £200 to help you host your own Food Cumberland Big Local Lunch event focusing on delicious, sustainable food.

Enjoyed in the company of friends and neighbours the event promotes **Local food & healthy options**
Food-waste, plastic-free events
Low-growth & local growers
Apply by 4th May 2026 via this Zero Carbon Cumbria [weblink](#).

Emergency support to help meet the rising costs of household heating oil

Funding is available to support eligible households who are struggling with the cost of heating oil from both Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council. The price of kerosene – the fuel used for heating oil - has been especially affected by the recent conflict in the Middle East and has risen faster than other fuels such as petrol and gas.

The [Heating Oil Support Fund](#) is open for applications from eligible low-income households who use heating oil as their primary source of heating in Cumberland.

In Westmorland and Furness, the [Household Support Fund](#) is open to those who cannot afford to meet the costs of their heating oil.



And finally...

If you find this information useful, please do share it with others. We'd love you to forward this email to friends and colleagues. You can also follow us on Facebook to keep up with our very latest news and views.

If you are not already an ACT supporter, why not join us? It's free and it means that we can keep in touch with you directly from time to time. You can [unsubscribe](#) at any time from all ACT mailings.

Become a Supporter

