

ACT Gazette

Issue 26 Spring 2017

ACT champions community & rural issues



ACT's Fran Richardson and Lorraine Smyth talk to village hall volunteers at our recent Community

Community Buildings Event

Another great turnout for our latest Community Buildings event at Sedgwick Village Hall. These countywide events are a great opportunity to meet other committee members and learn about a wide range of village hall related topics.

Find out more on page 7 and save the date for our next free event at Parton Village Hall on 22 June.

Lift sharing and Car Schemes

Can we think differently about the way we travel around Cumbria? Have a look at this lift share site: <https://liftshare.com/uk> or the Community Transport pages: www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/public-transport-road-safety/transport/commtrans. ACT is working with a range of partners to develop new transport solutions. See page 11 for more information.

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Other News - Events, Funding Opportunities etc.

Save the Date:

ACT Community Buildings Event

Thurs 22 June, 4pm - 8pm
Parton Village Hall, Main Street, Parton

Contact Dani at ACT to book a place

Tel: 01228 817224

Email: info@cumbriaaction.org.uk

ACT will be at Skelton Show

Saturday 1st July
Hutton in the Forest, Penrith

Visit: www.skeltonshow.com

CVS Funding Event

Thurs 4 May, 10am - 3pm
Cumbria LEP Conference & Business Centre, Penrith

Contact Cumbria CVS for information

Tel: 01768 800350

Email info@cumbriacvs.org.uk



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Use this QR Code and your smart phone app to go direct to our website.

Hi All,

Welcome to our latest issue, full of information to help you be as effective as possible in the community activities you undertake.



Have a look at page 10 for information about the new Cumbria Rural Panel. Will you become a panel member and help us identify the issues and solutions to rural challenges?

With the upcoming Cumbria County Council elections in May, it's worth thinking about how you want to inform the candidates about the priorities for your area? Do you have a current Community Led Plan that identifies these for your community? Page 4 provides more information on this.

Meanwhile, the Government has issued a Housing White paper, introduced as 'a solution to the broken housing market'. Some of the proposals listed below may be of real benefit to rural areas if in due course they become law:

- The introduction of a standard method of assessing housing need.
- Proposed grants to support the building of more affordable, build to rent, shared ownership and rent to buy homes.
- An expectation that local policies will support development of small windfall sites.
- A Home Building Fund to support small scale housing developers.
- Encouragement and easier processes for communities to be involved in the planning process, including Neighbourhood Planning.
- Planning authorities to prepare statements of common ground in order for their plans to be adopted.

The White paper has been welcomed by many in the Housing sector as a much needed intervention to promote more house building, but other housing commentators suggest more can be done to ease rural housing need.

Shaun Spiers from the Council for the Protection of Rural England commented: "The Government has made a good start in this White Paper and Ministers should be congratulated for listening. It is vital that we build more homes, but it is also essential to do

so in ways that have popular support. The focus on brownfield development and other measures in the White Paper will help with that agenda. We now look forward to measures to ensure that housing targets are reasonable, deliverable and focussed on affordability'

For Cumbria, affordability in our rural areas is a key issue. The new Community Led Housing programme may help with this (see page 11).

On 5 June the Brathay Hall Trust is running an event to discuss the 'Dynamic, transformative change that is happening in and to the Voluntary and Community Sector'. It is a one day event funded by the Francis C. Scott Trust as part of their Aspiring Leaders Programme, which supports young people to develop their management and leadership skills.

I will be speaking at the event, sharing some of the Case Studies from our website about the strength, innovation and adaptability of communities in Cumbria. From volunteer litter pickers (page 3) to committed Village Hall management committees (page 5), Cumbria has some of the most vibrant examples of community activity. We need to share it and speak up about what we are getting right, more often.

Many of you may remember a former Director of Voluntary Action Cumbria - William (Bill) Gill, from the 1980/90's. Bill sadly passed away in December 2016. I recall him as a cheerful, committed person who really enjoyed his work with Parish Councils and Village Halls across Cumbria. We remember him and we send our condolences to his family.



The late William Gill

Finally, we are updating our databases over the Spring so will be contacting you to ask if you still want to receive information from us. Please do reply, as we can't keep in touch without your permission to do so!



Remember if you support us - we can better support you! Sign up now!



Interview:

Lindsay Buck

'Local Hero' Award winner

Lindsay Buck was recently awarded one of the first ever National Trust Beatrix Potter Awards for: 'dedication, organisation, inspiring others and having a positive impact in her local area'.

The Awards consisted of seven categories including 'Local Hero' and form part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the birth of Beatrix Potter. ACT's Lorraine Smyth was on the judging panel and spoke to Lindsay at the awards ceremony.

Background

Lindsay moved to Gosforth, Cumbria, twenty three years ago from rural Oxfordshire after meeting her now husband, Jim at a road race in Paris. Having only done road and flat racing before moving to Cumbria, Lindsay has since taken up fell running.

Lindsay's Local Hero award is in recognition of her efforts to care for the Wasdale Valley by combining her love of fell running with collecting litter. She calls herself a 'Wasdale Womble' but we're not sure if the Wombles ever ran up hills the way Lindsay can! Lorraine asked Lindsay a few questions:

How would you describe Wasdale?

It's a wild beautiful valley, with the Scafells, Wastwater, tiny St Olaf's Church, and the iconic Wasdale Head Inn serving up a multitude of delights. A thin ribbon of tarmac runs out at the head of the valley, Kirk Fell and Great Gable tower above.

Beautiful, isolated, but in the summer extremely popular, the Three Peaks Challenge brings thousands to Scafell Pike, likewise the appeal of England's highest mountain.

So what's the problem?

I'm sure most visitors try and leave this amazing landscape as they found it, but a huge problem is the amount of litter some of them leave behind on the pike and roadsides.

The litter looks terrible and it's not right for others to climb to the summit to find it strewn with rubbish. I decided to do something about it.

Life as a 'Wasdale Womble'

It's so simple to carry a bag and collect what I find, a habit which follows me everywhere! Family visits to rural west Wales, or friends in Oxfordshire offer more 'Wombling' opportunities'.

The National Trust and the Lake District National Park Authority do a great job managing the impact of the Three Peaks Challenge, along with plenty of locals and farmers who make a big contribution. However, my rucksack is often filled on each of the fifty plus trips a year I make - I've even more planned for 2017! Winter weather means I target the local lanes and roads.

I'm lucky to be retired so have plenty of time and my fell running fits in well. Friends and family agree it's an obsession but follow suit. I would encourage everyone to do what they can, and whether you come across litter, or go looking for it, to pick it up.

We can all make a difference and I hope that in the future everyone realises how unacceptable it is to leave anything except footprints.

More information

For more information about the Beatrix Potter Awards and details of the other award winners visit: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/z7u6c68>

Photo right: One of Lindsay's collections of litter at Wasdale
Credit - Jim Davis

Title photo: Lindsay Buck with her 'Local Hero' award
Credit - National Trust Steve Barber





Want to Plan for your Community's Future?

Community Led Planning is where local people take the lead on planning for their future. It's a process of community consultation, where everyone gets the opportunity to have their say, resulting in an action plan to help achieve their shared ambitions.

These Community Plans can include anything the community feels is important, from new benches and extra litter bins, to affordable housing and transport.

Some of the actions will be things the community can do, with volunteers, local expertise and fundraising. Other actions will require support from local councils or other organisations.

ACT has a wide range of guidance materials, and support available, based on years of experience of working with Cumbrian communities. We also have grants available to support Community Planning groups with consultation activities and producing a Plan. Contact us to see how we can help you (see back page for details).

Community Plans can also identify the need for other community-led initiatives such as Neighbourhood Planning - a similar process which allows local people to determine their own policies on spatial planning issues that developers must comply with (i.e. how land and buildings are used, what physical features are protected, and what design principles are acceptable).

Confused about Community Plans and Neighbourhood Plans? ACT has a simple guidance explaining the similarities and differences, contact us for a copy or to discuss.

Also, see page 12 for details of new national Neighbourhood Planning guidance available.



Community Asset Transfer

What is it?

- The transfer of land or buildings
- from a public body (usually a local authority) to a community based organisation
- at less than market value
- to achieve a local social, economic or environmental benefit.

Thousands of buildings and spaces across England, such as swimming pools, town halls, libraries and parks, have been taken on and successfully managed by community organisations for the benefit of their local community.

Often a long term leasehold arrangement will be agreed to enable external funding to be secured, although freehold may be transferred. Alternatively, a shorter term agreement might be more appropriate as a 'stepping stone' to a more substantial agreement in the future.

Communities who are interested in Community Asset Transfer should contact their local authority's property department in the first instance to discuss next steps.

You will be required to submit an **expression of interest** and, if the local authority accepts it, a **more detailed business plan** will be required to show that the organisation is ready and able to successfully manage the land or building in the long term.

ACT is working with Cumbria County Council and a number of communities around the county to prepare for the transfer of assets. Cumbrian community groups have already completed asset transfers including buildings in Milnthorpe, Brampton, Shap, Longtown and Workington; surplus land in Dent, Walton, Lamplugh, Castle Carrock and Silloth; playing fields in Barrow, Silloth and Workington; allotments in Cockermouth; and a swimming pool in Wigton.



Case Study Lazonby Village Hall 'Highlights' activity

Lazonby is a large rural village located about 8 miles north-north east of Penrith. It is surrounded by the villages of Great Salkeld, Little Salkeld and Kirkoswald, with other smaller settlements, such as Croglin, Plumpton, Renwick and Staffield nearby.

Highlights Rural Touring Programme is promoted at Lazonby Village Hall by 'Lazonby & District's Got Talent', a small voluntary organisation which for the past nine years has organised an annual talent event for local people.

Background

Highlights is one of 40 similar schemes that support professional arts in hundreds of small community venues throughout the UK, playing an important part in the social life and sustainability of their community.

The aim of Lazonby's Got Talent is to provide opportunities for local people of all ages to develop and showcase their talents at an annual event in a local and accessible community environment.

Building on the popularity of the annual talent show, volunteers see Highlights as a great way to bring more live entertainment to Lazonby and the surrounding villages.

The Lazonby and District's Got Talent team have been successfully promoting the scheme in Lazonby Village Hall for two years. They aim to build their following and increase the reach of this international touring arts programme.

The Project

Lazonby Village Hall has a large main hall, a stage with lighting, and backstage storage areas. It has ideal facilities for the types of entertainment which tours on the Highlights programme, and with the capacity to seat 200 people, many people from the local area can enjoy the shows.

Highlights works directly with a number of Village Halls across Cumbria. In Lazonby, the Lazonby's Got Talent group has taken on the role of promoting the events but often this is done by the village hall venue.

Each year the group (Lazonby and District's got Talent) selects acts from the touring list provided by Highlights, secures the use of the village hall venue for the tour dates agreed, and promotes the events to the wider community.

Popular performances have included the New Rope String Band who played a sell-out event when they visited Lazonby in 2015, as part of their farewell tour. Small and less well known acts offer a chance for remote rural communities to access more niche styles, but the professionalism of the artists is always apparent.

The group's volunteer promoter Jill Eastham says "I feel very strongly that this is one of the strengths of the Highlights scheme; it brings worldwide, top quality performers to rural communities.

"I have never been disappointed by a performance and I am delighted, and privileged, that we can have worldwide and often famous names visiting our local village communities."



Scene from *Les Bordeliques*
Blind Date
- Highlights
event at
Lazonby Village
Hall in March
2017

The Learning

One of the obstacles the group faces is attracting a sufficient audience to meet the costs of hosting the performances. Although the Highlights scheme is subsidised, there is still a minimum cost to pay, plus the cost of hiring the village hall.

Experience has shown that it is more difficult to fill some types of event, and it can be hard to encourage people to try something new. Some events have made a loss, but the profit made on other more popular events helps to balance this out. It is important to take this into consideration when selecting the acts to perform.

The group works hard to promote the offer locally, through parish newsletters and local community information hubs including, of course, listing the events on the Lazonby Village Hall website.

The local offer of such high quality acts can also have an appeal much further afield and efforts are made to capture this broader audience interest via countywide press opportunities. Some people are prepared to travel long distances to catch a visiting act, so active promotion is important.

Contact Details

For more information contact Jill Eastham of Lazonby's Got Talent on Tel: 01768 870824 or Email: info@lazonbygottalent.co.uk

To see the full Highlights North programme visit <http://www.highlightsnorth.co.uk/>. Highlights currently has additional funding to support more communities, particularly in South Lakeland. For more information, contact Barbara Slack barbara@highlightsnorth.co.uk



*Montreal Guitar Trio,
performing at Lazonby Village Hall in May 2017*



Broadband & WiFi in Village Halls

New guidance has been written for village hall committees considering projects to install and offer broadband and WiFi in their hall. Connecting Cumbria's short guide highlights the key issues which should be considered and provides guidance on how to address them:

Initial Connection

Most halls don't have an official Post Office address. This can be an issue as some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) don't accept orders for a new service without an address.

Costs

The costs of installation, connection, and on-going charges will need to be met, which may trigger the need to review the hall's standard hire charges. Village Halls require a business contract (not residential) but can still shop around for the best deals.

Security

WiFi access needs to be managed in order to minimise the risk. The guide highlights the risks and explains what simple actions can be taken to minimise them, including updating passwords, and using the router firewall settings.

Using a hiring agreement which includes the use of WiFi in the hall can also help to manage the risk. A model village hall hiring agreement is available free on request from ACT.

WiFi Coverage

Once installed, the signal strength may vary in different parts of the building. The use of WiFi hotspots can help to address this.

Visit the Connecting Cumbria website's digital inclusion page to access the new 'Guidance for Village Halls' (listed under the heading: 'How to guides'): <http://www.connectingcumbria.org.uk/digital-inclusion.asp>

Contact us at ACT (see back page) for the model hiring agreement and further guidance.

Community Buildings Event

ACT's latest Community Buildings event at Sedgwick Village Hall near Kendal attracted a great turnout with 32 village hall volunteers attending. The free event included workshops focussed on Managing Risk, Sharing Ideas, and using the ACRE Model Hiring Agreement.

Sharing Ideas

We encouraged discussion about the achievements and challenges the halls had faced over the last 12 months, and their plans for the future.

Common challenges include: concern about aging committees; maintaining and updating facilities (particularly kitchen and toilets); car parks and their associated liabilities; and the scattered rural nature of communities.

Interestingly, the achievements celebrated closely reflected these challenges: successful recruitment of younger trustees; establishing maintenance routines and health and safety policies; installing accessible loos; and resurfacing or lighting parking areas.

There are also some ambitious plans for the future including: new overnight use as a camping barn; installing solar panels and even building a new hall entirely.

Discussions about attracting new user groups highlighted the importance of providing welcoming and user-friendly facilities - warm, clean, pleasant and complete with desirable features like broadband, where possible.



Community Buildings event at Sedgwick Village Hall

Managing Risk

Following these conversations the workshop on Managing Risk encouraged a measured approach to recognising where risk is present and the simple but important measures which can be put in place to reduce it.

This is sometimes a topic which rests on Health and Safety and the risks associated with how people may be injured when using the hall. However it was good to see the range of risks identified by the group extended to include: financial insecurity; understanding the responsibilities of being a charity trustee, and the potential for knowledge to become lost or outdated over the years.

By having an honest discussion about perceived risks, some of the fear can be removed. Steps which are already in place to mitigate these risks can be identified, and the good practice and forward planning of some can be shared and built on by others. ACT is developing a toolkit to help halls with this in the future.

Join us for our next Community Buildings Event at Parton Village Hall, Copeland, on Thursday 22nd June

The
Hadfield
 Trust



Many thanks to Caroline Addison from the Hadfield Trust who joined us at Sedgwick, to encourage high quality, appropriate grant applications from community buildings groups.

The Hadfield Trust gives grants of between around £1000 and £5000 to charitable organisations in Cumbria. It supports community projects that meet the needs of Cumbrian communities and make a real difference to the quality of life of those living here.

For further grant details and to download an application form please visit:

www.hadfieldtrust.org.uk

Community Buildings Directory

Take a look at ACT's new updated Community Buildings Directory, providing information on the location, facilities, and booking details for many of Cumbria's 300 plus village halls and community buildings. A new search function helps anyone looking for a venue, to find one to suits their needs. Visit: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ResourcesPublications/CommunityBuildingsSearch.aspx

Are you're making the most of this free opportunity to promote your hall? Check you hall's details and if they need updating, follow the instructions on the site to contact us with updated information and a photo.



Eden Village Halls Network Facebook group

Local volunteer Chris Rush has set up a new 'Eden Village Halls Network' Facebook group. It's a great opportunity for those involved in running village halls in Eden to discuss ideas and share experience.

A straw poll at our recent Community Buildings event found that over half of those attending use Facebook so this could be a simple way of networking with other volunteers who may be facing similar challenges.

This is a closed group but anyone involved in running a village hall in Eden can join. Simply contact us at ACT so we can confirm which hall you're involved with. Contact Hellen Aitken by Email: hellenaitken@cumbriaaction.org.uk or Tel: 01228 817592. You'll then get an invitation to join the Facebook group.

When you've joined, you'll be asked to post a comment with the name of your hall, and any challenges or successes you'd like to share, or questions for other halls.

ACT is a member of the group but we won't be able to monitor and respond to all comments. If you need specialist advice, you can still contact us direct (see back page for details).



The Marketplace

Search for: Stackable village hall chairs

- Are you replacing your village halls chairs?
- Do you have second hand chairs available to sell / give to another village hall?
- Can you recommend a reputable supplier?

If so, Braithwaite Institute would like to hear from you. Please contact Penny Woodyer on Email: penwoodyer@tesco.net
Tel: 01768778394

For sale: Portable Stage / Podium Floor

CPS Alu Rapid Demountable podium / stage floor panels

- Four 1m x 2m, to make 2m x 4m stage
- One 1m.sq panel
- Two 1m x 1m handrails, legs, fabric skirt trim

Current value £500 (original cost over £2,000). Heather colour, hardly used, excellent condition. Additional panels still available from supplier. Purchaser to collect from Wetheral.

All enquiries, please contact Jenny Kendall by Email: jandjatbgl@tesco.net



Village Hall Guide to Funders - 2017

We've revised and updated our Village Hall Guide to Funders for 2017. The short guide includes an overview of funding sources, the basics of evidencing the need for your project; and what to put in an application.

It also gives details of many of the grants which your village hall projects may be eligible to apply for. Contact us at ACT or visit our website (see back page) for your copy of the updated 2017 guide.



Are you on top of your charity's annual report and accounts submission?

The Charity Commission is reminding all charities to file their annual return or accounts. Trustees are legally obliged to submit these documents. The commission takes failure to file very seriously and will take action where necessary. Once the information is submitted online, the charity's profile on the public register of charities is updated overnight.

What you need to submit and when:

You have 10 months from the end of your charity's financial year to do this, and what you need to submit depends on your annual income. If your charity's income is:

- **Under £10,000** - you just need to provide us with your charity's income and expenditure figures – the easiest way to do this is via the annual return.
- **Between £10,001 and £25,000** - you need to complete an annual return form.
- **More than £25,001** - you must submit an annual return form along with a set of annual accounts as well as an independent examiners' or audit report and a trustees' annual report (TAR).

Please note, all Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) need to submit an annual return and annual accounts. CIOs with an income over £25,000 also need to submit an independent examiners' or audit report along with a Trustees' Annual Report.

Top tips

- Don't wait until you approach the deadline – submit your documents as soon as you can.
- Remember submitting this information is the collective responsibility of the entire trustee body, not just the treasurer or secretary.
- Ensure all trustees know the password to access the annual return and other online services.
- Make sure your charity's trustee details are up-to-date before you complete the annual return.
- Record your income and expenditure figures in whole pounds without decimal points or rounding them into thousands.
- Don't mistakenly tick the box that says your accounts are 'qualified' – accounts are marked 'qualified' when the independent examiner or auditor has doubts about some aspects of the accounts; it doesn't mean that your accounts have been verified by an independent examiner.
- Ensure the trustees declare any serious incidents in the annual return.

If you have all the information you need, completing your annual return online is straightforward and not time-consuming.

However, high demand in the lead up to peak filing times can cause delays to the system; to avoid experiencing this, submit your documents as soon as possible.

If you are experiencing problems completing your annual return form, you can speak to one of the commission's technical advisers on Tel: 0300 066 9197 (9am-12 noon, Mon-Fri).

Or you can request a call back via the website: <http://forms.charitycommission.gov.uk/contact-us/general-enquiries/make-a-general-enquiry/telephone-enquiries/request-call-back/>



New Trustees join ACT

ACT would like to welcome our new trustees, Sam Bramwell and Charles Ecroyd, who join our existing board of energetic and committed volunteers. As a community development charity which has been working in Cumbria for nearly 70 years, ACT needs a trustee board who can use their local knowledge and understanding to think strategically about how best to support rural communities to thrive.

Our two new trustees come from very different backgrounds and bring a diverse range of skillsets and expertise to the table.

Sam has spent her working life in a variety of roles within the public, private and voluntary sectors including in primary and adult education and working for the Rural Women's Network, a network set up by ACT to support Cumbrian women in business. For the last 10 years, Sam has worked within Economic Development at the County Council. She has a keen interest in sustainable rural development and is committed to supporting local communities to resolve the issues that are facing them.



Charles lives near Armathwaite in the Eden Valley with his wife and their two children where he runs the family's agricultural & sporting estate. Charles is currently the chairman of Cumbria and Lakes Local Access Forum, vice-chairman of Mitre Housing Association, a trustee of Eden Rivers Trust, vice-chairman of Armathwaite PCC, a Patron in the Inglewood group of churches, a vice-president of Lakeland Housing Trust, former chairman of Trustees of Armathwaite Old School Hall and a former president and chairman of the Cumbria branch of the CLA



For more information about all our trustees, visit: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ACTHome/ACTTrustees.aspx



Success of VSOS

ACT is pleased to have completed support for 20 Cumbrian community groups as part of the national 'Village SOS' programme. The Big Lottery funded project was all about helping communities to survive and thrive by becoming more enterprising.

We worked with a wide variety of groups from across the county: Allonby Village Hall, Askham & District Community Centre, Beaumont Parish Hall, Blindcrake Village Hall, Dalson Victory Hall, Fairhill Community Group, Friends of Askham Swimming Pool, Friends of the Ullswater Way, Harriston Village Hall, Hunsonby Community Centre, The Joseph Hutchinson Educational Charity, Kirkby Thore Memorial Hall, Lazonby Village Hall, Matteredale Community Association, Melmerby Village Conservation Trust, North Copeland Coastal Communities Team, Shap Community CIO, Skelton Memorial Hall, Stainton Village Hall, and West Cumbria Older Peoples Forum

Join the Cumbria Rural Panel

The 'Cumbria Countryside Forum' was set up in 1991, providing organisations and individuals with a place to come together and discuss issues of concern to rural life. In 2000 this became 'Cumbria Rural Forum'.

More recently in 2016, a review considered the Forum's effectiveness for the future, and resulted in plans to establish the 'Cumbrian Rural Panel'. This is intended to provide a balance of interests and expertise across different sectors of our rural county to: engage in meaningful debates; identify solutions; disseminate information; and promote action.

We would like to invite you to join the Cumbria Rural Panel, to help us gather information on pressing rural issues and be part of an effective rural voice. To join, or for more information, please contact Dani Hudson on Tel: 01228 817224 or Email: danihudson@cumbriaaction.org.uk

Community Resilience and Emergency Planning

In partnership with Cumbria CVS and Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS), ACT is supporting communities, individuals and households to consider what they can do in the event of an emergency. The lottery funded Rebuilding Together programme builds on the work of these partners to grow greater community resilience and increase the capacity of individuals to deal with the unexpected.

ACT is already working with a number of groups who are interested in exploring how incidents have affected them in the past, how they can learn from their experience and how they can prepare for the future.

We have a tried and tested toolkit for the development of a Community Emergency Plan, but our offer extends to anyone who is interested in talking about steps they can take to reduce the impact of a future incident.

Please contact us at ACT for more information (details on back page)

Good Neighbours and a Kinder Cumbria

Could we be kinder to each other in our daily lives? Over the summer ACT, Cumbria CVS CCF and several other organisations will be developing a project to encourage us all to be more neighbourly and kinder to each other.

ACT has been promoting Good Neighbour projects for some time, we have a Toolkit on our website to assist communities to develop a local, organised Good Neighbour Project to support those who need a little informal help.

We know many people help each other out anyway, but there are those that don't like to ask. So have a think, could we be kinder?

Have a look at the <https://www.kindness.org> and watch out for this new initiative and more information in our next edition.

Community Led Housing

The Government has launched a Community Led Housing Fund with allocations for Allerdale, Copeland, Eden and South Lakeland local authorities. The funds are to support and promote new housing provision that has community ownership, management and support for the development of housing to meet local need.

ACT is working with Andy Lloyd a Community Housing expert to support the four local authorities with their Community Led Housing Fund bids.

This could be an opportunity for communities who aspire to develop, manage and support local housing provision. The funds will provide both revenue and capital.

The District Councils must submit their bids by early March and we will publish further information as soon as it is available.

If you are interested then please contact us.

Thinking differently about Transport in Cumbria

We need to think differently about how we use our cars, work and community transport vehicles. It seems very unlikely that there will be new public transport provision, particularly in the more rural areas of Cumbria, so is there a way we help each other to access the services we need?

ACT is working with a group of transport and community experts who have come together to think differently about accessing services across the whole of Cumbria.

This long term project is exploring solutions such as: A single point of contact for transport information, a lift share / UBER type scheme, demand responsive community transport for individuals, and much more.

We will be looking for pilot communities shortly so please get in touch if you are interested!



Carlisle Unity Festival 8th July 2017

Following the success of the event last year, the 2017 Carlisle Unity Festival will be held on Saturday 8th July across the city centre, bandstand, and inside the Old Town Hall.

The Carlisle Unity Festival has been developed by AWAZ Cumbria, Carlisle One World Centre, Op Shops, and community champions. It will celebrate the strengths and diversity of the people of Carlisle to foster good relations by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between and within its diverse communities

The event aims to build community networks and showcase a range of groups and activities on offer within the community that local people can get involved in to raise awareness of issues affecting their lives and livelihoods, sharing and learning new skills and opportunities and tasting foods from around the world.

The main programme will take place between 10am and 4pm with complimentary world music acts and entertainment in the nearby Old Fire Station and other city centre venues in the evening.

The event will include: a Global Coffee Morning; all day International Food Tasting; poetry, music, and dance performances; 'feel good' taster workshops; opportunities to learn a new language or skill; and information stands for groups representing activities in the community, cultural or national groups, and statutory organisations.

AWAZ Cumbria would welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with other organisations and volunteers to organise similar events in various town and cities across Cumbria. To get involved in Carlisle Unity Festival or organise a similar event in your town please contact: Aftab Khan, Development Officer, AWAZ Cumbria
Email: aftab@awaz.info or Tel: 01228 511115.

Neighbourhood Planning Guides

My Community locality

New 'Social Survey Toolkit' from Locality aims to help Neighbourhood Planning groups who may be developing surveys for the first time.

When developing household, resident and interest group surveys, it's important that they are effective, easy to analyse and produce the data hoped for. The toolkit explains how groups can best approach a survey phase and use the data. For a copy of the guide visit:

<http://mycommunity.org.uk/resources/social-survey-toolkit/>



The 'Beauty in My Backyard (BIMBY) toolkit is an easy to use website which guides groups through a series of 3 workshops to create their own unique housing manual. This formalises what the community thinks is 'Beauty In My Back Yard' in a format that developers and planners will understand and can be used as a part of the Neighbourhood Plan evidence base.

For more information visit: <https://www.bimby.org.uk/>



The Great Get Together 17 - 18 June

By asking people to come together for street parties, picnics and bake-offs, 'The Great Get Together', in honour of Jo Cox, hopes to create the biggest street party since the Jubilee, and send a message to everyone - that there is more that unites than divides us.

The whole country is getting behind the idea, and we'd love you to be a part of it. Visit: www.greatgettogether.org for more information.



Supporting Refugees in Cumbria

Cumbria will be welcoming just under 300 refugees over the next 3 years. Many local groups have already expressed an interest in helping to support these individuals when they arrive, and Cumbria Third Sector Network are working closely with Cumbria County Council (and other local public sector organisations) to coordinate that work.

The refugees will arrive in Cumbria as part of a national Government scheme which sets out a package of support that the local area must provide to support their resettlement: housing, essential furniture and white goods, English language classes, and integration case work. This support will be funded by Government.

However, this national funding is only for core support. Experience in other areas of the country has shown that voluntary groups and local organisations can play an important role in providing 'non-essential' items (additional furniture, children's toys etc.) and offering support with getting to know the local area and becoming involved in local social activities – activities that will help refugee families become part of the community. This additional support would be greatly welcomed.

A common problem is that the first refugees to arrive receive many donated goods and lots of support, but those who arrive later receive far less, and we are keen to avoid this happening. Details of the families and which areas they will be living in will only be known much closer to their arrival, meaning details of the support needed will be arranged at fairly short notice. Because of this we'd like to know in advance which local organisations are interested in helping and what type of support can be offered.

If your organisation is keen to be involved, please visit: <http://cumbriacvs.org.uk/giving-you-a-voice/cumbria-third-sector-network/> to complete the Refugee Support Questionnaire. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Otley on Tel: 01768 800350 or Email: CarolynO@cumbriacvs.org.uk



Funding Events

Cumbria CVS is planning a range of funding events for 2017. These provide an excellent opportunity for local voluntary and community groups to meet face to face with local, regional and national funders and access a range of funding information, advice and support.

Eden: Thursday 4 May 10am-3pm at Cumbria LEP Conference and Business Centre, Penrith

South: Thursday 8 June 10am-3pm at Kendal Town Hall, Kendal

West: Thursday 6 July 10am-3pm at St Michael's Church, Workington

Carlisle: September (date tbc). This event will have a building focus. Further details to follow.

For further information, call Cumbria CVS on 01768 800350; email info@cumbriacvs.org.uk; or visit: www.cumbriacvs.org.uk

Home audits for energy & weather resilience improvements



Are you considering improvements to your home, to make it more energy efficient and cope better with extreme weather? You could take advantage of a free comprehensive audit of your home, to help you work out the most effective improvements to make.

Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) is offering weather resilience home energy audits to householders in Cumbria who are concerned about the effects of extreme weather (such as flooding) on their home, and who want to make their homes more energy efficient.

Andrew from CAfS will visit your property to carry out the audit, and you'll receive a detailed report on the most effective improvements to make.

Visit: <http://www.cafs.org.uk/weather-resilience/> for more information.



Cumbria Advice Network

The Cumbria Advice Network (CAN for short) is a Cumbria Community Foundation funded project focused on enabling people in Cumbria to be able to access quality advice when they need it most.

The project aims to share information on how to refer to organisations offering advice and support in Cumbria, also providing quality training opportunities for network members.

The project began in 2009, funded by the Big Lottery over 5 years, and started with only 7 partner organisations. The network now has over 150 members ranging from small community groups, to local authorities, to local branches of national organisations, all working throughout Cumbria for the benefit of people seeking advice.

The project has three main themes which benefit people in Cumbria seeking advice:

- Sharing referral process information and details of the advice and support organisations offer
- Assisting organisations to maintain and improve quality of advice by organising Cumbria wide training opportunities
- Contributing social policy issues to the Cumbria wide Citizens Advice Policy Group

Membership is open to third sector, non-profit making advice and support services, and membership is free. Members benefit from sharing information on their services on the CAN website, free places on training courses, attending networking events, receiving the CAN newsletter and being able to share social policy issues.

For more information please see the CAN website at www.cumbriaadvicenetwork.org.uk or Email: cumbriaadvicenetwork@outlook.com



Democracy Project

Cumbria Youth Alliance (CYA) offers a wide range of projects for young people, everything from MyBnk, Duke of Edinburgh, Sport, First Steps to Employment, right through to Democracy. The Democracy Project offers the following workshops to youth clubs, schools and all other educational establishments:

Workshop: Introduction to Democracy
What is Democracy? What does it actually mean? The Local Budget, Decision Time Decision Making, Who's who? Who makes the decisions that affect me and why?

Workshop: History of Democracy in the UK
We cover important dates in our democracy from: 'When did women first get the vote?' 'When did working class men get the vote?' 'Who was the Prime Minister during the first world war?' right through to modern day history such as the most recent general election and the 2014 Scottish referendum.

Workshop: Who's who in decision making?
Covering all aspects of decision making from national to local government. Decision making can come in many forms, from councils, Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, local town and parish councils, MEP's, MP's, MSP's etc. but what do they actually do? We also look at how you can have your voice heard.

Meet the decision makers
Events to bring together young people from all walks of life and decision makers. This will give the young people a chance to meet people who make decisions that affect their lives and ask burning questions. Dates for this will be released in due course.

To book a workshop, visit www.cya.org.uk for a booking form and return to Andrew by email: andrew@cya.org.uk or post to: Cumbria Youth Alliance, Town Hall Community Hub, Oxford Street, Workington, CA14 2RS.

If you have any further questions, please contact Andrew on Tel: 01900 603131.



Growing a Greener Britain - Small Grants Programme

We want to help communities to grow a greener Britain by supporting them to transform green spaces. We know that there are many people across the UK who have fantastic, creative and innovative ideas that could help to improve their local spaces. Our small grant fund is designed to help turn these ideas into reality!

Types of projects we can fund:

- Improvements or modifications to publicly-accessible Parks; Gardens; Cemeteries; Green open spaces including green spaces in social housing schemes.
- Work in state school grounds
- Work in privately owned grounds that encourage the public to enter and enjoy them free of charge- this includes many university grounds
- Creation of wildlife areas and ponds
- Improvement of disabled access
- Making an area safer or more family-friendly.
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- Making an area safer or more family-friendly
- Projects of Environmental & Biodiversity management education in local communities
- Training or employment opportunities for young people or local who are not currently in training or employment

Due to limited funding we can only support projects of a value of up to £1,000 and not every project can be rewarded.

The small grant programme is open all year round. Applicants can apply at anytime and will receive a response from our board of trustees within 8 weeks.

Any constituted group can apply by completing the form on our website here: <https://www.growingagreenerbritain.org/small-grant-programme/>.



TESCO Bags of Help
News

Funding available to more communities

Community groups across the UK are being invited to apply for Tesco Bags of Help funding as the application criteria opens to allow for more communities to bag some cash for their project.

As well as continuing to fund the development of and activity in outdoor spaces such as allotments and community gardens, grants will now be available to fund the purchase of items such as sports kits, camping equipment, spades, litter pickers or specialised medical equipment.

Funding is also available for improvements to community buildings, for example scout or guide hut, church or village hall or sports changing rooms. Groups looking to hold seasonal events and activities such as a Christmas lights can also apply for funding through the programme.

These are just some examples of projects that are now eligible as the green light will be given to many other schemes that meet the programme's aims and objectives to fund projects which will benefit the local community.

To ensure that the programme is really local the number of projects funded every two months has been increased and there are new funding amounts – with £4,000, £2,000 and £1,000 up for grabs.

Since launching in October 2015 the scheme has awarded over 27 million to more than 3500 community groups across England, Wales and Scotland.

For information on how to apply please visit: <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme>.



Contact us:

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To speak with Lorraine Smyth, ACT Chief Executive, or contact ACT reception:
 Tel: 01228 817224
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Previous editions of the ACT Gazette online at:
[www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ ResourcesPublications/ACTGazette](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/ResourcesPublications/ACTGazette)



ACT would like to thank the following for supporting our Community Buildings Advice Service for 2016-2017:



ACTion with communities in cumbria champions community and rural issues



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