



CHESHIRE VILLAGE HALLS NEWSLETTER

Issue 45

October 2009

Community Halls for Rural People

has been set up in partnership with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), to act as a one stop shop to help these developments happen. The aim is to raise awareness about available funding, advice, contacts and resources for village halls and other community buildings.

Rural communities are capable of identifying their own needs and problems, but sometimes experience difficulty when seeking help and advice related to rural community buildings.

In recent years, many halls have begun to provide a venue for a range of other activities such as local health facilities, farmers' markets, lunch clubs for older people and IT facilities. These are the village halls of the future.

Village Hall Management Committees and those managing village hall projects in their community need some help to sift through the huge volume of information available, to help them realise their community's plans. Village Hall Advisers based in Rural Community Councils can assist with this.

For further information visit: [www.acre.org.uk/
communityassets_villagehalls_informationservice.html](http://www.acre.org.uk/communityassets_villagehalls_informationservice.html)

Or contact Jim Bradley on 01606 882 660 or email jim.bradley@cheshireaction.org.uk

Serving all Cheshire communities

CHARITIES OFFERED FREE WIRELESS INTERNET CONNECTION

Third Sector Online,
14 September 2009

Freerunner network invites applications

Fifty community groups and 500 charities are being offered the chance to receive free wireless connection to the internet.

[Freerunner](#), a network that provides free public wi-fi, has asked members of local communities to apply and will offer to install it in any local community building.

It has also joined forces with donor website [Justgiving](#) to offer free wi-fi services to some of its charity members.

"Our team is on standby to install an initial 50 hotspots across the UK no matter where they are, and are working to find commercial sponsors for future locations," said Owen Geddes, chief executive of Freerunner.

"We're also determined to support charities, which play an invaluable role in our communities."

Community groups interested in receiving a free hotspot should send 150 words explaining where and why they want the connection to [Freerunner](#) or phone 0800 860 0815.

CO-OPERATIVE BANK Customer Donation Fund (UK)

Organisations that bank with the Co-operative Bank using their Community Directplus Bank Account, have the opportunity to apply for funding up to £1,000 through the Bank's Customer Donation Fund used to support special projects and fundraising activities.

About the fund

The fund grows in relation to the deposits made, for every £100 increase in collective deposits across Community Directplus accounts the Co-operative Bank add 20p to the fund and promise to distribute a minimum of £5000 twice a year.

How it works

Donations range from £500 – £1,000 and applications are judged twice a year in April and October. If successful, the money will be paid into your bank account shortly after.

Further details

Contact either Jim Bradley or visit the banks website <http://www.co-operativebank.co.uk> follow the 'business' then 'community banking' tabs where details and an application form can be downloaded.

GREEN COMMUNITIES

Green Communities is an initiative from the Energy Saving Trust that aims to support, facilitate and promote community based energy projects.

The Green Communities programme will create a step change in our service for communities by offering an integrated package of advice, support and funding. It will build on elements of our advice and information service (Community Action for Energy) and local outreach (via the Energy Saving Trust advice centres) and will also include new community-related services.

From free training and advice focused on project planning and funding, to technical support and a website packed with resources

Green Communities exists to help you make a success of your ideas and projects. Whether you want to improve the energy efficiency of a community building, install renewable energy technology to generate your own energy, or promote energy saving - we have the knowledge, experience and network to support and promote your project.

The Village Halls Advice section of Cheshire Community Action is working with Tania Sayer the Cheshire Low Carbon Coordinator of EPPlus to initiate a range of services for Village Halls.

Contact [Jim Bradley](#) with an email contact address if you want to be kept up to date with this work.

KEEP WARM KEEP WELL



Keep Warm Keep Well is a national campaign to reduce cold-related illness and deaths during winter. You'll find information and advice about how to stay well in winter by keeping warm and what financial support is available.

For more information about Keep Warm Keep Well visit the government website <http://keepwarmkeepwell.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

Village Halls Adviser's

CASEBOOK



What are the regulation for Asbestos?

WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

There are three main types of asbestos, the blue and brown being the most dangerous, though these have not been imported into the country for over 20 years:

Chrysotile white

Amosite brown

Crocidolite blue

Unfortunately it isn't always possible to identify them by their colour alone as, during the ageing process, it can become greyish and discoloured. In addition when it combines with other substances the colour can change.

Since 24 November 1999 the use of nearly all asbestos containing products has been prohibited.

This includes second hand products. There are a few very special products that contain asbestos that can still be used but they are highly unlikely to be required in a village hall.

It is important to note that anyone undertaking construction and maintenance work may still come across asbestos containing materials. Most buildings over 15 years old are likely to contain materials that have asbestos content.

These materials can be found when:

- stripping out old insulation from buildings
- demolishing and clearing former industrial sites and premises
- fire doors and ceiling tiles.

Plumbers, carpenters, electricians and cabling engineers may also come across asbestos during routine repair, installation or refurbishment.

Particularly common uses were:

- as a spray coating on steel work, concrete walls and ceilings,
- for fire protection and insulation as insulation lagging in buildings and factories, on pipework, and

for boilers and ducts as asbestos insulating board, such as Asbestolux and Marinite,

- used as wall partitions, fire doors, ceiling tiles etc
- as asbestos cement products such as sheeting on walls and roofs, tiles, cold water tanks, gutters, pipes and in decorative plaster finishes.

WHAT IS THE RISK?

Anyone carrying out any type of maintenance, repair or refurbishment work in buildings over about 15 years old could be exposed to asbestos dust without realising it.

Although the quantities may be small, if this happens repeatedly, it could lead to disease in later life.

The more asbestos dust breathed in the greater the health risk and for those who smoke the risk of lung cancer is greatly increased.

There is no cure for asbestos related diseases.

THE MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS MATERIALS

The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 introduced an explicit duty to manage asbestos in non-domestic situations. It came fully into force in May 2004. If you own, occupy, manage or have responsibilities for premises which may contain asbestos, you will either have a legal duty to

manage the risk from asbestos; or a duty to co-operate with whoever manages that risk.

The village hall management committee has to:

- take reasonable steps to find asbestos in the premises and assess the condition of the materials
- presume that materials do contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence that they do not
- prepare a record of the location and condition of the materials and assess the risk from them
- prepare and implement a plan to manage the risk
- provide information on the location and condition of the material to anyone who is liable to disturb it

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

If asbestos is located in the building then a decision has to be made on what to do about it.

If it is in good condition and is not likely to be damaged or worked on or disturbed it is usually safer to leave it in place and manage it. If it is in poor condition or is likely to be damaged, the village hall management committee will have to decide whether it should be repaired, sealed, enclosed or removed.

SURVEYS

The village hall management committee can locate asbestos

and note its condition by carrying out a simple walk through survey. The HSE publication 'Managing Asbestos in Premises' provides useful information on identification.

If work could disturb or need removal of asbestos, testing and a full survey will be necessary. Concern has been expressed about the added cost burden to village hall management committees for survey charges. The cost of a survey and reports to meet the requirements of the legislation would be on average £360.00 plus VAT. However, the regulation is not a duty to survey; any survey will only be a step towards managing the asbestos.

WALK THROUGH SURVEY

- Note whether the possible asbestos is evident in lagging, ceiling tiles or partition walls and if any of it is chipped, breaking up or cracked
- Mark on a plan of the building where the asbestos is present.
- If you are not sure if you have found asbestos then a sample will need to be taken and analysed by an expert. The village hall management should not attempt to do this themselves.

WHO TO NOTIFY

The village hall management

committee must inform anybody involved in building and maintenance work of the location, condition of the asbestos and the potential risks to their health if they disturb it. This will include plumbers, carpenters and engineers installing telephones, computers or other electrical equipment.

SAFE WORKING PROCEDURES

Particular care needs to be taken when working with old insulation board, ceiling tiles, cement sheeting and other material. If they need to be cut, drilled, sanded or handled they should be treated as if they contain asbestos. Never strip out insulation yourself. The law requires that a specialist contractor does this to strict rules.

INDEPENDENT SAFEGUARDING AUTHORITY DELAYED

Government scheme to list those who fail criminal record checks on hold until 2010

The Government's new vetting and barring scheme to protect children and vulnerable adults has been delayed until July next year.

The scheme will establish a single body, the [Independent](#)

[Safeguarding Authority](#), to administer the list of people who have failed criminal records checks.

There are currently three separate lists maintained by two different government departments: the Protection of Children Act list, held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families; the Protection of Vulnerable Adults list, also maintained by the DCSF on behalf of the Department of Health; and what used to be called List 99, which is information held under the Education Act 2002 and held by the DCSF.

This system was due to be replaced in October, but the [Home Office](#) has announced that it will not now happen until 26 July 2010.

Clare Smith, director of human resources at [Leonard Cheshire Disability](#), which has 7,000 staff and 3,000 volunteers, said she was pleased about the delay.

"This means we will get a year without having to face the huge costs of rechecking all our staff," she said.

The new system was likely to cost the charity £500,000 and a huge amount of work, she said. Meg Hillier, the identity minister at the Home Office, said: "We

already have one of the most comprehensive vetting systems in the world. Once employers start being updated with new information about their employees from July 2010, it will offer even greater protection."

WATER RATES CHANGES

Water companies will be allowed to offer concessionary rates to charities and sports clubs under a change in the law announced at the Labour conference in Brighton by Hilary Benn, the environment secretary.

He announced in his speech that the government will be introducing legislation to enable water companies to offer concessions on drainage bills to specific groups such as clubs and charities. The move will be included in the floods and water management bill, which was announced in June as part of the government's draft legislative programme

Thousands of groups including voluntary organisations, places of worship, football clubs and tennis clubs reacted angrily after a new "rainwater tax" introduced in April 2008 left them with crippling bills that forced them to cut back on their activities or face closure.

The water companies complained that they were unable to offer discounts to charities under laws that ban them from subsidising one group of customers at the expense of another.

Drainage bills for voluntary groups were previously based on rateable value, often calculated as zero. Last year several companies including United Utilities, Northumbrian Water and Yorkshire Water started charging the full cost of draining rainwater from roofs, car parks and other surfaces with no natural drainage.

I will work with ACRE to ensure that our halls are included in the specific groups. If you meet your MP, make sure that he is going to support the relevant parts of the Floods And Water Management Bill when it is debated in the House of Parliament.

TV SWITCHOVER HELP



The traditional TV signal serving Cheshire will begin to switchover on 4 November 2009. Everyone

needs to be ready for switchover to ensure that they can keep watching TV after this time. Extra help is available from the Switchover Help Scheme for thousands of older and disabled people living in the Granada TV region.

Who Is Eligible?

Anyone in one of the categories below:

- **Aged 75 or over**
- **Been resident in a care home for 6 months or more**
- **If they get (or could get) disability living allowance, attendance allowance, constant attendance allowance or mobility allowance**
- **If they are registered blind or partially sighted**

For a one-off payment of £40, eligible people will be offered easy-to-use equipment to convert one TV set, installation of that equipment, a demonstration of how it works and someone to call for help while they are getting used to it. This service is **FREE** for eligible people who also receive pension credit, income support or income based job-seekers allowance. **For more information, please log on to www.helpscheme.co.uk**

CHESHIRE VILLAGE HALLS FORUM

**Marthall, Ollerton & Little
Warford Village Hall
Thursday 26 November 2009
7:30 pm**

Marthall, Ollerton & Little Warford Village Hall will become the newest hall in Cheshire when it opens in November. The hall successfully applied for funding in 2007 from the Lottery Community Buildings Programme, we will see the result of that investment.

The guest speakers at this Forum are from the **Big Lottery Fund**.

In its many guises, the Big Lottery Fund has been a major source of funding for Village Halls. Projects from relatively low cost equipment replacement to new build have benefitted.

During the evening we will hear what funding is available at present and how allocation of the funding will change through to the 2012 Olympics and beyond.

If you have any ideas of topics for future meetings or if your hall is willing to host one of the future Forum meeting please ring Cheshire Community Action (01606) 881760

Invitations with map will be sent out separately to every hall in Cheshire. This letter will include the reply coupon so that we can advise the hall of the numbers attending. If you want any further details contact your Village Halls Adviser, Jim Bradley on 01606 881760 or email

jim.bradley@cheshireaction.org.uk .

We look forward to seeing you at this Village Halls Forum

the venue is

**Marthall, Ollerton & Little
Warford Village Hall
Thursday 26 November 2009
7:30 pm**

FUNDING CENTRAL

Funded by:



ncvo
CabinetOffice
Office of the **Third Sector**

Funding Central is a free smart website for all third sector organisations, including community groups, providing access to thousands of funding and finance opportunities, plus a wealth of tools and resources supporting organisations to develop sustainable income strategies appropriate to their needs.

www.fundingcentral.org.uk/



ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

One of the main aims of our Youth at the Centre programme is to support community organisations to improve and increase their engagement with children and young people. To support multi-purpose community organisations, we have published a toolkit that sets out eight simple steps that will help young people take on a bigger role in local projects and groups:

- Assessing your organisation
- Mapping and researching
- Planning and consultation
- Organised and safe
- Mutually beneficial
- Inclusive and diverse
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Empowering

The toolkit comes with a series of tools that enable organisations to take practical steps towards real youth participation. To date this publication has been ordered by over 800 organisations. It has just been updated and is available online for free for community

organisations. Visit the website for more details <http://www.communitymatters.org.uk>

YOUTH OF TODAY LEADERSHIP FUND

The National Body for Youth Leadership (NBYL) was launched earlier this year to increase the quality, quantity and diversity of opportunities for young people as leaders of change in their communities.

As part of this work, the Young Foundation is managing the Youth of Today Leadership Fund, which over the next two years will be providing over £1 million of funding to support a wide range of grassroots third sector organisations working on youth leadership. The aim of the fund will be to help these organisations grow and reach more young people so that they can have as much social impact locally as possible.

Applicants will need to meet certain criteria that may change over the Fund's two year lifecycle, but at the moment these include:

- Demonstrate social impact on young people aged 13-19;
- Take innovative and new approaches to youth leadership;

- Provide sustainable opportunities and services for young people;
- Reach out to more young people and share practice with other organisations; and
- Show skills, experience and passion to deliver this programme.

There are two grant programmes on offer. The smaller Scaling Up Fund will suit most of our members and provide key funding to develop any current or new youth leadership work in your organisation. We strongly advise community organisations to apply and to order a copy of our *Engaging Young People in Your Community Organisation*. This step by step guide with tools will help your organisation through the necessary steps to providing youth leadership opportunities in your organisation.

SCALING UP

With up to 30 grants of between £5,000 and £20,000, the Scaling Up fund aims to help organisations take their existing project to the next level by:

- Helping more young people take on leadership roles in their community.
- Create more opportunities for young people to influence the decisions affecting them.

- Raise the quality of youth leadership opportunities.
- Enable small organisations to grow.

The funders are looking for innovative project that are unlikely to find funding from other sources and the grant should be used to develop and expand youth leadership programmes including delivery costs, staff costs and small capital items (up to 20% of the grant we are awarding).

There are 4 funding rounds:

- 20 November 2009
- 26 February 2010
- 31 May 2010

31 August 2010

Contact Jim Bradley at Cheshire Community Action or visit the website

<http://www.theyouthoftoday.org/how-apply>

for more details.

VAT BLOW FOR CHARITIES

Charities will potentially suffer when the way buildings are classified for VAT purposes changes next year.

At the moment charities do not pay VAT on the construction or purchase costs of new buildings, provided the building is used

Successful.



Insurance: from trustee indemnity to the horticultural show

Aon has been successfully creating insurance solutions for thousands of Village halls around the country for over forty years. With the help of our extensive experience and unrivalled knowledge, our dedicated team will treat you like number one.

Whether you require cover for accidental damage and public liability, Indemnity Insurance for hires, loss of revenue cover or insurance for special events, we will provide just the policy you need.

For more information call the Aon Village Hall Team on **0845 600 1682**

The Aon logo, consisting of the word 'Aon' in a stylized, bold, red font.

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solely for charitable purposes. HM Revenue & Customs currently interprets 'solely' as being at least 90 per cent charitable use, which allows charities to undertake some business use.

From 1 July 2010 a building will need to have at least 95 per cent charitable use for the VAT concession to apply. The charity will also have to monitor use of the building for ten years. If the building is put to more business use than envisaged, the charity will need to pay an output tax charge. Previously, the concession allowed any change of use to be disregarded if the

change was not envisaged at the date of purchase.

HMRC has said that it will now consider any method for calculating use provided it is 'fair and reasonable'.

For further information see Changes to the zero-rate for buildings used for a relevant charitable use, available from the HMRC website via <http://tine.cc/onJsd>.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"We have two ears and one tongue so that we would listen more and talk less"

Diogenes