

Issue 25

March 2007

# *Village Halls News and Information*

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**Saturday 1 July 2007**

## Ban on Smoking in Public Places

The date is set... What do you need to do about it?

From 6am on 1st July 2007 the Government is going to implement the smoking element of the Health Act 2006. This prohibits smoking in all enclosed workplaces and public places. This includes village and community halls and churches. There will be limited exceptions to a total ban.

Employers, managers and those in charge of smokefree premises and vehicles will need to:

- ◆ display 'no smoking' signs in smokefree premises
- ◆ take reasonable steps to ensure that staff, customers and visitors are aware that premises and vehicles are legally required to be smokefree
- ◆ ensure that no one smokes in smokefree premises or vehicles

The regulations require that a no-smoking sign is displayed in a prominent position at each entrance. These signs should be the equivalent of A5 in area, display the international no-smoking symbol in colour, minimum of 70mm in diameter, and carry the words in characters that can be easily read:

"No smoking. It is against the law to smoke in these premises"

The words "these premises" may be changed to refer to particular premises where the sign is displayed, eg "this hall".

The Department of Health and Smokefree England will make signs that meet the requirements of the regulations available free of charge to order after Easter. Signs will also be included with the guidelines that will also be made available.

Consult the website: [www.smokefreeengland.co.uk](http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk)  
Telephone the Information line: 0800 169 169 7

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## Charities Act 2006

The new Charities Act was finally passed in November 2006. It introduces a number of changes to the law, many of which are designed to reduce bureaucracy for small charities. Village Halls which are charities will have received the recent edition of Charity Commission News outlining the new regulations. I would like to draw attention to a few items which I know concern Trustees:

- **Trustee Indemnity Insurance**  
The Act allows trustees to take out trustee indemnity insurance using the charity's funds, so long as there's no provision in the charity's governing document which forbids this. It is highly unlikely to be forbidden in village hall governing documents. However trustees must think carefully about doing this and be sure it is the right thing for the charity. Read VH Information Sheet 35 (Trustee Liability and Trustee Indemnity Insurance) for advice before making the decision.
- **Trustee Liability**  
It can be hard to recruit new trustees because people are often worried that they may be personally liable for mistakes which put the charity's assets at risk. The new Act allows trustees in this situation to apply to the Charity Commission, as well as the courts as before, for relief from personal liability if it is clear that the mistake was honestly made and the trustees had acted honestly and reasonably. It is important for potential trustees to understand that so long as they act honestly, prudently and within the terms of the trust deed they are doing all that the Charity Commission requires of them and are not in danger of becoming personally liable.
- **Payment of Trustees**  
The Act does not allow trustees to be paid for being trustees. However, the Act allows trustees to pay an individual trustee for providing an additional service to the charity - if they think it's in the best interests of the charity - without having to consult the Commission for authorisation to do so.

An example of this could be a trustee who's a plumber providing plumbing services to the charity as long as the trustees agree that it's in the charity's best interest, for example, because the trustee is charging a better price or in some way delivering a better service than the trustees could get elsewhere.

For more information go to the website: [www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) or ring 0845 3000218  
Write to Charity Commission Direct, PO Box 1227 Liverpool C69 3UG

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## ACRE Publications

Managing your Hall Part 1. This has been updated and provides very useful information for Management Committees, with sections on Trustee roles and responsibilities, meetings, new committee members, maintenance and what makes a village hall. The pack includes a CD with downloadable documents. It costs £8 and is available from Nancy Slaney.

Information Sheet no 19—Marketing your Hall (new) is also available, free of charge by email or post.

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## Landfill Communities Fund—Derbyshire Environmental Trust 10th Anniversary Competition

A reminder. Prize money of up to £105,000 will be awarded to the best project(s) to provide or improve significant public amenities in the Chesterfield Borough Council, North East Derbyshire District Council or Bolsover District Council areas.

The competition is open to any not for profit local community/environmental organisation (having a constitution, bank account and elected officers as a minimum) and parish/town councils. Potential applicants are advised to contact DET informally at the earliest possible opportunity to check whether their project would be eligible under the Landfill Communities Scheme. The closing date for submission of applications is 11 May 2007.

Derbyshire Environmental Trust, County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG  
Telephone: 01629 585314 email: det@derbyshire.gov.uk

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Derbyshire Aggregates Levy Grant Scheme (DALGS) is also managed by DET (details above). The closing date for the next round of grants is Monday 23 April 2007. Full details on DCC website: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) (Community & Living Section—Funding and grants) or telephone 01629 585314

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If you are intending to apply for a grant from Awards For All now is the time to do so. Apparently there is money in the pot!

Consult the website: [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk) or ring 0845 600 20 40

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## People's Millions Event 2007

Do you know of a project that would benefit from a grant of up to £80,000?. The Big Lottery Fund, in partnership with ITV, will be launching its People's Millions programme this month and an event is being held to explain what makes a successful application, what support you can get from ITV and what types of projects are being sought this year.

Date: 22 March 2007. Time: 10am At: Leicester YMCA

Contact Carole Scott, Big Lottery Fund on 0115 934 9300  
Email: [carole.scott@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:carole.scott@biglotteryfund.org.uk)

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**Artsderbyshire** is the arts information website for Derbyshire and Derby City. If your hall accommodates arts events you can sign up to the website and make information about your venue available to artists, arts organisations, events organisers and arts promoters through the searchable online directory. You can also enter information about events through the 'what's on' page. This service is currently provided free of charge.

To register go to [www.artsderbyshire.org.uk](http://www.artsderbyshire.org.uk) there are directions on the homepage.

## Combat Climate Change with Energy Efficient Halls

We are planning a project in cooperation with the Community Council of Staffordshire to support village halls to improve their environmental sustainability e.g. through improved insulation, energy efficiency measures or installing renewable energy. The enclosed survey is designed to gather evidence of need for potential funders. Please fill it in and return it, by post or on line (by the end of April if possible).

Look out for details of a major event in the Peak District this summer to promote sustainability. It is being organised by the RCCs and CVSs in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, the Peak District National Park, the churches, Groundwork Derbyshire, Sustainable Youlgreave and many others with an interest in a sustainable Peak District. The event will showcase examples of sustainability, energy conservation, renewable energy etc. It will be an opportunity to learn and be enthused to do something to help combat climate change.

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## PARISH PLAN SURGERIES

### HOW CAN A PARISH PLAN HELP YOUR COMMUNITY?

Derbyshire Rural Community Council is holding a series of Parish Plan Surgeries across the county in March 2007. These surgeries are aimed at informing Parish Councils and communities about the Parish Plan process and the current funding opportunity through the Parish Plan Grant Scheme.

Communities considering undertaking a Parish Plan need to consult DRCC prior to applying for the Parish Plan Grant. Rural Officers from DRCC will be on hand to answer your queries at the drop-in sessions and you will also be able to pick up an information pack specific to your district.

Parish Planning is an opportunity for the community to set out a shared vision for the next 5 – 10 years and to create a realistic plan for achieving this vision.

What's more, Parish Planning (also known as Community Planning) is an effective way to bring members from all corners of the community together to have their say and play a part in shaping the future of their community.

Events are open to both Parish Councils and people with an interest in their local community.

If you are unable to attend on either of the dates, please contact one of the Rural Officers at DRCC who will be more than happy to discuss any Parish Planning issues with you.

Tel: 01629 824797

Email [drcc@derbysrcc.org.uk](mailto:drcc@derbysrcc.org.uk)

[www.derbyshirercc.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirercc.org.uk)

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Findern Parish Rooms Findern Derby	3.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2007	Wyaston Village Hall Wyaston Nr Ashbourne	4.00 pm – 7.00 pm

## Severn Trent Water—charges

A reminder that Severn Trent should only be charging village halls and community centres at Band 3 for surface water drainage. It seems some halls are still being overcharged.

If your hall is being charged at a higher band, contact Severn Trent to ask them to put the hall on Band 3. You can also claim up to six years back payments where the company has overcharged. If you have problems quote the statement from the Consumer Council for Water Midlands: "In their Scheme of Charges, a formal document approved by Ofwat, Severn Trent sets a definition of 'community premises' to include village halls and community centres. These 'community premises' are then charged on Band 03. This is on condition there are no commercial aspects (eg permanent bars)".

Mickley Village Hall was recently reimbursed a substantial sum from Severn Trent from being overcharged in the previous six years.

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## Congratulations!

Frank Wickham Hall Charity, Etwell has received a grant of £10,000 from Awards for All towards the new kitchen and children's toilets.



Awards for All has also given £10,000 to Eyam Sports Association towards facilities for tennis, netball, basketball and bowls and £7,720 to Grindleford Playing Fields Association to provide a wide range of sports and other physical activities for people of all ages, including young children and those who are chair-bound.

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We have received information from the following companies (we are not recommending them but pass the details on for your interest):

Gerflor Limited ([www.gerflor.co.uk](http://www.gerflor.co.uk)) Wedgnock House, Wedgnock Lane Warwick CV34 5AP. Tel: 019. 'A Genuine alternative to Wooden Floors for Village Halls'.

Scanlock (UK) Ltd. Tel: 0151 342 4022 Scandinavia House, 208 Pensby Road, Heswall. Wirral CH60 7RJ. AlfaStrip Heating Systems for installation into suspended ceilings.

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## Enclosures with this Newsletter:

- ◆ DRCC Evaluation Survey 2007
- ◆ DRCC Energy Efficiency Survey
- ◆ Calor Derbyshire Village of the Year Competition

**DERBYSHIRE  
RURAL  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

*Realising Aspirations, Achieving Goals*

Mission Statement

Helping communities realise  
their aspirations and  
achieve their goals

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