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Village Halls News and Information

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NO SMOKING

Remember that from 6.00am on 1st July all village and community halls must display 'No Smoking' notices in a prominent place at all entrances to the premises. Notices must be A5 size and in the required format. Notices can be obtained from your local environmental health office or from the Smokefree England website: www.smokefreeengland.co.uk or information line: 0800 169 169 7. If the hall owns a vehicle, that must also display No Smoking signs.

Some further points:

There will be penalties for the following in smokefree premises and vehicles: smoking, failure to display no smoking signs, failure to prevent smoking and obstructing an authorised officer.

The law will be enforced by environmental health officers and other Local Authority officers, who will provide advice and support wherever possible. Inspections are announced or covert and there will be a complaints telephone number which people can access to report infringements.

As members of the Management Committee cannot be expected to be on the premises at all times, it is important that emphasis is made in the hiring agreement that the building is a no-smoking area. If your hall does not have a hiring agreement, it may be useful to obtain a copy (from Nancy Slaney) of ACRE's Model Hiring Agreement. It costs £8 and contains all the information needed and a CD from which a template hiring agreement can be downloaded.

There is no legal requirement for anyone to provide an outdoor shelter or designated smoking area for people using the premises. If one is provided there are associated issues: planning and licensing consent and building control may be needed; health and safety; noise which may affect neighbouring properties, and smoking related litter. Attention should be paid to the provision of suitable outside litter bins.

Management Committees may find it useful to draw up a no smoking policy which covers all who use the hall, including employees such as caretakers and cleaners. It may be useful to state what action is agreed should be taken if someone insists on smoking on the premises.

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ACRE Village Hall Information Sheets

- Nos 9 and 10: The Village Hall and its Premises Licence** +and **Alcohol in Village Halls** have been updated in line with revised guidance issued to local authorities
- No 16 :** **How green is your Village Hall** has an update
- No 18:** **Village Halls and VAT on building work and other purchases** has been revised
- No 37:** **Fire Safety in Village Halls.** A section on smoking legislation and some more useful tips have been added
- No 38:** **Short Guide to Security** has been updated

Please contact Nancy Slaney if you need any of these - they can be sent either by email or by post.

EVERY ACTION COUNTS



What is your hall doing to save energy, reduce carbon emissions and help combat climate change? The Every Action Counts campaign has lots of good ideas. The five building blocks are: save energy, travel wisely, shop ethically, save our resources, care for your area. For lots of ideas of activities for your group or community and an on-line evaluator, go to the website: www.everyactioncounts.org.uk. If you cannot access the website, you can write to Every Action Counts, 33 Corsham Street, London N1 6DR Tel: 0845 241 0957.

One activity you could consider is showing Al Gore's film 'An Inconvenient Truth' in the village hall. Details from: www.climatecrisis.net

21st Century Village Programme 2007

ACRE is a participant in the Every Action Counts campaign and is promoting the 21st Century Village Programme. Major events are taking place throughout the country to highlight the concerns and opportunities for rural communities.

"What will it be like to live in a village during the remainder of this century? How will life change for country dwellers? It is now certain that the impact of climate change and the gradual decline in global oil supplies will mean that things will change for us all during our own lifetimes and those of our children. It is equally certain, however, that if we act now and act together we can adapt our lifestyles to continue to enjoy the benefits of rural living in genuinely sustainable communities."

Derbyshire RCC is hosting a major conference on the theme on 29th September in Bakewell. Please consult DRCC's website shortly or ask Helen Lidgett for more information.

Energy Efficient Village Halls

The DRCC Village Halls service is analysing the survey forms you have been returning on energy efficiency and will be developing a project proposal with colleagues. If you have not yet returned your form, there is still time. Please send it to Nancy Slaney by 31st July so we can build up a convincing case for funding.

DRCC NEWS.....



AGM

The DRCC AGM will be held on 19th September 2007. The venue and speaker will be agreed shortly and details will then be circulated to members. They will also be posted on the DRCC website. A copy of DRCC's 2007-8 membership form is enclosed. If you are not already a member and would like to join to support our work, please fill in the form and return it with your membership fee to Lizzie Marko at DRCC. Members automatically receive our Newsletter, *Rural Matters*, and a copy of the latest edition is enclosed for non-member halls.

ACRE GOOD PRACTICE QUALITY STANDARDS



We are delighted to report that DRCC has achieved Levels 1 and 2 in the ACRE Quality Standards Peer Review conducted at the end of March. It is particularly pleasing that the Village Halls Service was graded as an 'Area of Excellence' at Level 2 in the review. Thank



you to all of you who helped us achieve this through your responses to our user feedback survey. We are now working to achieve Level 3, so we will go on seeking feedback from users and trying to improve the service we offer you.

MORE LOCALLY

DRCC has produced a research report into how village and community halls can become multi-service centres. John Powderly conducted the research over the past few months, working closely with six village halls. His report contains lots of ideas which you might find useful. We will be looking at the report's recommendations for the future and planning how to take them forward. Copies are available by post from Nancy Slaney or you can access it on the DRCC website: www.derbyshirercc.org.uk.

TAKE CARE!

If you hire out your hall for private parties please be aware of the following. We have heard of three halls that were booked in Nottinghamshire by a particular group of people. They used the same excuse for each, saying they had been let down and needed to find another venue for an 18th birthday party at short notice. They said they would provide their own music, young people would be supervised and the young people would bring their own drinks (not alcohol). They then had a large and messy party, set up their own bar and the place got trashed. In one hall alcohol was apparently sold without a licence and over 100 people turned up, where the hall's capacity is 50. As far as the hall was concerned there was no supervision. It took two days to clear up and remove the rubbish, including six bin bags of bottles and two recycling bins of cans.

If you do hire out your hall for 18th birthday parties please ensure that you get a deposit and full payment before the hall is used and that there is proper supervision.

CYCLE RACKS

Has your hall got a cycle rack (storage) or encourages and/or supports in any shape or form community transport, even if it's just putting bus timetables on the noticeboard? If so, please let Helen Lidgett know. Thanks.

NATIONAL PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION



The NPFA has changed its name to **Fields in Trust**. The address in London remains the same: Unit 2d Woodstock Studios, 36 Woodstock Grove, London W12 8LE. Tel: 0208 735 385. Their website is www.fieldsintrust.org.

The charity was set up to protect playing fields from building development and to ensure that everyone has access to high quality recreational space close to where they live. There are currently 1189 sites protected from building development by the charity, covering almost 8300 acres. The work has expanded to protecting and improving other recreational areas like children's playgrounds and leisure areas for older people.

IS YOUR VILLAGE HALL A NICE LITTLE EARNER?

The Folk Camps Society is always looking for suitable village/community halls as venues for its music, song and dance holidays. During the year we organise around ten camps which use a hall as the focus of activity. These camps, most lasting 2-3 days, some longer, are pre-booked member-only events. Campers are of all ages, mostly in family groups. We pay well for the use of your facilities and often revisit our favourite venues. We are responsible hirers and can supply excellent references. We pride ourselves on leaving premises at least as clean and tidy as we find them. The Folk Camps Society is a registered charity (No. 255901), established in 1967 for the promotion of folk music and dance.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| We require: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hall (with kitchen for drink preparation) with space for between 60 and 120 • adjacent field for camping (min. 1½ acres - not necessarily belonging to the hall) |
| We prefer: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quiet, rural setting; no immediate housing; no public footpaths through camping area |

If you think your hall may fit the bill and are interested, phone 01547 550354 or email mickgreen@folkcamps.co.uk

..... **IT COULD BE!**

CONGRATULATIONS to all the following.
If you have recently obtained a grant, do let us know.



Recent Awards for all grants

Dalbury Lees Millennium Hall	Equipment and furniture for new hall	£3,758
Litton Reading Room	Refurbish 100 year old foundation stone and install new stone to commemorate the recent refurbishment of the hall	£1,322
Matlock & District Community Resource Centre	Improvements to building, kitchen equipment and training for members.	£9,750
Parwich Village Hall	Digital film equipment and help to start a series of film shows in the hall	£9,939
Pentrich V Hall	Replace floor	£9,500
South Normanton Community Centre	Extension and furniture	£9,808
Stanton by Dale Parish Council	Replace seating in the Village Hall	£4,900
Whaley Bridge Association	Carry out community audit to determine the additional community facilities required	£7,000
Youlgrave PC	Renovate and improve the sports pavilion	£10,000

And ... congratulations to Branston Booths Village Hall in Lincolnshire—one of the winners in the East Midlands of the Queen's Award 2007, which is a new, annual award to recognise and reward excellence in voluntary activities carried out by groups in the community. www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk

And well done Risley Village Hall...who managed to get Severn Trent Water to regrade their banding to Band 3, thereby obtaining a rebate of £1,000. Risley hopes other venues will be able to take advantage of this information.

Ruberoid

Free roofing materials are still available for halls from Ruberoid. If you would like to take advantage of this, please email ACRE (villagehalls@acre.org.uk) or speak to Nancy Slaney who will pass it on to ACRE. The following information is needed:

- 1 The nature of the repair work needed
- 2 The size of the building
- 3 Some idea of the materials required.
Note: Ruberoid technical advisors could advise on exact product specification once a decision is taken on a particular project but they need to be sure first that Ruberoid supplies what is needed.
- 4 How the overall project is being funded
- 5 Contact, address and location of the hall
- 6 Use of the hall

For Sale

*50 brown
vinyl stacking chairs
- £1 each
The quantity can be split*

*Buyer to arrange collection from the
village hall*

*Please contact John or Mary
on 01298 84326*



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And ask for Wendy Smart

Email: sales@toplinefurnituredirect.co.uk
Website: www.toplinefurnituredirect.co.uk

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