



VILLAGE HALLS NEWSLETTER

August 2010

This is a Newsletter for members of Village Hall Committees. We would be grateful if Village Hall Secretaries could endeavour to circulate the Newsletter to their fellow Committee Members. You may like to use the circulation box provided.

Circulate to:

CONTENTS

Topic	Page
Charity Commission	1
Reaching Communities Building Programme	1
Burden of Regulation	1
Feed in Tariffs	2
Alcohol Licensing Consultation	2
Buy with Confidence Scheme	2
Information Share	2
Economic Impact of Community Buildings	3
Big Carbon Challenge	3
Community Central	3
COMMA	3
VAT Increase	4
Village Hall Hire Charges	4
School of Everything	4
Avalon Booking System	4
Charity Property Help	5
National Minimum Wage	5
ORCC celebrates 90 years	5
Congratulations	5
Changes in hall contact details	6
Local Area Meetings	6
Local Councils and Charitable Trusts	6
Items for Sale/Wanted	6

ENCLOSURES

1. ACRE Report . Economic Impact of Community Buildings
2. Village Hall Hire Charges (reply form)

Charity Commission warns of Bogus Telephone Calls

The Charity Commission has been made aware of a scam involving people being telephoned by individuals claiming to represent the Charity Commission. In the phone calls these individuals claim to be from the debt collection department of the Commission and they demand payments for various services and advertisements.

The Commission has been contacted by a number of people who have received calls of this nature and has already reported this matter to the police.

It is important to be clear that:

- The Charity Commission does not charge for any of its services to charities
- When you speak to any member of staff from the Commission they will always be prepared to give their name, telephone number and email address
- Any call from someone claiming to work with or on behalf of the Charity Commission and claiming any payment in a threatening way, is clearly bogus
- The Commission does not get involved in debt collection either directly or through contracting third parties to do so and nor does it collect debt on behalf of charities

You should immediately report these sorts of incidents to the police and the Charity Commission would also like to be informed where its name is being used for suspected fraudulent purposes.

Reaching Communities Buildings Programme

We have been informed by the Big Lottery Fund that the launch date for the "Reaching Communities Buildings Programme" will be announced late Autumn.

ORCC will publish more details as and when available.

Burden of Regulation

BRE investigation into the burden of regulation on volunteers managing community buildings.

Better Regulation Executive (BRE) are currently carrying out a project to try and establish the level of burden of regulation on community buildings.

We have now been asked if we can get as many responses as possible by the end of the month for a first analysis. However the survey will stay open and data input during early September will be equally welcome.

A short survey has been put together (link below) and we would be grateful if you could complete the form and return especially if you have any issues with and are struggling to comply with regulation.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/townandcountry

Feed in Tariffs (FiTs)

ACRE (our national organisation) are currently liaising with Department for Energy and Climate Change as a number of village halls are in difficulties and concerned at the ruling that they have to pay back their Low Carbon Building Programme grant in order to qualify for FiTs (if their installation was not completed by 15 July 2009). If your hall is in this situation could you please inform Lynne at ORCC.

Alcohol Licensing Consultation

The Home Office now have responsibility for the Licensing Act 2003 in relation to alcohol. The Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) retain responsibility for the regulated entertainment element.

The Home Office want to hear from everyone who will be affected by the changes, including members of the public who drink alcohol; those who have been affected by alcohol-related crime; those who work in pubs, clubs, supermarkets and shops; criminal justice agencies; licensing authorities; and trade associations representing those who produce and sell alcohol.

Village halls and other rural community buildings may be interested in responding; otherwise please let Lynne have comments and ORCC will feed into ACRE's response

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/alcohol-licensing/

Buy with Confidence Scheme

In response to concerns about 'rogue traders' which are often highlighted in the media, a partnership of Local Authority Trading Standards Services have taken a ground-breaking step by putting together the '*Buy With Confidence Scheme*'. The scheme provides consumers with a list of local businesses which have given their commitment to trading fairly. Every business listed has undergone a series of detailed checks before being approved as a member of the scheme.

More information can be found on www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Oxfordshire Trading Standards also produce a printed list of just the Oxfordshire trade members. This can be obtained by phoning 0845 051 0845 (pressing option 1) or by emailing trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Information Share

Please do not forget to update Lynne with details of people whose services you have used recently. This will provide ORCC with valuable information when asked about suppliers as we often get enquiries from halls that would like to know who other halls have been using for their building work etc.

The Economic Impact of Community Buildings in Rural Communities

Please find enclosed the first in a series of short reports produced by ACRE, providing additional information and key findings from the recent national survey for community buildings carried out in 2009.

Big Carbon Challenge Competition - October 2010

*Want to help Reduce Carbon Emissions?
Want to take Climate Action in your Community?*

As part of Oxfordshire County Council's *Low Carbon Communities* programme, ORCC and Climate-X will be running a carbon reduction competition from October 2010.

With start-up funding available for competition groups and a prize fund of £1500, entries are invited from new or recently formed community groups concerned with stopping climate-change.

If you are interested?

Your group will be trained by *Carbon Conversations*, a nationally-recognised organisation which encourages low-carbon living. Your group would then take baseline measurements of its carbon emissions in October 2010. These measurements will then be taken again in May 2011, with the group demonstrating the biggest reduction winning prizes! Groups will also be expected to undertake community activities (such as Energy Clinics film screenings etc.) in order to spread the carbon-reduction message.

For more information visit the ORCC website, or contact Tom McCulloch 01865 883488
tom.mcculloch@oxonrcc.org.uk

Community Central

If you are keen to help your community become more sustainable, Community Central can provide you with the support and contacts you need to make a real difference.

At Community Central you can get in touch with key people from your local authority, make contact with businesses and discuss your green initiatives with other local groups.

Whether you are looking for inspiration or specific advice, Community Central gives you the tools you need to make your community greener, faster.

www.communitycentral.co.uk

COMMA Funding Success in Oxfordshire

COMMA, the Community Aggregates Fund recently announced grant awards to 57 local community organisations under this year's fund. ORCC is the Rural Community Action Network member for Oxfordshire and we were delighted with the variety and quality of applications received this year. Three of the applications received were supported and have secured the following funding:

Shilton Old School Management Committee - £8,515 to repair dry stone walling

Appleford Parish Council - £3,015 to improve access and lighting to footpath

Radley Wetland Centre - £5,500 to create access and viewing boardwalk

This was the final round of the current programme.

Congratulations to all those groups

VAT Increase

The first Budget of the new Coalition Government was announced on June 22.

The standard rate of VAT will increase to 20% on 4 January 2011, please take this into account if you are intending to carry out any future work to building refurbishments and make contingency allowances for the increase in any grant applications.



Zero rated supplies and those subject to the reduced 5% rate (fuel) are not affected by the change.

Village Hall Hire Charges

It is several years since our last request for details of current village hall hire charges. Enclosed is a reply form and we would be grateful to receive details of your hall's charges, in order to up-date our information sheet for village hall committees.

School of Everything

A government-backed national online database is inviting village and community halls to register as spaces for adult informal learning. The School of Everything helps put local learners, teachers, groups and venues together. You can list your hall as a space for learning, together with details of your facilities, availability and scale of charges.

All you need to do is to log onto www.schoolofeverything.com click on  at bottom of screen add your details and then go to  Add a venue. It is extremely easy and should not take more than a few minutes. Adding pictures of your hall also really helps sell it better. You can add to or edit your entry at any time.

Avalon Booking System

Computerised booking system for community buildings

ORCC has recently received enquiries about booking software programs for village and community halls.

We are aware of Avalon Software who specialise in the supply of a bookings software program designed to meet the requirements of those halls who have reached the stage where paper based booking systems no longer meet their needs. The program includes a diary for both casual and regular group bookings, hirer database and hirer invoicing. The system is flexible and makes producing the paperwork linked with taking bookings much faster.

You can download the software for a free 31 day trial by logging onto www.avalonsoftware.co.uk or by ringing 08454 302233 for more information.

Charity Property Help

free advice from property professionals

This service offers registered charities up to an hour of free advice on any property matters, from planning and environmental issues through to project management and maintenance.

The service is run by Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and currently 276 firms are signed up to offer their services. Call 0870 333 1600 or visit their website for further information www.charitypropertyhelp.com/charities

National Minimum Wage

The National Minimum Wage is set to increase on 1 October 2010 when the following new hourly rates will apply:

- £5.93 (currently £5.80) for workers aged 21 and above
- £4.92 (currently £4.83) for workers aged 18-20
- £3.64 (currently £3.57) for workers aged 16-17

The qualifying age for the adult minimum wage rate has been brought down from 22 to 21 and for the first time, an apprentice minimum wage rate has been set at £2.50 per hour.

ORCC celebrates 90 years

This year ORCC is celebrating 90 years of supporting action in rural communities.

As part of our birthday celebration, ORCC has collated a publication in which local people have submitted examples of special significance for their community.

To keep costs under control we had to limit the number of printed copies, although a hard copy has been mailed out to all Town/Parish Councils and Meetings in Oxfordshire.

Please contact your Parish Clerk to view this publication or alternatively it is available to view and download on our website www.oxonrcc.org.uk

Congratulations

The following 15 Village Halls/Community Centres have recently been awarded grants by Oxfordshire County Council under their grant scheme.

Arccott VH
Balscote VH
Bampton VH
Checkendon VH
Childrey VH
Combe VH
Farmoor VH
Filkins VH
Great Milton Pavilion
Ipsden Memorial Hall
Ramsden Memorial Hall
Peppard Memorial Hall
Shenington VH
Steeple Aston VH
Wiggington VH

The funding has been awarded to a wide range of projects including providing better access to refurbishment of kitchens.

Application packs for 2011/12 will be available early in the New Year, with a deadline date for applications expected during April. Applications are made through Lynne at ORCC, from whom application forms can be obtained.

Changes in hall contact details

When you have had your own AGM, have the committee officers remained the same?

It is helpful for ORCC to have up-to-date details of the contact person to whom correspondence should be sent as well as details of the village hall booking clerk.

Please email Lynne if you have any amendments to make for your hall.

Local Area Meetings

Please note we are currently arranging this year's round of Local Area Meetings for village hall management committees.

These will all take place during the first three weeks of October between 7.30 . 9.30 p.m.

Invitations will be sent out shortly once we have confirmed dates.

Lynne Newin
Village Halls Adviser
August 2010

Local Councils and Charitable Trusts

A proposed training event is being organised by Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) planned for 9 November (morning) at South Oxfordshire District Council Offices at Crowmarsh. This event is aimed so that a representative of both the Parish Council and Village Hall Management Committee can attend together. The training will be led by the Charity Commission but will include sharing good practice among Parish Councils in terms of supporting charities and charity management committees and working constructively with them.

Bookings will need to be made via your Parish Clerk, although you can register your interest in attending with Lynne at ORCC.

Items for Sale

Coin-operated payphone (BT 190 model, c/w wall mounting). Free to collect from Chilton Village Hall (although small contribution to their community social fund would be appreciated).

Contact Brian Morris, for further information on 01235 834233 or brian@chiltonvillagehall.co.uk

If any village hall has any items for sale or wanted items in relation to their hall, we will be willing to advertise them in any future edition of the Village Hall Newsletter for FREE. Please send any details to Lynne at ORCC.

SILVER SURFERS AT YOUR HALL!

Group Computer Lessons with the Internet for the Over 50s



Group computer lessons for the over 50s

Silver Training's teachers can bring our specialist courses to your hall each week

Easy and Free Internet Set Up

New mobile 'Mi-Fi' devices allow us to bring in Internet for groups with no wires, no installation and no cost to the hall

Let us do all the work for you

Silver Training will arrange marketing, hall hire, teachers and equipment

Involving Your Community

Our sessions will help your residents and make good use of your hall. Other computer-activities available too

 **SILVERTRAINING**

Call now to discuss with us on 0845 862 0492

or visit our website at www.silvertraining.co.uk

'Let us know'

If you would like to make a complaint about any of ORCC's services, please ask for a copy of our Complaints Policy and Procedure.

Large print and alternative formats available on request.

The ORCC's Village Halls Service is funded by:



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk



Vale of White Horse



ORCC's Village Halls Adviser, Lynne Newin, advises and supports village halls throughout the county.
01865 883488 lynne.newin@oxonrcc.org.uk

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

Registered office: Jericho Farm, Worton, Witney, OX29 4SZ
T: 01865 883488. F: 01865 883191. W: www.oxonrcc.org.uk

Registered in England as a company limited by guarantee (2461552)
and as a charity (900560)