



TEES VALLEY VILLAGE HALLS NETWORK

self-governing • self sustaining • self help village halls support organisation

Autumn 2020 Edition No 15

What Was To Have Been

But for covid19, members would have been able to join together for three Network events.

Here is a reminder of what was planned but could not take place.

On 24th March we would have been at Lazenby Village Hall to have advice about applying for funding from The Community Fund's Judy Coxon.



16th April would have seen us at Charltons Village Hall for our AGM with a presentation about a very special community venture.

On 30th April Gleneagles Village Hall at New Marske would have hosted a session led by a solicitor from our sponsors to help us understand the different and complex ways of hall ownership and how to sort out the unsatisfactory ones.



WHAT IS YET TO COME

This may all sound a bit like the story 'A Christmas Carol' with aspects of past, present and future except that here we are talking about what might have been, i.e it was planned but we were all taken over by Covid 19 so the planned events never happened, and then moving onto the future, post Covid, when we can all assume some degree of normality.

Speaking collectively we are coming from the angle of being cautiously optimistic, onwards and upwards, like the phoenix rising from the fire. What your Network Committee is hoping to produce is a Plan for a 'Big Event' to be held sometime in May 2021 which Speakers with experience of our communities and who appreciate what months. There will be opportunities individual sessions for our speakers to



will include inputs from a number of Key world, our environment, our sort of com- we have all been through in the past few for questions and answers and perhaps in- have 1 to 1 sessions with our guest speak- something for every member hall present

The Network Committee will be encouraging Halls as they go through the opening up stage, coming up with ideas, swapping and sharing between Halls, offering support, help and advice, so that Halls and the Network will be stronger than ever, active, full and busy, so that we are meeting the needs of our communities

We want to hear what YOU are doing and is it working. Did you meet any difficulties along the way and if you did how did you get over them? We assume that everyone is mindful of the Covid 19 experience, so how has this changed things for you and the way you operate? We want to get as much of this information together as possible so that experiences can be shared and swapped.

Meet The Team

We would like to introduce this new feature to our Newsletter

Our first team member to be introduced to you is Mrs. Janice McColm.

Janice, as well as being a committee member, is a team member at Tees Valley Rural Action (TVRA).



Q1 Are you from the North East?

I am. I grew up in Ormesby, Middlesbrough.

Q2 What is the association between TVRA and the Network and what is your position with TVRA?

TVRA started the Network as a project to help to support village halls. As time went on it was felt that the Network Management Committee was capable of working as a separate organisation with support from TVRA. I am the Rural Development Manager with TVRA and I support village halls and generic community groups with any issues they might have.

Q3 What is your background and how do you think this helps with your work with rural areas?

I was a serving soldier for 3 years and wife of a soldier for 18 years. Being attached to the military is like living in a village, everyone knows everyone and generally we are isolated from family so I think this helps me to understand the lives of people living in isolated rural areas and the hierarchy that is often apparent. I have also worked for the NHS and worked for many years as an auxiliary nurse which I believe helps me to empathise with people and have understanding of the support that is often needed. I have a degree in Health and Human Sciences, specialising in Anthropology (the study of people) along with the study of genetics and why we are the way we are. I have a paralegal qualification which helps me with policies and governing documents and I have NVQ Level 2 in Community Development and Advice and Guidance.

Q4 What attracts you to village life?

It very much reminds of the military lifestyle and the way people know their neighbours which is not always the case living in the urban areas.

Q5 Do you like working with committees?

I do. I am very much a people person and on the whole the committees I work with are lovely people who just want to support their community.

Q6 Do you have a favourite day trip/holiday destination in the North East?

I have many as I love history and the North East has many wonderful castles and houses, but one of my favourites is on my doorstep and that is Ormesby Hall. It has a fascinating history with lots of things to look at and explore plus it's National Trust so the tea and cake are excellent.

Q7 Do you have any time for hobbies and if so what?

I like reading and doing crafts but I'm not the best crafter. I also enjoy gardening.

Q8 Do you think that rural life is threatened and if so by what?

I believe too many houses are being built on greenfield land and some villages are growing exponentially right across the UK.

Q9 What event that you are associated with are you most proud of?

I would say the Tees Valley Village Halls Conference which is usually fun as well as informative. The event is supported by the Network and the feedback has always been positive.

Q10 Do you think that Network helps you with your work?

Yes I do, very much so. Working with village halls is only one small part of my work and the management committee of Network is always ready to support halls, help me to deliver training or gather information. They are also a font of knowledge when I have questions.

Q11 How would you best describe yourself.

"I am eager to learn." "I am determined." "I never give up until I get something right." "I get on well with all kinds of people." "I like to keep a positive attitude." "Hard work doesn't bother me. I actually like it." "I enjoy facing challenges." "I like everything I do to be well-organized."

INTRODUCING ANDY HAMPSON



Hello members of Tees Valley Village Halls Network. My name is Andy Hampson, I am a Police Constable within the Engagement Team in Cleveland Police. We are a newly formed team who came into being at the beginning of 2020. Our team consists of a Sergeant, 2 PC's, (Police Constables) 2 PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers) and 2 CADO's (Community & Diversity Officers).

Our aim is to improve relationships between Cleveland Police and communities.

A community might be a district (for example, Stockton) or a type of community (for example, Faith Groups) or a village. We are expected to identify communities, then develop relationships with them and work out how to fully engage with them.

I am the lead for Rural Communities and University & College Communities in Redcar and Cleveland but can operate anywhere in the force area as long as it is relevant to building relationships. We have themed areas which include the elderly, veterans, disability, gypsy roma travellers, faith groups, emergency services, refugees and asylum seekers, young people, BAME, LGBT and under privileged groups. The photo is a composite illustrating a patrol between Elton and Sadberge.

I am sure I can help members of the Network as a contact within Cleveland Police and a link to the villages

which they serve and those who live there. Let me give you this example of how I can help:

One of the groups I am in touch with contacted me about a 15-year-old girl on the fringe of local crime and involved in anti-social behaviour. She had ambitions for a career in the army or police. We met with her and an appropriate adult, showed her round police HQ, provided advice on her preferred career paths and let her interview a police officer about his career and experiences.

I am very happy to be contacted at any time for more information or if your members know of a situation in their village where I might be able to be of help. I am contactable at

Andrew.hampson@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

And I have a special request. Please don't report incidents to that email address. Incidents need reporting through the existing channels; 101, 999 or online at www.cleveland.police.uk



Swap & Share

One of the Network's functions is to encourage halls to share their experiences with other halls so that we can all benefit and get better at serving our communities. Here are some recent examples.



- A hall bent on refurbishing its kitchen was welcomed by another hall to look at its kitchen and hear about how well it works.



- A hall wishing to dispose of its carpet bowls set was able to do so to a hall looking for one.
- A hall looking for information about a projector/tv screen system was able to tap into the experience of another hall with just such a system.

- A hall seeking advice on how to project manage re-roofing its premises was given a template by another hall.
- A hall was given advice on how to make sure the VAT on its electricity bill was at the reduced rate of 5%.
- A hall shared its documentation about Covid with all halls.



Do keep the Swap & Share pot boiling and let us know of your

Membership Subscriptions

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic curtailing all of our proposed events for 2020 we do not think that it is fair to ask for subscriptions for the remainder of the year. For this reason we will defer payment for 2021 until April 1st 2021.

Our Website

We understand that some of you are experiencing difficulties viewing photographs on our website. This seems to be particularly prevalent to those using ESET security. If you have this problem please contact me (eter Brown at admin@teesvalleyvillagehalls.net) and I can explain and offer a solution.

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