

Introducing
EVOLUTION

Carlin How Street Dancers call themselves 'Evolution'. Their dance teacher, who goes by the stage name DJBooma, travels from near Leeds each week for a 90 minute dance session with the children of Carlin How village.

Booma is a very creative dancer and choreographer, so he designs the dances with individual roles and of a standard to suit these particular pupils. This is a relatively expensive project, and the children only contribute £1 each per week. They come in part just because of Booma's charisma. So in order to keep the magic happening we have had to ask for funding from SportEd.

It took several months to jump through all the hoops, and we are obliged to involve the parents, set up a fundraising group of our own to function alongside SportEd's money, work in a training element for a few dancers so it helps to advance their careers, and try to finish up in three years' time with a sustainable dance education group.

The group still prefers to dance inside unless there is proper equipment for broadcasting the sound outside. They are working on some smaller sketches involving only two or three dancers. However our lead dancer is 6 foot tall now, and takes up a lot of space doing a chain of cartwheels. And our routines are still quite short - maybe only ten minutes long.

We are looking to get performing practice and would like to entertain your village, if you find this interesting. Contacts: 07896486278 (Liz Westhead) or 01287643903 (Denny O'Brien).

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SUMMER

NEWSLETTER

2014

NETWORK PEOPLE **New Member: Bob Mullen**

We are very pleased to announce that Bob Mullen has joined our Steering Group. Bob has a wealth of experience and knowledge which we know will be of great benefit.

After living overseas for 35 years in Africa, the Near and Middle East Bob returned to UK on retirement and became deeply involved in the voluntary sector. This ranged from full-time volunteering at the Wynyard Planetarium and Observatory to volunteering in environmental organisations involved in conserving and maintaining ponds, hedges and trees.

Bob has been a committee member of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) for a number of years. He has become involved in local planning issues and advises Nunthorpe Parish Council and other organisations on planning proposals affecting their area; he also belongs to 3 local history groups, Nunthorpe, Thorpe Thewles and Stokesley.



Bob's interest in Village Halls developed from being a regular hirer for meetings. Over time he came face to face with hall management issues and he hopes that joining the Network will present opportunities to actively encourage residents, users and local authorities to appreciate village halls as the gems they are in the rural communities.

AGM March 2014, Lazenby Village Hall

Our AGM this year was once again held at Lazenby. The meeting was attended by 29 people, representing 9 halls. The AGM has become a firm favourite on the Network calendar.

Hallmark Awards 2014

The evening started with a presentation of Hallmark Certificates by Doff Pollard (Chief Executive, TVRCC), to representatives from The Wilson Centre Village Hall (Level 2), Ingleby Barwick Community Hall (Level 2), and Hurworth Village Hall (Level 1) to mark their achievement of Hallmark status. Doff congratulated the Halls and spoke of the value of the Hallmark awards.



Hallmark Award Presentations

Doff Pollard (Chief Executive, TVRCC) presenting awards to (left picture) John Myers of Ingleby Barwick Community Hall; (centre) Anne Smith of The Wilson Centre Long Newton; (right picture) Lynne Drumm of Hurworth Village Hall.

The evening continued with the business of the AGM, the Chairman's Annual report, the election of the Committee and the presentation of the Annual Statement of Accounts. Details of these may be found on the Network website. Following the AGM Gordon Hetherington gave a very amusing brief talk on various aspects of his work in the legal profession. The evening concluded with a light-hearted short quiz. Superb refreshments were once again provided by the Lazenby Committee, thank you. On behalf of the Network Committee, our thanks to all who attended.

Hugh Jackson,
Chairman

SHARE IT WITH THE REST OF US

All our halls are different but all our halls are the same. This sounds like nonsense but it is true in the sense that all of our halls are there to bring together our respective communities. Often the way we do this is to put on events to draw in people from our community: sometimes simply to enjoy a presentation in the company of others, sometimes to add to their knowledge, sometimes to join in a common activity, sometimes to eat together.

We can all benefit from knowing what other halls are putting on by hearing from them about the sort of event we had not thought of and perhaps even going along to experience an event first hand to see how it is done.

So that we can know what our halls are putting on, why not from time to time let the Network know what your hall is planning? Send details by e-mail or copy an advertising flyer to Brian at brianwake@lineone.net and he will distribute the information to all halls in the Tees Valley area.



KEEPING THE LID ON ENERGY BILLS

Energy suppliers class Halls as 'business' customers and give them a fixed term contract. You can only SWITCH suppliers when your contract ends. So check the contract end date and 'go compare' a few weeks ahead



MYTH BUSTER

Committees that make decisions 'on the hoof' are the most vulnerable to myths and legends that confident sounding people pass off as if they have the full weight of the Law behind them. So the first myth to 'bust' is that charity trustees can please themselves when making decisions about the charity—they can't! Charity Commission guidance starts by referring you to the Charity's 'Governing Document' - this will be Trust Deed that set up the charity. If you cannot find it, ask the Charity Commission for a copy as they will almost always have one. The 'Governing Document' will contain the basic rules that apply to your charity—and you MUST follow them!

The next point of guidance is that when you are uncertain about the decision you are contemplating, ask for advice from a competent professional. You may be able to access such help through Teesside Professional Services Group which is a charity that makes the link between local charities and professionals who agree to give their services free for a set number of days a year.

There is an abundance of legislation which can be summed up as guidance for fairness in society. This gives rise to guidance in the form of 'Policy Statements' which your charity could adopt as its own and which will in effect give you the rules for conducting the charity 'fairly' within the law. These policies will guide you through topics such as equality and diversity, gender and racial discrimination and rules about selection for employment.

WHERE TO GET HELP

The BOSS Project Easy Admin FACTFILE is a CD which has a good selection of template documents and guidance notes for Village Hall Committees. This CD has been widely distributed recently so someone in your group may have one. If not go to www.bossguidesonline.co.uk or contact TVRCC for a copy.

HELP FOR OUR HALLS - HELPING US TO HELP YOU

In our previous newsletter we advised you that we were planning a research project when we would be asking you to identify what is successful in your hall, what does not work well and why this is the case.

Our aim is to obtain a clearer picture of the issues that are faced, whether it is resources, time, money, the need for fresh ideas or some other aspect of hall management that poses problems, so that we can further develop the support which will help to address your needs.

We are pleased to say that we have, at the time of writing this, approached 31 of our 33 member halls inviting you to participate and all of you are happy to contribute to our project.

We are currently applying for funding to take our plan to the next stage and we look forward to being in touch with you again as soon as our funding is in place.

NEXT NETWORK TRAINING EVENT

ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR HALL'S INSURANCE

How to get the best bargain

How much cover is needed – range & amount

Can we do better by having a group policy

What discounts are available

What are the important dates to diary

AND much, much more !

Join us on Tuesday September 2nd at 2pm

at Middleton St George Community Centre,

Water Park, Station Road, Middleton St George

SPOTLIGHT: Worsall Village Hall



On the south bank of the River Tees the parishes of High and Low Worsall enjoyed the facilities of a village hall for fifty years. By 2003 the wind wet and wear had made the original wooden building uninsurable. Opinions were sought from user groups and villagers and community meetings held. The decision to demolish the existing hall then build anew was not easy. The major problems were construction cost, changing social attitudes and uncertain future usage and income. This village has its share of willing horses with a wide range of skills and the Management committee co-opted a team of motivated folk as a "rebuild sub committee" to create management and finance plans, design specifications and fund raising groups. One villager volunteered his architectural business to prepare plans and obtain the relevant permissions and one of the team became the coordinator. A very important person!

Large grants were offered by DEFRA, BIFFA the landfill body, Hambleton Council and many others. Then along came the National Lottery! We were in the fortunate position of having all of the relevant documents and permissions in place when the scheme was launched and our bid was successful. The new hall was opened by Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson in January 2009. We now have a sustainable building with many energy saving systems. Maintenance costs are reasonable and well covered by lettings income.

The sports hall accommodates a wide range of activities; there is a stage that can be extended and which has full sound and light systems; a large bar room, a fully functioning kitchen; and a 50 seat carpeted meeting room.

Ground sourced under floor heating provides a constant ambient temperature; lighting is variable and ventilation is natural cross flow. We have been pleased to share our success with other halls. Activity by the

regular user groups and visitors is high - three sessions a day with weekends reserved for larger events such as birthday parties and wedding receptions at weekends. We have a "Premises Licence" which allows the retailing of alcohol in the hall. Significant income is earned in these functions. Our active web site attracts several bookings each month.

The members of the management team have specific responsibilities such as financial planning, cash flow forecasting, building maintenance, wedding and event organizing, committee management and most importantly bookings secretary/key holder. Annual reports and accounts are presented to the annual general meeting and are forwarded to the Charities Commission and the National Lottery.

Left: Worsall New Village Hall



The former wooden village hall

WELCOME to New Network Members

A very warm welcome to the Network to those Halls who have recently joined or will be joining shortly. This includes

- Egglecliffe Parish Hall
- Elmwood Community Centre
- Kirklevington Village Hall
- Loftus Old Coop
- Guisborough Sea-Cadets HQ
- Heighington Village Hall

We have also had enquiries about joining from Halls on the northern edges of Hambleton District. All halls in our neighbourhood who share the interests, aims and objectives of the Network, are always most welcome to join.

I trust that you all find your membership beneficial and that you find our activities interesting and enjoyable.

Hugh Jackson,
Chairman