



TEES VALLEY VILLAGE HALLS NETWORK

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

Winter 2023/4 Edition No 22

Next Event **Wednesday 28th February 2024**

At Egglecliffe Community Centre, Durham Lane, Egglecliffe

Start 11am finish 1.15pm

Technology- How to Use it to Advantage

A presentation by two halls on how to use a projector, screen and the internet to your hall's advantage.



Followed by a buffet lunch, then:

How to keep you and your hall safe

A presentation by PC Hampson of the Regional Organised Crime Unit re how to avoid scams, identity theft, phishing and courier fraud and how to keep passwords secure.



Do come and join us! Please share this invitation with members of your committee. They would be very welcome to attend. It is free to Member Halls.

This is the third event in our **Building Resilience in a Changing World programme.**

Supported by Tees Valley Community Foundation.

Lazenby Village Hall – The Ironstone Food Pantry



If you are looking for inspiration, look no further!

The Food Pantry was the brilliant idea of Liz Robinson, Chair of Lazenby Village Hall to reduce food waste and, in doing so, to help local people in the cost-of-living crisis. It receives food from FareShare North East which redistributes surplus food from supermarkets to local community groups who then supply it to people in their area.

Every Friday afternoon people in Lazenby and those with strong connections to Lazenby, who are members of The Ironstone Food Pantry, are invited to the hall. They pay £1 to cover the fresh fruit and vegetables on offer and can buy other items, dry, refrigerated or frozen at much reduced prices, from 50p to a maximum of £3.

The Food Pantry is open to local residents of all ages no matter what their situation is. Liz says that she sees adults in their early 20s to pensioners in their 90s come to buy food.

She added “Everybody is so appreciative. The Ironstone Pantry is massively beneficial to people in the village. It helps to create a community as the old people speak to the young.”

The hall looks very colourful as it is set out with produce by volunteers. Six residents, who are provided with shopping baskets, are allowed into the hall at any one time to allow time to view the items and to avoid crowding. It is extremely well organised and friendly, and those attending can stay and have a cup of tea in an adjacent room and socialise.

As well as a range of people who come to the Pantry to buy food, Liz said there are plenty of volunteers of different ages. Five-year-old Angel comes to volunteer with her great grandmother. Five-year-old Timothy is another young volunteer. Liz is supported by family members and many local volunteers such as Sally, who is in charge of vegetables and does an amazing job. Liz says “It’s great fun to do and we all enjoy the time we spend on The Pantry and are making new friends as well.”

Spring cleaning - looking ahead to a new year

What can you do to make your hall more successful?

Are there any improvements you could make to the building and its facilities to make it more attractive to users - and maybe make a funding bid?

Are you advertising enough?

Are you meeting the needs of your community - how are you engaging with them?

Do you look for new ideas for events and new groups?

Are you making the most of technology – see the Network's next event



Here's a quick Spring Clean checklist:

Check that:

- You look around your hall with fresh eyes as if you were a newcomer. Note what you see – what is good and what can be improved
- Noticeboards are up to date and well maintained
- Details of who to contact to hire the hall are shown on the outside of your hall
- There is clear signage to your hall
- You promote your hall in a regular newsletter, parish magazine, TVVHN website, newspapers, social media
- One or more of your committee members attends Network events to share experiences and develop new ideas
- You consider circulating a Welcome flyer to new residents giving details of your hall
- You ask for feedback on your events and what was liked the most
- You seek information by way of survey, face to face or social media on what the community would like and support
- You review last year, what worked well and not so well and what you have learned.

We hope 2024 is a successful year your hall. If you think we can help, just ask by sending an email to admin@teesvalleyvillagehalls.net

Building Resilience in a Changing World

Our thanks to Tees Valley Community Foundation

We successfully applied to Tees Valley Community Foundation for funding to support our Building Resilience programme of events. This funding is important to enable us to plan professional speakers to help our member halls on a wider range of topics. We are very grateful to the Foundation's Trustees for their generosity.

If you were not able to attend one or other of our first two events, you missed a treat.

The first, "Privacy -What You Need To Know" was ably presented in detail by Jonathan Evans, Solicitor from The Endeavour Partnership LLP, Stockton-on-Tees, and included GDPR five years on, CCTV cameras - your obligations and your rights, and photographs – consents, publishing and the law.



Our second event, "Looking After The Money" was presented by Peter Bryan, Consultant to the Voluntary Sector, who gave us a policy framework and template for 'doing it right' and the tools for 'doing the job well' as well as a demonstration of Easy Accounts for voluntary organisations.

We received very positive feedback from those attending the events so do come along to our 3rd event – don't miss out - please see the front page of this newsletter.

We hope that 2024 is a joyful and successful year for you and your hall. If you wish to contact us with a query or to let us know a particular success you have had, please feel free to do so at admin@teesvalleyvillagehalls.net.

Similarly, if the contact details for your hall have changed, please let us know.

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