

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

(A Self Help Group Run By Members For Members)

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER No.13. JULY 2012

Web Site - www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk

First Year of the ‘Volunteer’ Portable Appliance Testing Service – A Great Success

The first round of Portable Appliance Testing has been a great success. 40 members have used the service with 1,905 appliances tested and 64 appliances failing the tests. Members have gained considerably by paying around one third of what it has cost in the past. The service has been run by volunteers and we owe them enormous thanks. They are:

Alan Brewin Pat Johnston Denis Peel Liz Stewart Matt Singleton
Michael Stott Melvyn Whatmough Mike Wood

Denis Peel also acted as Coordinator of the Scheme and it would be remiss not to mention Mike Gowland of the North Northumberland Village Halls Consortium who obtained the grant to purchase the testing equipment and organised the training. Each of the above volunteers has given around three to four days of their time and we are very grateful to them and extremely proud of what they have achieved.

The whole testing scheme was reviewed at a recent meeting of the Volunteer Testers and the Management Committee held at Shepherd’s Dene Retreat Centre to whom we are very grateful. The scheme that has been used has proved sound and with a small number of amendments will be used again from September 2012 onwards when we start the second year of testing. The good news is that the standard price will drop by £1 to £25 for testing up to 50 appliances. Should any members wish to make comments about the scheme please contact the Secretary Adrian Hinchcliffe.

Within the next few weeks the Secretary will be contacting all members to establish if they wish to take the service in 2012/2013.

Membership

It is very pleasing to report that the membership has increased to 60. We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Barden Mill & Henshaw Community Village Hall
Merton Hall Recreation Centre, Ponteland
Heddon on the Wall WI Hall
St John’s Church Hall, Snods Edge.

There are still a small number of village halls and other community buildings that are not members of the Consortium and we would be delighted if they would join. There is strength if we can speak on behalf of all Halls and Community Buildings in the West of The County. The membership fee is only £10.00 per annum and this opens the door to considerable benefits well exceeding this value.

Hallmark Scheme

The Consortium supports the Hallmark Scheme and encourages members to consider being assessed. If you achieve Hallmark Level 1, some insurance companies will give an additional discount on renewing your policy. It is about good practice and it really is worthwhile taking the time to qualify.

Louise Currie of Community Action Northumberland is running a Hallmark 1 training course on Tuesday 17 July at the Hexham Community Centre from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. This is an ideal opportunity for members to take the training (WHICH IS FREE) without necessarily committing to making an application. So far, 18 representatives of 9 Halls have enrolled for the course. Come on, have a go at this – contact Louise on 01670 517178.

Northumberland Energy Club

The Consortium launched the Northumberland Energy Club in 2011 to enable members to obtain very competitive prices for electricity and gas. Over a dozen members have taken out contracts over the last few months and some have achieved significant savings. Yet there are many members who appear not to have done so. All quotes obtained through the Club are on the basis of ‘no obligation’ and if you can find a better price elsewhere then fine. However, our brokers LSI are skilled at searching the market for the lowest prices. Give them a go and see if you can benefit.

To obtain a quote follow the procedure set out on the Consortium web site www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk by clicking on ‘Northumberland Energy Club’. If you have any queries please contact Secretary Adrian Hinchcliffe

Health and Safety Policy

A number of members have expressed a need to have a health and safety policy for their hall. Such a policy is not easy to compile and so the Management Committee has taken on this request to produce a document covering the main headings which can be adapted or extended by members for their own circumstances. The Secretary is currently working on such a document. When it is complete it will be placed on the web site so that it can be downloaded. All members will be notified when it is available.

Insurance Panel

Members are reminded that the Consortium has a panel of insurers and each company on the panel offers a discount for being a member of the Consortium. If your insurance is coming up for renewal it is worth getting competitive quotes from at least three companies on the panel. Always make sure they know that your Hall or Community Building is a member of the Consortium. The panel can be accessed from the web site by clicking on ‘Insurance Discounts’ which appears on the left under the heading ‘Membership’. This section is password protected. If you have lost the password it can be obtained from the Secretary.

Web Site Extended to Offer a ‘Sale or Wanted’ Page

The Consortium’s web site has been extended to offer a ‘sale or wanted’ page. This will allow members to advertise things that they wish to sell or things that they need. The page can be accessed by clicking on ‘For Sale or Wanted’ which can be found under the heading ‘Membership’ on the left. There is a short on line form to complete where each member can set out what they want to purchase or sell. We must thank Michael Elphick for setting up this facility and for establishing the whole web site.

Management Committee

The Management Committee is as follows:

Chairman – Mike Wood

Email Michaelwood111@btinternet.com

Tel. 016977 47025

Secretary – Adrian Hinchcliffe

Email adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com

Tel 01661 843896.

Treasurer – Liz Stewart

Email - walltown@lineone.net

Tel. - 01434 320481

Michael Elphick

Email - michael@elphicks.plus.com

Pat Johnston

Email - treasurer@newbroughtownhall.org.uk

Keith Robson

Email - keith.townhead@tiscali.co.uk

Margaret Weatherley

Email - meg495@btinternet.com

Norman Hooks

Email - njchooks21@talktalk.net

Members are reminded that all the above positions are entirely voluntary.