

# WEST NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS CONSORTIUM

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER Number 9 - APRIL 2011

Web Site - [www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk](http://www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk)

## CONSORTIUM LAUNCHES THE NORTHUMBERLAND ENERGY CLUB

The Consortium has entered into an agreement with a national Utility Broker that will benefit all members and give an opportunity to offer the benefits to other businesses and organisations within our communities. The Broker is LSI Utility Brokers Ltd of St Albans and the Scheme will be known as the 'Northumberland Energy Club'.

Members and other organisations will be able to request quotations from LSI for electricity, gas or telephones. LSI will search the market for the best prices and give a quotation on a 'no obligations' basis. Those who accept the quotation will become members of the 'Northumberland Energy Club' and the Consortium will receive a fee that will be used for the benefit of members. Over a few years, LSI will attempt to bring the contract end dates together for the members of the Northumberland Energy Club and all other village halls that they deal with throughout the country, so that they can 'bulk buy' and achieve even better prices.

This scheme will ensure that members get the best prices possible for electricity, gas and telephones with the prospect in future years of reducing the price even further by bulk buying on behalf of all members of the Club. The Northumberland Energy Club will be open to members of the Consortium and non members such as businesses, sports clubs, churches, shops and public houses but not domestic supplies.

Full details of the Northumberland Energy Club are on the Consortium Web Site [www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk](http://www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk) along with details of how to apply to LSI for a quotation. Click on to 'Northumberland Energy Club' on the left hand side of the screen. If you have any queries please email the Consortium Secretary Adrian Hinchcliffe on [adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com](mailto:adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com)

Members are urged to obtain a 'no-obligation' quotation from LSI and also to encourage other businesses in Northumberland to do the same. Please follow the instruction on the web site.

### Web Site Developments

Michael Elphick, the designer of the Consortium web site, reports that it is now receiving around 40 hits each week. That is absolutely splendid and it will become our major communication means for Members. We are gradually building up information on the web site that is useful to members and it will effectively become a library. We are extremely grateful to Michael Elphick who continues to manage the web site.

Members can access the details of the **Insurance Panel** that offers the best deals on insurance. Click on 'Insurance Discounts' in the 'Information and Advice' section on the left of the screen. You will

need the password. If you have lost the password, email the Secretary [adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com](mailto:adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com) and it will be sent to you.

### Members Hall Details – Your Help Needed

Details of Members Halls - Only 21 members have put in details of their Halls into the web site. It is free advertising for your Hall and its facilities and it makes the web-site more complete. If your Hall details are not yet included will you please arrange for them to be input. Click on Members Halls and follow the instructions.

## **Portable Appliance Testing**

We now have nine volunteers who are prepared to carry out PAT testing in members Halls. The volunteers are :

**Denis Peel - Coordinator**

**Melvyn Whatmough, Gilsland**

**Denis Peel, Wylam Institute**

**Alan Brewin, High Forest Community Association**

**Matthew Singleton, Stocksfield Community Centre**

**Liz Stewart, Greenhead VH**

**Mike Wood, Greenhead VH**

**Pat Teddy, Ovingham Reading Room**

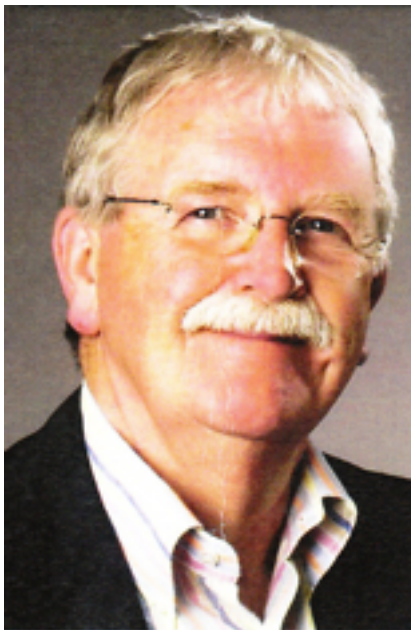
**Pat Johnston, Newbrough Town Hall**

**Eddie Rimmer, Greenhead VH**

We are now waiting for the training to be given to the volunteers and once this is done member Halls will be able to receive a service that will substantially reduce their costs.

## **OBITUARY**

### **MALCOLM CAISLEY**



Malcolm died unexpectedly on 2 March 2011. He was a member of the Consortium Management Committee and Chairman of the Whitley Chapel Parish Hall. He will be sadly missed by everyone and our deep sympathy goes to his wife Lilian, two sons Quentin and Jonathan and three grandchildren.

Malcolm sat on the Steering Group that eventually lead to the creation the West Northumberland Community Buildings Consortium in 2008. Since then he has been a member of the Management Committee and attended his last meeting in January which, by chance was held at Whitley Chapel Parish Hall. Malcolm was always very thoughtful about the business of the Consortium and often asked questions that caused everyone to stop and think. He was very keen for the Consortium to allow members to get to know each other better and network. One of his

suggestions of using name badges will be put into use at the Spring General Meeting.

Through his efforts a number of village Halls have become members of the Consortium. He was very likeable, committed and always did things thoroughly.

### **Member Halls Finance Survey – Your help is needed.**

The Consortium Management Committee would like to find out more about the finances of Members and their financial position. This will give us a better understanding of Member's needs and their financial dependencies. To that end, we have set up a simple survey which members can complete on the front page of the web site – [www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk](http://www.westnorthumberlandcbc.org.uk)

Please have a look at this survey, which asks for the figures from your most recent annual accounts. All information supplied will be treated as confidential, and the results of this survey will only be available to members of the Consortium.

### **Spring General Meeting**

The Spring General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 May 2011 at the Wark Town Hall commencing at 7.00pm. The Management Committee are proposing a very interesting programme which will be of interest to all members. An outline is as follows and a full agenda will be circulated before the time.

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation – David Francis of Community Action Northumberland** will talk about the new status for Trustees of a charity. This status gives much greater protection to trustees. David will inform the meeting of the new status and the circumstances in which it may be appropriate to be adopted by village/community halls..

**Renewable Energy for Village and Community Halls – we have asked Architect Malcolm Newton** to talk about the various renewable energies that are available to be adopted by Village Hall Committees. Which are best, which are likely to improve, what savings are likely.

**The Northumberland Energy Club** – Secretary Adrian Hinchcliffe will give a short presentation of the Northumberland Energy Club and answer questions. If time permits Adrian will also bring Members up to date on the changes in music licensing and present the results of the Finance Survey mentioned above.

### **Have You Paid Your Subscription**

Around 12 Members have not paid their annual subscription of £10 that became due on 1 October 2010. If you are one will you please arrange to pay. Ask for a renewal form from the Secretary on email [adrian.hinchcliffe@bopenworld.com](mailto:adrian.hinchcliffe@bopenworld.com) or download from the web site by clicking on 'Renew you Membership'.