

# Community Action Northumberland NEWS

SUMMER ISSUE - July 2010

**CAN - supporting voluntary action and communities throughout Northumberland**

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## New Government – local outlook?

Following the excitement of the general election, the new Coalition Government has started to set out its priorities. What might these mean for local communities, local councils and voluntary bodies in Northumberland? Here, CAN's David Francis provides a brief commentary.

The new Government has inherited a tough financial situation and, even if the economy has started to grow again out of recession, the prospect for public services and public spending will be bleak for many years to come. On top of the £16.6 million cuts which Northumberland County Council agreed in February for its 2010-11 budget, a further £5.7million of within-year cuts are now being faced together with some cuts in capital grants. In addition, significant cuts have been made in a range of regional budgets, such as the One North-East Single Programme, and the Homes and Community Agency's social housing programme. A nationwide council tax freeze is mooted for next year, and so further cuts in council spending can be expected.

The future of 'all things regional' is under review. A number of regional development agencies may close, to be replaced by private/public sector local enterprise partnerships. It is not clear whether the RDA ONE will continue. Regional spatial strategies, which provide the overall policy context for town and country planning, have been scrapped but we must assume that the government will still wish to provide some form of policy guidance or direction. The CAA (Comprehensive Area Assessment) regime is being scrapped, and so is the Standards Board for England, which oversees the operation of the Code of Conduct for councillors.

More positively, there are commitments to the 'Big Society' idea, ranging from new community-run services, to volunteering schemes, extension of the Freedom of Information provisions, training for community leaders and greater local discretion over planning matters, among many others. However, there are also

proposals to divert National Lottery funds away from community causes into sports, the arts and heritage.

While we will have to see the fine detail on all of these measures, it is clear that there will be additional pressures on local (ie parish and town) councils and on voluntary organisations, to pick-up on the delivery of services which might previously have been provided by the principal authority or other public body.

A range of initiatives are to be scrapped, but this does not mean that they will not be replaced in some way. Many of the government's priorities so far are little more than 'one-liners' in a long list, they are ambiguous and their full significance will not be known until we have sight of the draft legislation, or of the specific budget allocations.

We will report further in CAN News, in due course.

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## Final call for Community Spaces applications !!



Groundwork's 'Community Spaces' programme (funded by the Big Lottery) will be closing to Stage 1 applications on 28 January 2011.

There are just over 7 months for community groups who need grants between £10,000 and £49,999 to get their applications in. The programme will fund projects to improve green spaces such as play areas, community gardens, wildlife areas, village greens etc.

Anyone interested in applying should carefully read the programme information and take the on-line eligibility test which can be found on the Community Spaces website <http://www.community-spaces.org.uk/>



## Charter under review

The Northumberland Charter for Local Councils provides a framework for the relationship between the County Council and all local (ie parish and town) councils. It defines the topics on which there will be consultation and dialogue. It seeks to clarify the question of which tier of council will lead on the provision of particular services, and it opens-up opportunities for the delivery of further County Council services by local councils, where appropriate. The Charter is undergoing its first annual review, and councils throughout

Northumberland have been contributing through three local workshop events, and also via an on-line questionnaire survey. The deadline for responses is 16 July – after which there will be revisions: both to the provisions within the Charter, and to how it is being implemented.

The consultation questionnaire can be accessed on-line at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/pccharter](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/pccharter)

## His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, presents Hallmark award winners

Two Village Halls were presented with their Hallmark One certificates by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, at CAN's spring meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>. (details on page 3)



It seemed fitting that Longhorsley Village Hall (see last issue of CAN News) have their formal presentation in their own hall. Pictured is Kirstine Davies (Chairman) accepting the certificate from His Grace.



Beadnell Women's Institute Hall is the latest in the county to receive Hallmark

accreditation, achieving Level One status in April this year. Angela Peereboom (R) and Wendy Clark are pictured accepting the certificate on behalf of the committee. The Visitors remarked on how well-run the hall is;

"Examination of the documentation that was made available to the visitors, revealed the excellence of the records which are maintained in accordance with Women's Institute procedures. Likewise the financial control is tightly managed by the standards imposed by the Women's Institute and there is no option other than "highly satisfactory". The booking procedures are exemplary".

"After a thorough examination of all aspects of the management of The Beadnell Women's Institute Hall, the visitors have no hesitation in recommending that the Hallmark Level 1 certificate is awarded to the Hall".

"The visitors would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the management committee of the hall for their professional approach to the responsibilities of hall management."

If you would like further information about Hallmark, please contact Louise Currie on 01670 500816 or by e-mail – [louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:louisecurrie@ca-north.org.uk)

## Comings and Goings in CAN

Farewell and thank-you to Julia and Lynda.....

Julia Plinston, CAN's Community Development Officer in Alnwick, left CAN in May to become a full-time carer for her family. We are grateful for the support which Julia provided to a wide range of community initiatives, both across the former Alnwick district and in much of former Eastern Central Morpeth.

Julia's place in Alnwick has been taken by Marc Johnson, who has moved there from our Berwick office. To fill Marc's place in Berwick, we welcome Christine Nicholls. Christine is already familiar to a number of communities in the area, through her previous work in Seahouses, Belford and Wooler, in a variety of community development and youth work roles.



Christine Nicholls

In addition, we have also lost the services of Lynda Watson, who had been CAN's Compact and Contract's Officer. Lynda had been providing a service to and on behalf of the Voluntary and Community Sector, for the past three years. Regrettably, her post was made redundant as a consequence of a reduction in funding from the County Council.

We wish both Lynda and Julia well for the future.

# Cleanliness is next to Godliness!!



Do you prepare or handle food for your group/village hall? If so, you ought to be aware that you should have training to a standard equivalent to the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering. (Phew!!)

In March this year, forty nine Village Hall management committee members undertook this qualification, or the 'refresher' course – and the pass rate was 100%! Well done to all.

The course was organised by CAN's Community Initiatives Officer in conjunction with North Northumberland Village Hall Consortium – for trustees of halls from across the whole county. The three training events were run by tutors from Northumberland College - Gillian Ewen and Rosie Jones.

Rosie Jones (Food Safety Co-ordinator) for Northumberland College stated:

"This is the second time the college has worked with the North Northumberland Village Hall Consortium and Community Action Northumberland, delivering food safety training to volunteers preparing and serving food within their village hall communities.

Three years ago volunteers undertook the CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering 1 day course and in March 2010 another 36 delegates attended 2 courses in Newton and Bywell Community Hall

and Kirknewton Village Hall respectively. In addition 13 delegates updated their qualification by attending the CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering ½ day refresher course in Breamish Village Hall, Powburn.

Working with Louise Currie ensured the smooth administration and delivery of all three programmes. Having groups of people from the same village hall experience meant that the college could tailor the information to meet their needs. All groups asked questions on how they could store and prepare food for various events held within the halls and see how they could comply with food safety legislation. With a 100% pass rate across the 3 courses, my colleague Gillian Ewen (Short- course co-ordinator) and myself found teaching the volunteers was a very enjoyable experience and the college looks forward to working with the village halls again in the future".

The delegates not only gained a qualification that will last them for three years, but they also enjoyed the day;

"A useful concise course covering all relevant material".

"Efficient, well organized administration"

"Our trainer was interesting, enthusiastic and a pleasure to listen to"

"Good delivery. Kept on track with deviating, interesting, anecdotal case studies"

"A relaxed and informative session-participant contributions valued"

"Very understandable – thank you",

"Inspired to do next level!"

and finally "Rosie presented the material and retained attention of all the participants – not easy!!"

Louise is delighted that trustees acknowledge the importance of good practice and have been more than willing to embrace this training.

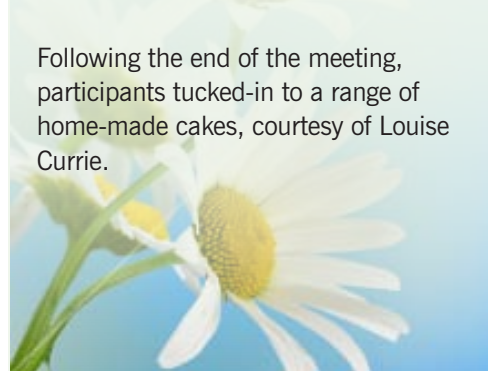
## Springtime in Longhorsley

This year's CAN Spring Meeting was held in the recently-refurbished Longhorsley Village Hall, on 13 May. CAN's President, the Duke of Northumberland chaired the event, and presented Hallmark Award certificates to two village hall management committees: Longhorsley and Beadnell WI. George Scott, chairman of CAN's trustees, presented an entertaining progress report on CAN's work, emphasising the value of a long-standing and reliable 'infrastructure' system for supporting the voluntary and community sector across Northumberland.

The main theme of the event was the contribution which local communities were making to a lower-carbon future, and Julia Plinston presented CAN's Energy Efficient Community Buildings Project report, the aim of which was to support management committees of community buildings to take action on climate change, reduce the carbon footprint of their building and save on energy bills. This project was funded through Northumberland National Park's Area Fund, focussing on buildings within their Action Areas. Julia was followed by Ruth Machen (Northumberland County Council) who spoke about the county-wide picture of sustainability, low-carbon futures and renewable energy strategy.

To showcase projects at a more local level, Paul Cowie from Elsdon Village Hall, Kate Whitehead of Ingram Village Hall, and Andy Haddon representing Wylam Greenstreet, each gave enthusiastic and motivating case-study presentations about the projects being undertaken in their communities.

Following the end of the meeting, participants tucked-in to a range of home-made cakes, courtesy of Louise Currie.



# New Big Lottery funding - Community Wildlife Programme



The Community Wildlife programme is a small grants programme running in partnership with the BBC. It complements the BBC's 'Go Wild' campaign and is designed to provide opportunities for people and communities to become involved with, enhance and protect their local wildlife.

The programme is now open to a wide range of organisations including voluntary and community organisations, schools, town and parish councils, and statutory health authorities. Grants of between £300 and £10,000 are available for projects:

- ~ that improve rural or urban environments for people to enjoy or
- ~ that get people more active and healthier

Organisations can submit applications before the three programme deadlines of 21<sup>st</sup> July, 22<sup>nd</sup> September and the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

For further details about the programme and to get an application form please visit [http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_community\\_wildlife?regioncode=-uk](http://www2.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_community_wildlife?regioncode=-uk)

## Looking for a good home....

CAN has a table-desk, 75cm x 182 cm (29.5 x 72 inches) with fixed legs, which is no longer needed. If your organisation can make use of it please contact [carolmegson@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:carolmegson@ca-north.org.uk) or ring on 01670 517178.

# Energy Efficiency

Supported by

Northumberland National Park



On 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010, Community Action Northumberland launched the new Energy Efficient Community Buildings Project by hosting a course provided by the Energy Savings Trust 'Green Communities' section.



The small scale project is funded through Northumberland National Park's area fund and aims to support Community Buildings to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce their running costs.

We hope to demonstrate that taking action on climate change doesn't necessarily mean installing expensive renewable technologies. Every building can make a difference by taking simple affordable measures.

The Green Communities course 'Energy Efficiency for Your Community Building' proved to be a great start. The course takes a practical, down to earth approach, focusing on simple steps that can be taken, including choosing the most appropriate energy tariff, monitoring usage, carrying out energy audits and installing energy saving light bulbs, thermostatic controls and draught proofing etc.

22 delegates attended, including representatives from 12 community buildings and CAN and National Park staff. The feedback was excellent and everyone appreciated the straightforward approach.

After the course, CAN staff worked with 8 Community Buildings in the National Park's Glendale and Coquetdale Action Areas to undertake Energy Audits of their Buildings. We then allocated the National Park Area Fund grant of £6,000 (an average of £750 per building) to implement our findings. Every Hall identified their own priorities - some unanticipated measures such as the



purchase of 'chimney balloons,' a device for preventing heat loss in disused chimneys, motion sensors to ensure lights are switched off when no-one is in a room, and door closers to prevent unnecessary heat loss through open doors.

The project has proved very successful. Many of the halls taking part are planning further initiatives such as upgrading the insulation of the building, hosting energy saving events for their whole community, and considering renewable energy options.

CAN is seeking further funding to continue working with these Halls and to extend the project into other areas of rural Northumberland.

# Theresa's 'on the case' ...

Northumberland Home Improvement Agency has appointed a new Caseworker – Theresa Cameron – to its staff.



The Agency provides comprehensive advice and assistance to help older, disabled and other vulnerable people in West and North Northumberland to remain safe, warm, secure and independent, in well maintained and adapted homes.

They do this through:-

- Maximising Income: carrying out benefit assessments, energy efficiency checks and finding charitable resources
- Social Activities: assisting clients to participate in their chosen activity or to get involved with their local community or reconnect with family and friends
- Health & Wellbeing: providing contact details and making ongoing referrals for additional services such as handymen, support for carers, energy efficiency schemes, telecare systems and offer housing options advice

- Home Safety: offering advice and information on securing the home and feeling safe
- Choice & Advocacy: identifying the needs and wishes of clients and to assist them to make fully informed choices and to be involved and have control over any decisions.



Through home visits, Theresa can also help with completing forms; loan and grant applications; she can offer advice, information and advocacy; provide a wide range of contact details of other organisations that can either assist or offer further help and information; and provide practical, professional and moral support throughout the whole process.

For more information, please contact:-

Theresa Cameron,  
Agency Caseworker  
Northumberland Home Improvement Agency  
Suite 11 Wansbeck Business Centre  
Rotary Parkway, Ashington,  
Northumberland, NE63 8QZ  
Tel: 01670 840 469  
Email: [nhia@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:nhia@dsl.pipex.com)  
Web: [www.northumberlandhia.org.uk](http://www.northumberlandhia.org.uk)

## Electronic copies of CAN News



If you want to receive electronic copies of Community News as well as, or instead of hard copies, email [sueandrew@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:sueandrew@ca-north.org.uk)

## Where to turn when you're worried about a child

You'd be surprised how often we hear it. People worry so much about getting it wrong, or about causing offence or being identified as a troublemaker. They forget that the most important thing they can think about is the child.

NSPCC get some calls from parents who feel they can't cope or who just want a bit of advice about the best thing to do for their child. Other people may have seen something they feel a bit uneasy about and just want to talk it through. When the more serious types of call come through, an NSPCC Helpline advisor will take some details. If, having spoken to you, they decide a child is at risk, they will refer it on to children's services or to the police for them to take it further.



*Photo with permission from A Syed.*

Callers can remain anonymous if they want to, and the Helpline never passes on any details that might identify a caller to the families concerned. Just as important, we want to make sure that no one worries about whether they are doing the wrong thing. If you ever have concerns, we're the people to talk to. It doesn't matter if it's a false alarm or a worry that we can easily dispel. The most important thing is to let us know. You never know, it could be the important missing piece of a jigsaw. You can contact the Helpline at any time, day

or night, 365 days a year on 0800 800 5000 or email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk).

Basically, you can think of it as putting your worry into the hands of experts

If you're ever worried about a child, you should get in touch with the NSPCC Helpline, freephone 0800 800 5000, or email on [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

To find out more about the NSPCC Helpline, visit [www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/helpline)

# Humshaugh Village Shop

By Steve Robins of Working Wonders TV



The village shop in Humshaugh near Hexham has just re-opened after a major refit and three weeks of trading from the back room of the village pub. To use a well worn cliché, it's been an incredible journey.

Humshaugh Community Venture Ltd took over the shop and former Post Office on November 1st last year after securing £35,000 of funding as well as donations from villagers and local organisations. The previous owners had lost the Post Office

salary when it was closed down at the start of 2009. They wanted to retire but couldn't find a buyer.

With overwhelming support from villagers, a team of around 40 volunteers, including the seven directors of HCVL, have opened up the newsagent's and general store seven days a week.

A campaign to get a limited Post Office counter reinstated there failed but now, after more than 7 months of volunteer help, it's been decided to appoint a part-time, paid supervisor who will be supported by the large band of villagers.

In the meantime another crisis was averted by HCVL. The Crown Inn, owned by pub chain Punch Taverns, was put up for sale and then, at the beginning of March, the tenants left. The same day HCVL approached Punch and it was

agreed that they could keep the pub running while a buyer was found. HCVL brought in a former landlady of the Crown to be interim manager.

After being run by the community for three months a new owner has now taken over. For the last three weeks of the temporary tenancy the back room at the Crown doubled as the village shop as workmen moved in to strip out and refit the shop.

HCVL Chairman Dick Moules says everyone has been blown away by the support from villagers, which shows every sign of increasing rather than waning.

"We received the greatest amount of practical help from Tony Kirsop, Social Enterprise Manager for Northumberland County Council and a lot of support and encouragement from Charlotte Boxall of the Plunkett Foundation/VRSA," said Dick.

## Northumberland Rural Employability Project

Announcing an exciting new community service:



### Joined up Jobs



'Joined up Jobs' is based on a successful project run in Wooler and wider Glendale in the north of the county. It is run through a partnership of the Northumberland Employability Service and us - **HALTWHISTLE PARTNERSHIP and the NORTH TYNE AND REDESDALE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP** - who act as employability hubs, offering a brokerage service for information, advice and guidance about jobs, self-employment, training and small grants funds.

The project can offer the following to people in the area:

- Access to the wide range of employability services currently totally absent from the area
- Local training opportunities
- Access to employability services within deep rural areas, or where travel and transport are issues

- Support and assistance for local employers in job advertising, training and support
- Advice and guidance on establishing your own business

'Joined up Jobs' teams can list local employment opportunities on a website free of charge, and on digital display boards located at key sites in the Haltwhistle and Bellingham areas. The information is updated weekly, so residents can be sure of up to date information. There are also weekly 'drop-in' sessions - as a first port of call for information about work, training or self-employment - at both Partnership offices in Haltwhistle and Bellingham.

The project is funded by ONE North East through the Northumberland Employability & Work Service and delivered by a team of 'locals' in

partnership with employability organisations.

**For further information, contact:**

Gill and Ellen at Haltwhistle Partnership (01434 321242) or via the website [www.haltwhistle.org](http://www.haltwhistle.org); OR Lesley and Rachel at Bellingham (01434 220714)

**More REACH ...**

As part of the same Rural Employability & Advice Community Hubs (REACH) project ... but working in a different way from the 'Joined Up Jobs' project ....

**DAVID GARDNER** has been appointed as the **Employability Adviser** working in **Hexham** and **Prudhoe** for the community partnerships in both towns.

David can be contacted at [David@prudhoe.org](mailto:David@prudhoe.org)

# Social Enterprise in Action

Social enterprises in the North East are being asked to open their eyes to the capabilities of blind and partially sighted people.

£0.5 million from the Big Lottery Fund has helped Action for Blind People to develop an innovative new scheme, the Social Enterprise and Employment Development (SEED) Project which is encouraging social enterprises to see the potential of offering work experience placements to blind and partially sighted people.

**The SEED Project** is being piloted in the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber and the West Midlands. Its work is not just about helping visually impaired people to increase their skills and confidence; it also **exists to support the development of social**

**enterprise.** The SEED team will match clients to organisations to ensure that both get the most out of the placements.

Shockingly, 66 per cent\* of blind and partially sighted people of working age are unemployed. Research shows this is often due to a lack of training or experience and employers' misconceptions. There are up to 2,000 social enterprises in the North East, all of whom could benefit from this skilled and dedicated workforce. And in fact, **increasing diversity within the workforce** can strengthen reputation both internally and externally.

**Alistair Ponton, Managing Director of Viewpoint CIC** said: "The trainees we have had through the SEED Project have been enormously beneficial to Viewpoint. Their

customer service and IT skills have pushed the boundaries of what services our business can offer and their attitude to helping Viewpoint succeed has reinvigorated our entire staff team."



*Martin Pugh, Asst Chef at Concept Conference Centre*

For more information about the Social Enterprise and Employment Development Project please call the team on 0113 386 2800, email [seed@actionforblindpeople.org.uk](mailto:seed@actionforblindpeople.org.uk) or visit [www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/seed-project.html](http://www.actionforblindpeople.org.uk/seed-project.html).

## Victorious Ashington! Garden Scheme Youngsters win national accolade

Following on from the article in our last issue, a pioneering scheme in Ashington has won a national accolade at the Community Space Challenge Awards in Manchester, which aim to encourage young people around England to improve their local environments.

The project, which overcame competition from other regional winners to claim the top honour, was run by Hirst Hangout Youth Inclusion Project (YIP) and involved the development of an allotment to create an outdoor classroom and a place to grow fresh fruit and vegetables.

The young people involved not only developed gardening skills and expertise to grow fruit and vegetables, but took the project to another level through cooking sessions. These sessions use produce from the allotment and provide families with the opportunity to cook and eat together.

The allotment helps to deliver a strong message of healthy eating, which is key to breaking down the fast food culture within the area.



*Ruby Wax present Hirst Hangout YIP with their Community Space Challenge National Winner 2010 Award, (left) Amy Pontin and (right) Toni Dunn*

An important aspect of the scheme was the way it brought together different generations and built relationships across the entire community, which continue to grow.

The Community Space Challenge is supported by a number of organisations including environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. It aims to encourage young people around England to improve their local environments and provide positive alternatives to anti social behaviours.

"We were delighted to hear of the great work carried by Hirst Hangout YIP in creating the allotment and would like to congratulate them on their well deserved success against such strong competition", said Keep Britain Tidy chief executive Phil Barton.

"The young people involved worked hard to create the allotment and their eagerness to develop the project shows their determination to build relationships with the whole community."

# Northumberland Disability and Deaf Network



Adapt, in partnership with Northumberland LINk, is setting up a new Disability and Deaf Network for Northumberland.

This will be an independent network and will be run by disabled and deaf people.

The aim of the network is to support the interests of disabled and deaf people living in Northumberland. We will listen to people's views and find out what people want.

As a Network we will:-

- Bring together disabled and deaf people living in Northumberland.
- Provide advice and information on disability issues.
- Signpost people to other organisations that can support them.
- Advocate for better services
- Make sure that policy makers listen to the views of disabled and deaf people when planning and delivering services and take their needs into account.
- Provide peer support - members will be able to share information and experience with each other.

Membership of the network is free. If you would like to join, or would like more information, please contact: Carolyn Roberts  
Tel 01434 600599  
e-mail: [carolynr@adapt-tyndale.org.uk](mailto:carolynr@adapt-tyndale.org.uk)  
[www.adapt-ne.org.uk](http://www.adapt-ne.org.uk)

## New Social Mobility Pilot Unveiled

 - helping social tenants move for employment in the North

The Northern Housing Consortium has unveiled an exciting new initiative funded by Communities and Local Government, aimed at improving employment mobility in the North.

JobMoves is a 12 month pilot scheme designed to remove the obstacles that social tenants might face in taking up the best job available to them. The scheme provides an advice and support service which liaises between social tenants, potential landlords and mutual exchange schemes in the North in order to try and secure a housing move for employment reasons.

Social tenants enduring an excessive commute, and those with a job offer or apprenticeship placement which is too far to travel from home can access the JobMoves service for advice on their rehousing options and assistance in seeking a new home closer to work.

### Voluntary sector – we need you!

The role of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) will be invaluable in the success of this scheme. We recognise that the VCS offers services and comes into contact with many people on a daily basis, some of which will be social tenants who may be interested in moving home for a job offer, or to be nearer to their place of work.

**We would like to ask that your organisation engage with the Jobmoves scheme by displaying posters and leaflets in your premises for your service users to see.**

Please contact JobMoves to request marketing materials for your organisation, or further information on the scheme itself and how it can benefit social tenants in the North.

JobMoves Officer:  
Stephanie Tebay - 0191 565 1207  
JobMoves Manager:  
Rachel Collings - 0191 566 1039  
Email: [info@jobmoves.org.uk](mailto:info@jobmoves.org.uk)  
Website: [www.jobmoves.org.uk](http://www.jobmoves.org.uk)

## What We Do

Community Action Northumberland provides a range of advice and support services for community and voluntary groups to enable people throughout Northumberland to overcome disadvantages and improve their quality of life. These services include:

- Funding advice
- Management committee development
- Advice on constitutions, charity law and legal structures
- Support for village halls/community buildings
- Project management support
- Local regeneration
- Support for parish councils
- Employment services
- Production of community newspaper

Additionally CAN seeks to

- work in partnership to facilitate the development of new, and to support existing networks of local voluntary and community groups, in order to enable them to be a mechanism for developing collaborative work across the sector
- influence and work with decision-makers to provide, with partners, conduits for the diverse views of the local voluntary and community sector to be voiced and heard within the decision-making structures, regionally and nationally.

CAN is anxious to ensure that it effectively performs these roles and therefore operates a process of continuous evaluation. This requires feedback from our users and partners. Any comments on our performance are not only welcomed but essential to help us to make sure that we are meeting the overall needs of users and maintaining our quality standards.

CAN News is published on a quarterly basis – see the next copy deadline to the left. It contains useful information on sources of advice and funding, helps to alert people to changes in legislation or service provision which may affect them, and passes on ideas and news from one community to another. Contributions and items of informative and newsworthy value are welcomed.

Please get in touch with the Editor, Louise Currie, at Tower Buildings, 9 Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1PY or email items direct to [info@ca-north.org.uk](mailto:info@ca-north.org.uk).

## How to contact us

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**Copy deadline for the next issue is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

For more information on Community Action check out the website at: [www.ca-north.org.uk](http://www.ca-north.org.uk)