



Welcome to Northumberland Village Halls Week Celebration Event



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Northumberland
Village Halls Week
Celebration Event



Councillor Jeff Watson

Northumberland County Council Cabinet
Member for Culture, Heritage and Libraries



**Village
Halls
Week**



Northumberland Village Halls Heritage Project

Julia Plinston & Sue Wood



Why a Village Halls Heritage Project?

- Idea came about back in 2019 in response to two events
- National campaign to recognise importance of village halls with establishment of first annual National Village Hall's Week in 2018
- CAN was approaching our 70th Anniversary year in 2021 and wanted to celebrate.
- Our work with village halls had always been a core part and we had a vast store of records and experiences relating to them
- A natural focus for our celebrations
- Application submitted to National Lottery Heritage Fund

Aims

To preserve, record, and share the heritage of Northumberland's Village Halls for the benefit of the rural communities which they serve by:

- Recruiting, training, and supporting local volunteers to:
 - Research the history of these buildings.
 - Collect oral histories about the role village halls have played in local life.
 - Conserve and archive documents, photographs and artefacts currently held by participating village halls, local residents, and CAN.
 - Carry out educational / cross generational work with schools and youth projects.
- Interpreting the findings of this work by:
 - Mounting an exhibition.
 - Creating a book and website.
 - Providing participating village halls with resources for local use.

To be meaningful and fun for all partners –especially the village halls

Challenges



- CAN staff had never done anything like this before
- Scale - potentially a huge project - We work with more than 140 Village Halls with history going back more than 70 years

Approach - to form a strong partnership with:

- Northumberland Archives – bringing the Heritage skills & know how
- 30 Village Halls - bringing the local expertise and volunteer power
- CAN – drawing everything together

Covid! – need to continually adapt

What did The Village Halls do?



Participated in training & networking meetings where they exchange ideas and experiences

What did The Village Halls do?

Researched their history – locally, at the archives and using CAN files



What did The Village Halls do?



Found a wealth of interesting documents photos and artifacts

What did The Village Halls do?

Interviewed local people to record Oral Histories telling the story of their halls



What did The Village Halls do?



Preserved / interpreted what they found and/ or deposited items at the archives

What did The Village Halls do?



Ran events to share their findings with local people (and ate lots of cake!)



Northumberland Archives

- Service exists to collect and preserve records relating to all aspects of the history of the county.
- Serve entire county.
- Service points at Woodhorn and Berwick.
- Collections take different formats – paper, photographic, moving image, sound, digital etc.
- Collections management, public engagement, digital.
- Records are stored in secure, environmentally controlled conditions.

Northumberland Archives

- We hold over 6 linear miles of records.
- Collections are packaged in preservation grade materials when placed in storage.



Why Was Northumberland Archives A Heritage Partner To The Project?

- Keen to add items to our collection.
- Keen to work with CAN.
- Collections tell the stories of the people and communities of Northumberland.
- Aim to support communities to tell their own stories.
- Staff have strong heritage skills.
- Initiatives to support rural areas in the county e.g. taking stalls at county shows.
- Strong track record of working with National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Project Outcomes – Skills Training



Project Outcomes – Skills Training

- Skills training in:
 - Archival skills.
 - Exhibition planning.
 - Oral history recording

We hope these skills will benefit participants beyond the project.

Project Outcomes – Oral Histories

- Project has produced at least 85 oral history recordings.
- These will be added to collection of over 1000 recordings currently held by our service.
- Spoken word is an important archival source and can provide information that is not recorded in written records.
- Oral histories will be put through our digital preservation system ensuring that they are available for future generations to listen to.

Project Outcomes – Deposit of Records

- To date the following Halls have deposited records:
- Breamish Hall, Powburn
- Jubilee Hall, Newton on the Moor
- Hepple Village Hall
- Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall, Heddon on the Wall
- Felton Village Hall
- Eglington Village Hall
- Gilsland Village Hall
- Lesbury Village Hall
- Merton Hall, Ponteland – not formally part of the project

Project Outcomes

- Deposit of Records

- Letter dated 1 October 1941 stating that Acklington Village Hall is to be requisitioned.
- An example of a village hall record reflection national/world events

1.10.41

Dear Sirs,

Please note that the Village Hall Acklington has been requisitioned during the War as under:-

Military Authorities:- 2.10.39 to 21.11.40

Air Ministry:- 22.8.41 to date (since requisitioned)

while derquisitioned from 22.11.40 to 22.8.41. The Hall remained empty owing to damaged state and destruction or removal of furnishings requisitioned except that free use was granted as Preserving Centre. Does not this affect War Damage

Project Outcomes – Deposit of Records

- Important to stress records are held on deposit – long term loan – not a gift.
- Some of the gems that have been deposited:
- Photographs of events have been some lovely visual items in the deposits, digital as well as hard copy, from Newton on the Moor and Rochester.
- Oral histories - we have received one so far (over 5 files!) from Hepple Village Hall.
- Plans of the halls from Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall and Felton Village Hall.

Project Outcomes - Relationships

- Met some lovely people!
- Forging relationships with rural communities.
- Relationship with CAN – possible future project?
- Northumberland Archives will use village halls as venues for future projects.
- Raising awareness of our service and what we might offer communities.
- Digital inclusion activity??

What Next?

- Records will be catalogued and catalogue lists will be viewable in our online catalogue.
- Oral history recordings will be digitally preserved, catalogued and descriptions will be viewable in our online catalogue. Recordings will be able to be accessed in our searchrooms.
- We hope more Halls will consider depositing their records with us.
- Hope that our relationships with CAN and individual village hall thrives.
- Use of our services – searchrooms, online talks, face to face talks etc.

Project Outcomes – CAN & Village Halls Perspective

- Met some lovely people!
- Relationship with Northumberland Archives– possible future project?
- Outcomes may have varied from those anticipated – but no doubt that Village Halls enjoyed participating and achieved a great deal for their own communities
- Able to raise awareness of the value of Village Halls
- CAN staff developed new skills and expertise.
- A great deal of fun!!

What Next CAN & Village Hall Perspective?

- Exhibition launched today
- Preview of Website available to view in the breakout room
- Book launch and further opportunities to view the Exhibition:
 - Breamish Village Hall 24th June
 - Humshaugh Village Hall 27th June

Not the end of the journey

- Opportunities for more halls to join the Website
- National Lottery Heritage Fund workshops for halls to seek further funding
- Lots of ideas for the future including an Arts Project, Village Hall Heritage Trail, and Parish Council Heritage Project

Thank you

To

- The wonderful volunteers at the Village Halls
- All the members of our communities who have contributed stories, photos, documents and supported events
- All the Archives staff involved in training, handling deposits, helping with research, designing and printing display boards, and all their advice and support
- Ballsy Media for the branding and web design
- Carrie Brookes – for writing the book and content of the website and exhibition
- Tracey Morgan – for all the time spent supporting (and nagging) participating village halls
- National Lottery Heritage Fund and Joicey Trust for funding support

ETAL VILLAGE HALL

Research by Helen Moffit, Eric Musgrave & Steve Taylor

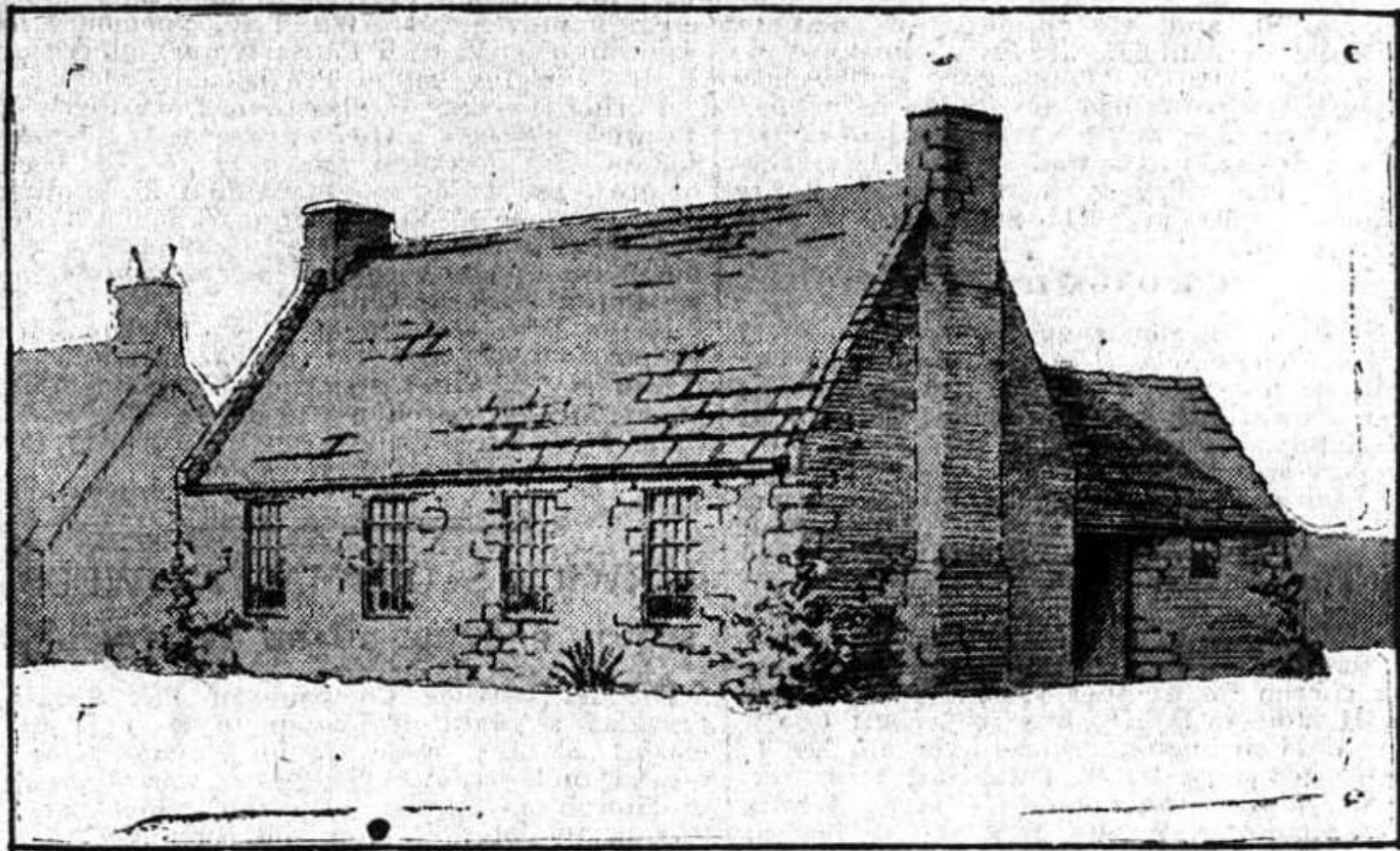




ETAL VILLAGE HALL

**Etal Village Hall Committee
2023**

HALL TO COMMEMORATE PEACE.



We give a sketch of the quaintly picturesque hall which Col. the Hon. H. E. Joicey has gifted to the village of Etal to commemorate Peace. The sketch only gives an impression of the outside of a building which internally is one of the most up-to-date, if not the most up-to-date village hall in the district. As mentioned last week, the hall has a billiard table, library, and comfortable ingle neuks for those using it, and there is a wireless set, which works two loud speakers when required.



FRONT ELEVATION



CROSS SECTION

PROPOSED SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGES
AT ETAL, NORTHUMBERLAND
FOR LORD JOICEY

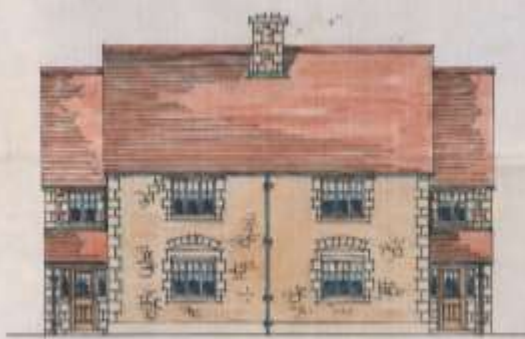


PLAN

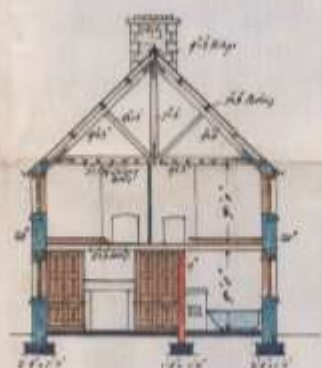


SIDE ELEVATION

OUT OFFICES



FRONT ELEVATION

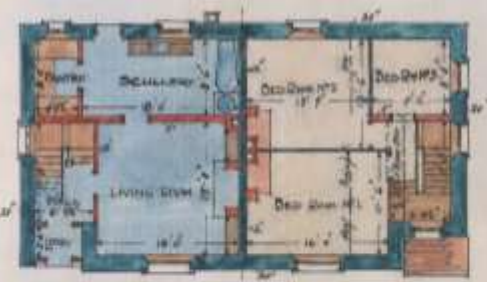


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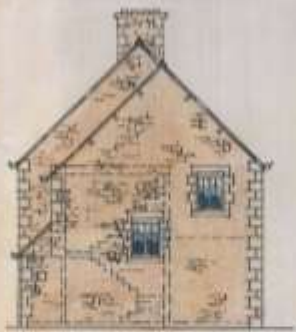


BLOCK PLAN

SCALE OF FEET



GROUND PLAN FIRST FLOOR



SIDE ELEVATION



BACK ELEVATION

Scale 8 1/4" to an inch

C. M. DAVENPORT - ARCHT. 1920
8 MARKET ST. NEWCASTLE
JUNE 30th 1920

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Some varied definitions of Etal village hall

ETAL PEACE COMMEMORATION HALL.

A DANCE will be held on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23rd**, commencing 9 p.m. Admission: Ladies, 1/-; Gentlemen, 1/6. Refreshments at Moderate Charges. Music—Brown's Jazz Band.

1927

THE HALL, ETAL.

A DANCE will be held in above Hall, **SATURDAY, AUGUST 14th**. Usual time and charges.

1938

Such is an extract from the remarks of General E. P. A. Riddell, C.M.G., D.S.O., President, North-Eastern Area, when replying to the toast of "The British Legion" at the annual dinner of the Crookham Branch, held in the Memorial Hall, Etal, on Friday.

1938

ETAL READING ROOM.

A GRAND DANCE will be held in **ETAL HALL** on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**, from 9 p.m. to 2.30 a.m. Music by Syd Abbott's Band. Admission, 1/6.

1938

ETAL

Troops made merry at Etal Village Dance Hall on Friday. There were 70 couples, who danced to music by Syd Abbot's Band. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

1940

BILLIARDS.

ETAL CLUB.

The Reading Room billiards handicap concluded last week, when the winners were as follows (possible 1400 points):—1, J. Wedderburn, 1304; 2, E. Howard, sen., 1304; 3, W. Carr, H.L., 1290; 4, J. Lyall, 1286; 5, S. Southgate, 1257; 6, T. Lyall, 4265; 7, W. Tinline, 1243; 8, E. Howard, jun., 1178; 9, A. Waugh, 1148. The prizes were presented on Monday evening.

1932

ETAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above will be held in the **VILLAGE HALL, ETAL**, on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1938**, at 7.15 p.m.

A. ASHCROFT, Secretary, Wooler.

1938

YOUNG FARMERS AT ETAL

LIVELY DEBATES

A very interesting meeting was held in the Public Reading room at Etal, sponsored by the Rev. W. Dunlop, Berwick and Wooler clubs presented teams of young debaters. Several young speakers were presented, and answered in a most delightful way the questions put to them by an audience representative of the farming community in the area.

1938

BIBLE SOCIETY MEETINGS

This week the Rev. T. Dring, District Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, has been staying at Norham Vicarage and holding meetings in the district.

On Monday he gave a lantern lecture at Etal on "China, Old and New." The meeting was held in the Village Institute, by kind permission of Colonel the Hon. H. E. Joicey, and the Rev. S. C. Bryson, Rector of Ford, presided. The Rev. W. I. Dunlop, Local Secretary, gave his report to the meeting, which was well attended, and collectors brought their contributions.

1939

Lady Joicey Presents "We Are Proud Of Certificates You" Tribute

VETERANS of Dunkirk, Alamein and Normandy were amongst the 56 ex-service men and women in a company of 150 which attended the Welcome Home dinner—organised by Ford Parish and Ford and Etal Estates Committee—in the Etal Public Hall on Friday.

1946



ETAL VILLAGE HALL

Research by Helen Moffit, Eric Musgrave & Steve Taylor



Rural Community Energy in Northumberland

NICRE
National Innovation Centre
Rural Enterprise

March 2024

 **Rural Design Centre**
Innovation Project



NICRE
National Innovation Centre
Rural Enterprise

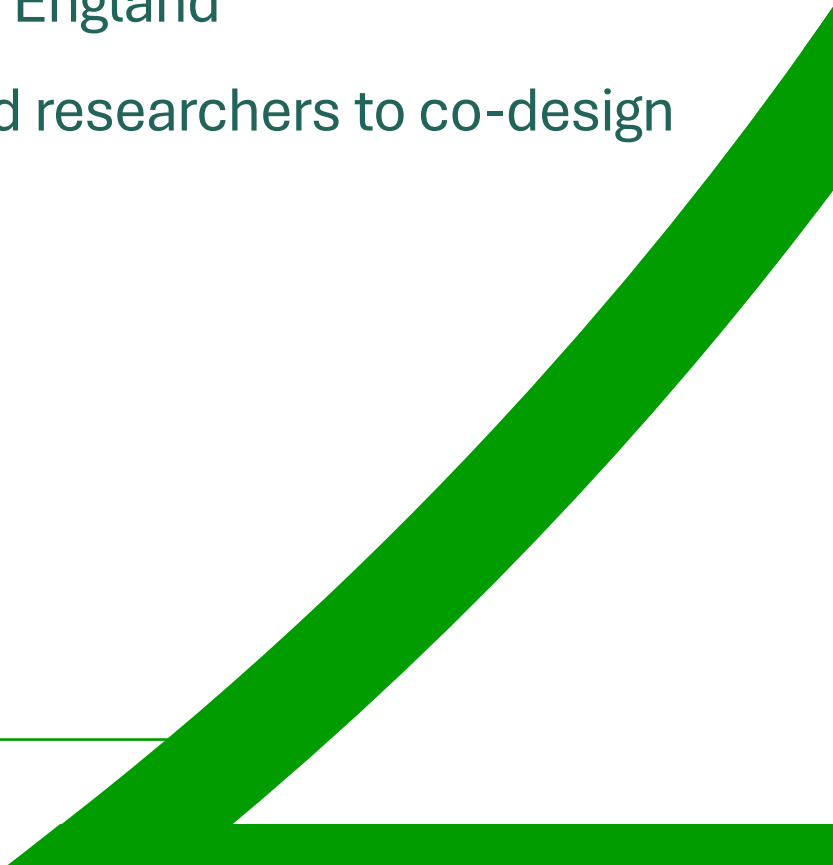
Rural Design Centre

Company Limited by Guarantee

Based in Stannington

Focussed on working with rural communities across North East England

Brings together communities, businesses, public authorities and researchers to co-design solutions to rural challenges in:

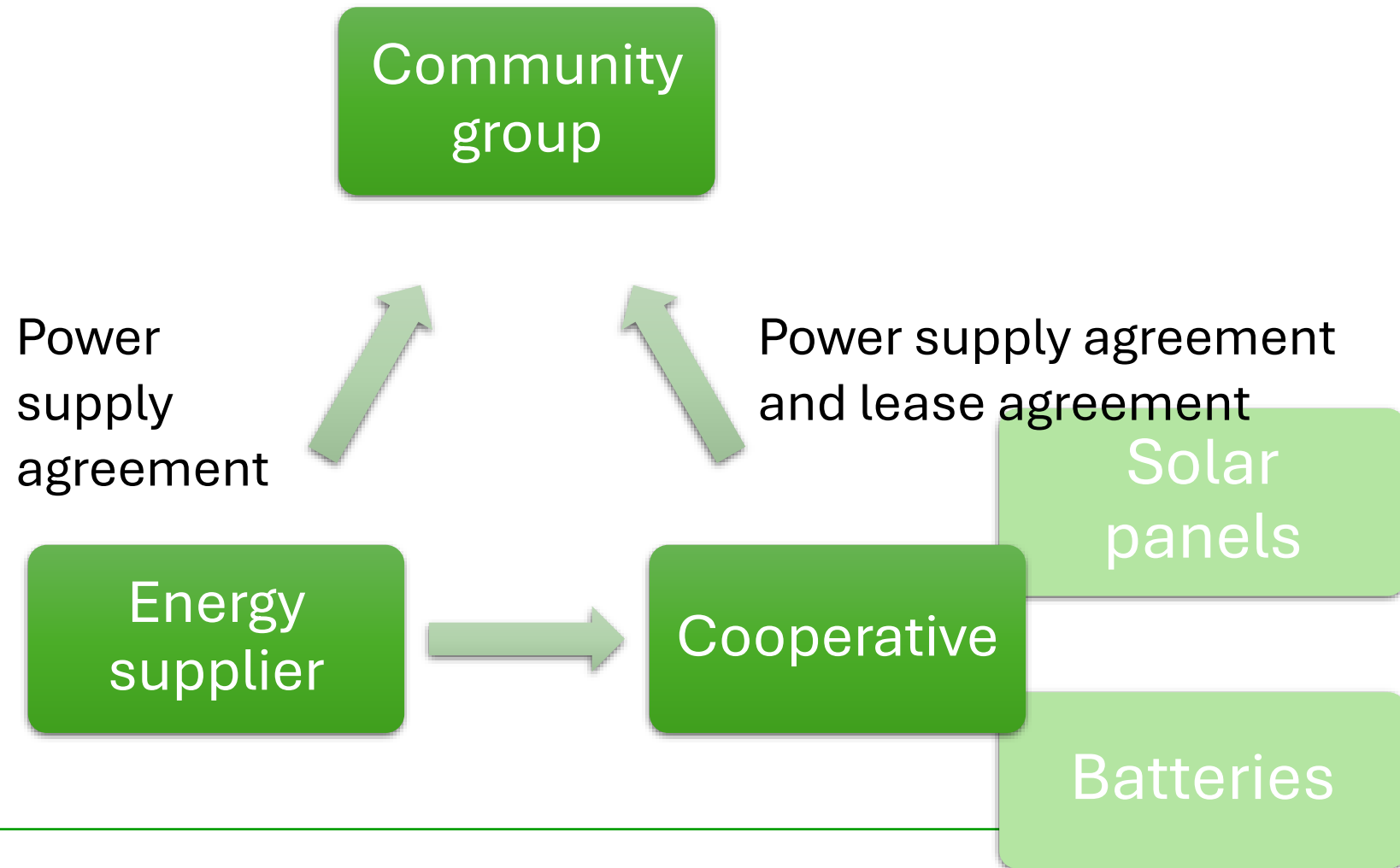
- healthcare
 - transport and connectivity
 - public service delivery
 - employment and skills
 - crime
 - leisure and tourism
 - energy
- 

Aims

1. Reduce energy costs for community buildings
2. Support resilience in response to long term climate change and short term events
3. Reduce carbon footprint of community activities

...all whilst limiting risk and maximising reward for community groups

Basic principle



How it works

- Northumberland Community Energy Ltd (NCEL) funds, installs, owns and maintains solar panels, inverters, batteries and control software
 - NCEL manages grid connection, metering and grid feed in
 - NCEL has a peppercorn lease arrangement with the community group for 20 years
 - Community group buys power from NCEL when local generation is available at a discount to grid rates, fixed for 20 years
 - When local generation is not available, community group buys energy from grid as usual
-

Benefits for community groups

- NCEL bids for grant funding and secures loan funding at preferential rates, allowing discounts on energy to community groups
 - NCEL is able to access preferential rates for installations
 - NCEL takes on all risk
 - Expert project manager (employed by CAN) to manage installations and operation
 - NCEL negotiates with energy providers to achieve bulk buying discounts on grid power (through NEPO framework)
-

Governance

- NCEL is a Community Benefit Society
 - All participating community buildings have a right to be a member
 - One member / one share / one vote
 - Liability limited to £1
 - Members appoint directors from mixture of members and independent directors with relevant expertise
 - Asset lock
-

NCEL directors

Board made up of representation from members:

- Adrian Hinchcliffe (Longhoughton)
- Angela Peereboom (Beadnell)
- Austin Iliffe (Whitley Chapel)
- John Holland (Tarsset)
- Liz Kirsopp (Newton & Bywell)
- Shelagh Coxon (Embleton)

... along with independent directors with relevant expertise

- Melanie Thompson-Glen (National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise)
 - Paul Cowie (Urban Foresight)
-

Current status

- Funding secured for initial installations, with four ready for installation in the coming weeks (Longhoughton, Beadnell, Whitley Chapel, Corsenside)
 - Discussions underway to fund further 16 installations in 2024
 - Additional 40+ community buildings engaged for installation in 2025
 - Aim to reach 100 installations by 2026
 - Now looking for expressions of interest for 2026 installations
-

Financials

- Coop aiming to raise around £1.5m
 - Mixture of grant and loan funding (repaid from revenues from power generated)
 - Initial funding in place, advanced discussions underway on next round of funding from:
 - North of Tyne Combined Authority
 - The National Lottery Climate Action Fund
 - North East & Yorkshire Net Zero Hub
 - Potential for loan funding as required
 - No funding required from members
-

Financials

- Cashflow and profitability calculated on the basis of:
 - 15p/kWh charges to community groups for energy generated (roughly 50% of current market rates), fixed for 20 years
 - Balance of energy sold to grid
 - Project manager paid from revenues throughout 20 year period
 - Revenues cover maintenance and operating costs, and pay down debt
 - Generates surplus cash once debt is paid off (estimated at £1,000 per community building per year)
-

Do you want to be involved?

- Initial expression of interest to simon@ruraldesigncentre.com
 - Meeting with community building committee
 - Community building becomes member of NCEL
 - Feasibility study – ensuring building is suitable for installation
 - Design, planning and procurement work
 - Signing of 20 year lease and power purchase agreement between NCEL and community building
 - Installation
-

Long term potential

- New revenue streams from:
 - Time shifting
 - Grid balancing
 - Resilience funding
 - Low cost energy to support electrification projects
 - Future opportunities around:
 - Local microgrids
 - Peer to peer energy
 - Electrification of transport
-



Green Projects and Volunteering

Alan Gerono, Development Officer, Community Action Northumberland (CAN)

Volunteering matters



Anyone can volunteer



How do people get involved? (...how do you recruit volunteers?)

Would you like a few recruitment hints and tips?

alangerono@ca-north.org.uk



Top Tips for Recruiting Volunteers

Get prepared – you need to have a structure and plan in place to give your volunteers a great experience. Contact your local volunteer and community action organisation. For details visit Northumberland Community and Voluntary Action (CVA) <http://www.northumberlandcva.org.uk/>

Stay safe – when planning the types of activity and volunteer roles, make sure they are in line with the latest government, charity commission, and health and safety guidelines

Word of mouth is still top of the list as one of the most successful ways to attract volunteers so make sure you're asking your volunteers to spread the word.

Dedicate a volunteer role to recruiting others – involve volunteers in as many ways as possible. Volunteers could help write your recruitment messages and promote the opportunities.

Give great customer service – People now expect things to happen a lot quicker so make sure and get back to potential volunteers quickly even if it is just to give clear timescales for the next steps. You are more likely to attract volunteer by providing an efficient, friendly experience.

Provide a clear ask – create clear task/role descriptions so volunteers understand clearly what you are asking of them.

Allow volunteers to try it out – Promoting taster sessions for volunteering roles can be more appealing for people who like to 'try before they buy'. This can alleviate any fears people have about the role.

Open up to offers – You may be surprised what talents and experience people may bring and offer to do for you that don't fit into a role but would be useful for your organisation.

Be as flexible as possible – Some people like to suggest what they could do but others like to see clearly what is on offer and what you are asking from them. For example promoting specific tasks.

Providing a wide range of ways to volunteer – A choice of tasks can increase your chances of attracting a wide range of volunteers.

Make sure your volunteering roles are interesting enough. Would you do them? If they are not motivating to you then they are unlikely to motivate others.

Promote the difference volunteers make – People are more likely to be motivated if they can see the impact they could make through volunteering, example reducing loneliness for older people or improving people's quality of life.

Promote the benefits of volunteering for volunteers - Share the great benefits

- o making friends,
- o increased confidence and learn new skills
- o training or other opportunities.

Volunteers' Week is an annual event which takes place on 1-7 June. It is a time to say thanks for the contribution millions of people make across the UK through volunteering. To find out more, visit the [Volunteers' Week website](#).

SPVA
Supported by
UK Government **LEVELLING UP**

Attract interested people by hosting interesting activities and events

One-off activities can lead to longer term commitment

Varied opportunities attract a variety of people

Sell the benefits of volunteer involvement



Making
Newspaper
Seed Pots



Green project ideas for your community

Spring cleaning. It's time to tidy up the village. Organise a litter pick and clean up session. Plan new planting areas for native plant species to encourage restoration of the local natural habitat and water conservation. Paint that neglected fence.

A guided walk. March is a great time to observe spring flora and fauna. Perhaps you have an expert or enthusiast who could lead a local field trip?

Compost corner. Host an event to explain the importance of composting and the different techniques for gardens and allotments. A speaker can be provided for an event.

Environment café. Host an 'environment café' in the village hall for people interested in local environment issues. It will be a chance for like-minded people to socialise – maybe on a regular basis – and plan new volunteer projects for the local environment.

Carpool Karaoke. Make a call-out to residents who may be willing to share lift with other residents, once in a while. Singing in the car is optional.

Herbs for all. Set up community herb pots outside the village hall

'Green' storytelling for young people at the Village Hall



**Longhorsley
Village Hall**

Drummonds Close, Longhorsley, NE65 8UR

As part of Village Halls Week (18th – 24th March 2024), we are planning a

Village Litter Pick & Hall Clean Sunday 24th March 10am Longhorsley Village Hall

If you would like to help in either of these then please meet at 10am, 24th March in the Village Hall.

Tea/Coffee/Juice and Cheese Scones (afterwards) for the helpers!

All equipment and cleaning products are supplied





Green Projects and Volunteering

Alan Gerono, Development Officer, Community Action Northumberland (CAN)

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