

**Worcestershire Rural Hub Limited
is committed to helping the rural businesses
of Worcestershire**

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September 2011

Dear All,

Welcome to the September Newsletter which contains information with regard to the Lottery Funding available to rural villages, as well as details of our forthcoming event on the 14th, for which we still have a few places left and other events and as usual a roundup of local dates. We have also received the first of our advertisements.

Our October newsletter will be coming to you from our new office location (yes we are on the move again!!!)

Our new office address from the end of this month will be:

**The Wicketts, Pensax, Abberley, Worcestershire.
WR6 6AJ**

Email and mobile numbers remain the same, however BT has not yet informed us of the new telephone number, we will notify you as soon as we get it.

Kind regards

Val and Pauline

Big Lottery Fund

RURAL CAMPAIGN TO HELP DECLINING WEST MIDS VILLAGES THRIVE

Villages across the West Midlands are set to benefit from a new campaign to help communities buck the trend of rural decline by starting up new community enterprises.

The UK-wide **Village SOS Active** campaign, **launched today by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG)** includes a **£5m** funding pot, that aims to inspire and equip people in rural communities to tackle local problems and help revive their local area. They might restore and take over the local pub, create local food businesses or arts and heritage facilities, to attract visitors, create employment and rejuvenate their villages. The campaign launches alongside the Village SOS TV series that begins at 8pm tonight (Wednesday) on BBC ONE.

John Taylor, Big Lottery Fund Head of Region for West Midlands said: “Every year hundreds of local amenities such as shops and pubs close down in rural areas. The effects of this, along with limited transport options, rural isolation and lack of employment opportunities for young people, can all strike at the heart of village life.

“Through this campaign, the Big Lottery Fund will help rural villages in the West Midlands region to tackle these issues by bringing together support, information and expert advice on how to develop community enterprises, as well as the chance to get some Lottery funding to aid them. The **Village SOS** TV series, which begins this evening, has been following the journey of six villages, which have used Big Lottery Fund money to do just that. We want the campaign to harness the interest and inspiration that the show will generate to kick-start a rural revival.”

Central to Village SOS Active is **villagesos.org.uk** that will offer tools and information to help people bring their ideas for community businesses to life. It will also enable people to share advice and first hand experiences through an online community network where people can discuss ideas and share solutions to common issues.

Villagesos.org.uk will direct people to the best source of funding for their community business, including more details about the Village SOS Active competition. The competition has £5m Lottery funding in awards of £10,000-£30,000 for the brightest ideas for new community enterprises that will make a lasting difference in rural communities with a population of less than 3,000.

BIG will also offer face-to-face advice to communities at a range of learning events across the UK, and a dedicated national advice line, run by rural community enterprise experts the Plunkett Foundation, where people can receive tailored advice on different aspects of setting up a community business.

Feckenham Community Shop in **Worcestershire** is a good example of a **West Midlands** community-run business. Feckenham is the sort of traditional English countryside hamlet you'd find in a picture book but the villagers are at risk of rural isolation, with inadequate public transport links and a largely ageing population. In an attempt to overcome this, they took matters into their own hands to bring back a village shop, which it hadn't had for 20 years. A group of 70 villagers worked arduously to raise the necessary funds, raising over £40,000 in just seven months and encouraging over 300 residents to sign up as shareholders.

The result has been an enormous success, bringing not only a much needed community shop to the village but an overwhelming feeling of community spirit. Local schools and businesses are also benefiting from the shop's success, and Feckenham Community Shop has since opened its own café too.

The launch of the campaign comes today as a prime-time TV series begins on BBC ONE following the journeys of six UK villages, who received a £400,000 Big Lottery Fund grant to set up a new community run business to rejuvenate their local area. Village SOS, which starts at 8pm on BBC ONE tonight (Wednesday), shows what can be achieved when rural communities come together.

Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Follow [@BigLotteryFund](https://twitter.com/BigLotteryFund) #BIGIf and [@VillageSOS](https://twitter.com/VillageSOS), #VillageSOS



Hydroponics & Soil Compaction Rural Hub Events sponsored by Fodder Solutions

Hosted by dairy farmer Simon Hughes, Walton Farm, Walton Pool, Nr Stourbridge, DY9 4RY

Wednesday 14th September 2011

Hydroponics – A Revelation in Feed

10am – 12pm emphasis on cattle

4pm – 6pm emphasis on equine

These **free of charge** demonstrations are a practical introduction to Hydroponics. The events will include:

- What is Hydroponics
- How it works
- Benefits & results
- Discussion with livestock/equine vet on the effects/benefits of hydroponic feed
- Case study: Simon Hughes, dairy farmer, will discuss his experience of hydroponics on his farm and the effects on his stock including the elimination of ring-worm

Practical Soil Compaction Workshop – Arable & Grassland

1pm – 3.30pm

Agronomist Simon Draper will lead a practical on-farm workshop looking at soil compaction issues on arable and grassland soils. The free of charge workshop will include:

- How to identify soil compaction using spades and probes and determine what type of cultivation is required
- Determine what would be the best depth to cultivate
- How to set up, use and get the best from a subsoiler/swardlifter

A free lunch will be available from 12pm – 1pm.

The events are **free of charge** to attend but, due limited places and catering requirements, booking is essential.

To book on any or all of the above events please contact:

Warwickshire Rural Hub – 02476 858244 email: jennyg@rase.org.uk

Worcestershire Rural Hub – 07833 051602 email: valerie.breakwell@wrh.org.uk

Please ensure you have suitable clothing and footwear for the outside elements



Renewable Heat Incentives & Wood Fuel Supply Chain Opportunities

Friday 16th September 2011; 8 -10.30am
The Bank House Hotel, Bransford, Worcestershire, WR6 5JD

8.00am Registration, breakfast and networking

8.30am Introduction: metnet

8.35am What is the RHI & Eligible Technologies Overview
Nick Monether, Greenfields Consulting

9.05am RHI Tax Implications
Duncan Montgomery, Whittingham Riddell LLP

9.35am Wood Fuel Supply Chain Opportunities
Simon West, Forestry Commission

10.05 Q&A

10.30 Close

This is a **FREE** event open to SME businesses and woodland owners based in Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Telford & Wrekin.

Places limited - Booking is essential - to book please contact:
metnet@shropshire.gov.uk ; T: 01584 838248

Please specify any dietary requirements.

Metnet is a partnership between Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council and Worcestershire County Council administered by Shropshire Council.

Local Advertisements

Wanted

Accommodation or lodgings wanted for stable staff in the Abberley Area
Please call 07890514717 for further details.

Available to Let

Private Stable Yard, internal boxes, with grazing and sand school
Available from end September Belbroughton area
Please call for more details: 07957194398



Payroll – Just a headache!!

Sub-Contract your payroll! Give your problems to someone else

New legislation is on the way that will really make you Bleat!!



www.hmrc.gov.uk/rti/index.htm

So mooooove  it to us, and reap the benefit of more time to sow your seeds. 

Prices from £25.00 per month, surely that's worth a phone call?

Contact Sagehelper the farmers friend.

Judith : mobile 07980 851478
e-mail sagehelper@actionplanning.net

The Old Post Office, Overbury



Location

This building is located in the heart of the picturesque village of Overbury, owned by Overbury Estate and has easy access to Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Evesham.

History

The Old Post Office was originally a house, which was converted in 1879 by Norman Shaw and extended to its current layout in 1905 by Ernest Newton. It was then operated as a village store and post office until 1998 when it was transformed into an office and was used in this way until earlier this year.

Specification

- Grade II listed building
- 1589 sqft over 2 floors
- Courtyard Garden
- Off street parking for up to 12 cars
- Commercial/residential use
- Rural Views



Project

The Estate wish to hear from anyone with ideas for a commercial, artistic or cultural project to preserve and enhance the character of the building and for it to serve/work alongside existing local households and businesses. Bredon Hill is a vibrant area with over 100 people working full time in the village of Overbury alone; so there is plenty of opportunity to take advantage of the customer base already on the doorstep.

Do you know anyone who would be interested in talking to us? Please ask them to get in touch. www.overburystate.co.uk or email alex@overburystate.co.uk

Worcestershire County Council is launching an exciting new business networking website

finditinworcestershire.com.

It is designed to promote business to business trading, through showcasing local businesses and supply opportunities.

Finditinworcestershire is a "match-making" service, linking buyers and sellers. It aims to make business opportunities – big and small, from public and private sectors – more visible.

Need a supplier? You can post a specific opportunity or search the supplier list. So whether you need a photographer or a training consultant, or require 1000 jute bags or portable toilets for an event – post your opportunity and all relevant suppliers on the site will be alerted.

Want to promote your business? – register to showcase your business and highlight the products and services you supply.

Who is it for? – Any local business, social enterprise, community group or public body can register as a member of the site, and post or view opportunities.

The site is more than just a contract finder. Finditinworcestershire will host monthly breakfast networking events – where business owners can meet the buyers and collaborate to win contracts. The website also includes information on business support organisations and events. Do send us your good news stories too – the site has a local business news section.

Do register your business or organisation at www.finditinworcestershire.com to discover out what Worcestershire's world-class local supply chain can do for you. Registration is free but don't forget to complete your profile (known as your "dashboard") to promote your organisation more fully.

Worcestershire County Council developed this initiative as one of the ways to support the local economy and help local businesses grow.

TRAINING & TEST FOR TRAILER TOWING



We are now able to co-ordinate training for Trailer Towing with a qualified instructor.

Training provided includes:

- B & E Training
- Towing Lessons
- Trailer Reversing

The instructor will also book and accompany you to your test.

If you are interested please contact Val Breakwell at **Worcestershire Rural Hub**.

Tel: 07833 051602

You may also contact the instructor direct –

Tracy Hammond – Tel: 01905 622188 Mobile: 07973 529290

!! C E Your Mobile Phone!

As I was recently 'caught on camera' (34 in a 30 zone!) I was given the option to attend a driver awareness course. The course was interesting and I wanted to pass on to you a request from the emergency services for us all to ICE our mobile phones.

When attending at accident or emergency incidents, one of the big problems for the emergency services is knowing who to contact, many people involved are not carrying I.D. and it takes a long time to contact someone. Hence **ICE your phone**. ICE meaning **In Case of Emergency**. Most people carry mobiles everywhere, please enter a contact ICE to your phone with the name and contact details of the best person to contact should there be an emergency. You can add more than one just by adding ICE 1 and ICE 2 contacts (more if you wish). Emergency Services say that this cuts down contact and information times enormously and helps everyone concerned.

Seems very little trouble to add to contacts and so helpful to everyone, please ask your other family members and friends to do the same. Thanks *Pauline*

Worcestershire Farmer's Markets

Droitwich – Victoria Square 10th September

Bromsgrove – High Street 10th September

Bromsgrove – Bromsgrove Farmers Show 11th and 12th September

Malvern – Abbey Road 17th September

St. Peters Garden Centre – Pear Tree Farm Broomhall 24th September

For further information Tel: 07795 656148 or visit: www.wfmg.co.uk

Local Shows and Events

Hagley and Halesowen Farmers Club Countryside Show 18th September

Ploughing Match 17th September

For more details contact: 0121 550 5817 or

www.halesowenandhagleyshow.co.uk

Worcestershire Young Farmers Ploughing Match

Hill top farm Rochford Tenbury Wells 24th September

Hydroponics and Soil Compaction Event Walton Farm DY9 4RY Wed 14th September

Malvern Autumn Show

Sat. 24th & Sun. 25th September

Belbroughton Scarecrow Festival Sat. 24th & Sun. 25th September

Energy Now Expo Malvern 3 Counties Show Ground 15th and 16th February 2012

USE YOUR NEWSLETTER

We are able to offer space within our newsletter for classified advertisements and events as follows:

Local rural events, such as shows, open days, charity events or rural interest events can be inserted free of charge.

Situations Vacant and Situations Wanted can also be inserted free of charge.

Items for sale or wanted can be advertised and carry a small charge of £5 for a quarter page and £10 for a half page.

Business and Service Advertisements That are relevant to rural industries can also be inserted for £10 per quarter page and £20 per half page.

We would need copy by 15th of the month for the following months news letter to ensure insertion. Copy can be either a word document or PDF, sent by email to: pauline.yardley@wrh.org.uk

For more details contact Pauline, either on the email above or
Tel: 07833 051601.

Our news letter is circulated to over 800 rural businesses in the area

Disclaimer – The Worcestershire Rural Hub accepts no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any action taken in reliance on the information contained in this newsletter.