



22nd – 28th January 2019

Get ready to celebrate!

Following the first successful Village Halls Week in 2018, the **ACRE Network** will be running another Village Halls Week in 2019.

The week-long campaign celebrates the diverse network of 10,000 community buildings at the heart of England's rural communities and the volunteers who work tirelessly to keep them open for all.

The theme of the event is **Social Isolation and Loneliness** and the role that Village Halls and Community Buildings play in helping to combat this issue.

Action in rural Sussex will be getting behind this campaign, urging our Village Halls in Sussex to celebrate the work they do, whilst using this as an opportunity to thank all the volunteers that help make their building a success.

There is a dedicated Twitter handle **@VillageHalls_Wk** which will be used as the central point for social media activity and **#VillageHallsWeek** will be used on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for posts during the event week to link activities across rural England together.

We have put together a tool kit of promotional material to help you publicise your event:

[#VillageHallsWeek Local Event Media Release](#)

[Event Poster Template](#)

[Village Hall Open Day Event Poster Template](#)

[Village Halls Week Banner Logo](#)

[Village Hall Certificate of Appreciation Template](#)

Below are some ideas for events:

1. 'Celebrating our Hall' – Open Weekend: 26th & 27th January 2019

What better time to showcase your hall and its facilities! Why not open up the hall up on the weekend of the 26th and 27th Jan to the community? You could create a fair-style event whereby your hall users could have a stall and advertise the activities they run.

This is an opportunity to raise the profile of your hall, praise your volunteers, celebrate its successes and maybe recruit new volunteers.

2. 'Thank You' Celebration

Host an Afternoon Tea or Cheese & Wine evening to celebrate the amazing work your volunteers do and say thank you with a certificate of appreciation – available in the log in area of our website.

Alternatively, use an existing event as a platform to say 'Thank You'.

3. Geocaching – The Village Hall Series

The World's largest treasure hunting game is an ideal family outdoor activity, and with the Village Hall Series taking place, why not get involved? More details can be found [here](#)

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4. Community Gardening

Do you have a community garden or flower beds around your Village Hall? Encourage your community to help transform their public spaces by hosting a communal planting session.

Whether planting seeds or 'in the green', this event can be aimed at all ages to bring the community together and inspire them to learn about plants.

(For non-green fingered readers, 'in the green' means planting bulbs when they are still in leaf, rather than a dried bulb).

Ideal bulbs include (depending on availability):

- Snowdrops
- Lily of the Valley
- Wild Garlic
- Winter Aconites
- Wood Anemone

5. Good Neighbours Scheme

With Good Neighbours Schemes happening across East Sussex, this would be the perfect time to launch one in your area.

Good Neighbour Schemes are:

- Local voluntary run groups that offer a service in their community for those in need of help and support
- Services offered are determined by each local Good Neighbour Scheme and the needs of their local community
- Support is given to a wide range of people including older people, those temporarily in need through illness or recovery, people new to the area, or anyone who may be isolated or lonely in the community

The benefits of a Good Neighbour Scheme:

- Good Neighbour Schemes provide a 'safety net' in their community
- Support independent living, reduce isolation and loneliness
- Can prevent or delay the need for specialist or long term care
- They enhance and grow existing neighbourly networks
- They can complement statutory services

Please contact the AirS **Village Agents** for more information on this scheme

6. Host a Repair Cafe

A Repair Cafe is where people repair household electrical and mechanical devices, computers, bicycles, clothing, etc. They are organised by and for local residents. Repair Cafes are held at a fixed location where tools are available and where they can fix their broken goods with the help of volunteers. The objectives are to reduce waste, to maintain repair skills and to strengthen social cohesion.

Please let us know what your hall plan to do, so we can help promote it and add it to the listing below villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

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Planned Events & Activities

- **Dallington Library Cafe: 21st January 2019**

After the closure of the Mobile Library, Dallington Old School Village hall secured a large donation of fiction and non-fiction books from a local bookdealer, and many more, including children's books, have since been donated by villagers. Visitors can borrow books and DVDs whether or not they have anything to swap. No tickets needed and no charge!

The library café is open every Monday and on the first Saturday morning of each month. Do go along to see what's on offer.

Where: Dallington Old School Village Hall, The Street, Dallington East Sussex TN21 9NH

When: 21st Jan

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

- **Community Libraries Workshop: 23rd January 2019**

In conjunction with Ringmer Library, we are hosting a free 2 hour workshop on '*How to set up a community library*'.

If you feel your community could benefit from a community library or if your council-run library is under threat of closure, please join us at Ringmer Village Hall for a two hour workshop, facilitated by experienced Equal Access Librarian and the driving force behind **Ringmer Village Library**, Liz Owen.

Where: St Mary's Room, Ringmer Village Hall
When: 23rd Jan
Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm

Please register your interest at [here](#) or email villagehalls@ruralsussex.org.uk

- **BBC Radio Sussex – Live with Allison Ferns – 26th January 2019**

As part of her Radio Show, An Afternoon with Allison Ferns, the presenter will be broadcasting live from a number of Halls across Sussexs. Tune in between 12:00pm – 4:00pm 104.5, 104.8 & 95.0–95.3FM

- **Lurgashall Open House – 26th January 2019**

As part of [#VillageHallsWeek](#) the doors of Lurgashall Village Hall will be opened giving people a chance to have a good look around at what that the Hall has to offer, check out some of the history and take a look into the Hall's future – Plans for the extension will be on display.

Please do pop along, you can be sure of a warm welcome!

Where: Lurgashall Village Hall, Mill Lane, Lurgashall, West Sussex GU28 9ES
When: 26th Jan
Time: 10:00am – 4:00pm

[Click Here for Details](#)

- **Groombridge Village Hall Community Café – 26th January 2019**

The Community Café was set up under Withyham Parish Council's '[Forward for Five](#)' initiative and the aim of the monthly Saturday Café is to bring people together and to give them somewhere to meet up over a relaxing beverage and delicious home-made cakes and biscuits. Old friends meet up on a regular basis there, and new friends and contacts have been made over the last year, which we hope will continue long into the future.

Where: Groombridge Village Hall, Station Rd, Groombridge, East Sussex TN3 9QX
When: 26th Jan (once a month on a Saturday)
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

- **Ferring Village Hall Open Day – 26th January 2019**

Come along to meet the Trustees and users of the hall, give your views on the future of the hall, including building developments. Refreshments kindly provided by Ferring Film Club.

Where: Ferring Village Hall, 90 Ferring Street, Ferring, West Sussex. BN12 5JP
When: 26th Jan
Time: 10:00am – 2:00pm

- **Geocaching – Village Hall Series – Various Dates**

A national themed Geocaching Series that sees a series of geocaches placed at or near village halls or community centres and as part of [#VillageHallsWeek](#) any cacher that finds a **Village Hall series** cache or a Village Hall event can add the 2019 profile badge and will be included in the stats produced for the week.

Where: Sompting Village Hall, West St, Sompting, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 0BE
When: 23rd Jan 10
Time: 10.00am - 10.30am

[Click Here for Details](#)

Where: Forest Row Village Hall, Lewes Rd, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5ES
When: 26th Jan
Time: 12:00pm – 12:30pm

[Click Here for Details](#)

Horam Village Hall TBC

More events to be added soon!

“Supporting rural communities in Sussex to be vibrant and diverse places in which to live and work.”

Contact us

Telephone: **01273 473422**

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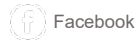
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