

How is your hall providing a warm, welcoming space?

Dear friend,

Thank you for your interest in #VillageHallsWeek 2023!

Our sixth annual campaign will run from Monday 23 January to Sunday 29 January and tell a story of how village halls can provide warm, welcoming, and inclusive places in rural communities. This is something that's needed more than ever at a time when many people are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

We very much hope you will get involved and showcase the great work your hall is doing. You can do this in a number of ways which we have outlined below.

Top tips for getting involved

1. Follow us on social media

Throughout the week ACRE members will be sharing news, examples, and viewpoints on their social media feeds about the need for warm, welcoming and inclusive spaces in rural communities. Look out for the hashtag #VillageHallsWeek, like and repost content that takes your interest. ACRE can be found on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

2. Share your stories

ACRE members will be looking out for interesting stories on social media to share and feature during the week. Simply post a picture or video describing how your village hall provides a warm, welcoming and inclusive space to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #VillageHallsWeek.

3. Hold an open day

Holding an open day is a great way of engaging people in your community and reminding them what your hall offers and how it is run. It's also a great opportunity to reach out to people who don't already use the building, to see if there's anything they might like to get involved with, and to get their views on new offerings. This could be a standalone event or simply an open door with information and a friendly welcome fitted around existing activities. Please use the downloadable, editable posters available from our [website](#) to promote the event and signify your involvement with Village Halls Week.

4. Write to your MP

Members of parliament love to be seen supporting local community projects but quite often the humble village hall can go forgotten! If you have time, write to your MP to tell them about the work your hall does, the difference it is making to members of your community, and any plans you have for the future. And of

course, invite them along to your open day! This could be a particularly worthwhile activity if your hall is planning any improvement work that needs funding. You can find your local MP's contact details [here](#).

5. Get in touch with local journalists

If you are planning any events or have any news that you would like to announce during Village Halls Week, it's always worth contacting local newspapers and radio stations in advance to see if they can feature you. Journalists will always be interested in stories about human impact, so don't be afraid of telling them about people your hall has helped or invite them along to interesting events and activities so they can see what goes on.

6. Join in with local events and celebrations

Many [ACRE members](#) will be hosting activities locally in celebration of Village Halls Week. They are also on hand to support you with any activities you have in mind. Check out their website or give them a call to find out what's happening in your area.

We look forward to hearing your stories!

The ACRE Team