

12 August 2026



VILLAGE HALL INFORMATION BULLETIN

Update on ACRE information on Martyn's Law

Received from the SIA:

Communications toolkit

We have today released a communications toolkit to help you share materials about Martyn's Law with your networks. You will find suggested copy and creative assets to share via your channels. Your support is vital as premises and events prepare for Martyn's Law. The toolkit will be updated as new guidance materials are developed

<https://thesiauk.blog/martyns-law-toolkit/>

Newsletter

Yesterday, we also published the first edition of our Martyn's Law newsletter. To register for future updates from us and sign-up for volunteering opportunities <https://www.us15.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=4f02ccc5fcb79e244e219a709&id=cf3e9832c7>

FAQs

We have also worked with the Home Office to develop a frequently asked questions page, which can be found on Protect UK. For anyone unsure about what Martyn's Law means for them, this is a good place to start. <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law/martyns-law-frequently-asked-questions>

From the Home Office

“We wanted to make you aware that a small correction has been made to the guidance. As a result, updated PDF and HTML versions of the guidance are now available on GOV.UK [The Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Act 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

ACRE Statement on Hallmark July 2026

Hallmark was developed in 2007 by Somerset RCC (now Thrive) and at its peak, 27 ACRE members were running the scheme. It needed financial and time resources for it to run successfully. Now, over two decades later an overhaul is needed and we are very grateful to Dorset and Berkshire for leading the recent review of Hallmark checklists and encouraging ACRE members to think about what it could be and provide, for village and similar rural community halls over the next decade. Thanks also to Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd for providing a little funding to cover some costs.

ACRE has started the process of considering the draft options that have been proposed. An update of the checklists was the original plan, but with lots of new thinking and ideas the review has grown. Different processes and procedures have been discussed which include technology and how to access to a range of supporting documentation. ACRE is working on how best Hallmark could be accessible to all village halls and easy for ACRE members to deliver.

The importance of Hallmark to the village hall services of several ACRE members is clear so we will keep you informed. We hope to have some information for you by the Autumn.



Volatility within energy markets seems to be a continued theme, in response, we'd like to invite you to a free online Energy Market Update and Q&A with the Utility Aid team.

Online: 10 September – 11am

This session is an opportunity to hear the latest market developments, understand what they could mean for charities and community organisations, and ask any questions you may have in an informal and supportive environment.

We recently hosted a similar event, which was attended by around 100 charities. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees telling us they found the session invaluable in helping them understand the market and feel more confident about their energy options.

Whether your energy contract is approaching renewal or you simply want to stay informed before making any decisions, we would encourage you to join us. Our goal is to provide clear, practical information that helps your organisation make informed choices with confidence.

[Click to register your interest](#)

Temporary VAT reduction announced for some electricity supplies

As you may be aware, the Government has announced a temporary reduction in VAT on qualifying electricity supplies from 5% to 0%, effective from 1 October 2026 for a period of six months.

Organisations that are most likely to benefit are charities that already qualify for the reduced 5% VAT rate on electricity used for non-business charitable activities. For those qualifying supplies, the VAT rate is expected to reduce from 5% to 0% during the temporary period. This will include “de minimis users”, ie those businesses that use no more than 33kWh of electricity per day at a single premises.

Article on website <https://www.utility-aid.co.uk/news/temporary-vat-reduction-announced-for-some-electricity-supplies>

[Market Insights & Reducing Risk Webinar.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

Festival of Trusteeship 2026

Overview

An online week of inspiring discussions, practical tools and bold ideas to reimagine trusteeship.

A week of bold ideas & better boards. This pass gives full access to all 15 events at the Festival of Trusteeship.

Welcome to the Festival of Trusteeship 2026

 9th– 13th November 2026

 Part of Trustees' Week

 Sponsored by the Institute of Leadership and Ecclesiastical.

☒ 15 sessions over 5 days. One Festival pass. Sessions run at scheduled times from Monday to Friday. Attend as many or as few as you like.

Eastside People are proud to bring you the 2026 **Festival of Trusteeship**; a week-long celebration exploring the future of trusteeship and the people shaping it.

more details and booking form

[Festival of Trusteeship 2026 Tickets, Monday 9 November-Friday 13 November • 11 AM-8 PM GMT | Eventbrite](#)

Humber & Wolds Rural Action Photography Competition

Do you live in North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire or East Riding of Yorkshire? Are you a budding photographer? Would you like to see your photo used on our publications?

We know our area has some beautiful locations, and we would like to see them all! Do you have a picture of a landscape, for example, the coast your local church or landmark in your village that you would like to share?

ENTER OUR PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Your photo must:

- * be of a location within our area of coverage listed above.
- * only show landscapes, no people must be identifiable.
- * be good enough quality to be printed on our annual report

Please fill in this form [Humber and Wolds Rural Action Photography Competition – Fill in form,](#)

Then email your chosen photograph to info@hwrcc.org.uk

Closing Date for the Competition is 9am Friday 28th August.

Carole Foster

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