



Dorset's Community News

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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May has arrived, check out our news, community board and events listing pages for spring events happening. There are exciting opportunities, including photo exhibitions, training opportunities and community events.

May also holds Mental Health Awareness Week between 13-19th May. The theme this year is 'Movement: Moving more for our mental health'.

We also have an interview with Jayne from our Community Centre on the valuable work she and her team are undertaking there to help support the local community, and how they're reducing supermarket food waste whilst at the same time helping those in need.

Take good care out there!

Get in Touch:

 01305 250921

 info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 [@dorsetcommunityaction](https://www.facebook.com/dorsetcommunityaction)

News around Dorset

Click the underlined words to
link to more information.

Rehab 4 Addiction offers a wealth of resources and information about addiction and mental health, which could be invaluable to those in need. They also provide a helpline that offers immediate assistance to those struggling with addiction in Dorset, a service that could be life-saving for some of your readers. Plus they offer a comprehensive directory of treatment centres throughout the UK, making it easier for those in need to find help near them.

Resilience Rewarded - Bridport Area Development Trust successfully revitalised the Literary and Scientific Institute, transforming it from a dilapidated 1830s building into a thriving Dorset community hub. Working with mentor Andrew Cook from Dorset Business Mentors, their strategic approach turned the project into a beacon of success. Today, the building buzzes with activity, including hot desks, meeting rooms, and podcasting. To contact a Dorset Business Mentor, write to office@dormen.org.uk or click dorsetbusinessmentors.uk



SEED2PLATE
Ferndown

JOIN OUR FREE SEED2PLATE SESSIONS IN FERNDOWN AND LEARN HOW TO GROW, CARE FOR AND HARVEST FRESHLY GROWN PRODUCE TO GIVE AWAY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Seed2Plate in partnership with The Centre Ferndown are looking for volunteers to help us grow food for the local community.
No experience needed!

Where: The Centre Ferndown, Barns Road, BH22 8XH
Starting: Monday 29th April 10.00am

If you would like to get involved please email Lydia on
lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

#HelpUsGrow

CLA CHARITABLE TRUST
Charity No. 1060910



Digital Doorway referral form is now open! This means that you can help the Dorset Council community to get online by recommending people who are at serious risk of digital exclusion to receive a laptop or tablet, that they otherwise wouldn't be able to get for themselves. Resources do remain limited, so please be considerate about who you put forward to ensure devices are going where they are most needed. It is your responsibility to ensure that everyone you refer meets the following criteria.

The person you are referring must:

- Live in the Dorset Council area,
- Be aged 18 or over,
- Be significantly digitally excluded **and**
- Have not received a Digital Doorway device in the previous 2 years.

News cont.

Click the underlined words to link to more information.

'Our Journey to Net Zero' photo exhibition celebrates the remarkable efforts of businesses and community groups in Dorset to reduce their carbon footprints and become more sustainable.

The launch event will be on 22nd May (12pm to 2:30pm) at Kingston Maurward in Dorchester. The event will comprise of; a free working lunch, a chance to hear from some of the people behind inspiring carbon-reduction projects and free advice on what organisations and community groups can do to cut emissions and costs in their buildings

Spaces are limited for this event, to register for a free place visit the [Eventbrite page](#). This event offers a great opportunity to connect with other organisations passionate about sustainability, exchange experiences, share ideas and make new contacts.

An update from Dorset Village Hall Association re their AGM on 11th May 2024

"Our 2024 AGM will be on 11 May at Brownsword Hall, Poundbury. We had a very warm welcome from their management team for our planning meeting on Wednesday and we are sure that you will find a visit to this unique village hall very worthwhile. Sheila Wade who is a Trustee at Woollands Village Hall will share her experience of setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation(CIO). We will also have people available to talk about website building and wifi & security. All member halls are entitled to send 2 representatives to the AGM. Representatives of non-members may also attend on payment of £10 on the day but are not entitled to vote. Please register your attendance using the form available at DORSET HALLS NETWORK | "Hall matters because halls matter" A full agenda and supporting papers will be sent out to registered attendees in mid-April.

Safe and Warm update: Dorset Community Action is working in collaboration with Bournemouth Foodbank to deliver 1-2-1 energy support to local residents, funded by Southern Gas Network and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Together we are offering support with personalised energy advice to lower costs and stay safe and warm, support to access benefits eligibility checks, support to access debt advice, Carbon Monoxide safety awareness advice and CO detectors, and support to sign up to the Priority Services Register.

Support sessions will be held at Bournemouth Foodbank hubs: at St George's in Boscombe, LifeHouse in Winton, CityGate in Lansdowne, and St Mike's in West Cliff. DCA will also be running training sessions for any volunteers wanting to get involved with the project. Attendees will learn how to deliver energy advice, helping their local community and upskilling all at once!

To find out more, please contact manager@bournemouth.foodbank.org.uk [or your email if better?] or attend one of our information sessions about this project and other volunteering opportunities. To be held at Bournemouth Foodbank on **Thursday 2nd May**, at 9am (breakfast) and 1pm (lunch). Food will be provided.

Training & Events

Click the underlined TITLE of each event to read more and book your place.



Trustees Breakfast Club

Date: Wednesday 12th June 2024

Time: 8.30am, with a 90 minute duration

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

Starting at 08:30 with networking from 08:15, this free monthly meeting is aimed at Trustees, steering group members, directors and anyone involved in running a community group, charity or social business. This meeting will look at the Charity Commission's new Quiz for Trustees, give an update on the Village Halls Project and the latest sector news, plus your news and views.

(The following breakfast club in September can also be booked through this form too.)



Volunteer Fayre

Date: Friday 7th June 2024

All details to be confirmed and published in due course.



Village Halls Event on 13th September 2024

Date: Friday 13th September 2024

Time: TBC

Where: West Moors Memorial Hall, BH22 0HZ

Cost: Free

DCA would like to invite you to our event dedicated to Village Halls, inc.:

- Speakers including: ACRE, Utility Aid and Hallmaster.
- A consultation with DCA's adviser on any topic of your choosing.
- Resource for Halls - A net Zero Guide and Carbon Literacy training
- Briefings on the top three issues identified by Village Halls - if you haven't told us your concerns, you can do that here by the end of April. So far the top issues are raising capital, long-term planning and maintaining the fabric of the building.
- Pitch to win a lump sum towards an activity at your Hall!

Plus much more...

Early-bird booking will open soon, so watch out for the link and the chance to book one of the consultation slots.

Sponsored by:



Our Training Academy requires you to set up a FREE account, once complete you'll be able to see all training available!

Community Notice Board

- HIGH MEAD FARM -

SPRING FAYRE

Get ready for a fantastic day out at our spring fayre! It's the perfect family-friendly event for a fun-filled spring day!

SATURDAY 25th MAY

10AM - 4PM

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Games & Entertainment

Chicken Poo Bingo, Funky Pram Racing, Cracker Smash, Coconut Shy, Dog Show, Live Music, Dancing, Childrens Play Area, Stalls

Delicious Food & Drink

BBQ, Bar, Doughnuts, Coffee & Cake

Explore The Farm

Meet the animals, explore our gardens and check-out our workshops!

HIGH MEAD FARM
HAM LANE, FERNDOWN,
DORSET, BH22 9DR

* Onsite parking for disabled access & drop - offs only. Nearby parking signposted. *

Contact Us
07517 328094

[f](https://www.facebook.com/highmeadfarm) [i](https://www.instagram.com/highmeadfarm) @HIGHMEADFARM

TICKETS

	Online Price	Gate Price
Adults	£5	£6
6 - 17 yrs	£2.50	£3
Under 5	Free!	Free!

SAVE MONEY WHEN YOU BUY ONLINE!



www.ticketsource.co.uk/null/t-krmlnja



LemonBooking

A booking system & website editor for community centres and village halls

DCA members
10% DISCOUNT
on your first year's subscription



An all-in-one solution for managing your bookings, selling tickets, generating invoices, tracking payments & updating your website. No setup fee or minimum contract - book a demo or start a free trial today.

01665 522328

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www.lemonbooking.com

STARS

A weekly drop in for all students in BU, AUB and AECC where you can come & talk all things sex and relationships

We will be in SUBU every Thursday
10am-4pm

Whether you want to just come & say hello, play a game of consent pong or bring something that has been on your mind, we are here for you

Have you been affected by sexual violence?

During this drop in session we also offer a safe confidential space upstairs in SUBU to listen, offer guidance or signpost you to further support



NEW! Artisan Makers Market

Saturday

May 28th

10.00 - 15.00

Cafe, fresh produce, crafts and more

CLaRC
Community Learning and Resource Centre
King Street car park
Wimborne
BH21 1EA
01202 847600



Calling all Village Halls

Managing a Village Hall or Community Space? Do you know your stuff?

If so, do you fancy helping other Village Halls by sharing your knowledge and experience? We are looking for volunteers to do visits to Village Halls across Dorset as part of the Hallmark project.

Full training is given on the things you will formally cover in the visit, but the most interesting part is chatting with the committee and sharing ideas. Travel expenses will be paid. You can commit to just one visit or to do several over the next few months (and we are hoping to extend the scheme into next year).

There will be a meeting for prospective volunteer visitors is **by zoom on 8th May** at 15:00 - please click on [this link](#) to join us.

Please email caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for more information.

Did you get the new Village Halls newsletter? Help us to ensure our database is up-to-date:

We sent out a newsletter to all the Village Halls in Dorset last week including all of the people connected to the halls that we know of. It included information on available funding and important updates on the law as it applies to Village Halls. If you volunteer or work at a Village Hall or Community Centre, especially if you are a Trustee or on the management committee, we want to make sure you are included. If you did not get that newsletter, please can you:

- Check your spam folder (if it's there, mark us as a safe sender).
- Email Caro Hart at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk with details of the Village Hall or Community centre you are involved with and we will update the database and ensure you get a copy of the newsletter.

Our Training Academy requires you to set up a FREE account, once complete you'll be able to see all training available!

Jobs & Adverts

Click the underlined TITLE or image to read more.

Income & Money Volunteers Bournemouth Foodbank

two Financial Inclusion volunteer roles (Income Maximisation Guider and Money Mentor).
At Bournemouth Foodbank we have seen the benefit of recent Household Support Fund payments. So we see how important it is that everyone is able to access the financial support they are entitled to.



Discounts from Hallmaster:

Booking and Invoicing for your Hall or Venue.
The UK's leading online reservation system for church halls, village halls, clubhouses, community centres and all other bookable function rooms.



Lemon Booking Service

User-friendly software for managing bookings, events & websites
LemonBooking provides an all-in-one software package specifically designed for community venues and halls.

LemonBooking



Seed2Plate Trainee

To support delivery of workshops and growing garden maintenance.
If you have an interest in growing and supporting the community, get in touch, no experience necessary!

Message us via Facebook or email

lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for more info



WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR OWN JOB VACANCY OR EVENT?

Reaching all across Dorset's VCSE and statutory sector community!
[Click here to read more on our advertising options.](#)

Seed2Plate Updates from the Garden

With the weather so wet and windy lately, we've been concentrating on what we are looking forward to growing in our gardens.

At Seed2Plate we love coming up with ideas of what to grow that could be turned into a meal. Potatoes and leeks for a comforting, warming soup, a mix of leaves and salad vegetables such as spring onions and edible flowers or why not grow a 'pizza bed' and try your hand at tomatoes, basil, oregano and marjoram to make the sauce for your pizza base.

We are working with learners from EmployMyAbility to grow vegetables and fruit to turn into chutneys, sauces and jams as part of their young person community project funded by NCS. They have been researching recipes, planning what to grow, designing the planting layout and are hoping to have a stall at a local fair later in the year.

As part of the Warm & Well Workshops we ran recently at Somerford Arc covering subjects such as healthy eating, cooking nutritious meals, batch cooking, how to use a slow cooker and growing your own food, we spoke about how we used to grow cress at school. Cress is reliable, quick, easy to grow and is a great way to get started if you haven't grown anything edible before, it also makes a tasty addition to your sarnies! When I was at school, we grew cress on cotton wool or wet kitchen towel but sowing your seeds onto a layer of compost in a shallow tray, will ensure that your cress gets the nutrients it needs, just make sure to keep them moist but not too wet. After around 5-7 days your cress should be ready to snip off and eat.

Herbs are a great way to add extra flavour to a dish, and as an added bonus the pollinators love them too. Plant yourself a pot of herbs, you could go with a theme such as tasty teas or stick to different types of the same herb e.g. thyme is available in a variety of foliage, flowers and flavours.

Coming up:

Sessions at the community garden on Littlemoor will start again at the end of April, can you spare two hours a week to help us plant, grow, care for and harvest the produce to donate to the local foodbank?

The plot at The Centre, Ferndown will be having Seed2Plate sessions to get the local community involved in outdoor horticulture activities, exploring different land-based themes, learning about plants and how to maintain them, biodiversity and connecting them to Ferndown Common through horticulture.

These sessions have only just started this week!



Updates from the Garden cont.



We are looking for volunteers at our National Trust Kingston Lacy allotment plot in Wimborne, helping to grow produce to donate to the community lounge at our centre in Wimborne.

At our plot in Somerford we will be holding a planting event with the reception class at Somerford Primary School, who are looking forward to getting their strawberry plants in and sowing seeds for the community food garden.

We will be recruiting learners to take part in our NOCN Level 1 Award in Horticulture programme specifically for those with mental health issues, disabilities and learning disabilities.

If reading this has sparked your interest in learning how to grow your own food or helping us care for our sites, we are launching a 12 session Seed2Plate course at our community courtyard kitchen garden at Wimborne Community Centre (which started on Friday 26th April 10.00am – 12.30pm. See the digital community board on page 5 for more information too.)

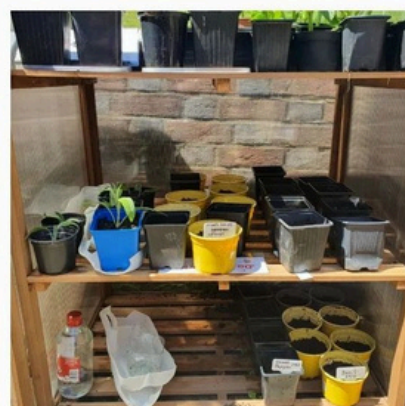
These FREE sessions will involve helping us to finish the redesign of the garden, planting it up and growing and harvesting food for the community lounge and fridge and will help set you up as Seed2Plate volunteer.

To register your interest in any of these free opportunities or for more information, email lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

With so much going on, we are looking for a Seed2Plate trainee to support delivery of workshops and growing garden maintenance. If you have an interest in growing and supporting the community, get in touch, no experience necessary! Please get in touch by messaging us via [Facebook](#) or email lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for more info

If you want to see what else we have been up to, follow us on Facebook and Instagram [@Seed2PlateDorset](#)

#HelpUsGrow





Wimborne Community Centre

COMMUNITY LOUNGE & KITCHEN

Tuesdays

10am to 3pm

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Meet friends in our welcoming space or courtyard garden
- Opportunity to grow, prepare and cook food
- Space for work/hobbies
- Clean warm facilities and baby changing area
- Books and Media Swap
- Community Puzzle
- Art Exhibitions
- Tea, Coffee and Snacks
- WIFI



The free community lounge is for everyone, come and be in it!

Click to support



Local
Community
Fund

coop.co.uk/membership

FIND OUT MORE:



@wimbornecommunitycentre



www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk/community-centre/

Behind the Scenes: At the Community Kitchen, A Labour of Love & Collaboration



In the heart of our community lies a bustling kitchen, brimming with fresh produce and goodwill. Jayne, the center manager, graciously took the time to share insights into the inner workings of this vital hub of activity.

Do you manage everything yourself, or do you have support?

"As the center manager, I oversee all operations," Jayne explains. "From coordinating the Primary Collection with Tesco through FareShare to collecting the food at 9 pm every Saturday, to distributing it appropriately. We allocate tasks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, ensuring the food is prepared and cooked as needed."

How many volunteers are involved?

"We're fortunate to have around seven volunteers who contribute regularly," Jayne says gratefully. "Their assistance spans a range of activities, from cleaning and cooking to food preparation. Without their invaluable help, this project wouldn't be possible."

What do you do with excess vegetables?

"We prioritize giving away surplus food," Jayne shares. "However, we also utilize it to prepare meals, particularly for our Monday and Tuesday lunch services. Any extra meals are stored in the freezer, allowing us to distribute them evenly throughout the week."

Story continued overleaf, but [click here](#) to visit the website to find out what's on or how to find the community centre. [Or here](#) to find out more about the Seed2Plate projects on site.

Behind the Scenes: cont.

What's the main goal of the Community Lounge and Kitchen?

"Our objectives are multifaceted," Jayne explains. "First and foremost, we're here to support our local community, whether by providing meals or preventing food waste. Additionally, we're running a short-term IT project, offering access to computers and internet support for six months. This initiative aims to facilitate online activities like banking, shopping, and computer literacy."



How does the center sustain itself financially?

"Room hire and tenant agreements serve as our primary income sources, covering the center's operational costs," Jayne clarifies. "However, we also host various projects aligned with the charity Dorset Community Action's mission. These include the Community Lounge, Community Cafe, Seed to Plate initiative, Courtyard Garden, Exhibitions, Digital Support, and Jumble Tables."

In essence, the Community Kitchen isn't just about food, it's a beacon of community support, resourcefulness and innovation. With Jayne at the helm and a dedicated team of volunteers, it continues to thrive, enriching the lives of those it serves.

Follow on facebook to keep up to date and find out more!



Resources & Extras

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Free Template Policy - Health & Safety

This month's FREE template which you can use to review or update your own policy is Health & Safety. (Going to this course will necessitate a short free sign-up process.) Enter POL05 at the checkout to receive it free.

It is important for Trustees to ensure that all of their policies are up-to-date. These should be reviewed annually (or bi-annually where there are rarely changes) or when the law changes. You should also review your policies and procedures after an incident - or a near miss - to ensure that the procedures worked in practice.



Annual Return to the Charity Commission

As we enter the period after the end of the financial year, charity Trustees should start thinking about their annual report to the Charity Commission. How detailed this needs to be will depend on the size of your organisation. It will cover how you have received funds, and where from, and how you have spent these in pursuit of your charitable aims.

From last year, Trustees are also being asked to prove that they are administering the charity in an appropriate manner. You will be asked to say which policies and procedures you have in place. This includes things such as conflict of interest for trustees, complaints policy and safeguarding policies. DCA can help with a number of templates and we are adding more all the time - see here for what is available.



DCA offers all sorts of support for organisations

On our NEW consultancy & advice page you will find the details of how we can help. From facilitating awaydays to mentoring senior staff to one-off help & advice, we support all kinds of organisations. Also, don't forget to check out our Fit for Funding page to see how you match up. Email Caro Hart on caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for a chat about what you might need.

Membership is currently free for organisations with an income of under £1000 per year and only £30 a year for those bringing in over £1000. So sign up and start benefiting today!

Resources & Extras

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.



Hallmark Awards:

We are really pleased to say that three Dorset Village Halls have achieved ACRE Hallmark awards. All achieved achieved Hallmarks 1 & 2. Our congratulations go out to:

- Ibberton, Belchallwell & Woolland Village Hall
- Chideok Village Hall
- Shroton Village Hall

The ACRE Hallmark is a quality standard which shows that a Village Hall is well-managed and that their facilities are of a good standard. DCA is the local ACRE member with responsibility for running the assessments for Dorset.



Consultancy help: Now booking!

DCA offers a reasonably-priced consultancy service. Our experienced consultants can help with almost any aspect of running an organisation, whether you are a small community group a registered charity or a large social enterprise.

Our recent successes with local organisations have been:

- Completion of training for a community centre's safeguarding leads
- Mentoring for a chief officer
- Completion of a full organisational review
- Facilitation of a Trustees' planning day
- Supporting a whole-team operations planning exercise
- Supporting successful funding applications

If you are interested in what help we could offer you, please contact Caro Hart for a chat at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk or phone 07827 996905.

Membership prices are changing shortly.
So sign up and start benefiting today!

Funding in Brief

News from Grant Providers

Our members gain exclusive e-bulletins with fuller tailored funding information. [Click here](#) if you wish to find out more about this and the other benefits of becoming a DCA Member!



Funder: The Urban Tree Challenge Fund

Who can apply: Local authorities, other public organisations, registered charities, community groups, social enterprises, private companies and individuals in England.

How much? Capital grants starting at £10,000.

Focusing on: The planting and establishment of standard trees and street trees in urban and peri-urban areas (between urban and rural areas) in England. The fund aims to level-up access to nature across the country, planting trees in socially deprived urban areas with low canopy cover, in proximity to healthcare and educational facilities. Grants will support the planting of trees and the first 3 years of their care to ensure they can flourish into the future.

Important dates: Deadline for the expression of interest is Sunday 30th June 2024 at 23.59pm.

Funder: Community Connection Fund

Who can apply: Reg. charities, Constituted Community & Voluntary organisations, CIC's, Companies Ltd by Guarantee, Social Enterprises, Portland Town Council and Weymouth Town Council, Constituted Community Groups with the appropriate level of Governance.

How much? Grants of up to £4000 (£1000 for new groups).

Focusing on: Projects that specifically support asylum seekers currently residing on the Bibby Stockholm Barge in Portland, to access activity to support physical and mental wellbeing and community integration.

Important dates: No specific dates. Apply via grant application link.

If you find this snapshot of our funding news useful then why not sign up as a Member to gain the fuller tailored funding information bulletins we offer each month.

[Click here](#) if you wish to find out more about this and the other benefits of becoming a DCA Member! Please note our prices are soon to increase.

Membership is currently free for organisations with an income of under £1000 per year and only £30 a year for those bringing in over £1000. So sign up and start benefiting today!

Share your stories and join the conversation!

Click on the images for handy quick links to our socials, news and jobs listings.



Did you know?

In Old English May was known as the Month Of Three Milkings, this was because cows could be milked three times a day.

Also, our Membership prices are changing soon to don't delay, sign up today!

Click and Start
Benefiting your Organisation today!

We'd love to know your thoughts and opinions on our service, this insight will help shape our offering and enable us to tailor our priorities to your support.

So do get in touch and let us know what you think

info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Dorset's Community News - Brought to you by Dorset Community Action

Issue #7 - 1st May

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