

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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edorsetcommunityaction



June is here and we have a full edition this month with news from Dorset Council on funding, good news stories featuring exciting community events and upcoming opportunities, plus an extra story from our latest quarterly team meeting.

We also have an update from the Warm & Well project as well as news from our new Rural Housing Enabling Officer, Jacqui - read more below and get involved via ACRE's upcoming event on the housing crisis.

Enjoy reading and take good care out there!

News around Dorset

Click the underlined words to link to more information.

BU are seeking participants for research focusing on professionals who have/are experiencing domestic violence and abuse (DVA). If you work or live in Dorset, are 18 years of age or older and work within social care, the charity sector or the criminal justice field and have or are experiencing DVA as a victim/survivor then please consider participating in this

SEED2PLA 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

anonymous online questionnaire. It is about whether you have accessed domestic abuse support and if you have what was your experience of the support and if not, why not. The purpose of this study is to gather information about the support for social care, charities, education and criminal justice professionals experiencing or have experienced DVA in their private lives who work (and/or live) in the county of Dorset to help develop support services. Click here to <u>link</u> to the Participant Information.

Views and experiences of women and girls in Dorset are being sought as part of a project which aims to improve access to information and services for women's health. Although women in the UK live longer on average than men, the evidence shows they spend a greater proportion of their lives in ill health or disability. As part of the Dorset Women's Health Programme, NHS Dorset and Dorset Women Community Interest Company are developing a virtual hub as a central point of reference for all information, education, awareness, self-help, and service provision concerning women's health for the women of Dorset. Along with an online survey, focus groups will take place enabling a wide range of people to have their say. The confidential survey is live until Wednesday 12th June 2024. Take part here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q7G89WM

ACRE's Platinum Jubilee Fund was re-opened for Stage 1 applications on 27th May. We shall share their updates in due course. However, they have advised us that the additional funds previously announced by the budget are on hold due to the election announcement and purdah rules.

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News cont.

Click the underlined words to link to more information.

<u>Time is running out for Community</u> <u>Project Funding says Dorset Council</u> -

Round 7 of the <u>Dorset Council's</u>
<u>Community & Culture Project Fund</u> is still open for applications, but deadline is looming. This round of grants closes on 9 June, so you still have a few weeks left to apply. Not-for-profit groups meeting eligibility and funding criteria can apply for a grant of up to £5,000. Dorset Council will fund up to 80% of applicants' total project costs, with the expectation that those applying demonstrate how the remaining 20% will be covered through additional grants, sponsorship, fundraising or partner contributions.

The grant fund is for one-off events; activities and specific cultural, sports and community project-based work in the Dorset Council area only. Click the title (for this bit of news) for more information, but also click here for more funding for voluntary and community groups from the Council.

Social Media Guidance for charities,

important information from NCVO for all especially in the run up to the freshly announced election. ACRE suggests "Of particular relevance is the new government <u>guidance</u> relating to use of social media". Click <u>here</u> to read more on what we should all be doing during the 2024 General Election.



<u>Dorset Mind's Mind Out Service</u> - Dorset

Mind are committed to working in partnership to enhance the support available across Dorset for all members of Dorset's LGBTQIA+ community, through the MindOut service, which offers a safe and accepting space for those in the LGBTQIA+ community experiencing mental illness. "Pride is for every day not just the month of June"

Seed2Plate volunteer sessions are available at Wimborne Community Centre. Learn to grow your own produce, meet new people and enjoy being outdoors! The sessions run every Friday 10.00am-12.30pm and you can find our more by contacting Lydia here.

Action for Children know exam time can be stressful for both students and parents and there's lots of advice and help out there to support children and parents Discover how you can help your child with exam stress, including:

- Spotting the signs of stress
- Managing workload

Find out more here: <u>How do I help my</u> child deal with exam stress? - <u>Support</u> for Parents from Action For Children

News cont.

Click the underlined words to link to more information.



Warm & Well Workshops Offered Vital Support Amid Rising Costs

In response to the soaring costs of energy, utility bills, and food, BCP Food and Energy Support Fund, in collaboration with Dorset Community Foundation, Bournemouth Foodbank, and DCA team members Julie and Lydia, launched a series of free Warm & Well Workshops in the Christchurch area.

These workshops were meticulously designed to help residents combat escalating expenses by imparting practical energy-saving techniques and sustainable living skills. Participants learned to shop seasonally, grow their own food indoors, meal prep, batch cook, use surplus food websites and apps, cook energy-efficiently, and reduce food waste. Additionally, attendees received recipes and ingredients to create delicious meals at home and explored opportunities for planting and growing their own produce.

Feedback from attendees highlighted the impact of these workshops:
"I will be looking at life in a different way, saving more energy and eating healthy foods."

"Lots of info and cooking tips. Enjoyable, friendly, and informative.

Great Workshop!"

"Inspired to try new fresh veg and new ways of cooking."

For more information, Lydia Harvey can be contacted at <u>Lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk</u> or 07421 994591.

The Warm & Well Workshops aimed to foster a community of informed and self-sufficient individuals capable of navigating the challenges of rising living costs.





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

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



Sponsored by:



In Person - Village Halls Event

Date: Thursday 12th September 2024

Time: Starting at 10am

Where: West Moors Memorial Hall, BH22 OHZ

Cost: Free

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

- Speakers including: <u>ACRE</u>, <u>Utility Aid</u> and <u>Hallmaster</u>.
- 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.

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

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Community **Notice** Board



Saturday 22nd June 10am - 3pm

Wimborne Community Centre (King Street Car Park) Wimborne BH21 1EA



Charity No: 1060910



ENERGY SUPPORT SCHEME

Bournemouth Foodbank is working with Dorset Community Action to deliver energy support, funded by Southern Gas Network and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

FIRST 'SAFE AND WARM' INFORMATION SESSION.

Teaching staff and volunteers who are interested in Teaching start and volunteers who are interested in finding out how to deliver basic and personalised energy advice. Training session by Julie Johns from DCA and Peter Bywater, managing director at

Date: Wednesday, 29th May Time: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Location: The Garden Rooms Café (118 Haviland Rd)

This session is designed to equip you with the tools to offer basic and personalised energy advice. helping our community stay safe and warm.











Village Hall Updates

ACRE EVENT UPDATE: 'Dorset's Affordable Housing Crisis?'

Online via Zoom Webinar, on Thursday 20th June, 1:30pm - 4:30pm

The provision of affordable housing is a major campaign issue for all political parties. Dorset CPRE feels strongly that the delivery of the housing that addresses the county's real needs requires careful consideration.

To help understand the issues more fully that face the nation and Dorset and potential solutions, Dorset CPRE has organised a free online conference on Thursday 20th June with presentations by national and local experts in Affordable Housing.

The Conference will be chaired by the Crossbench Peer and Social Housing Leader, Lord Richard Best, with an introduction by Dorset CPRE President and former BBC Chief News Correspondent, Kate Adie.

Speakers include; Dr Quintin Bradley, Senior Lecturer in Planning and Housing at Leeds Beckett University, Alison Ward, Director at Middlemarch Community Led Housing, Paul Derrien, Housing Enabling Team Leader at Dorset Council, Elizabeth Bundred-Woodward, Planning Policy Lead at National CPRE, Brad Taylor, Rural Policy and Campaigns Officer at National CPRE and Mike Allen, Dorset CPRE Planning Group

<u>Click here to book now</u> or visit the website for more information on the <u>Programme and Timetable</u>.

Are you involved with your local Village Hall?

Help us to ensure our database is up-to-date:

We sent out a newsletter to all the Village Halls in Dorset in April that was very well received. We covered changes to fire regulations, new funding and legal requirements for Village Halls Trustees.

The next edition will include articles on Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), recruiting trustees and updates

We send it to all of the people connected to the halls that we know of but we may have missed any new trustees who recently joined. 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 the newsletter in April, please can you:

- Check your spam folder
- Email Caro Hart at <u>caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk</u> 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!

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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.



Chair of Trustees

Information: Trustee Chair required within our team. Volunteer role, with many opportunities.
Closing Date: When ideal candidate found.

DCA Trustees

Information: Trustees required within our team. Volunteer role, with many opportunities.

Closing Date: When ideal candidates found.



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!

<u>Click here to read more on our advertising options.</u>

08 DORSET'S COMMUNITY NEWS

Social Action Cupcakes for a Cause

A group of young people with learning difficulties embarked on an inspiring journey to create a community social action project to ultimately benefit the community and the young people themselves. The project began with group discussions to identify their interests and community needs. Their shared love for cakes and animals sparked the idea of a fundraising cupcake sale for local charities, and so was launched "Cupcakes for a Cause."

Using IT skills, the group researched local charities and came up with a shortlist of six. A vote was held but as the group couldn't decide on the final charity, a discussion/debate on which charity to focus on ended with a compromise to fundraise for two charities.

With support and working one to one with the coach to work out what would be said, a participant felt comfortable enough to contact one of the charities by phone. They had to leave a message and were surprised when the charity founder returned their call. The participant spoke confidently about the project idea and got a very positive response which was a great boost for the whole group and a real confidence builder for the participant. The second charity had to be contacted by email and the group worked as a team to draft a letter to be sent.

Finding a venue seemed to be a straightforward task as the group knew of a community café they hoped to use. They presented their ideas and questions to a member of staff and then had to wait for confirmation as the person who made the decisions was unavailable. Working together, a backup plan was put in place just in case the café said no. In the meantime, tasks and job roles were discussed, including peer support and mentoring from other group members to get involved. Feedback around individual skills created a wave of confidence within the group.

The group split into two with one group working on social media posts and info for the charities to use and the other group designing posters to put up in the local community. One member of the group had experience with design and helped his peers when needed. Hand drawn posters and displays for the cake table were also made.

Unfortunately the group then found that their chosen venue had fallen through. Showing and recognising their resilience as a team, they put their back-up plan in place and a visit to an alternate venue was made. Using their communication and community skills to ask if they could use the space outside of the café for their cake stall was a great way to build confidence both individually and as a group as well as in their project. The posters were updated with the new venue details before printing and displaying them in the local community.

Next step, baking the cakes! How many should they make? What flavours? Should they do gluten free or vegan cakes too? After checking recipes, timings of cooking and the equipment they had available to them, the group decided to make thirty- six cupcakes with twelve of each flavour. Budgets for ingredients were created and checked before deciding how much to charge for each cake. The group decided to have a cake offer in the hope that people would then buy two cakes at a time and donate more money. A list of allergens for each recipe was typed up on the laptops using IT skills and printed and laminated for display.

Cupcakes for a Cause, cont.

Job roles were allocated for the day, splitting into two groups, with one team in the kitchen and the other setting up at the venue. One participant volunteered to be the kitchen supervisor as her mum was a cake maker and she had experience in baking, this participant also showed positive leadership skills. This participant



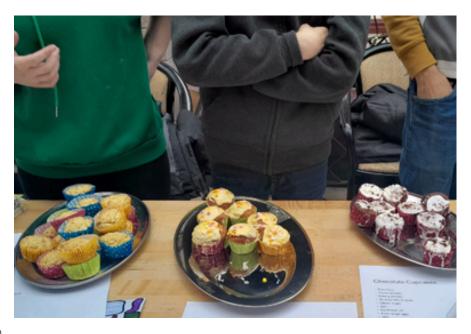
struggled to get involved at the start of the project but as it gained momentum, they became more dedicated to the project. The kitchen group got off to a good start showing teamwork, communication, planning and helping each other out when needed. Timings were slightly out but the group solved the problem by staggering batches of cakes to be taken over to the venue in stages, a couple of the young people were slightly upset by this but were reassured by their teammates.

The group at the venue set up the table with the posters, donation boxes, platters and rehearsed what they were going to say to people who wanted to buy the cakes. A representative from one of the charities attended the event and spent time speaking with the group. This helped their confidence when it came to selling the cakes.

The fundraiser went very well, other members of staff from Dorset Children's Foundation came over to support the event, spoke to the young people and were very pleased with how it was going. Having raised enough money to be able share out between the two charities, the project was deemed a success by the team with everyone saying they had enjoyed the experience. All the group said their confidence had improved and they enjoyed working as a team.

Feedback from the referral organisation has also been positive with the young people using skills they learnt during their project to help organise regular events and fundraising.

"I enjoyed working together as a team" "I enjoyed the planning"
"I learnt teamwork and communication and helped organise an event"
"my self confidence has grown and I enjoyed being part of a team"



For more information on our

Social Action Projects with young people, please contact us by clicking here to email Lydia.



Wimborne Community Centre

COMMUNITY LOUNGE WHATE

Tuesdays 10am to 3pm



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

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

Click to support



Local Community Fund

coop.co.uk/membership

FIND OUT MORE:



@wimbornecommunitycentre



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

Behind the Scenes: A Visit to Tumbledown Farm



On a sunny day at Tumbledown Farm, the DCA team gathered for a unique combination of a team meeting and community service. The idea was that we were there to support the Seed2Plate program by preparing overgrown planting beds for future planting activities.

As we arrived at the farm, we were greeted by the sight of planting beds overrun with weeds and tangled vegetation. James our newest team member showed us around the site and the other activities going on across the farm. Then, armed with gardening tools and a shared sense of purpose, we began the labor-intensive task of clearing the beds.





The work was physically demanding (and we all enjoyed the biscuits for our break), we all dug, pulled, and removed the dense overgrowth that had taken hold over time. Despite the challenging conditions, everyone remained focused on the goal, to ready the soil for the Seed2Plate volunteers who would soon be planting a variety of crops.

Story continued overleaf, but <u>click here</u> to visit the website to find out what's on or how to find the community centre.

<u>Or here</u> to find out more about the Seed2Plate projects on site.

Behind the Scenes: cont.

Throughout the day, we all pulled together to contribute to the collective effort,



ensuring that no area was left untouched. Despite the initial rainy forecast, the sun's heat did little to deter our resolve; instead, it seemed to fuel our determination to complete the task at hand.

By the afternoon, the transformation of the planting beds was evident. The once overgrown and neglected areas had been turned into neat rows of freshly tilled soil, primed for planting. The effort was a testament to our hard work and commitment to the community project.

After completing the task, we took a moment to reflect on their accomplishments. The cleared beds symbolized not only the potential for new growth but also the strength of collaboration and shared effort.

We left Tumbledown Farm with a sense of pride and fulfillment, knowing that their work would contribute to the success of the Seed2Plate initiative. This day at Tumbledown Farm highlighted the importance of teamwork and community involvement. It served as a reminder that through collective effort, even the most daunting tasks can be accomplished, paving the way for future growth and success.



For more information on how to volunteer at the farm now the beds are cleared, <u>click here to email</u> Lydia.

(Photo of pigs - Made by another project on site, but we liked them too!)

Let's meet...

Jacqui



What is your name and role?

My name is Jacqui Cuff and I'm the Rural Housing Enabling Officer for Dorset.

What is a Rural Housing Enabling Officer, and what is the project?

DCA is pleased to have been selected to deliver the Rural Housing Enabling scheme in Dorset. As a UK Government Funded DEFRA project, being managed by ACRE, Action with Communities in Rural England, it has been designed to help boost the supply of affordable housing in rural areas, by creating a national network of Rural Housing Enablers. The year long initiative is a part of a strategy to mitigate the displacement of the rural working population and their families, caused by the spiraling house prices and increasing rent costs. Key facilities, services and rural businesses are struggling to employ people and remain viable, causing the loss of the fundamental support structures necessary to the survival of rural communities.

What will you be up to then?

I will be available as an independent advisor and facilitator, helping communities and other stakeholders, navigate the complex process of developing affordable housing schemes.

Could you tell us a little about you before DCA?

I have a genuine interest and understanding of the many issues facing rural communities, coming from a farming background and having served as a Parish Clerk and District Councillor, being involved in a Parish Plan and two Neighbourhood Plans. I'm also a long standing Director of Buckland Newton Community Property Trust Ltd, who together with other community volunteers and the support of Magna Housing, helped develop and now manage Lydden Meadow. This affordable housing scheme of 5 rented and 5 shared ownership homes for people with a local connection, has been in full occupation since 2011. I hope that by sharing my skills and experience, I can help others provide much needed affordable accommodation for all generations, so people can live closer to their families and workplaces and rejuvenate rural communities throughout Dorset.

Don't forget to book your place onto ACRE's EVENT:

'Dorset's Affordable Housing Crisis?'

Online via Zoom Webinar, taking place on Thursday 20th June, 1:30pm - 4:30pm.

Resources & Extras

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Special offer for June: "ASK CARO"

We have 4 slots available this month for an hour's consultancy with our Community Consultant at HALF PRICE: JUST £25 + VAT. For this you will get 45-minute Zoom call or phone-call to discuss your issues in detail, followed by a detailed email with the links and FREE copies of resources such as fact sheets and templates, that you need. Email

<u>Caro.Hart@dorsetcommunityaction.or</u> <u>g.uk</u> for an appointment.



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 polices 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.

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!

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Resources & Extras

Click the underlined part as the link to read more





a quality standards scheme for village halls

Last chance to sign up for free Hallmark assessment!

Village Halls can get free help to be assessed for one or more of the three ACRE Hallmarks. Working through these helps you to ensure that all of your systems and documents are in place - and being awarded a Hallmark quality mark can reduce Village Hall's insurance premiums. You can put Hallmark certification on your website or other social media where prospective funders, hirers and volunteers can see it, showing you are a well-run hall.

While the three Hallmarks are not "levels", you will need to have completed 1 and 2 before tackling 3.

- Hallmark 1 focuses on the management and administration of the charity, including key policies
- Hallmark 2 focuses on health, safety, security and licences
- Hallmark 3 requires the hall to be working with the community and its
 users, including stakeholders; marketing the hall and building its
 profile in the centre of the community

Hallmarks are assessed by a visit and then a detailed look at your paperwork and systems. We are taking applications only until 30th June so that all assessments can be completed by the end of the year.

To find out more, contact <u>caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk</u>

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. <u>Click here</u> if you wish to find out more about this and the other benefits of becoming a DCA Member!



Funder: Community Wellbeing & Mental Health Fund

Who can apply: Reg. Charities, Constituted Community & Voluntary Organisations, & CIC's.

How much? Grants of up to £10,000 for a 6-12 month period.

Focusing on: This funding programme is for activities and services for adults only (age 18+) across the county of Dorset (including Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole). For early intervention to help empower, build resilience and encourage participation in activities to support wellbeing and mental health.

Notes: This is the second and final round.

Important dates: Opens on 24th June and closes Midday on 2nd August 2024.

Funder: The Movement Fund - Sport England

Who can apply: Reg. Charities, Sports Clubs, Local Authorities, Schools, Community Benefit Societies, Not-for-profit Companies.

How much? Grants of up to £15,000.

Focusing on: Supports projects that encourage more people to be get active and tackle inequalities. Promoting all forms of physical activity from walking, cycling, dance, fitness and sporting activities.

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

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!

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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?

One interpretation of the origins of "June" says that the name came from the Latin juvenis, "young people," who were celebrated at this time.

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

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