



Dorset's Community News

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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This month hosts 'Rural Housing Week, from the 1st to the 5th July, you can find out more [here](#) about the week and read more below from our Housing Enabling Officer Jacqui.

There are exciting opportunities, including photo competitions, plus don't forget to book your place for our upcoming Village Halls event!

We also have more from Jayne at our Community Centre on the valuable work she and her team are undertaking there to help support the local community.

Take good care out there and don't forget to use sun cream!

Get in Touch:

 01305 250921

 info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 @dorsetcommunityaction

News around Dorset

Click the underlined words to
link to more information.

The National Health Innovation network Programme Board would like to invite Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)

members from across the Health Innovation Network, who have lived experience of heart disease, either as a patient or carer/friend/relative to consider a number of roles :

- The Programme Board (1 position available)
- The Clinical Sub-groups (up to 3 positions available for the CVD Prevention, Heart Failure and Chronic Kidney Disease sub-groups)

The link to apply is at the end of each document within the individual role links above. The form takes only a few minutes to complete. The roles are all voluntary with meetings once per quarter.

Dorset's Big Conversation - 11th July, 10am-1pm., Dorchester. Does your organisation or group offer support to people who are living with memory loss and dementia? [Book your seat here.](#)

Take the State of the Sector survey – help the VCS thrive. Taking CAN's 30-minute online survey will help shape the future of the VCS in Dorset. Get started and make your voice heard! Click here - can100.org/t-be-a-superhero-in-hiding/



VOLUNTEER WITH US

Help grow food for the local community
No experience needed

Sessions run Wednesdays
10.00am - 1.00pm
Plot behind St Francis Church, Littlemoor

#HELPUSGROW

For more information contact Lydia at
lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

World Food Day Poster Competition:

Applications are now open for the competition, which is provided by the Food and Agriculture Organisations (FAO) of the United Nations. It is open to children and youth between the ages of 5 and 19, living anywhere in the world, who are encouraged to design a poster that symbolizes their favourite dish or recipe, representing the importance of diverse, nutritious, safe and affordable foods. World Food Day takes place on Wednesday 16th October 2024. The deadline for entries is Friday 8th November 2024.



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For more information contact Lydia at
lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk



Does your organisation or group offer support to people who are living with memory loss and dementia?

Join us for Dorset's Big Conversation on Dementia

The Big Conversation event is a collaboration between Dorset Council Stakeholder Advisory Group and the Dorset Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Assembly.

Our aim is to uncover and discuss the challenges and opportunities for delivering and innovating care and support for people living with dementia and memory loss in Dorset.

Date	Thursday 11 July
Timings	Arrival, registration and networking from 9:30am
Event start	10am - 1pm
Location	The Dorford Centre 2 Bridport Road Dorchester, DT1 1RR

To book onto this event register via this link:

<https://big-conversation-dementia.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you have any questions about this event or want to share examples of best practice around dementia with us before the event, please email:
adultsengagement@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Training & Events

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



Trustee Breakfast Club

Date: Wednesday 11th September

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.)



In Person - Village Halls Event

Date: Thursday 12th September 2024

Time: 2pm (for a 2 hour duration)

Where: West Moors Memorial Hall, BH22 0HZ

Cost: Free

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

Newly confirmed as a speaker - Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service as speaker

Already on the agenda:

- 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... More information will be added to the booking page as we confirm more speakers and news updates for you!

Sponsored by:



Our events page has all the latest timetabled activity and updates, so check it out for up to date information.

Community Notice Board



GET DORSET COOKING

THE FRIENDLY FOOD CLUB

Join us for a 1 day course to build skills, confidence and share resources to help your organisation to run community cooking sessions

Bridport - Tuesday 2nd July
Portland - Friday 12th July
Wimborne - Thursday 18th July
9am-4pm

More dates & venues to come throughout 2024

To reserve your space or enquire, email bookings.friendlyfoodclub@gmail.com or complete this [booking form](#).

Includes refreshments, lunch, take-away resources, recipes and templates.
Max 2 people per organisation

Funded places for voluntary & community organisations in Dorset Council area!

thefriendlyfoodclub.org/get-dorset-cooking



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.



01865 522326

contact@lemonbooking.com

www.lemonbooking.com

Artisan Makers Market

Saturday 27th July
10am - 3pm

Wimborne Community Centre
41-44 King Street
(King Street Car Park)
Wimborne BH21 1EA



Charity No: 1060910

Village Hall Updates

September event update: 12th September at West Moors Memorial Hall, **BOOKING NOW OPEN**



DCA would like to invite you to come to our event dedicated to Village Halls. [Book here](#) to ensure your place.

Already on the programme:

- BREAKING NEWS: Now confirmed, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Service.
- Keynote speech from ACRE.
- Presentation of Hallmark Awards to Dorset Village Halls.
- A consultation with [Utility Aid](#) the UK's largest energy broker specialising in charities. They help with getting the best tariffs, incorrect charges and more.
- A consultation with DCA's adviser on any topic you like - you will get a follow-up email with links and free resources.
- A demonstration from [Hallmaster](#) of their reasonably priced online booking and invoicing system.
- A presentation on the new resource Village and Community Halls - a net Zero Guide and information on Carbon Literacy training.
- Briefings on the top three issues identified by Village Halls.

So far the top issues are raising money - especially capital fundraising, long-term planning and maintaining the fabric of the building.

There is also an opportunity to win a lump sum towards an activity at the Village Hall by pitching for the pot of money - and buy cake!

And much, much more...

Our events page has all the latest timetabled activity and updates, so check it out for up to date information.

Jobs & Adverts

Click the underlined TITLE or image to read more.

Lemon Booking Offer

Information: A booking system and Website Editor for Community Buildings and Village Halls. Discounts available for DCA Members.

LemonBooking

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!
[Click here to read more on our advertising options.](#)

Housing Needs

An update from Jacqui, on the Rural Housing Enabling Project



It has been a busy month with a lot to do and learn!
Key elements this month have included the following:-

What are Housing Needs Surveys?

Before any sort of affordable housing can be considered, you have to establish a need. Anecdotal evidence is not enough, you need physical evidence to show planners, housing providers and funders as well as to inform the community that there is a genuine need for affordable housing in the area. Surveys appear to be the best way to collect this information and whilst anyone can design and implement the survey, Dorset Council already has the software that will not only collect the data but will analyse it, saving a lot of time. In the past, I and others, have trudged through lanes and farmyards, in all weathers, delivering paper surveys and then spent hours collecting, collating and analysing the information.

I am fortunate that Dorset Council is keen for communities to make use of this resource and it helps keep a consistent approach for comparison throughout the county and the Council can use the information collected at ground level, to influence future housing and planning strategy.

Paper copies are available too and in addition, the online version offers a link to the Housing Register applications for those that may be eligible. The Housing Register and how that works is something I am currently getting to grips with and is also key to evidencing the need for affordable housing in a lot more detail and together with the Housing Needs surveys give an overall view of the housing status in an area.

Please keep an eye out for these surveys as there may be one coming to your area, within the next 6 months.

These surveys are so important and relate to everyone currently living within the specified area as well as to anyone who has or had a local connection to the area, whether through residency, family or work. We can use this information to start taking action towards finding a way to fund a small-scale affordable housing scheme in the community and hopefully enable people to stay or come back to the villages, especially the displaced working population and their families who help to keep rural community services and businesses running.

Visiting Existing Affordable Homes

Dorset has some wonderful examples of existing Affordable Housing Schemes and I was lucky enough to visit some of them over the last month. I am able use these as examples of what is possible and perhaps to change perceptions regarding the look and quality of the properties being built. Of equal interest has been how the sites have come about, including discovering that on a number of occasions the land has been gifted to the community for the purpose of affordable housing or been offered at a (cont. overleaf)

Housing Needs

(cont.)



significantly reduced cost. A lot of attention has been given to the design and layout of the properties and to their energy efficiency, many having air source heat pumps and solar panels installed. I spoke residents as well as neighbours to discover the impact of the development. Without exception, for the residents, the opportunity has been positively life changing for them, physically and mentally. Also for their children and extended families, with closer connections, increased practical and moral support.

Local businesses reported they were glad to have people working for them living in closer proximity and who were more likely to stay on. Neighbours reported an increase in vibrancy and community activity within the village, people looking out for each other, facilities and events being better supported. It reminded me why this role is so important and keeps me motivated, despite the challenges.

Top priority has been to engage with Parish Councils that have been identified as areas that would benefit from some affordable housing. This is based primarily on perceived housing need and taking into consideration in the activities and facilities available in the Parish, including whether or not there is a Neighbourhood Plan in place or in progress, a Community Land Trust already set up, if there is a school, shop, pub or other local businesses in the Parish or nearby etc..

There has been a slight delay in progress due to the local elections for Parish and County Councillors in May. Any decision making has gone on hold for a little while and then time is needed as new Councillors attend training and familiarise themselves with their new responsibilities. The General Election has similar implications on a national level and again decisions relating to policy relevant to my role have gone on hold.



However, there has been plenty to get on with and much like the new Councillors, I have also been taking time to get to grips with current housing and planning legislation and policies.

So until next time, if members anyone has questions or know of communities that would benefit from my help, then please get in touch either via email: jacqui.cuff@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk or mobile: 07421 994590

(Photos are of the sites visited with Alison Letts, the ACRE RHE Programme Manager.)

Seed2Plate Updates from the Garden

The weather has improved but the slugs and snails have been out in force in all the plots enjoying our salads before we can get to them.

The courtyard garden at Wimborne is coming together nicely, with the scented roses blooming, lettuce and greenery flourishing and scented herbs adding that Mediterranean feel.

We had a group of volunteers from Hays Recruitment join us at our Kingston Lacy plot, the transformation was amazing! They got the grass cut, tidied up the beds, planted French beans, runner beans, carrots and beetroot and sowed seeds for more salad and root veg.

Sessions at the community garden on Littlemoor have started with the beds being filled with tasty produce. 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 Centre, Ferndown is holding 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.

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.

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, then get in touch about our 12 session Seed2Plate course at our community courtyard kitchen garden at Wimborne Community Centre on Friday's 10.00am – 12.30pm. 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

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

Monday - Thursday
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 Hub of Generosity and Resourcefulness



In a quaint town nestled in Poole, there's a community kitchen that's more than just a place to cook—it's a hub of generosity and resourcefulness. I had the pleasure of sitting down with Jane, the coordinator of the kitchen, to learn more about where the food comes from and how they serve the community.

Where does the food come from for the community kitchen?

"Most of the food comes from Tesco," Jane explains. "We are able to go and collect our food on a Saturday evening at 9 o'clock from Tesco Express in Poole." She goes on to mention FareShare, a national company that organizes collections for food nearing its expiration date from supermarkets, helping to prevent food waste."

What sort of food do they have on a Saturday night at Tesco?

"We collect in batches," Jane describes. "Bakery and confectionery, chilled foods, and ambient foods like fruit and veg and chilled fruit from the fridges. It could be prepaid meals, eggs, cheese—anything like that or whatever is left and going out of date."

Where else do you get food for the community kitchen?

Jane lists a variety of sources: "We have a community fund from the Co-op, receive donations from people who come into the center, and also have donations from people who have allotments and where there is a surplus, they give us donated food."

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 do you do with the food that you can't actually cook the same day/next day?

"The food that can't be cooked goes straight into our Community Fridge which is called Sybil," Jane explains. When asked about the name, she humorously shares, "I was doing a tender to raise some income for the community lounge and kitchen, and I had to give the fridge a name. I came up with Sybil."



Tell me more about the Community Fridge.

"Community Fridges are there largely to help people with the cost of living," Jane elaborates. "If they can't afford as much food as they'd like, the food in the fridges is free. The other main reason for a community fridge is to prevent food waste." She goes on to describe how they share what they collect through social media posts, allowing people to come and collect food for free. Additionally, meals made from the collected food are placed in the fridge or served up on specific days, with extra meals frozen to supply the community throughout the week.

Jane concludes, "We may ask for donations from those who are able to afford to pay. This helps us to purchase items not covered by the food donations."

In this cozy corner of Poole, the community kitchen not only nourishes bodies but also fosters a sense of togetherness and support. From rescuing food from being wasted to providing meals for those in need, it's a testament to the power of community care and resourcefulness.

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.

DCA offer a consultancy service for local organisations - Now booking for September

Our expert consultants all have extensive experience of running voluntary, charitable organisations and social businesses. Who better to help you with your knottiest issues. Recent work includes; policies review, safeguarding training, help registering with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and trustee training on legal responsibilities. We are competitively priced and you can contract only for the hours you need. We can be another pair of skilled hands when things are tough for you or support you to tackle some of those large tasks such as putting together a big bid. Please contact caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for a free chat.



Are you a master fundraiser?

The next edition of the Village Halls newsletter in August will include articles on raising lump sums to do work on the fabric of your Village Hall of community building. If you have successfully raised money for a capital project, especially if you got local people involved, we would like to hear from you. Please email caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk if you are willing to share your story or if you wish to get on this mailing list.



Have some news you'd like to share?

Get in touch with us and we can add you to this news section or add a poster to the 'community board' below. Contact us at info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk and we can help!

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

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: Community Ownership fund

Who can apply: Incorporated groups working for their communities.

How much? Up to £2m in theory, but mostly up to £250,000.

Focusing on: Those that are at risk of loss without community intervention, can be run viably and sustainably in community hands for the long-term benefit of the community, or if already owned, the asset requires essential renovations to be sustainable for the long-term benefit of the community.

Notes: There is a two stage application process - stage one; expression of interest then, if successful, you can apply during a bidding window

Important dates: Opening 12.07.24 Closing 31.03.25 - there will be four bidding windows.

Funder: Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund

Who can apply: Those working on a renovation or improvement project (not repair or maintenance), the work must be completed by March 2025.

How much? Grants up to £75,000, broken down as 20% of eligible project costs minimum £7,500 (project value £37,500), maximum £75,000 (project value £375,000).

Notes: There is a two stage application process - stage one; expression of interest then, if successful, you can apply. DCA can give help with the Stage 2 application for free.

Important dates: Closing in March 2025 - but applications should go in sooner rather than later.

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.

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?

July's "dog days of summer" is linked to evil omens, canine attacks, unforeseen thunderstorms, heat, and drought. The term's origin can be traced back to the star Sirius, part of the Canis Major (Greater Dog) star system.

Also, you can click here to sign up as a DCA Member 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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Dorset Community Action, The Little Keep, Barrack Road, Dorchester, DT1 1SQ

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