



Dorset's Community News

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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Here's to the New Year! We hope you had a peaceful time over the holidays and a chance to rejuvenate. It's a busy time for many and we hope this newsletter will bring much in the way of opportunities to help support your organisations and also vital funding to help for the coming months.

Should you need any support in applying for funds or making sure you're ready for the upcoming year's responsibilities then our Academy and expert advisors are on hand to help.

Take good care out there!

Get in Touch:

 01305 250921

 info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 @dorsetcommunityaction

News around Dorset

Click the underlined words to
link to more information.

Better Health Start for Life and the Department for Education is launching a new home learning environment campaign, aiming to improve children's language and communication skills and ultimately increase levels of school readiness in reception aged children. Building on the successes and learnings of the Chat, Play, Read campaign, this will inform, motivate and empower parents to improve the quality of home learning environments for children. In the meantime, don't forget the **Start for Life** new features including:

- New and updated content
- Updated pregnancy week by week guides
- New 'baby Basics' and 'Labour and Birth' sections
- New 'Ready or Not?' weaning quiz
- Updated recipe hub

All with trusted NHS advice

Help support the Community Lounge!

If you shop at Co-op you could easily help whilst simply doing your shopping. Funds raised will go towards the continuation of our Community Lounge - Plus you can now donate your rewards balance to your Community Cause. All this reward money will be matched by the Co-op until 8th Jan. If you have time can you get this out on all the mailing lists please.



During our Christmas Networking Event a quiz was enjoyed by all, Wendy Allwood from Help & Care won a 10% discount on any course in the Training Academy and she's excited about taking that up. The photo is Wendy and her assistance dog Uschie, beside our own Julie Johns and her daughter. Well done Wendy!

Counselling Skills Level 2 Fully Funded Courses

- Many people find it helpful to seek counselling at some point in their lives, and a counsellor can provide support for people in all sorts of situations. If you're interested in supporting people to improve their personal well-being, this course will provide you with the correct understanding, knowledge and skills to do that. You'll learn about core counselling skills and how to use them in a counselling relationship. You will also be taught about counselling theory and the ethical framework that informs how counsellors use their skills.

Calling all Venues in Christchurch!

The Seed2Plate team are looking for a venue for their food poverty project - if you're able to help in any way or have access to a hall or venue that could help then they would be very grateful to hear from you. Contact Paul via email here.

Help to pay your Water bill Wessex Water are helping people, watch Eileen's story via youtube through the titles link. Help-to-pay schemes have helped more than 57,000 customers who are struggling to pay their bills or repay their debt.

Training & Events

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



Monthly Networking

Date: Wednesday 10th January

Time: 10.30am

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

These are your networking events - Your opportunity to meet other groups and organisations and have a catch-up. We have 'news from the floor' where you can share your experiences and ideas with other groups and organisations, as well as regular Guest Speakers. DCA Advisors will also be on hand to offer support and advice.



Trustees Breakfast Club

Date: Wednesday 17th January

Time: 8.30am, with a 90 minute duration

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.



Facilitated Learning Group:

Writing a Business Plan

An expert level, facilitated series of small-group workshops.

Date: Starting on the 18th January 2024

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: £145 non member rate, £95 for DCA members

Over seven sessions, we will go through each section of a typical business plan helping you to bring the information together and present it effectively. Covering strategic goals, financial planning, organisational development plus much more, each session will help you to tailor the plan to be exactly what you need. Read more in our resources section below.

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

Training & Events

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



Masterclass: How to research & choose likely funders - Last Few Spaces!

Date: Wednesday 24th January

Time: 9.30am, with a 90 minute duration

Cost: £45

Planning and other useful templates included.

- Do you apply for everything that's going?
- Ever been turned down because you didn't fit the funder's criteria?
- Disappointed because the money pot had dissipated too soon?

Come and join the small group who will learn how to avoid all of these problems and increase the success rate of applications. You will have the chance to talk about the challenges you face and hear from people who are going through the same thing.



Energy Outreach Advice Webinar

Date: Wednesday 31st January

Time: 10am until 11am

Cost: Free

Energy Outreach Project, formerly known as Big Energy Saving Network, is an outreach only energy advice programme delivered across England and Wales.

If you are an individual, a member of a local community group, or meet with a group of friends on occasion and consider this information to be valuable to you, we can come and deliver the training in person.

The presentation will cover all the topic of:

- Energy Efficiency
- COL & Fuel Poverty
- Fuel Poverty and Health Impacts
- Debt Advice & Grants
- Your Rights as a Consumer
- Support & Signposting

More details coming soon on how to book!



Many of our sessions are FREE and those attending our Monthly Networking Sessions gain extra!

Training & Events

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

Save the Date for our Annual General Meeting

It's that time of year again, we would like to invite you to this annual and important event.

Come and find out more about:

- The importance of 'Place' in the development of Dorset's health and care services.
- Join the conversation about how best communities can take the lead.
- Learn how the Integrated Care System (ICS) is relevant to your community.



Guest Speaker - Sam Crowe on Thriving Communities Project. Followed by Q&As. Sam is Director for Public Health, Dorset Council

When: Thursday 18th January 2024

Time: 2pm

Cost: Free

Where: Online via Zoom



Need a proxy vote?

Should you not be able to attend for any reason then it's still very important for you to have your voice as an organisation across Dorset by taking an 'active' part this event!

You can do this ahead of the day by contacting us on info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for information on how to submit your votes and opinions to be considered within the event itself.

Your needs are a valuable part of our decision making so please do get involved however you can.

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



Wimborne Community Centre

COMMUNITY LOUNGE & KITCHEN

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/



**Dorset
Community
Action**



Energy Outreach Project, formerly known as Big Energy Saving Network, is an outreach only energy advice programme delivered across England and Wales.

It is delivered by a network of Champions and Regional Energy Leads, based in local organisations.

Are you a Frontline (Key) Worker, working with hard to reach and/or under-represented communities?

Do you know enough to spot the signs of fuel poverty or to advice your clients on where to go for advice and support?

If not, we can help.

DCA in partnership with NEA and CAB can provide free training to frontline workers to support their vulnerable clients/patients. This training is delivered by a qualified member of staff from Dorset Community Action. It can be delivered to your team in person, or on-line. The training will be for one hour and will include handouts of further information from the session.

We will cover topics such as:

- Energy Efficiency
- COL & Fuel Poverty
- Fuel Poverty & Health Impacts
- Debt Advice & Grants
- Your Rights as a Consumer
- Support & Signposting

If you are an individual, a member of a local community group, or meet with a group of friends on occasion and consider this information to be valuable to you, we can come and deliver the training in person. The presentation will cover all the topics above.

Sound of Interest?

If so, please contact Julie.johns@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk and I'll look forward to speaking with you shortly.

Julie Johns - Community Advisor (Projects & Engagement)

Dorset Community Action - Telephone 01202 847610

Jobs & Adverts

Click the underlined TITLE or image to read more.

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.

The Hallmaster booking system provides:

- Flexible system for any venue
- Secure and safe software
- Easy to use and fully supported



Various from Dorset Museum:

Marketing Assistant - To assist in the delivery of successful marketing and communications strategies and initiatives for the Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society and the Dorset Museum & Art Gallery.

Facilities Assistant - To support the Facilities Manager to carry out tasks relating to maintenance, security and health and safety at all museum locations. To help to maintain and repair buildings and interiors, working closely with the curatorial team.

Cleaning Assistant - To support the Facilities Manager to carry out tasks relating to cleaning at the Museum & Art Gallery. To help to maintain high standards of presentation and cleanliness, working closely with the front-of-house team.



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.](#)

Handy Resources

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Village Halls Project - Hallmark Accreditation

The pilot for this new project starts this month. Village Halls are being offered free access to accreditation with the ACRE Hallmark. This process helps a Village Hall committee to review their processes and to badge them. Village Halls with a Hallmark get money off their insurance and can be more successful with attracting both funds and volunteers.

You can apply in one or more of three areas:

- Hallmark 1 focuses on management and administration
- Hallmark 2 looks at health, safety, security and licences
- Hallmark 3 covers stakeholders, marketing and being at the centre of the community as well as going into more detail in the other areas (you will usually have completed Hallmarks 1 and 2 before doing this one).

Village Halls should sign up by 31st January 2024 for this first round (you can sign up at any time to be included in later assessment rounds) using the form which you can download here. You will also find a presentation here which will tell you more about this opportunity.

If you have any questions or want to sign up, please email caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk or come along to one of the networking meetings; the next one will be on 11th January 2024 at 16:00 - just sign up to the Hallmark Project here and you will be sent a Zoom link.



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Handy Resources

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Writing a Business Plan:

This Facilitated Learning Group starts on 18th January 2024, continued from Training & Events section above.

The first group to do this course, who have just completed it, talked about useful it was to be able to drill down into some of the issues. Working in a small group, facilitator Caro Hart, DCA's experienced Community Training Consultant, was able to ensure that everyone got the information they needed. As part of the course, participants received

a code that gave them free access to all of the relevant courses on the training Academy, as well as a variety of other tools and templates. Caro commented:

"It was really great to work with the organisations and see them develop their ideas over the seven sessions. Every person approached it slightly differently which made for some interesting discussions and a constant exchange of ideas."

The sessions are broken down and cover an area of the business plan each time; planning, marketing, finances and more, combine to help you tell the story of your organisation, what it does and where it's going. Having a well-written business plan is ideal for attracting funders, developing your organisation and generally helping you to manage your organisation effectively.



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Handy Resources

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Start 2024 off with a knowledge boost for your Organisation!

To help get you going for the year we're offering a discount on some of our most popular courses, if you haven't tried them before then this is the time.

We have a series of short courses in this offer and our ever popular 'Conversations With...' are free to watch at any point.

Learn new skills and hear from experts with our Academy offerings!

Choose from:

- **What is good governance?** - A must for trustees and anyone involved in managing a not-for-profit organisation
- **Why having a budget is important** - An essential guide to this crucial management tool
- **Understanding the mandatory policies** - A clear guide to the "must have" procedures that all organisations need to consider
- **Planning for the future**- Tips and tools for planning for the longer term

Quote code **NEW01** to gain a 20% discount at the checkout.

Click on each individual title for the specific course or the main title of this page for a whole view of the Academy. Please note, a free account must be created if you haven't already done so.

Each course also includes bonus material and useful information.

Conversations With...

- **Roles and responsibilities of trustees** by DCA Vice Chair Chris Spackman
- **Financial management** by Jen Richardson, former head of charities at accountants Ward Goodman
- **What are stakeholders and how do you communicate with them** and...
- **Why measuring impact is important**, both by Paula Bennetts, Operations Manager at DCA

Many of our sessions are FREE and those attending our Monthly Networking Sessions gain extra!

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 Grocer's Charity Memorial Fund

Who can apply: UK registered charities with an annual turnover of under £500,000.

How much? One off grants up to £5000.

Focusing on: Education, environmental causes, health, heritage, people with a disability, support for children and young people and the relief of youth poverty, the arts, the elderly and the military.

Important dates: Deadline is Friday 12th January 2024.

Funder: Tesco Stronger Starts

Who can apply: Grants will be awarded to schools, voluntary or community organisations (including registered charities/companies), health bodies (e.g. Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS Hospital Trust, Foundation Trust), Parish/Town Councils, local authorities and social housing providers.

Applications are not eligible from:

- Individuals
- Community Interest Companies with shares (CIC's)
- CICs with guarantee that are less than two years old
- Profit-making organisations

How much? Up to £1500. Out of the three projects chosen there are awards for 1st £1500, 2nd £1000 and 3rd £500.

Focusing on: Applications are open to all local good causes, but we are currently prioritising helping projects that support children's food security and health and local store nominated good causes.

Important dates: This is a rolling programme, where community groups or charities can apply for funding all year round. Three projects from each local area will be shortlisted to go to the public vote every three months. Applicants will generally know the outcome of their application between 12-18 months of applying.

Membership is 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 page and jobs listings.



Did you know?

Julius Caesar, was the first to declare 1st January a national holiday...

Also, our Membership is free for organisations with an income of under £1000 per year!

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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