



Dorset's Community News

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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Village Hall's Week is coming - 18th to 24th March - let's put Dorset on the map! Register your interest now [here](#) for ACRE's national Village Halls Week and order FREE resources to share and celebrate the work you do in your community. You can add your events to ACRE's national online map. As part of the week, DCA are putting on a special in person Networking event, have a look within our events pages to read more and book your place.

For those of you who attended our AGM, we thank you again and we wish to assure you we're working on getting together the resources and answers for you and will share soon.

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.

Public consultation on Children and Young People's Gender Services.

NHS England is seeking views on the process for making referrals into the Children and Young People's Gender Service and the process for managing the national waiting list. The 90 day public consultation closes on 6th March, so share your views soon.

Charity Excellence: Fresh website and short video on how they can help support you!

If you enjoyed missed our Funding Event and Ian McLintock's presentation, founder of information resource Charity Excellence Framework (as above), you will be delighted to know that we are launching a Conversation with Ian McClintock where Ian talks about how AI can help fundraising and, from his own long experience as Chair of a grant-making organisation, what makes a good bid.

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.

Dorset goes WILD has teamed up with Bournemouth Writing Festival and Hengistbury Head Writers' Group, for an exciting nature-themed writing competition. The competition is open to all primary and secondary school children, and home-schooled children in Dorset.

The Our Dorset Innovation Hub is holding its Summit on 18th June 2024 at the Dorset Museum, Dorchester. They are very keen to welcome patient and public involvement representatives and colleagues from the voluntary & community sector at the event. Please click here for the brochure. Book your place via Eventbrite here.

'Little Moments Together' Campaign: Launched in January from the Department for Education (DfE), in partnership with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) The campaign aims to educate parents and carers about the importance of brain development in the first five years of a child's life, and the crucial role they play as parents and carers, with advice and tips available on the Start for Life website.

A range of downloadable resources are available on the Campaign Resource Centre which you can find here.

Training & Events

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



Monthly Networking

Date: Wednesday 7th February

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 13th March

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.



Village Hall Week In Person Event

Time: 2-4pm

Date: Wednesday 20th March

Where: Ibberton and Belchalwell Village Hall, DT11 0EL

Cost: Free

We will be hosting a network meeting as part of Village Halls Week. In addition, we would like to engage local groups and residents to offer a free 1-hour presentation on Energy Outreach Advice to the frontline workers and volunteers.

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

Have you Seen?

Let's Focus on: Our Policies Support for you

Are you managing risk properly?

Don't let your policies get out-of-date!

Policies and procedures are the main ways in which organisations make sure that problems don't occur, and, if they do, that everyone knows what to do.

For instance, safeguarding; does everyone know how to deal with incidents?

Are you managing your data properly? Do you have procedures in place to avoid scams and cyber-crime? A major incident could ruin your reputation and create problems with your funders.

You should review your procedures regularly to ensure that risks are mitigated and that you have the proper procedures in place, especially the "Big Five"; Health & Safety, Safeguarding, GDPR, Organisational Risk and Financial Processes.

For more information on how DCA can help you with any problems you are experiencing, please email caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Wimborne Community Centre
is hosting an

**OLD FASHIONED
INDOOR
JUMBLE
SALE**

8ft Tables £8
Bring your own hanging rail

To book your space please ring
01202 847600 or

Pay on the day
(first come first served)



**King St Car Park
BH21 1EA**

Tel: 01202 847600

All proceeds go toward
the
Community
Lounge and Kitchen

**SATURDAY
FEB 24TH
2024
10AM-1PM**

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

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/



Dorset
Community
Foundation



Dorset
Community
Action

FREE Warm & Well Workshops

Find out more about

Shopping seasonally
Growing your own food indoors
Using surplus food websites & apps
Energy-efficient cooking
Cutting down on food waste



**FREE SLOW COOKER
FOR EVERY
WORKSHOP ATTENDEE**
BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW
AS SPACES ARE LIMITED!


Dates:

Monday 5th Feb
Monday 12th Feb
Monday 19th Feb
Monday 26th Feb

Time: 10am - 2pm

Where: Somerford ARC,
20 Southey Road,
Christchurch BH23 3EH

 lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 07421 994591

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



Green Team Maintenance Worker

Salary dependent on experience - Zero Hours Agreement

Are you looking for something ad hoc, enjoy working in the garden and looking for a more hands-on role?

If so, then this is a great opportunity to join Dorset Community Action, as part of a new initiative to provide a garden maintenance and clearance service.

Work will likely be small scale two person jobs, delivered over one or two days a week as needed and tested to see if the service can be developed into a sustainable project.



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.

Manage your website, process booking requests, receive online payments, sell tickets for events and much more.

LemonBooking



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



Happy New Year from Seed2Plate!

Although winter seems a quiet time in the garden, there is a lot of work going on underneath the soil as the plants build their food sources and root systems ready for spring.

There is also a lot going on behind the scenes as we plan our planting lists for the Community Courtyard Kitchen and Wellbeing Garden, including a mix of sensory planting, wildlife friendly blooms and pick your own beds all growing together in a potager style garden. We have ordered new tables, chairs and benches to provide seating areas and with the help of our volunteers have started to rearrange and clear the space.

We have received a small pot of funding to start off a new plot in Somerford, Christchurch. This will be an area for the local community to learn how to grow their own food and to help young people get involved in outdoor horticulture activities. In light of the current cost of living crisis, we will also be running FREE Warm & Well workshops in Somerford which will focus on a variety of things including energy-efficient ways to cook and to help get the most out produce without breaking the bank.

We will be up and running again at our plots in Bridport and Littlemoor soon and have recently taken over a plot at Tumbledown Farm in Weymouth, so lots to do!! With that in mind, if you would like get involved or want to find out more, please get in touch by messaging us via [Facebook](#) or email lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for more info



Seed2Plate are always on the lookout for volunteers, so if you or someone you know would like to find out more please get in touch. or if you want to see what we have been up to, follow us on Facebook and Instagram

[@Seed2PlateDorset](#)
[#HelpUsGrow](#)

Artist impression of the Courtyard Garden by Carol.

Handy Resources

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Thinking about fundraising? Want to improve your "hit rate"?

One hour of intensive fundraising information and advice. Based on our popular Masterclass; **How to research and choose funders**, we are offering a session with Caro Hart our experienced Community Training Consultant. Caro will look at practical ways to diversify your income generation how to research trust funds, corporates & other funders and how to decide which opportunities to pursue. You can then discuss in detail, how you will tackle your own fundraising challenges.

Exclusive offer for February 2024.

COST: £40 + VAT which is 20% off our usual consultancy rates.

For an appointment, email Caro at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Free Hallmark assessment in May 2024

DCA has been funded in 2024 to offer the award of the ACRE Hallmark. The next round will be happening in the period March to May 2024. Having a Hallmark shows everyone, including potential funders, volunteers and users, that your hall is well-run. It celebrates what you do and helps you to get everything up-to-date. You can also get money off your insurance premiums.

There are three Hallmarks:

- Hallmark 1 focuses on management and administration.
- 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 (you will usually have finished 1 and 2 before tackling this).

Each one has a checklist for you to work through and involves a visit and an external assessment. If you are interested in knowing more, please see the Hallmark Project (this will necessitate a brief sign-up process) or email caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk



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

Handy Resources

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Carbon Literacy training for community groups and parish and town councils:

Carbon literacy is “An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.”

The Carbon Literacy Project offers everyone a day's worth of Carbon Literacy® learning, covering climate change, carbon footprints, how you can do your bit and why it's relevant to you and your community. This project is globally unique and was recognised as such by the UN at COP21, in Paris, where it was awarded as a TAP100, one of 100 worldwide Transformative Action Programs. Participants find that they have:

- Gained an understanding of the basic science of climate change and how climate change will affect us both globally and locally
- Gained an understanding of how climate change will affect your local community.
- Created an action plan to help reduce the carbon footprint of your organisation and local area
- Gained an understanding of how you can mobilise change.
- Explored strategies for influencing others to take action on climate change.

Local organisations are banding together to deliver a Dorset-specific Carbon Literacy programme in two half days:

- Part one: Tues 13 Feb 9am – 1pm
- Part two: is on Tues 6 Feb 1pm - 5pm or Weds 7 Feb 9am - 1pm or Weds 14 Feb 9am - 1pm

[Click here for the Event Link for Tickets & Information](#)

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 Allan and Nesta Fergusson Trust

Who can apply: UK registered charities and UK universities working in the UK and/or overseas.

How much? Match Funding - Small, medium and large grants up to and over £50,000.

Focusing on: Education, International Friendship, Understanding and World Peace to support people to live safely and happily.

Important dates: Small & Medium grants up to £50K can be applied for at any time. Large grants of over £50k deadline is 28th February and 31st August 2024

Funder: Screwfix Foundation

Who can apply: UK registered charities and not-for-profit organisations for projects in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Applicants can include Community Interest Companies, Community Benefit Societies, Cooperative Societies and other forms of not-for-profit organisations

How much? Capital grants up to £5000.

Focusing on: Maintaining, repairing and improving community buildings for people in need. Can include decorating the homes of people living with illness and disability.

Important dates: Deadline is Saturday 10th February.

If you find this 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!

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?

With it being a leap year, this February will actually have a full moon...

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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