



Dorset's Community News

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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ACRE's Village Halls Week is this month, from the 18th to 24th March. This is a time for Village Halls across the UK to come together to celebrate the work they do in their communities. Register your interest 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.

Across the rest of our community we have many health related events, there is No Smoking Day and the NHS's Start for Life Campaign, so get involved and don't forget to let us know what you're up to!

Get in Touch:

 01305 250921

 info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 @dorsetcommunityaction

News around Dorset

Click the underlined words to link to more information.

The [NHS in England has launched a campaign](#) to encourage anyone struggling with feelings of depression or anxiety, such as excessive worry, panic attacks, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress, or obsessions and compulsions, to seek help through [NHS Talking Therapies services](#).

Still running until the end of March - The 'Earlier diagnosis - reducing cancer barriers' phase of the ['Help Us, Help You'](#) campaign encourages people who are experiencing potential signs of cancer to contact their GP practice. Assets to support the activity are available on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#).

[Public Consultation on Martyn's Law is now open!](#) Any public venue with a capacity of 100 - 799 people, which covers many Village Halls will be affected by the forthcoming requirements in the 'standard tier'. The bill will impose requirements in relation to certain premises and events to increase their preparedness for, and protection from, a terrorist attack by requiring them to take proportionate steps, depending on the size and nature of the activities that take place at the premises. You can [download the consultation here](#) and fill in the [online Government survey here](#).



[This March, a hard-hitting campaign to emphasise the health harms of smoking](#) and encourage the 5.3 million smokers in England to make a quit attempt. The campaign will highlight that two in three smokers die of a smoking related disease alongside the harms of generational smoking. The messaging will highlight that quitting smoking is the best thing you can do for your health at any age and will prevent future generations taking up smoking. No Smoking Day is the 13th March.

Dorset Innovation Hub Community of Practice Event: [Implementing sustainable change – recognising context & individuals](#). The Dorset Innovation Hub (DIH) will be running the above online learning event on Weds 20th March (1pm to 2pm).

New [NHS Start for Life campaign](#) will work to show that baby's use their body language, facial expressions, noises, and cries which can help parents find the best way to meet their needs. Support and free resources, including tips and learning materials, will be available from the 4th March. Elements of breastfeeding and introducing solid foods will also be woven in to the 'If they could tell you' campaign.

More News

Click the underlined words to link to more information.

Dorset is one of several counties in England that should be getting a mobile NHS dental unit as part of the [dental care recovery plan](#), announced by the Government earlier this month. The mobile units will be staffed with salaried dentists, nurses and technicians to see and treat patients who find it difficult or unaffordable to travel long distances to the nearest NHS permanent dental practices.

[Dorset Council is recruiting volunteer Community Advisors](#) to work with the Quality Assurance Board, which reviews adult social care in Dorset. They are looking for local people to share their experiences and ideas to help guide service improvement. The new volunteer advisory group will meet once every two months from the end of March; training, guidance and travel costs will be provided. For more information, email Iona Burston, Engagement Officer, Adults Social Care: iona.burston@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

[Things to know about DBS checks](#) - Volunteer Centre Dorset are holding a training session on Tuesday 19th March. VCD welcome Mel Berry, Regional Outreach Adviser (South West England) from the Disclosure and Barring Service. Mel will be presenting about the DBS service and will be hosting a Q&A session to answer any questions not covered by her presentation.



[Book a Free Demo with Hallmaster, they are sponsoring this year's Village Halls Week](#). They will connect with you via a Zoom call and answer any of your questions in real time. As the theme this year is 'go green' where it will look at how buildings can be more energy efficient, Hallmaster can also provide an overview of our heating integration module along with our demonstration, which allows village halls to save money and the environment by only heating their hall when it is in use. Demonstrations take approximately 30 minutes with additional time for questions. To find out more about our remote demonstrations, please email hallmastercs@gmail.com where they will be able to assist you further.

[Loneliness Campaign Promo Assets](#)- Following the success of last year's national campaign, which encouraged people to support others feeling lonely, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport today launched the next phase of their six-week loneliness campaign activity, as part of the Better Health - Every Mind Matters campaign. [Research](#) shows that 16 to 24 year olds are the loneliest age group but also the least likely to take action to help themselves. In fact, figures show that [nearly half of students](#) admit they've hidden their feelings of loneliness for fear of being judged. [The promotional assets can be opened through google drive](#).

NCVO's insight report **[The road ahead: Opportunities and challenges for the voluntary sector](#)** has just been published. You can Read the [full report](#) to explore the challenges and opportunities, or [key insights](#) for a summary.

Training & Events

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



A special in person networking event for ACRE's Village Halls Week 2024



Village Hall Week In Person Event

Time: 2-4pm

Date: Wednesday 20th March

Where: Ibberton and Belchalwell Village Hall, DT11 0EL

Cost: Free

Calling all committee members, volunteers and trustees of Dorset's Village Halls. At this in-person event, you will have a chance to network with your fellow Village Halls plus finding out more about:

- Dorset Village Halls Association
- DCA's project helping Village Halls to achieve the ACRE Hallmark
- Funding news for Village Halls
- A toolkit for Village Halls aimed at helping you to reduce your environmental impact and help your community to do so.
- And much more

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. Julie Johns from DCA will be delivering a free Energy Outreach Advice Presentation in person following the above event from 4.30-5.30pm. This session will cover:

- How to spot the signs of when someone may be struggling with fuel poverty,
- Improving the energy and appliance efficiency in the home,
- Understanding the health impacts of suffering fuel poverty,
- Debt Advice and support with Bills/Grants,
- Signposting to other sources of support.

Register your interest and find further information by contacting Julie via email here - Julie.johns@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

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.



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.



Energy Saving Session

Time: 2pm-3pm

Date: Wednesday 26th March

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

This FREE course is for any volunteers or front line workers. Learn how to help more people stay warm and save money on their energy bills.

Dorset Community Action is working in collaboration with **Citizens Advice** and **National Energy Action** to deliver this information service, with the aim of identifying and supporting those who may be experiencing difficulties with any energy related problem this winter.

The topics we will cover in this presentation are:

- How to spot the signs of when someone may be struggling with fuel poverty
- Improving the energy and appliance efficiency in the home
- Understanding the health impacts of suffering fuel poverty
- Debt Advice and support with Bills/Grants
- Signposting to other sources of support

This seminar will also serve as refresher course for those who attended the Fuel Poverty awareness course previously.

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!



Wimborne Community Centre

COMMUNITY LOUNGE & KITCHEN

Tuesdays - Thursdays
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/

FREE Warm & Well Workshops

Find out more about
Shopping seasonally
Grow your own food indoors
Using surplus food websites & apps
Energy-efficient cooking
Cutting down on food waste



**FREE GROWING KITS
FOR EVERY
WORKSHOP ATTENDEE**
BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW
AS SPACES ARE LIMITED!

Dates:

Monday 4th March
Monday 11th March
Monday 18th March
Monday 25th March

Time: 10am - 2pm

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

 lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 07421 994591

Transforming Gardens,
Transforming Lives

GREEN CARE

Garden Maintenance
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SERVICES INCLUDE:

Grass Cutting
Fence Lines Strimmed
Shrub and Bramble Clearance
Hedge Trimming
Green Waste Collection
and much more...



Are you ready to join us on a remarkable journey of compassion and transformation?

Any profits we make, help us train young people with Special Educational Needs, changing lives one garden at a time!

TO FIND OUT MORE AND RECEIVE A QUOTE:

 01305 250 921

 Greencare@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk/greencare/

Jobs & Adverts

Click the underlined TITLE 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.](#)

Handy Resources

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Policies get out of date? We are here to help:

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.

DCA can help in a number of ways:

- We can help with **consultancy, training and mentoring working** on a 1:1 basis with your organisation to help you to update policies, understand risk and develop new procedures. Contact [Caro Hart via email here](#) to discuss your needs.
- We have **Template Policies** for the main topics. Each one has a suggested wording, notes and relevant links. The template identifies where your organisation will need a specific procedure and shows how to sign off the policy when completed. They can be used to create a new policy or to update an existing one.

Currently available are:

- Risk Assessment,
- GDPR, Health and Safety,
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults and
- Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR MARCH - you can get all of the templates HALF PRICE by buying them in a bundle. Click to see [Policy Templates](#) for details.

CURRENTLY BOOKING: Safeguarding training for groups of 10 or more staff and/or volunteers in -person or via Zoom. The training covers what abuse is and who may be vulnerable, how to spot if someone is being abused and what to do about it. We include practice at reporting concerns and what to do in an emergency. We can base the training around your own policies and procedures if wanted. Contact [Caro Hart](#) for more details and prices.

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!

Handy Resources

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Spring into March's Offers:

As well as the previous pages handy templates for your organisation at HALF PRICE within the whole of March when you buy them in a bundle.

Click here to see [Policy Templates](#) for details.

You may find our short, pre-recorded courses and interviews useful too:

[Managing risk](#)

[Understanding the mandatory policies](#)

[Policies & procedures for working with vulnerable people](#)

[Keeping your policies updated](#)

[What is safeguarding](#)

[Operational risk](#)

[Infection control](#)

Please note that there is a short sign-up or sign-in process to access the linked materials on our [Training Academy](#).



[Light Touch Help from our Advisors](#)

We want to help you to be as appealing to funders and donors as possible. Whether you are going for that big bid or launching a public campaign, our Fit 4 Funding options can help you to ensure that you have everything in place.

Whatever your result, we have a tailored support offer for you!

We offer several different types of organisational review, depending on what you need and want. From one topic to Full Fitness – [you can pick exactly what you need and want.](#)

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

Handy Resources

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Going for funding? Just got an award?

Often organisations are encouraged to use part of a funding award to engage external consultants. Typically, this is for external evaluation of the project or for help to develop skills or knowledge within the organisation to help you deliver the contract. DCA can provide consultancy services of all kinds at very competitive rates. We can supply notes for inclusion in a funding bid or report.

Talk to Caro Hart today on 07827 996905 or email

caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

For example: The Prudence Trust for looks at the Impact of Young Peoples' Mental Health. A grant is made to support the costs of consultancy, an external evaluator on specific programmes, upskilling staff responsible for monitoring and evaluation. UK registered charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) with an annual income of over £250,000 can apply. Grants are between £10,000 and £200,000 for up to 2 years. Deadline for Stage 1 EOP: 4pm on Friday 8th March 2024. Stage 2 for full applications: Friday 3rd May 2024.

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



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: Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund – Small Grants Programme

Grants are intended to support smaller capital projects in village halls such as boiler replacements, insulation, toilet upgrades and new kitchens. Projects should be able to demonstrate that they will achieve one or more of:

- Improved health and/or wellbeing and/or reduction in rural loneliness.
- Positive impact on the local environment, contributes towards net zero.
- Support for the local rural economy.
- Promotion of community cohesion.

There is a two-step application process for the fund.

Awards can be made to cover 20% of eligible project costs, up to a maximum amount of £5,000. The balance of funding must for the works proposed must be in place, or at least confirmed within 6 weeks of making an application to small grants fund.

Funder: The Rural Village Small Grants Fund

Who can apply: Registered charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), multi-purpose Church Halls, charitable trusts and charitable companies, scout and guide huts where they are available for general community use.

How much? Capital Grants between £2,000 & £5,000.

Focusing on: Boiler Replacements, Insulation, Toilet Upgrades, new Kitchens.

Notes: An 80% matched funding is required.

Important dates: Open until December 2024.

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?

March is normally the time of year when animals start waking up from hibernation. 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

Dorset's Community News - Brought to you by Dorset Community Action
Issue #5 - 1st March
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