



Dorset's Community News

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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Wow, weren't we lucky with the weather over the Easter Break? Now more rain...

Hope you all had a chance to recharge and connect with the outdoors! Our friends at Dorset Mind say "Outdoor activities are a great way to connect with friends and family while staying active."

April is also Stress Awareness month, a reminder for all of us to prioritize our wellbeing as we tackle spring chores and busy schedules. It's important to recognise the signs of stress and take steps to manage it effectively."

Take good care out there!

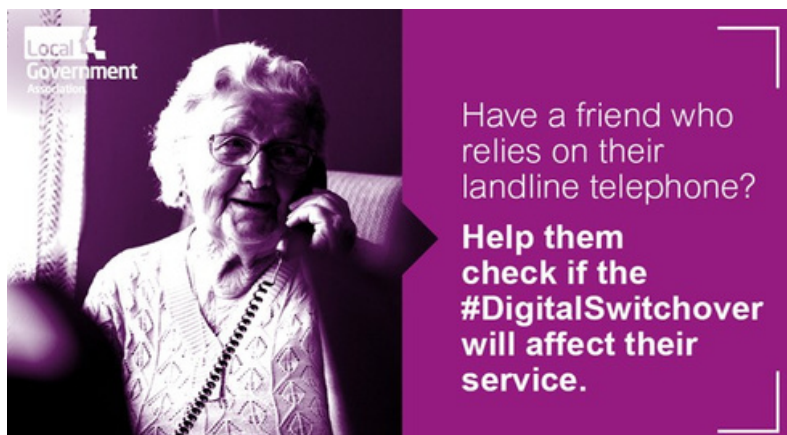
Get in Touch:

 01305 250921

 info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 @dorsetcommunityaction

News around Dorset



Click the underlined words to link to more information.

[mentalhealthnd.org](https://www.mentalhealthnd.org) as a website is still going despite recent closures, information on the website may well be useful for staff and other organisations. The Peer Support Groups which ran in Shaftesbury and Gillingham are now run weekly by Dorset Mental Health Forum which was a great outcome after our hard work during the last 6 years.

Start for Life 'If They Could Tell You...' campaign, promoting the importance and benefits of strong parent-infant relationships. Partners can now access a range of downloadable resources from the [Campaign Resource Centre](#), including:

- [Partner Activation Pack](#)
- [Social Media Toolkit](#)
- [Posters](#)
- [Digital screens](#)
- [Web banners](#)

The campaign, run by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE), works 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, all available on the [Start for Life website](#).

Click [here to read the Christchurch Conversation Report!](#)

The value of listening: Our annual report 2022-23 | Healthwatch

The health and care system faces serious challenges. In every part of the system, access is an issue – one that disproportionately affects those who already face health inequalities. People have shared with us that they feel admin and communication can be slow, inefficient, and sometimes lacking empathy. And while we hear stories of excellent care, people's experiences vary considerably. In our 2022-23 annual report, we share the value those voices have already brought to health and social care services.

Voters encouraged to get their ID ready ahead of this year's local elections.

Residents are reminded that they will need be registered to vote and show an approved form of photo ID when they go to the polling stations on 2 May to elect Dorset Council councillors as well as Town and Parish Councils. The Police and Crime Commissioner elections also takes place on the same day.

Dorset Chamber have an array of great events and workshops to help build your network and develop new skills and insights. From opportunities to become Trustees for [Dorset Arts Charities](#), to [Cyber Intelligence Threat workshops](#), [Networking with Somerset businesses](#) and [Customer Intelligence workshops](#), there are events for all.

News cont.

Click the underlined words to link to more information.

How did you
get involved?
We'd love
to hear!



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. Concerns about dental care are among the most common problems reported to Healthwatch Dorset and other local Healthwatch, so the network has been campaigning for a dental recovery plan for many years. The new plan proposes a variety of initiatives, backed by £200m of Government funding, to offer up to 2.5m appointments to people across England. [Read more](#)

Free Health Access in Boscombe: supporting an exciting new Health and Support Pop-up community wellness event in Boscombe next month, which is being organised by AECC University College, a specialist health sciences university based in Bournemouth. The event runs Monday to Friday between 18 and 28 March, 10am to 4pm, at AECC Boscombe Arts Depot. Access a range of services including musculoskeletal triage, foot care advice, exercise classes and a range of emotional health and wellbeing support.

Age Friendly Communities are a World Health Organisation Initiative that aim for places to enable people to age well and live a good later life. Somewhere that people can stay living in their homes, participate in the activities they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible. As part of BCP Council's Age Friendly work for [Ageism Action Day](#), they are announcing a new Age Friendly Training. This will be free and open to all! It will cover core 30-minute modules on topics such as what is an Age Friendly Community?, Age Friendly Communication, Dementia Awareness and Ageism Awareness. This training will alternate between in person and online. To register your interest, please sign up [here](#).

Free mental health webinars from the Charlie Waller Trust

The Charlie Waller Trust have released a number of free webinars aimed at parents, carers, education staff and young people.

Webinars include:

- anxiety - spotting signs and supportive strategies
- self-harm - spotting signs and providing support
- eating disorders - spotting signs and providing supporting

More info and book here [Free mental health webinars from the Charlie Waller Trust](#)

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

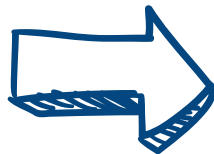
Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

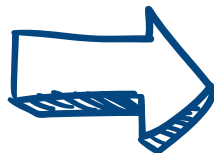
Starting at 08:30 with networking from 08:15, this free monthly meeting is aimed at Trustees, steering group members, directors and anyone involved in running a community group, charity or social business. This meeting will look at the Charity Commission's new Quiz for Trustees, give an update on the Village Halls Project and the latest sector news, plus your news and views.

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

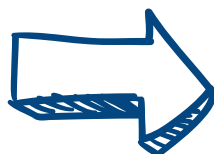
Watch this space for future announcements for:



Volunteer Fayre



Village Halls Event



Annual Funding Festival

*Date to be confirmed.

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

Community Notice Board

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.

contact@lemonbooking.com www.lemonbooking.com



Have a friend who relies on their landline telephone?

Help them check if the #DigitalSwitchover will affect their service.

Artisan Makers Market

Saturday
27th April
10am - 3pm

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



Charity No: 1060910



STOP SMOKING AND GOOD THINGS HAPPEN



You'll feel healthier
and soon be taking
the stairs instead

Make 2024 the year you quit

Calling all Village Halls

Thriving Communities: Village Halls & Community Centres

DCA are involved in a research project to find out what makes a Dorset community great to grow older in and how the people in our towns and villages are making a positive difference. We are starting by talking to people who live, work and volunteer in Dorset.

Dorset's Council's population is growing older; in fact, we have the fastest ageing population in the UK because of better than average life expectancy. Public Service organisations recognise the value of our ageing population, but also acknowledge the need for high quality care and support services. An important aspect to achieving healthy and happy older years is the community in which people live. DCA is helping by using our contacts to get down to the grass-roots of how older people are being helped locally.

You can get involved in any of 3 easy ways:

- 1) Fill in a questionnaire;** the questions are very broad; we want to know how you get involved in your community and with older people. Follow [this](#) link to access this.
- 2) Come to our webinar on Thursday 4th April at 14:30 .** We will be talking to Village Halls and community centres who work with older people in their community. The Zoom link is [here](#), please join us. If you are doing work with older people and would like to tell us about that at this event, please email Caro Hart. We will be using these stories as case-studies in the final report.
- 3) Join in with a focus group on Monday 8th April at 10:30** (via Zoom) which will discuss in more detail the questions we are posing and the responses we have received. The Zoom link to join this meeting is [here](#).

Please email Caro at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk if you have any comments or questions. We can also offer a phone-call to complete the questionnaire for anyone who would prefer this.

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

Dorset Community Action
**SPOTLIGHT
VILLAGE HALLS**
Ibberton, Belchalwell
& Woolland



Take a dive into Dorset's village halls and get inspired.

 @IbbertonVillageHall

 www.ibbertonvillagehall.co.uk

Did you see our 'SPOTLIGHT ON's on social's?

Ibberton, Belchawell & Woolland Village Hall :

A Small Hall With A Whole Lot Of History, The Village Hall With Three Lives In 130 Years!

Church services, celebrations including coronation, jubilee and harvest festival suppers, Artsreach Shows (<https://artsreach.co.uk/>), lent lunches, exercise classes, parish council meetings, polling station, birthdays - weddings - funeral - christening - anniversary parties, film shows, tea afternoons, dances, BBQs, quiz nights, local drama and dance practises, recording studio, children's activities the list goes on for the many uses of our beloved village hall, the hub of our three small rural communities.

Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland Village Hall resides in a spring line rural North Dorset Village on the edge of the Blackmore Vale. Once a Church, in fact a temporary corrugated-iron church, constructed when the roofs of Churches in both Ibberton and Belchalwell had fallen in! Fortunately, Bean Close's glebe land was available and a local Carpenter, Mr George Loder, erected the Church in 1892, with a bellcote over the door. Following much fund raising led by Rev. L. S. Plowman, who was heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, the two Churches were restored following much fundraising, and reopened in July 1909. The Village Hall building evolved into a Church Room for meetings, clubs, entertainment etc. and all of the religious contents were taken up the hill to St. Eustace, Ibberton and the bell and bellcote removed. Brenda and Richard Courage, the local farmers children now both over 75, remember fondly the Sacred performances held by local Methodists in the Hall. A raised area, once the altar, was now fitted with curtains and doubled as a stage. Everybody took a turn with homegrown entertainment including singing, handbells and acting with improvised costumes. Christmas parties were a much-loved regular event and continue to this day. A committee of ladies, raised money all year towards the party, paying for food, prizes and a local entertainer and magician. Party games were led by a lady with a high pitched and commanding voice. In particular the Star game is well remembered when all the lights were switched off to hunt for stars!

Cont.

Then in 1948 the building, along with the surrounding glebe land, was put up for sale and bought by the Pitt-Rivers Estate (owner of much land and property in the area at the time). The following year the building became the "Village Hall" with Trustees and a committee. It was let by the Pitt-Rivers Estate on a 21-year lease with a nominal rent of £1 per annum.

Twenty-nine years later the Hall was finally purchased by the Trustees for £250 plus legal costs. The building now with electricity, a kitchen extension and toilets, the male toilet accessed directly from the outside, was primitive by today's standards, but functional! In 1996 the temporary building was found to be leaning 104 years after its construction. Fortunately, with grants and local fund raising the whole structure was strengthened with steel girders. Three years later the 107-year-old windows and metal work were needing attention. The electric heating, the 1950's kitchen with a butler sink and camping gas stove all needed updating and a disabled toilet and ramp access were added. Following two applications to the National Lottery the hall was granted £47,000 towards a £60,000 refurbishment project. The grand opening occurred on 2nd June 2001 with all the villagers from Ibberton, Belchalwell and Woolland invited to a celebratory party.

In the following years improvements have included installation of fibre broadband, the ability to show movies with a ceiling mounted laser projector, an electric film screen and HDMI connections. The Hall is able to promote Artsreach musical / drama events by using the hall's sound system, portable stage and LED stage lighting. The amplification system has blue tooth compatibility so important for exercise classes, parties, etc. The Hall has a defibrillator and new furniture store all of which are keeping the hall relevant in the 21st century and looking forward to the next 130 years!

We thank Connecting Dorset for a grant in 2008 to connect the hall to the Internet, provide a laptop and additional IT equipment.

A Grassroots award that enabled the hall to install a sound system, purchase a large commercial film screen and projector.

Then in 2023 the hall was awarded a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to purchase and install an electric film screen and laser projector, LED stage lights and blue tooth control for the existing amplifier.

Written by Annette Newman
Ibberton, Belchalwell & Woolland Village Hall

[See others in this series on our facebook socials!](#)



Jobs & Adverts

Click the underlined TITLE or image to read more.

Dorset Museum - Cleaning Assistant

National living wage

12 hours a week (Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri, 8am – 11am)

Free onsite parking available

To support the Facilities Manager in carrying 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.

- Deadline for applications: 9am, Monday 8 April 2024
- Interview date: Tuesday 16 April 2024



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.



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.

LemonBooking



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.](#)

Seed2Plate Updates from the Garden

The weather has been rather wet lately, but we haven't let that stop us from getting outside and getting the plots ready for spring.

The Community Courtyard Kitchen and Wellbeing Garden at Wimborne is taking shape, the new beds have been built, the seating has arrived and the trellis has gone in, all we are waiting for now is the weather to give us the chance to get some plants in! There will be different mints, lavender, edible flowers, herbs and scented flowers to use in teas and drinks, plenty of salad and vegetables for the community café and a riot of blooms for the pollinators.

Somerford Family Hub and Somerford Primary School are looking forward to arranging a planting day in April for their newly built plot and getting the school children involved in their community space.

We've started working with students at EmployMyAbility as part of the DCA Young Person Community Project to turn a courtyard and 4 of the beds in the kitchen garden into productive vegetable and fruit gardens to produce salads, herb dressings, chutney, jams and sauces for them to sell.

Our Warm and Well Workshops have also received great feedback with attendees learning how to start growing their own food, cooking efficiently and sharing healthy and nutritious recipes, alongside the occasional fruit crumble and rice pudding! Each attendee got a slow cooker and a bag of ingredients so they could go home and try out what they had learnt.

No matter the size of the plot we make sure we plant to help pollinators, attract birds and work with nature. We will be adding a wildflower border to the plot in Somerford and enjoying nature walks on the Heath at Ferndown to discover nature on our doorstep and how we can garden with this in mind.

April will see the Littlemoor Food Garden being planted up for the growing season, come and see us at the Littlemoor Springtime Community Day on Wednesday 3rd April 11am-2pm at Top Club where will be signing up volunteers and sharing more info on our projects.

We will shortly be launching a 12 session Seed2Plate course, coming soon to our courtyard kitchen garden in Wimborne, to register your interest for this free opportunity, 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

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/

Resources & Extras

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.



Hallmark Awards:

We are really pleased to say that three Dorset Village Halls have achieved ACRE Hallmark awards. All achieved achieved Hallmarks 1 & 2. Our congratulations go out to:

- Ibberton, Belchallwell & Woolland Village Hall
- Chideok Village Hall
- Shroton Village Hall

The ACRE Hallmark is a quality standard which shows that a Village Hall is well-managed and that their facilities are of a good standard. DCA is the local ACRE member with responsibility for running the assessments for Dorset.



Consultancy help: Now booking for May

DCA offers a reasonably-priced consultancy service. Our experienced consultants can help with almost any aspect of running an organisation, whether you are a small community group a registered charity or a large social enterprise.

Our recent successes with local organisations have been:

- Completion of training for a community centre's safeguarding leads
- Mentoring for a chief officer
- Completion of a full organisational review
- Facilitation of a Trustees' planning day
- Supporting a whole-team operations planning exercise
- Supporting successful funding applications

If you are interested in what help we could offer you, please contact Caro Hart for a chat at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk or phone 07827 996905.

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!

Resources & Extras

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Village Halls Project - Support for Village Halls

In 2024, DCA are offering a range of help for Village Halls funded by the Talbot Village Trust including:

- **Information, advice and guidance** – you can ask quick questions of Caro Hart, our Community Training Consultant. You would then be sent links and information and ACRE factsheets. We will also be sending out a bi-monthly Village Halls' newsletter with helpful articles.
- **Business development support** – one hour's discussion on any issue, especially where the impact of the pandemic is still affecting the Village Hall.
- **ACRE Hallmark quality standard** – external validation of your processes and management. During 2024 the assessment is funded and we are inviting Village Halls to sign up. There are three Hallmark awards:
 - Hallmark 1 focuses on the management and administration of the charity.
 - 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.

For information on any of these, please email caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

We are asking Village Halls' contacts to make sure that emails and the newsletter are circulated to all the committee members. If you haven't received anything so far, or your contact has recently changed, do please get in touch so we can make sure our contact information for you is correct.



NEW Employment Policies and Procedures:



We are launching this week two interviews with Employment Lawyer Noella Gooden:

- Policies & procedures for organisations with staff
- Investigating for charities

You can get two policy templates for the price of one in April – use Code **Pol03** at check out for Disciplinary policy and Grievance policy.

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: The Baring Foundation

Who can apply: An established arts organisation of any kind (including museums) operating in the UK.

How much? Grants of £20K-£50K.

Focusing on: Improving men's mental health through work which finds ways to achieve equal representation (or a significant increase) of men in mixed gender creative activities, men only creative activities, work which finds ways to achieve equal representation (or a significant increase) of men in mixed gender creative activities.

Notes: Must have an annual income of over £75,000 for the last two years

Important dates: Deadline is 12pm noon, 23rd April 2024

Funder: VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme - Groundwork

Who can apply: A VCSE based in England and delivering frontline services.

How much? Between £2000 & £150,000.

Focusing on: Capital grants; can be used to install capital efficiency measures as identified in your Independent Energy Assessment (IEA), to reduce your buildings energy costs and support the delivery of your frontline services.

Notes: The Scheme is offering independent energy assessments to help identify energy-saving opportunities in your building.

Important dates: Next round opens this month.

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 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?

April is a great month for meteor showers. One of which is the Lyrids meteor shower, which appears from April 16th to April 26th each year.

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 #6 - 2nd April

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