



Dorset's Community News

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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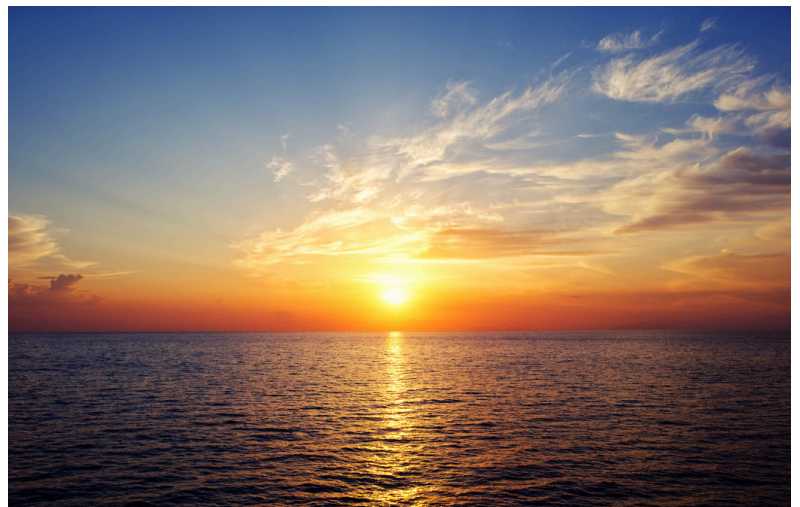
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Welcome to 2025, a time for newness, making fresh starts or building new routines maybe... or just changing the calendar on the wall to shiny new pictures. We hope you had a chance to enjoy the festivities and now are looking forward to getting back to it. We have our AGM coming up this month so if you have the chance we would love to see you there.

If you're a Community Space then we have the start of our exciting new membership offer, read pg 3 for more information! Enjoy reading and please do share across your organisation or community if it might also be of benefit to others.

Get in Touch:

 01305 250921

 info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 @dorsetcommunityaction

News around Dorset

Click the underlined words to link to more information.

Happy New Year to all of our Community Spaces

From January all of the Village Halls and community spaces on our database are now members of our community spaces membership group ABSOLUTELY FREE. You can access support, templates and training worth at least £1,000 all free until March 2026. Read more on [page 3](#).

Warm spaces wanted: Do you, or have you in the past, run a warm spaces scheme or similar? If so, we would love to hear from you. We are doing a piece of research to find out what works, and what doesn't work. This will then be discussed at the Thriving Community Spaces conference in March, so that we can do a report to Dorset Council on the best ways to support warm spaces work. If you would be willing to have a brief phone-call to talk about your experiences, please email julie.johns@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

New Year quit smoking campaign resources are now available to download from the Campaign Resource Centre. These can be used until the end of January to capitalise on the New Year moment which we know is an effective time to encourage and support quit smoking attempts. The campaign resources can be [found here](#).

A new and updated set of children's oral health **[Top Tips for Teeth' resources](#)** are now available to support dental professionals, Health care professionals and those working in Early Years settings to encourage parents and carers to help teach children good oral health. The resources aim to raise awareness and provide instruction for good oral hygiene in children aged 0-3, 3+ and pregnant women, and address the impact of poor dental health. Parents and carers can also find new content with tips and advice on the **[Start for Life website](#)**.

[Better Health Start for Life 'Little Moments Together' 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. Building on its 2024 successes, the campaign will use existing creative and resources are now available to partners on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#). Paid activity will launch from mid-January across social channels, out of home advertising, online video and paid search.



The image is a promotional poster for the NHS 'Better Health Smoke free' campaign. It features a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark jacket over a black t-shirt, looking directly at the camera. The background is a solid light blue. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'Better Health Smoke free' with 'Better Health' in a white box and 'Smoke free' in black text. In the top right corner, the NHS logo is displayed. The main text of the poster reads 'Make 2025 the year you quit smoking.' in large, bold, black letters, with 'quit smoking.' in white text on a dark blue rectangular background.

Sign up as a Standard Member to gain access to free ACRE factsheets, our fuller tailored funding information bulletins plus more benefits for your organisation.

Happy New Year to all of our Community Spaces

TRAINING - NETWORKING - HALLMARK - EXCLUSIVES - FACT SHEETS

As of this week all of the Village Halls and community spaces on our database are now members of our community spaces membership group ABSOLUTELY FREE.

You will have access to support, templates, and training valued at over £1,000, available at no cost until March 2026.

NEW FREE RESOURCE You can also access all of the resources from the ACRE Hallmark scheme, whether or not you decide to go for the full assessment.

This includes:

- templates and model policies
- information sheets
- videos and talks on the issues
- leaflets, links and other resources

All in one handy place and organised by Hallmark topic.

If you are already a DCA member, these benefits will be added to your regular membership, (which already includes the monthly funding newsletter, access to the DCA members' area, discounts on training courses/advertising etc).

You will be automatically included in this offer and we will confirm by email, but please can you ensure that:

1. If you have not heard from us directly by 10th January 2025 - or if you are not sure that we have up-to-date contact details for your Village Hall or community space, - please email Caro at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk and she will make sure you're added to the list.
2. You have circulated the information around all of your committee members as we may not have everyone's email.

If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact Caro Hart at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Later in this edition, you can see some of the free training and networking events that will be on offer, including the forthcoming Thriving Community Spaces event in March. The full programme for the year will be confirmed in February and will be based on what you have said you need.

Have a look at our Jobs and Adverts listings here!
Got a role to advertised? Get in touch with us to help spread the word.

Training & Events

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



Energy Saving Session

Date: Wednesday 8th January

Time: 10am - 11am

Where: Online via Zoom

Read more about this event in full detail on page 9.



Managing well for Community Spaces

Date: Thursday 26th January

Time: 10am

Where: Online via Zoom

we will be looking at what it takes to manage a community space and how you can tell when you're doing it well. It's worth reviewing where things are up to to every so often and when better than in the New Year.



Community Lounge Event

Date: Tuesday 28th January

Time: 10.30am

Where: Wimborne Community Centre, BH21 1EA

Read more about this event in full detail on page 6.



Community Spaces Networking

Date: Wednesday 29th January 2025

Time: 5.30pm

Where: Online via Zoom

We will be considering how community spaces can get involved in tackling food insecurity and have a speaker Emily Brown who manages Dorset Council's food security projects. We have a speaker PLUS ACRE knows best; going through a fact sheet, Ask the Experts, updates and other useful information helping you to stay up-to-date.

Read more on page 11 for future dates and more information for Community Spaces.

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

Training & Events

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



Masterclass: How to research & choose funders

Date: Thursday 30th January 2025

Time: 10am to 12pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: £75

This session will help you to take your funding applications to the next level. It will look at how to find out about possible funding, find out about the funder and how to make sure it's appropriate for you. After the presentation, there will be time for networking and further discussion on specific challenges you are facing.

PLEASE NOTE: This session is limited to 8 people on a first come first served basis.



EARLY BIRD BOOKING NOW OPEN: Thriving Community Spaces event

·Date: 19th March 2025

·Time: 10:00 to 15:00 including a networking lunch

·Where: The D'Urberville Centre in Wool

·Programme will include; bringing money in and meet the funders; managing well and measuring impact - all the support that you need to thrive,



ACRE Hallmark applications now open in January 2025 to all community centres, faith centres and Village Halls in Dorset

LIMITED PLACES

"It turned out we weren't as disorganised as we thought we were! It helped focus the committee and the roles each member took. We were guided without judgement and that was really helpful and very supportive."
2024 Hallmark participant

Spaces on the scheme are now open to a total of 5 community spaces. There will be the opportunity to learn from and support each other as you go through the process.

The ACRE Hallmark is a standard that helps community spaces to look at their systems and how they do things from major policies to meetings to giving keys to hirers. Achieving a Hallmark can reduce your costs and gives everyone confidence that you are a well run community space.

DCA is the certified ACRE assessor for Dorset.

Hallmark assessments will be FREE until 31st March 2025 and delivered at a low cost as part of the community space membership package after that. Contact Caro Hart at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk now for more information and an application form if you are interested.



Sign up as a Member to gain access to free ACRE factsheets, our fuller tailored funding information bulletins plus more benefits for your organisation.

Co-op Member Forum

Wimborne Community Centre
January 28th 2025 10.30am



Being a Co-op member is more than discounts—it's about having a say in decisions that affect your community and the world.



Home-made Soup
Co-op Members Raffle

Please note:
Slimming World will still be running.



For more information contact Rachel 07929 176516

Jobs & Adverts

Click the underlined TITLE to read more.



DCA's Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday 23rd January

Time: 2pm - 3pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Hear about the shape of DCA and speaker for our local communities.

Chair of Trustees

DCA is recruiting a new Chair of Trustees

- Want to be part of a dynamic and well-respected charity championing the voluntary sector in Dorset?
- Can you help Dorset Community Action become more enterprising and market-driven to better achieve our charitable aims whilst maintaining our values?
- Could you use your professional skills to benefit Dorset's communities?
- Could you help us meet the challenge of delivering impactful services to our communities?

In return, we can offer you the opportunity to work with a passionate and committed staff team, who are supporting disadvantaged residents and community organisations across Dorset to realise their aspirations.

Trustee with experience in Finance

Dorset Community Action's mission is to bring people together to develop community-based solutions that deliver better services for the benefit of Dorset's communities.

We find innovative ways to solve complex community/social problems by:

- developing neighbourhood solutions through practical community projects
- offering training and developing skills in the community;
- developing the capability of Dorset's voluntary sector
- representing community organisations

Whilst a commitment to attend monthly Finance and Operations Committee meetings, and Board meetings four times per year, is important, so too is a willingness to get to know, and provide guidance to the operational team.

In return, we can offer you the opportunity to work with a passionate and committed staff and Trustee team, who are supporting community organisations across Dorset to realise their aspirations.



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.](#)

Jobs & Adverts

Click the underlined TITLE to read more.

Project Coordinator for the Community Lounge & Fridge.

This is a part time position and an exciting opportunity to join our team in developing a thriving community fridge, lounge and café project in the heart of Wimborne tackling food poverty.

To recruit and support volunteers, help run the café /fridge and support volunteers with cooking as well as support the promotion of the project.

Click [here to view the Job description & Person Specification](#)
Contact us for more information - info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk or click [here to view the Centre's facebook page.](#)

Hours: Part time - 5 hours per week.
Salary: £11.44 per hour for a 12 months fixed term.

Deadline for applications will close on Monday 20th January 2025.

Click [here to view the Centre's facebook page.](#)



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Reaching all across Dorset's VCSE and statutory sector community!
[Click here to read more on our advertising options.](#)

Energy Outreach Advice



Dorset
Community
Action



ADVICE SESSIONS for FRONTLINE WORKERS & VOLUNTEERS in 2025

Are you a volunteer or frontline worker supporting under-represented communities who may struggle to pay their energy bills this winter?

We are pleased to announce Dorset Community Action has been successful in securing funding to deliver Energy Insecurity Awareness Training for frontline workers, staff and volunteers for the remainder of 2024 and 2025, in partnership with the Big Energy Saving Network and Citizens Advice Bureau.

There have been many changes since March 2024 with a new government, changes in policy, changes in energy price caps and in financial support available for individuals. For those who have not accessed the Energy Outreach Advice Training previously, this is an opportunity to learn the latest on how you can support your under-represented communities to provide valuable information on how to save on energy bills this winter, be more energy efficient, signpost to energy schemes, upgrade heating or replacing appliances and make referrals to access grants and fuel vouchers.

For those who attended previously this is an opportunity to Refresh and Upskill yourselves or to book for new members of your team.

The training will be for one hour and we will cover topics such as:

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

You will receive useful handouts of further information from the session.

These sessions are free to attend and can be delivered In-Person for your team at your location or on-line. We also offer a monthly session for individuals to access.

We are specifically looking to support those who work with: Older People, Faith Groups, Black, Asian and other Minoritised Communities, Women, LGBTQ+, Single Parent Families, Young People, Carers, Care Leavers, People with Learning Disabilities, People experiencing Physical Disabilities, Mental Health Service Users, Refugees, Asylum Seekers and other vulnerable migrants with Indefinite Leave to Remain and Veterans.

To arrange a 1-hour training session for your team, please contact Julie Johns directly via email: julie.johns@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk Or [BOOK HERE](#) for the upcoming online session – next date: Weds 8th January 10am.

Community Spaces Extra

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

New Year New You!

Here's a New Year's resolution that doesn't require going to the gym!

Are you fit for funding?

Have a look at our Quick Quiz [here](#) to see if there's any areas that need brushing up.

If you would like to develop an area, we can support you to do so.

You can choose from:

- Trustees and governance
- Business planning
- Financial systems
- Income generation
- Policies, procedures, risk and quality assurance
- Supporting people
- From need to impact (monitoring & evaluation)
- Marketing, communications & partnerships
- A topic of your choice

We can help with resources, templates and hands-on support in any of these areas. You can choose how much help you want from a short consultation to an in-depth piece of work. Contact Caro Hart at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for more information.



Your Community Space - Social Group

All community spaces are invited to join our Facebook group; [Your Community Space](#).

The content is building up into a useful resource of news, funding links and other articles as well as links to resources you can download. (You can get a £25 off voucher for the Masterclass mentioned below!)

You can also share questions and help others out. Come and join us!

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

Community Spaces Extra

Further information on future events following on from the above events page.

Community Spaces Networking:

Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 17:30 via Zoom:

We will be considering how community spaces can get involved in tackling food insecurity and have a speaker Emily Brown who manages Dorset Council's food security projects. We have a speaker PLUS ACRE knows best; going through a factsheet, Ask the Experts, updates and other useful information helping you to stay up-to-date.

Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 17:30 via Zoom:

This session will be about heating, managing bills, energy efficiency and how to support people struggling with fuel-poverty. Julie Johns from our Energy Outreach Project will be one of the speakers (further speakers to be advised).

You can reserve your place for either of these [here](#).

Community Spaces Training Programme:

Managing well for community spaces - 16th January 2025 at 10am

Find out what it takes to manage a community space and how you can tell when you're doing it well. It's worth reviewing where things are up to to every so often and when better than in the New Year. This comprehensive discussion will include; policies & procedures, raising money & budgeting, environment, energy & bills (more on that at the 26th February networking meeting which you can sign up for [here](#)), culminating in your To Do list for 2025. Book [here](#) for this session.

Safeguarding leads training - 26th February 2025 at 10.30am

Building on our recent course [Safeguarding for community spaces](#), this specialist, but practical, training will concentrate on the responsibilities of the safeguarding lead at a community space or Village Hall. Based on the ACRE guidance a good practice, it will go through when you need to respond, the systems to have in place and how to build a relationship with local agencies in case you need to refer to them. You can book on this [here](#). It is suitable for anyone who is the lead person for their organisation, even if they have received safeguarding training in another context.

Bite-sized training - 26th March 2025 at 2pm:

- 14:00 **Planning for the longer term** - setting future goals So often, committees say they wish they had the time to think about the future in a more structured way. Here's how.
- 14:45 **Having a reserves policy** How to work out what you need to have in place. This session will de-mystify the whole process and give you plenty of links and information.
- 15:30 **Changing from a trust to a CIO** Based on the ACRE model constitution, this session will go through how to use the template, what the process is for applying and sources of help and support.

After each presentation, there will be time for discussion and questions. This can be booked [here](#) on the Academy and you will see other useful resources linked to these topics.

The training programme will continue into 2025 and the new programme will be circulated in February.

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

Good News Story

We'd love to hear your good news stories, get in touch for more information on how to get involved!

Forever Ink Tattoo Studio ran a fundraiser for both DCA and Dorchester Poverty Action at the back end of 2024, they raised an amazing £160.51 for us and we are extremely grateful. Here's a little about what they got up to on the day...

Held outside the Forever Ink tattoo studio, in Nappers Court, Dorchester, Chrissy put on a varied event with a community choir from Poole and also some adorable "Alpacas in Nappers", she also enticed people with cake, coffees and a 10% off of tattoos for the day. Chrissy felt it important to put on events to help the local community and DCA were chosen as the beneficiary this time round. We offered leaflets for our Energy Advice and Green Care garden services offer as well as general support to be able to help those in their local communities.



"So I wanted to raise some money for a local charity as that's important to community... and it's great to give something back we have several events where we do this and it's great fun"

Chrissy Hedge, Organiser and Forever Ink Owner

You can contact Chrissy here - <https://www.facebook.com/Foreverinkdorchester/>

Reaching all across Dorset's VCSE and statutory sector community!
Click here to read more on our advertising options.

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 Foyle Foundation

Who can apply: UK charities with an annual turnover of under £150,000. The Foundation will prioritise charities working at a grassroots level within local communities.

How much? Grants between £2,000 and £10,000.

Focusing on: Community projects as well as children and young people, people who are marginalised, vulnerable and disadvantaged, older people.

Notes: This is the last ever round of the small grants programme.

Important dates: Deadline: Friday 31st January 2025

Funder: One Stop Community Partnership Programme

Who can apply: For community groups or organisations operating within 2 miles of a One Stop store.

How much? Can apply for up to £1,000.

Focusing on: On projects tackling food poverty, supporting the vulnerable, supporting the elderly, supporting low-income families, running youth sports teams, reducing/recycling waste, improving the environment.

Important dates: Deadline: 24th January 2025

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?

New Year's resolutions can be traced back to ancient Babylon. During a 12-day festival honouring their gods, Babylonians pledged to repay debts and return borrowed items...

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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