



Dorset's Community News

The Latest Community News, Events & Offers from DCA

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We've reached quarter 2, with financial and reporting demands at this time of year we have some courses and information that will hopefully be of use to you.

A big thank you to those who attended our in person event last month! Read more below on page 3.

Enjoy reading and please do share across your organisation or community if it might also be of benefit to others.

Stay safe out there!

Get in Touch:



01305 250921



info@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk



[@dorsetcommunityaction](https://www.facebook.com/dorsetcommunityaction)

News around Dorset

Click the underlined words to
link to more information.

Improving Tomorrows Health Toolkit - Part 2.

This toolkit is how NHS data can help speed up improvements and save lives. There is now a second version of the toolkit available.



Some dates for your diaries with handy links and hashtags:

April is Stress Awareness Month.

The theme for this year is

#LeadWithLove

And June holds Volunteers' Week.

Held between Monday 2nd –

Sunday 8th June



#VolunteersWeek



VCSE Event in partnership with Dorset VCSEA – Transforming Health & Care Together -

Tuesday 22nd April (14:00-17:00) Click here to see the flier for the event or read more on page 5 for this event and others.

Community spaces contacts: All village halls and community spaces in Dorset and BCP should by now be receiving information from us as part of their free membership. If you haven't, or if you wish to be added to the list, please email caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk who will be able to amend our database.

What makes a warm space successful?

DCA recently completed a research project looking at what makes a Warm space successful. We spoke to many different types of schemes from a Men's Shed (which wasn't all that warm) to places that did community meals, to ones which offered games and crafts. We then looked at the specific things which made schemes successful. One of the most popular was how kindly the people involved were to service users, having friendly staff & volunteers and how welcoming it was. Adding value to the warm spaces offer by offering other activities was also very successful. From the experiences of the groups we spoke to we were able to make recommendations about what can make a projects successful. These are:

- Train & support volunteers and helpers
- Include warm spaces as part of a package of services
- Become financially sustainable by diversifying income streams
- Find the unique thing about your offer

While these recommendations cannot guarantee success, they are based on the experiences of the groups we spoke to and the wonderful services that they have provided.

The full report will be launched shortly. Please email caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for a copy.

Fundraising for Seed2Plate

Watch this space to see more about our joint fundraising campaign with EmployMyAbility which will be launching soon, enabling Seed2Plate to continue working with SEND young people in all things, planting, growing, harvesting and eating health. For more info email paul.seaman@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

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.

Thriving Community Spaces Event

DCA's recent event at the D'Urberville Centre in Wool was attended by more than 60 people. Participants had lots of good things to say:

"Very helpful"

"Some very good tips"

"Good thinking and ideas to look at things through a different lens"

"Overall a very good day"

"Thank you for bringing everyone together"

Fiona Thomas from Dorset Council who funded the programme, opened the day by looking at the Challenges for communities in Dorset.



Following this, our speakers looked at ways community spaces can tackle some of these problems. Presentations on effective fundraising, food inequality & how community spaces can tackle it and, a provocative look at doing things differently stimulated lots of discussion. We also heard from Dorset Volunteer Centre on involving the people you need and from the Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly. We reported back on a piece of research on what makes a successful warm spaces project. Finally, we look at monitoring and evaluation and the proposition; you can't measure smiles.

This event was part of the new community spaces membership that DCA are offering free until March 2026. This includes support, training and more. You can see what's on offer on our [Community Spaces Area](#).

A huge thank you to [The Friendly Food Club](#) for their delicious soup and [The Wimborne Community Fridge](#) for the bread, both of which were made for a wonderful lunch for everyone. Thank you also to our sponsor [Norris & Fisher](#) for their support and to all who attended!

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.



Managing Well for Community Spaces

Date: Thursday 24th April

Time: 10am - 11.30am

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

Spring into spring with a look at some of your problem areas with our Community Training Adviser Caro Hart.

This is an opportunity to review where you are up to and make a to do list for further action. The interactive session will cover:

- Policies & procedures
- Raising money & budgeting
- Legal, compliance and good governance
- Hire policies and procedures - especially for regular hirers
- Accessibility and inclusion
- Environment, energy & bills
- Your To Do list

You can find details of all the courses available for community spaces on the DCA training Academy in the Village Halls & community spaces area.



Jewellery & Antiques Roadshow

Date: Monday 21st April (Easter Monday)

Time: 10am - 4pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Come along for the chance to convert your unwanted valuables, jewellery and antiques into same-day cash. There is no need to book, simply turn up and bring your items with you!



Artisan Market in the heart of Wimborne

Date: Saturday 26th April

Time: 10am- 3pm

Where: Wimborne Community Centre, BH21 1EA

Local produce, gifts and crafts, friendly cafe, well behaved dogs welcome.

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.



VCSE Event in partnership with Dorset VCSA -

Transforming Health & Care Together

Date: Tuesday 22nd April

Time: 2pm-4pm

Where: The Hamworthy Club, Magna Road, Canford Magna, BH21 3AP

Join this exciting event where we will be discussing the important role of the voluntary, community, and social enterprises (VCSE) partners in transforming health and care. This in-person gathering will feature engaging discussions, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities. **Download the event flyer here.**

Join the discussions as we explore innovative approaches and collaborative efforts that are shaping the future of health and care.

ACRE Hallmark applications open as of today, 1st April. LIMITED PLACES



As of the first of next month we will again be taking applications
for Hallmarks 1, 2 and 3.

Hallmark is the ACRE quality standard that means that you can have confidence that your community space is well managed and everything is up-to-date. Many insurers will reduce the premiums if you have achieved Hallmark.

You can work through the checklists with support from our consultant and free access to all the ACRE materials (usually £10 per information sheet).

Have a look at the Hallmark resource on the DCA Academy; if you decide to go for the assessment and award of the Hallmark, there is a cost involved, but this is discounted for community space members.

Email Caro Hart at caro.hart@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk
if you're interested in a chat.

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

Jobs & Adverts

Click the underlined TITLE to read more.

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.



01865 522328 contact@lemonbooking.com www.lemonbooking.com




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.

 **NORRIS & FISHER**
INSURANCE BROKERS LTD

Specialist Insurance Brokers for Charities and Village Halls

As specialist charity insurance brokers, we offer expert advice, unbeatable value, and tailored policies for **Charities, Community Groups & Not-for-Profits**.

Our Services

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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.](#)

Community Notice Board



Come and join us for a
FREE event
as part of the
Discover Wimborne Festival
Tuesday 29th April
11.30am



Enjoy a lively performance by local
JUBILATE CHOIR
in our community lounge
FREE refreshments for all!

Wimborne Community Centre
King Street Car Park
Wimborne Minster
BH21 1EA
01202 847600



We are hosting
***Lifelight**
on April 1st

CLICK IMAGE
FOR LEAFLET

Lifelight are offering **FREE** health readings
and promoting their new On - phone, Self - Health monitoring
system

Drop in any time between 7am-1pm
Wimborne Community Centre. BH21 1EA



Our mission -

**Personal Healthcare
Monitoring for all**
at your fingertips

Lifelight is the World's first and only clinical grade contactless
vital signs provider for blood pressure, pulse and respiration



CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11+

Join our **FREE** 12 session family growing project at
The Centre Ferndown
learn to grow, care for and harvest fresh produce to
give away to the local community
No experience needed!

Where: The Centre Ferndown, Barns Road, BH22 8XH
When: Mondays 10.00am - 12.30pm

#HELPUFGROW

For more information or to book your place email Lydia at
lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk
or text/call: 07421 994591



FREE Self-care & Wellbeing Course



**Dorset
Community
Action**

We are working with The Centre
Ferndown to run a 12 session self-care &
wellbeing course.

Join us and discover:

- Guided meditation
- Mindfulness activities
- Healthy eating
- 5 Pathways to wellbeing
- Nature connection



Dates:

Starts Monday 2nd
June 2025

Time: 1.30pm-3.30pm

Where: The Centre
Ferndown, Barns Road,
Ferndown BH22 8XH

**BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW
AS SPACES ARE LIMITED
CONTACT LYDIA AT**

 lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

 07421 994591



**Dorset
Community
Foundation**

Artisan Makers Markets 2025

10am - 3pm

Saturday 29th March

Saturday 26th April

Saturday 31st May

Saturday 28th June

Saturday 26th July

Saturday 27th September

Saturday 25th October

Saturday 29th November



clarc@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk 01202 847600



**WIMBORNE
COMMUNITY
CENTRE
BH21 1EA**

Charity No: 1060910

Updates from the Garden

Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

The return of spring has seen a flurry of growth in all the gardens. Buds are appearing on fruit trees, the winter salad is flourishing and new shoots are appearing. The evergreen Jasmine, Honeysuckle and Clematis in the courtyard garden at Wimborne Community Centre has provided colour and scent in what is usually a barren time of year with bursts of yellow flowers from the Pak Choi we are allowing to go to seed for harvesting.

Our group of families and young people have been working hard at the Ferndown plot and have sown plenty of seeds to keep the garden growing over spring and summer. They have planted a pink blueberry bush and have harvested winter purslane, pak choi, chard and other winter greens to donate to The Centre Ferndown. We are looking for more families and young people (age 11+) to come and help us at the community garden, so please get in touch if you know of someone who might be interested by emailing lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk



January saw us back working with the students at EmployMyAbility, who turned their courtyard area into a productive kitchen garden last year and started working on the beds for their cut flower garden this winter. The daffodil bulbs they planted in autumn are now flowering and the tulips aren't far behind. Unfortunately, due to a loss of vital funding for the Seed2Plate project we are having to find ways to keep this project alive, so we are teaming up with EmployMyAbility to launch a joint fundraising campaign. For more information email paul.seaman@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Social action and community enterprise work with young people THE TEAM CHALLENGE

As part of our young people team challenge, we have been working with groups of young people aged 16-17 or 16-24 with SEND, care leavers and those experiencing mental health difficulties to come up with a solution enterprise project to an issue that is affecting them or their community.

We have just finished working with a group that came up with the idea to organise and launch a gamers social club where young people who spend their time gaming can meet up with each other and enjoy a game of pool, chat about their ideas and socialise in a safe and friendly environment. After spending time planning, researching and developing the idea, the group have launched a social media campaign to determine interest in the club and plan to host a trial session soon.

Participants have told us that their confidence has improved, they have enjoyed learning how to run a successful event and how to work well in a team. If you feel this might be something that could benefit your community, or you would like more information please contact lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Contact Lydia on lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk for more information about this or any other of our projects.

Updates from the Garden cont.

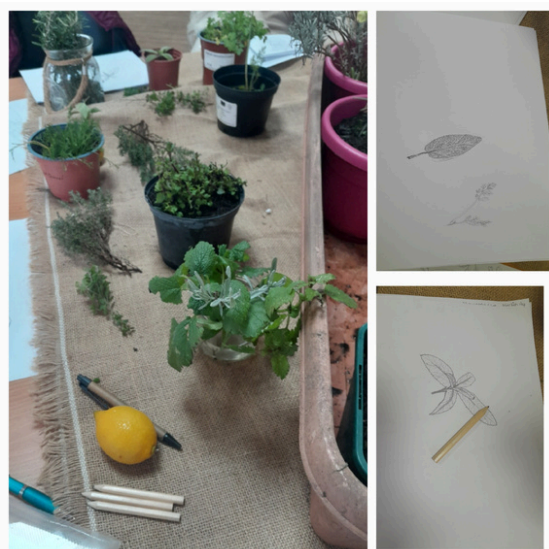
Click the underlined part as the link to read more.

Green Care – Garden Maintenance Enterprise

Our supported employment program has given us the opportunity to offer paid work to young people with SEND to give them confidence and experience in the gardening sector. We have worked with them to show them how to maintain and care for gardens, including mowing, hedge trimming, strimming, when to trim and cut back hedges and bushes, health and safety, how to use and maintain different gardening tools and customer service. Any profits we make help us train young people with Special Educational Needs, changing lives one garden at a time!

One employee told us 'it feels really good to be able to work on a garden, see the difference I have made and to earn my own money!' They have been working hard in all weathers and have been involved in garden maintenance as well as having a go at designing and planning beds and gardens.

Do you have a garden that needs clearing or maintenance? Get in touch and help us help more young people, contact lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk



Selfcare and Wellbeing Workshops

Funding from Dorset Community Foundation and NHS Dorset has enabled us to run a FREE 12 session self-care & wellbeing course at The Centre Ferndown. So far, we have enjoyed Qigong, mindful photography, nature sketching and lots of other things including a session on the heath engaging our senses, trying some forest bathing and even tree hugging! We are looking forward to planning our healthy lunch and a tea ceremony in upcoming sessions. Participants have said how relaxing they are finding the sessions and how friendly and accepting the group is.

“Lovely meditation, I found the scents relaxing” said one.

If you are interested in discovering ways to incorporate wellbeing into your day-to-day life sign up to our next course which starts Monday 2nd June at The Centre Ferndown, spaces are limited so book now by emailing

lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk to reserve your place.

Coming up...

Fundraising for Seed2Plate

Watch this space to see more about our joint fundraising campaign with EmployMyAbility which will be launching soon, enabling Seed2Plate to continue working with SEND young people in all things, planting, growing, harvesting and eating health. For more info email paul.seaman@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

Volunteering with Seed2Plate

We are on the lookout for volunteers for our plot at Wimborne to help us grow the produce for the community lounge and fridge. If you would like get involved or want to find out more about any of our projects or opportunities, please get in touch by messaging us via [Facebook](#) or email lydia.harvey@dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk

If you want to see what we have been up to, follow us on Facebook and Instagram [@Seed2PlateDorset](#) [#HelpUsGrow](#)

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: SWEF Enterprise Fund

Who can apply: Young people aged 19-30 years.

How much? A start-up grant of up to £500 or a Business Grant of up to £2000.

Focusing on: Young people in Dorset who are launching a new business or running a new business that is in its first 2 years of trading. Support for applicants with business costs that will help the business make a transformative change or a take a significant step forward.

Important dates: No deadline mentioned.



Funder: Talbot Village Trust

Who can apply: Charities, faith-based groups, schools, universities and non-profits from BCP, East Dorset and Purbeck.

How much? Not specified but groups must be able to match or raise funds of 25% of the total project costs.

Focusing on: Will fund capital, revenue and core costs for projects that support community, education, faith, youth, wellbeing, environment and tackling disadvantage.

Important dates: Applications open twice a year. Email: info@talbotvillagetrust.org for further info.

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?

Spring is a feast for the sense of smell. In fact, studies show that people's ability to detect smells improves in spring!

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

Dorset's Community News - Brought to you by Dorset Community Action

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