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- [Crowd—Clean Rivers Bathing Beach Campaign Lyme](#)
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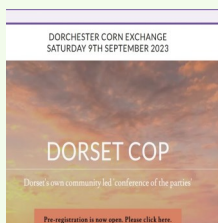


Photo (taken from Dorset COP website)



Photo by Ian Rees at AONB



Photo by [Karl Callwood](#)

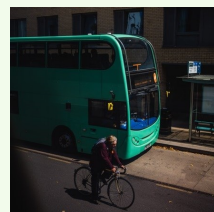
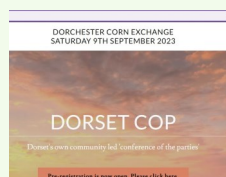


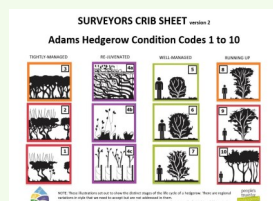
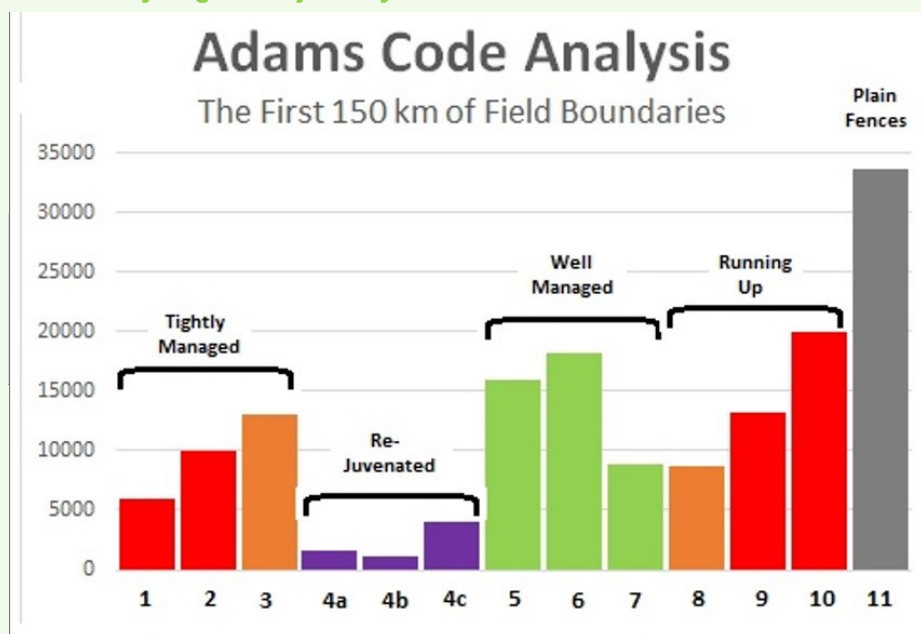
Photo by [Dixit Dhinkar](#)

Dorset COP (Conference of the Parties)



A conference on Climate, modelled on the United Nation COPs, will take place on 9th September at the Corn Exchange, Dorchester. It arises from a collaboration of DCAN, Zero Carbon Dorset and Sustainable Dorset and will address both global issues and a county perspective. Details are on the website (<http://www.dorsetcop.info>) [here](#).

The Great Big Dorset Hedge - 150km of hedgerows surveyed and we have barely begun the journey



One hundred and fifty kilometres (150km) of field boundaries have been surveyed over the past nine months by Great Big Dorset Hedge (GBDH) volunteers. Of these, the majority were undertaken on the major trails where we do not need to pause to seek permission from landowners and in so doing, we have developed a picture of hedge condition that varies from parish to parish.

Selectively, we have also ventured into discussions with landowners, and begun to extend these surveys across farms. That selection has sometimes been driven by the results found on the trails.

Great survey results on the Jubilee Way and the Wessex Ridgeway in Thorncombe brought us to the Sadorow Estate where over 40 further volunteer hours have now been focused to provide the foundations for our first GBDH whole-farm hedge management plan. Over the next weeks that plan will be established in collaboration with the estate staff and the tenants who are already advocates of regenerative farming practices.

We are also focusing similar efforts on the following estates, where cooperation is indicated, and as they all have extensive public exposure: the Mapperton Estate, the Kingston Maurward College Estate and the Kingcombe Reserve Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT). We want to see enhanced hedges taking root right where the local communities can share in the experience.

GBDH - The Great Big Dorset Hedge - 150km of hedgerows surveyed and we have barely begun the journey

Due to the existence of farm clusters led by organisations like DWT and Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) we have been invited to engage with such groups and consequently we have embarked on GBDH surveys at Tamarisk Farm and Gorwell Farm – both near Abbotsbury.

Surveys have commenced in the Purbeck part of East Dorset and interest has been shown from the local National Trust in our volunteers undertaking surveys on their tenanted farms.

Elsewhere, a whole parish approach is being adopted in Martinstown where the ‘Green Martinstown’ group have developed a programme which includes GBDH surveys, in conjunction with local farmers (one at a time), alongside their other initiatives which include pond digging across the parish.

If you are part of a local eco-focused group anywhere in Dorset, or even if you are just a concerned individual, take the initiative and volunteer as a GBDH surveyor and we will find a way to integrate you. As a GBDH volunteer you would develop new skills and contribute at whatever degree of involvement suits your level of interest and your capacity.

You can sign up to the Great Big Dorset Hedge here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf2ouKZZXFhosHziCprKnaD7tiDVv4KuZ6HO9RgalQwsEMw/viewform>



It’s fair to say that we have more momentum in West Dorset currently, but with enough willing volunteers that momentum would be replicable across the county. Why not go for it?

John Calder, GBDH Survey Lead
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CROWD: Clean Rivers of West Dorset - A CROWD gathers



The emergence of community group working to clean up the rivers and coastal waters of West Dorset is itself a perfect example of the way that dozens of small ideas and actions can flow together like tributary streams into a much bigger river.

Continues on page 3

In West Dorset, pressure to do something to improve the state of our rivers has been building from many different directions. Five years ago, Ian Rees at Dorset AONB started work on the River Asker Community Project – getting funding to help slow flood waters by introducing natural flood management measures and to let in more light and oxygen by cutting back some overhanging trees. In the background, important work was started with local farmers to address local land management issues and groups started to tackle invasive rivers species like Himalayan Balsam. That work relied heavily on the working parties and local knowledge of Nick Gray at Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Since then, inspired by the River Asker group, similar groups have formed on the River Char and in places on the River Brit. Tours of the Sewage Treatment Plants in Uplyme and Charmouth organised by Vicki Elcoate were the catalyst for river groups in Charmouth and Lyme Regis working to tackle the problems of untreated sewage being spilled into the rivers and sea, well before the current national outcry about this problem. These two groups quickly started dealing directly with South West Water, Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to gather more information, identify where the problems where and to start to take action.

Inspired by all this, other local river groups have started up on the River Winniford at Chideock and the River Simene outside Bridport. The River Lim Action Group has a campaign to redesignate Church Beach in Lyme Regis as a Bathing Beach – which will lead to all kinds of knock-on improvements.

On the Upper Char, work has been inspired and coordinated by the local parish council, while other groups have had to work in the face of opposition or apathy from their parish council.

In Charmouth, problems have been compounded by spills of biobeads and plastic nurdles which have heavily polluted the beach and river mouth – elsewhere issues are more directly linked to septic tanks, run-off from fields and local land management practices.

Helping to harness and coordinate many of these efforts, DorsetCAN ran its Bright Blue Dorset Rivers Event this January ([see our Project page here](#) – with contact details for all the local groups) and the Rivers Char, Winniford, Simene, Brit, Asker and Mangerton have come together to form the CROWD group (Clean Rivers of West Dorset) working with the local MP, Chris Loder, as well as the West Dorset Rivers & Coastal Streams Catchment Coordinator (Ian Rees again) to get concerted action to clean up our rivers and coastal waters (see more below).

Bathing Beach Campaign in Lyme Regis



As part of the campaign to address poor water quality issues, the River Lim Action group and the Lyme Regis Blue Tits have launched the process to get Church Cliff Beach redesignated as a bathing beach. It was de-designated in 2016 because of concerns about water quality.

Bathing beaches attract more resources from water companies and the Environment Agency for monitoring, cleaning up pollution and providing public information. Lyme Regis already has one bathing beach which is classified as “good” water quality.

“Church Cliff Beach was well used last summer. It’s a beautiful, small beach. It’s an oasis of calm away from the crowds in the summer and one of the few beaches where Lyme Regis Blue Tits can swim with their dogs”, said Beverley Glock of the local Blue Tits group. “The problem is that it’s polluted by the raw sewage dumped into the River Lim that feeds straight into the sea here. If the beach is redesignated it puts pressure on South West Water and the Environment Agency to clean up the River so we don’t have to swim in raw sewage on this pretty beach”.

Please help:

Fill out our questionnaire and support beach redesignation:

<https://forms.gle/G4qX5drJDzKNabxP9>

(Please do share this with friends and families and distribute to your organisations)

Transport Summer Update

*****Did you know?*****



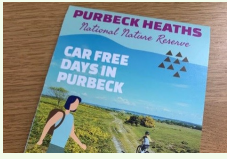
Bus fares on most local, and some not so local, services are only £2 for a single fare until September? Why not enjoy a beautiful scenic trip on one of the Morebus Breezers, details [here](#)?

Alternatively, Swanage Railway are running three trains a day to / from Wareham on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays until 9th September, details [here](#).

A return adult fare is quite pricey at £25 return, but a season ticket valid for a year on Swanage Railway is available for £99.



Car Free Days in Dorset



In Purbeck, a Car Free Days leaflet has been produced the the Purbeck Heath National Nature Reserve, giving lots of ideas for Car-Free travel options. It is available online [here](#) and in print from visitor hubs around Purbeck.

Dorset's interpretation of International Car Free Day in September is not about being negative about car use, rather about celebrating local public transport and active travel opportunities. Plans are still being developed, but if you would like to get involved, [contact Helen Sumbler](#).

Groundbreaking Fossil Fuel Case goes to Supreme Court



On June 21st Dorset CAN's Action Team member Vicki Elcoate and her friend from Exeter, Sarah Finch, will be at the Supreme Court in a groundbreaking fossil fuel case. Vicki and Sarah moved to the South West from Surrey, where they'd been involved in campaigning against new oil sites. Legal challenges are one way of taking climate action – there are several in the courts at the moment.

The Horse Hill site, near Gatwick Airport, was given permission in 2019 by Surrey County Council for 20 years of oil production. Sarah decided to bring a legal challenge to the decision and has been supported by Vicki and other members of the Weald Action Group.

Sarah believes the decision was unlawful because the Environmental Impact Assessment failed to include assessment of the “downstream” emissions from the oil wells. It is estimated that the development could lead to more than 10 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent being released into the atmosphere when the oil is ultimately burned.

The case was heard in the Court of Appeal in November 2021. The Court of Appeal judges were divided over the issue and their split ruling means that at present, planning authorities can grant permissions for commercial fossil fuel production without the climate impact being part of an Environmental Impact Assessment. Intervening in the case alongside Sarah are the Government's relatively new watchdog, the Office for Environmental Protection.

This is the first time the OEP has sought to use its powers to intervene in judicial review proceedings. Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth are also intervening alongside Sarah. On the other side are two fossil fuel companies and Surrey County Council which will be defending its decision. Vicki says: “Each new fossil fuel development locks in decades of future greenhouse gas emissions – and no regulatory process is directly measuring and mitigating them. The present situation means different planning authorities can make different decisions about which environmental impacts of a project to consider. If the full impacts aren't assessed at the planning application stage, it is difficult to see how we can meet vital climate targets.”

Great Big Green Week Events

DCAN sent a mail out for information on GBGW: here's some flyers and info on the week across Dorset—which runs Saturday, June 10th until Sunday, June 18th.

Blandford Museum
Environmental
Group
along with
Blandford
Environmental
Trust

...are holding the listed events to highlight issues around climate change and how we can become more sustainable in our lives.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE



THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

The week of June 10 to June 17

Events Schedule

Saturday, June 10, 10am to 1pm W.I. Giant Jumble Sale	Blandford Corn Exchange
Sunday, June 11, 12am to 5pm The Green Fair at the Arches	Blandford Railway Arches
Wednesday, June 14, 7pm to 9pm Healthy Homes	Blandford Town Museum
Thursday, June 15, 7 to 9pm The Health of Our Seas	Blandford Town Museum
Friday, June 16, 7pm to 10pm Economic Growth & Climate Change	Blandford Parish Centre

For information on these events: blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk

Great Big Green Week Events (cont'd)



Blandford Town Museum
Blandford Museum Environmental Group
15th June 2023 7pm



An admirer of Greenpeace's bravery and passion, and supporter since 1971. Doug Skinner studied Marine Biology and worked in Human Genetics research at Queen Mary University before working in the pharma and medical industries and as Managing Director with 4 companies. A beekeeper for many years. Works with local Greenpeace groups and activist. Co-founder of Planet Purbeck.

What's happening in our sea from the top to the bottom of the food chain?

Greenpeace defending our seas

Current Major Concerns

Solutions: What can we do to help?

As part of THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK, running from 10 - 17 June, this is an invitation to an open talk on the state of our seas and how we can restore and protect them.



GREENPEACE

The Green Fair at the Arches

Sunday, 11 June 2023,

12noon to 5pm
Blandford Railway Arches,

Langton Meadows in Blandford Forum

FREE ENTRY

The site is next to the Langton Road Car Park behind M&S, so plenty of parking will be available!



Exhibitors include nature and wildlife charities, local charities such as Blandford Environmental Trust, producers of vegetarian and vegan food, cosmetics and gifts, refilling businesses and other eco friendly products, as well as activities for children and information from a number of organisations tackling climate change.



Bridport's Great Big Green Week

June 10-18

www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk

Click link for above at: <http://www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk>

Green Martinstown Update



Green Martinstown Community Interest Company was formed during the covid lockdowns and quickly grew in membership. Although our activities were held back by the pandemic we had many ideas and some of the outdoor projects were started straight away.

We now have about 45 members involved in the following projects. If you are thinking of setting up a village green group we would be delighted to help by sharing our experience and offering advice where needed.
greenmartinstown@gmail.com

Community Compost heaps. These are in the church graveyard and have been very successful – partly by reducing the garden waste collected by the council but also by producing some really good compost. It also raises small funds for our group.

Tree planting We take every opportunity to plant trees! The first planting was a line of 73 trees for the Queen's Green Canopy along a bridleway up towards the ridge way. Money was raised for the project by people buying a tree for £10 and dedicating it to a relative. This spring we planted a child safe hedge around the playground comprising

Green Martinstown Update (cont'd)



The Phone box is now a book and seed swap. Any spare seeds people have are left there for others to use and replace with some of their own spares. Many seeds are collected from plants at the end of the season - saving money, waste and road miles. Very satisfying too!

Activities for the children have included a morning all about hedgehogs and a bird box making session. A few adults created some kits for a variety of birds all ready to assemble and the kids were supervised as they put the kits together.

River testing. We have begun to test the River Winterbourne that runs from Winterbourne Abbas through Martinstown and joins the River Frome at West Stafford. Tests will be carried out at 10 sites along its course for nitrates, phosphates turbidity while at the same time monitoring the wildlife.

Solar Panel bulk buy. Scheme for people to sign up to a bulk buy scheme with an increasing discount for the greater number of people who go ahead with the scheme. We have a list of about 20 people interested.

Recycling – we have 4 silver bins outside the village shop for recycling, tetrapacs, aluminium foil, milk bottle tops and pill blister packs that the council do not collect.

Website check out our website at: <http://www.greenmartinstown.org> - where we have many 'savings' tips and more information about us.

DCAN Webinar on Retrofitting



Retrofit means improving an existing building in such a way as to greatly increase its energy efficiency and reduce its carbon-emissions. With so much of our housing stock built before the war, this is the place to start in reducing Britain's carbon footprint – not to mention lowering bills and making our homes comfortable and healthy.

With 110 people registering for the webinar, there is clearly no shortage of motivation which our three speakers addressed in different ways. Jennifer Morisetti, a qualified retrofit consultant and trustee of DCAN, talked of the importance of servicing our homes and dealing with drainage problems promptly. She spoke of the importance of considering the whole building, dealing with ventilation and moisture control. She used the experience of renovating her own farmhouse to illustrate the importance of breathable materials. Jenny finished her presentation with recommendations for sources of information, particularly CSE.org.

Jason Hawke, Magna Housing head of sustainability, has the job of overseeing the energy usage of over 8000 properties, and bringing them up to net zero standard. Jason explained that the law of unintended consequences often leads unqualified builders creating damp and mould in underventilated buildings. All retrofit in funded buildings now have to be designed by PAS2035 qualified coordinators, and installed by PAS 2030 fitters. He strongly urged anybody working on their own homes to insist on this standard, identifying builders on Trustmark or the Green Register. The standard involves an energy performance assessment, strategies for dealing with ventilation, insulation, moisture movement, airtightness and heating, and awareness of statutory requirements.

He then went on to point out the lack of such trained coordinators, and the steps Magna is taking to train enough retrofitters to meet government net zero commitments. He pointed to free places on level 2 courses, run by CSE which are currently available. It is clear that any zero Carbon strategy will have to include a major commitment by governments to initiate and fund courses to reverse the chronic skills shortage.

The third speaker, Andy Knott, shared his experience as a homeowner in retrofitting a mill house, involving a major input from a building physicist to calculate optimum thicknesses for interior wall insulation. They rebuilt the roof of the house increasing the light and movement of air. He emphasised the importance of a building team willing to learn about new materials and methods, with whom he worked very closely to learn on the job.

The webinar was recorded and can be watched [here](#). The passcode is: **p.hxf52+**

Energy Team Update

The details of the next DCAN Energy group webinar on onshore wind: *'Onshore Wind—What are the obstacles?'* is viewable at the following link [here](#): on June 21st at 7:30pm.

Call for Younger Climate Change Helper-Volunteers



Unfortunately, we have not made too much headway yet with our call-to-action for younger volunteers to take on help with Dorset CAN. We need help with events, social media, fundraising and marketing, particularly. Let us know if you can help! Email dorsetcan@gmail.com

DCAN at Events Across Dorset



We have so far this year had a presence at the following events: Thorncombe Environment Eco Fair (16th Feb) Lyme Regis Fossil Festival (29th April), The Bridport Charter Fair (20th May), The River Char Dragon Parade (27th May)

Upcoming stalls will be at: Green Fair at The Arches, Blandford (11th June and part of Big Green Week); Hedgerow Survey (Morecombelake, 14th June) and Hooke Farm Wilding Weekend (17th June) before the summer holidays begin.

Other events later in the year include: Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show (16th Aug). Melplash Agricultural Show (24th Aug) and the Dorchester Christmas Cracker (10th December). We are still in the process of confirming details for some others.

Save the Date! Dorset CAN Summer Social



The Dorset Climate Action Network Summer Social will take place on Friday, 7th July. Save the date and we will be back with more details once finalised,.

If you would like your stories included in the next Dorset CAN Newsletter due September 2023, please email us at dorsetcan@gmail.com