

Newsletter - March 2025 - No.20

Your monthly round up of news from Dorset CAN



Inspiring community-led action for a fairer, healthier, greener Dorset

Welcome to our new, brief, monthly Newsletter.

Keeping you up-to-date.

If you would like to be involved in any of these projects [get in touch](#).

The Great Big Dorset Hedge Update:

This month we have hedge surveys taking place all over Dorset.

No particular expertise is needed, as we work in teams of three or four and the others will know what you don't.

If you can give up a morning or afternoon of your time, [please sign up as a volunteer](#).

For further information about this project click [this link](#).



We have also been planting new hedges and filling gaps in existing hedges on farms.

These had been supported by capital grants from the government (SFI), we are relieved that the government has now unlocked a brief halt to accessing these grants so new projects can now go ahead. If you would like to come and plant hedges we have our last planting opportunities of the 2025 planting season in March, [please sign up as a volunteer](#)

The recruitment of volunteers has recently been focused on North Dorset. After a paid Facebook campaign we recruited 28 new volunteers, of which 16 are based in North Dorset.

We have now recruited a new part time administrator for GBDH, with Helen joining Joseph at the end of March.

Energy News:

Solar Roofs - Community Roll Out.



Do you want to reduce your energy bills and carbon emissions? You can do both by installing solar panels on your roof. With high fuel prices you could pay back the cost in 7-9 years and increase the value of your home.

Bulk Buying Solar Panels in Bridport

We have negotiated a good price from three local installers we trust, for 20-40 homes around Bridport to install PVs and/or batteries..

Members of DCAN have negotiated discount prices with trusted PV panel installers in Bridport.

A meeting on **Thurs 6th March 18:30 at Bridport WI Hall, North Street**, will see presentations by three installers. If you can't make this, please contact us [here](#). Similar schemes are planned in Lyme Regis and Dorchester.

[Find out more](#)

Retrofitting Reimagined

Organised by Wessex Community Assets Energy, includes four webinars and a live event on **Saturday 1st March 10am-12pm at Bridport WI Hall, North Street**. The webinars are being recorded and can be accessed from [this](#)

[link. More Info here.](#)

Retrofit Reimagined: Bridport

Healthier Homes, Stronger Communities

Join us in Bridport for a surgery-style event where experts, architects, and locals share insights on making homes warmer, cheaper to run, and healthier—while preserving heritage and supporting a thriving Dorset.

**March 1st
10am - 12pm
WI Hall, Bridport**



Dorset Greener Homes

Showcasing green technology and lifestyles in homes across Dorset. Many of these are open all the year round by appointment. How loud is a heat pump? Are solar panels worth it? Should I insulate my cavity walls?



Talk to a householder who has tested them in their homes. [Learn more here.](#)

Accredited Carbon Literacy training

DCAN are running courses over two mornings specifically aimed at councillors, council staff, Parish councils and Community Groups. Details and dates are [here](#).

“The Carbon Literacy Project offers everyone a day’s worth of Carbon Literacy® learning, covering climate change, carbon footprints, how you can do your bit and why it’s relevant to you and your community.”



Carbon Literacy Training

For Town & Parish Councils & Community Groups

Participants use the tools available to consider how they can be more effective in climate adaptation and mitigation, and receive Carbon Literate certification on completion of the course. Follow [this link](#) to reserve your place.

Advocacy Team

Dorset Deserves better is working with the CPRE Planning Group on Planning and Housing issues. There continues to be great concern that Dorset’s new house-building target (three times the previous target) is totally unachievable and would do great damage to the countryside without addressing the real housing crisis: lack of social housing and low-cost rental accommodation.

There is a [very good report](#) on these issues from the Community Planning Alliance which proposes practical solutions. We don’t expect a public draft of Dorset Council’s new Local Plan until later in the year.

Dates for your Diary

- We are planning a webinar on 3rd April on Waste, in conjunction with 4RFuture from Cerne Valley. Further details will be on the [DCAN events page](#)

- DCAN AGM will take place on 28th May at 19:00 online. We are delighted that the leader of Dorset Council, Councillor Nick Ireland, has agreed to attend and explain the council's policies and initiatives. We are looking for more people to step up as trustees - [email Vicki](#) if you want to know more.
- 1st November Dorset COP 25 will take place this year at Sturminster Newton.

Donate

Our work relies largely on volunteers, but much of the core organisation is carried out by our part-time paid administrators, Alexandra and Emma, and we struggle to raise money from grants to cover these core costs. We have 1150 individual members and 84 affiliated organisations – if each of these contributed even a small amount regularly we could plan more effectively for the future. To donate please [follow this link](#). Thanks!



Copyright © 2025 DorsetCAN, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).