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Dorset Climate Action Network - Newsletter April 2026



DCAN Newsletter - April 26

*Community-led action to cut carbon emissions,
adapt to our changing climate and restore nature across Dorset*

Bringing you the latest news and updates...

Editorial

The transition from the fossil fuel economy to a resilient community based sustainable one was always going to be painful; the price of fuel, food and the availability of medicines, plastics, fertilisers, and even CO₂ are disrupted by the conflict in the Middle East. Many families will experience a cold and hungry winter as the daily cost of living inches steadily upward.

Many people are looking for a more resilient way of life, becoming less dependent on the unstable oil and gas market. Better insulation of their homes, PV panels, and batteries are the first steps. Buying food from local suppliers or growing our own is becoming more popular and building strong communities has become essential.

In the meanwhile the misinformation campaigns are gearing up and we should be preparing our arguments against them.

- Will more drilling in the North sea increase our fuel security or lower prices?
Factcheck: **[Nine false or misleading myths about North Sea oil and gas](#)**
- **[Why clean energy will cut UK gas imports by more than North Sea drilling](#)**

- **Do Battery Energy Storage Systems present an unacceptable fire hazard?** (Houses of Commons briefing)
- ‘We can’t afford zero carbon policies’: Go to a screening of the National Emergency Briefing film (see below) or **watch the individual clips.**



Have your planet-saving donations doubled!

22 - 29 April
Save the date



Dorset CAN’s Earth Raise (Big Give) Fundraising Campaign

We’re very excited to let you know that Dorset Climate Action Network has been selected to participate in the **Big Give’s Earth Raise Campaign from 22nd-29th April 2026.**

That means that every donation made to our campaign via BigGive.org during the week of **22nd until 29th April will be doubled. That’s right - DOUBLED!** 😊

This fantastic fundraising opportunity will support the great projects and initiatives we run in Dorset, including:

- **The Great Big Dorset Hedge** - surveying and planting hedges in Dorset.
- **Dorset Greener Homes, Solar Roofs and Low Carbon Neighbourhoods** - supporting renewable energy across Dorset.
- **Dorset COP networking conferences** (in collaboration with Coastland College and Sustainable Dorset) - this year in Kingston Maurward, Dorchester.
- **Carbon Literacy training** - supporting essential skills towards net zero.
- **Evening webinars and networking events** - for sharing best practice.
- **Mapping** - Creating an online shared directory for climate and ecological groups
- **Advice, information and help for small community groups** - including support for funding applications.

There is so much more that we could do with more funds. This is your opportunity to support us when it really counts! So whatever you can give, no matter the size, every donation will make double the difference!

If you would like to pledge a donation amount before the campaign goes live, you can do so by completing our [Pledge Google Form](#). This way, we can send you a gentle nudge when it's time to donate!

All campaign donations must go through our Earth Raise [campaign page](#) which will go live at midday on the 22nd April!

Watch. Chat. Act.

People's Emergency Briefing

Screenings everywhere for everyone

The People's Emergency Briefing - Local Screenings

Set for release on 7th April and showing in many towns in Dorset, the new film from the National Emergency Briefing is a vital public information initiative designed to ensure the UK is fully informed about the climate and nature crisis.

This powerful film presents the nationwide impacts of environmental breakdown alongside credible, hopeful solutions, all within a clear and accessible narrative crafted for community screenings across the UK.

Its purpose is to unite people from local communities to hear the facts, engage in meaningful discussion, and collaborate on responses, together with their local MPs, fostering collective action for a sustainable future.

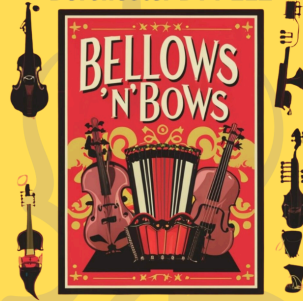
For an up to date **local screening list** and details of how to host a local screening - please click [here](#).

BARN DANCE

Saturday 25th April 2026

7pm - 10pm

St Mary's Community Hall, Alexandra Road,
Dorchester DT1 2LZ



with caller MICHAEL CATOVSKY

Light refreshments and soft drinks included in ticket price
BYO alcoholic drinks

**TICKETS £15 and Under 16's £8 IN ADVANCE
£20 and under 16'S £10 ON THE DOOR**

To book advance tickets email:

henrylovegrove@btinternet.com

A fundraising event for DORSET CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



Dorset Climate Action Network invites you, your family and friends to our fundraising Barn Dance!

on Saturday 25th April 2026 in Dorchester.

'If there's no dancing, it's not my revolution' - Emma Goldman

After covering event expenses, the proceeds from your ticket purchase will be donated to Dorset CAN. Thank you for your support!

For all enquiries or to book advance tickets, please email

henrylovegrove@btinternet.com



Dorset Local Nature Partnership

Nature Recovery: Local Nature Partnership Forum 25 March

Dorset LNP is one of 47 partnerships approved by the government to deliver nature recovery in the UK. The LNP annual forum launched the Local Nature Recovery

Delivery Partnership, comprising the:

1. Community Nature Forum
2. Dorset Land Managers' Group
3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy Monitoring and Reporting Group, and
4. Nature Recovery Dorset Communications group

What have Dorset Council done in the last two years to restore nature? Read more [here](#).



Energy Team meeting

The recent energy group meeting, with 60 people who registered, covered a number of updates.

National and local developments:

- Warm Homes grants (SW)
- Future Homes Standard (SW)
- Local Power Plan (GW)
- tRESP and LAEP (CW)

The local initiatives included:

- Community Energy Projects at Loders and North Dorchester (GW)
- Dorset Community energy (DCE) plans for small (<30m) wind turbines (TC)
- Wessex Retrofit Hub (TC)
- Battery storage systems in Dorset (SW)

- A bulk rollout of solar panels around Dorset (SW)

You can download the presentations [here](#)

Special thanks to Tim Crabtree and Carl Warom for their contributions and to Peter Bywater for his clarification of grants available.

Dorset Climate Citizens' Panel report and video now online

The result of months of discussions between Dorset Council and a diverse group of local residents on climate change and ecological sustainability has now been published online.

Known as the Dorset Climate Citizens Panel, the group helped develop priorities and recommendations for how Dorset can build resilience and adapt to climate impacts. Their findings have now been published. [Read more..](#)

Yellow-legged, or Asian, Hornets spotted in Dorset.

The nest was made by the yellow legged Asian hornet. This invasive species is a highly efficient predator and was first found in France in 2004. In England in 2025 there were 161 nests found with 544 individual sightings, more than the previous six years combined.

It is a voracious predator which poses a significant threat to honeybees and all native insects – it has no natural predators in the UK. An average nest can consume over 11kg of insects per year.

Sightings **should be reported**, complete with an image, if possible, via the Asian Hornet Watch app - available on app store for Android and iPhone. Locally, contact **your local Asian hornet team** at for advice and confirmation of a sighting.

[Read more..](#)



Paddle out protest against sewage dumping

Surfers against Sewage are protesting against sewage pollution with Paddle Outs across the UK at the start of the bathing season in May.

The Paddle Out in Lyme Regis is on Saturday May 16th or you can find other events near to you - for details see [here](#)

Dates for your Diary

- This year's Great Dorset Beach Clean will take place between 1st and 12th April 2026. Check [Litter Free Dorset's interactive website and map](#) as events are being added.
- There are People's Emergency Briefing screenings in Bridport, Sherbourne, Weymouth and Shaftesbury during April - see [here](#) for more details.
- 25 April 7pm St Marys Church Hall, Dorchester: DCAN Barn Dance with Bellows and Bows, caller Michael Catovsky
- 16 May Bridport Charter Fair
- 16 May Paddle Out! Lyme Regis
- 14 November - Dorset COP26 Climate conference Kingston Maurward.

To help us with a small donation

Donate Now

Please follow us on our socials



Dorset CAN
Climate Action Network

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