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Dorset Climate Action Network - Newsletter August 2026



DCAN Newsletter - August 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...

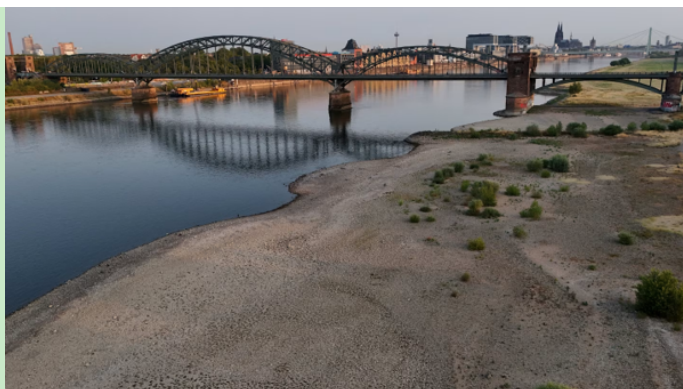
Editorial

Drought has been declared in Dorset.

Farmers are expecting record low yields this year as they are forced to harvest fields before the crops dry out. The lack of rain is causing problems for farmers all over Europe, and food prices are expected to rise sharply.

Crisis - what crisis? Holiday-makers south of Bordeaux in France. The photo was taken on 24 July by Maximilien Lamy of Agence France-Presse.





Water levels of the Rhine have dropped so low that shipping can no longer navigate it in cargo ships (photo Financial Times). On the Danube, Hungarian nuclear power stations which rely on the river for cooling water have been forced to close.

The present heat waves are largely independent of the developing El Nino which could make 2027 yet hotter - see [this Carbon Brief article](#)

What will it take for people to wake up?

The Great Big Dorset Hedge

Plenty going on this month with surveys happening all over Dorset. To get involved please visit the [GBDH web pages](#).

Monday 3rd Aug CARDSMILL FARM WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM DT6 6RP Helen	Tues 4th Aug Stancombe Farm, Askerswell DT2 9EG Helen	Tues 4th August Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0LU Mel	Weds 5th Aug Furzeleigh Down Farm Axminster EX13 5SQ Helen	Weds 5th Aug Longmoor Farm Partnership Gillingham SP8 5QW Dirk	Tues 11th August Rookehay Estate, Bowerchalke SP5 5BT Mel
Tuesday 11th Aug Rylands Farm Martinstown DT2 9JP Helen	Weds 12th Aug Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe DT6 3SS Helen	Thurs 13th Aug Gutchpool Farm, Gillingham SP8 5QP Dirk	Thurs 13th Aug BCP Bournemouth Greenspace BH8 0AJ Mel	Fri 14th Aug The Ferals Tarrant Keyneston DT11 9JH Dirk	Mon 17th Aug CARDSMILL FARM WHITCHURCH CANONICORUM DT6 6RP Helen
Tues 18th Aug BCP Bournemouth Greenspace BH8 0AJ Mel	Tues 18th Aug Cherry Orchard Farm, Shaftesbury SP7 0PX Dirk	Weds 19th Aug Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe DT6 3SS Helen	Thurs 20th Goodens Farm Stoborough Wareham BH20 5AQ Mel	Fri 21st Aug The Ferals Tarrant Keyneston DT11 9JH Dirk	Sat 22nd Aug Furzeleigh Down Farm Axminster EX13 5SQ Helen
Sat 22nd Aug Canada Farm, Winterborne Stickland DT11 0LU Mel	Mon 24th Aug Pipplepen Farm South Perrott DT8 3HS Helen	Tues 25th Aug Goodens Farm Stoborough Wareham BH20 5AQ Mel	Tues 25th Aug Longmoor Farm Partnership Gillingham SP8 5QW Dirk	Weds 26th Aug Mappercombe Farm Nettlecombe DT6 3SS Helen	Weds 26th Aug Child Okeford House Child Okeford DT11 8DX Dirk

The GREAT BIG DORSET HEDGE August Survey Schedule



Dorset Greener Homes

We plan to run this again (the thirteenth year) in October. Are home batteries really worth it? Do heat pumps make a lot of noise? How much money will my PV panels save on my bills, and what is the payback time? How can I make my garden more nature friendly?

Many of the homes can be visited throughout the year by appointment, but the weekends of 17-18 and 24-25 October will be the best time to see them.

Have you worked on greening your home and are you willing to talk to people who are beginning the journey? Then please **email Sam**



Dorset COP - plans are taking shape

Plans are continuing apace for our big conference in November.

This year's event is on Saturday 14th November at Kingston Maurward Campus, Coastland College, Dorchester.

Tickets are on sale now **here**

What to expect?

- A wide range of workshops to choose from
- Stories from across Dorset - from villages to towns
- Creative projects exploring art, nature, food, and energy
- Conversations about rural energy ownership and community power
- Live maps to see who's doing what and where
- More time for connection, breaks, and reflection
- HOPE AND INSPIRATION

If you would be interested in running a workshop, or sponsoring the conference, or having a display in our exhibition, please [contact us by email](#)

DCAN Community Energy Projects

DCAN has launched two feasibility studies, sponsored by SW Net Zero Hub, in Loders, near Bridport, and a wind farm North of Dorchester. These are proceeding apace. If you would like more information, please [email us](#).



Feeding Dorset Partnership:

From Big Ideas to Lasting Change Help Shape Dorset's CAF Bid

How do we create a healthier, fairer and more resilient food system for Dorset? That was the question at the heart of our latest Feeding Dorset Partnership webinar, which brought together people from across farming, food, health, communities, business, education and the voluntary sector to explore the opportunities presented by the Climate Action Fund (CAF). [More...](#)

[Watch the video here](#)

Peoples' Emergency Briefing

Screening of the film are continuing all over Dorset. [Find a screening](#) near you. There is a second petition calling for a parliamentary debate - 100,000 signatures are required. Please sign this one [here](#) even if you signed the original call for a debate on BBC.

Leading climate scientist Professor Mike Berners-Lee has told an online audience of 5,000 that Britain now has to work towards achieving 'a cultural and social tipping point' if it is to prevent the worst effects of the climate and nature crisis.

Speaking at the start of the National Emergency Briefing (NEB) campaign's latest update on 31 July, Prof Berners-Lee said that the climate and nature activism movement has to convince a majority of the voting British public to put maximum pressure on MPs and local councils to get the Government to take more urgent action. [More...](#)

You can watch the [NEB Big Update here](#)



DCAN Summer Social Outing

Our away day started with a visit to Tumbledown farm in Weymouth. The land was acquired by Weymouth council four years ago, and Alan Chambers explained how they have tackled water, drainage, rewilding, weeds, planting orchards and retaining water in the vegetable beds. What they have achieved in that short time, as well as outreach to two schools, forest schools, and other community groups is truly inspiring.



The view from Laura and Etty's garden

A picnic and a swim at Portland Chiswell beach was followed by tea and cakes at Laura Baldwin and Etienne Stott's home overlooking Chesil beach and Portland harbour. Laura is an Olympic sailor and Etienne won gold in canoe slalom 2012; both are strong climate campaigners; they have turned their house into a sustainable home, with a productive garden, part of our Dorset Greener Homes - [read more here](#)



Stop Rosebank

Sign the open letter to the new Secretary of State and Net Zero, to urge her to reject these developments. Permitting drilling new wells at Rosebank and Jackdaw fields will do little to improve our energy security or lower fuel bills in Britain, nor will it provide many jobs. They are a distraction from the task of a fully sustainable energy policy, which requires massive investment in infrastructure and research into storage. **More...**

Deeper Resources for Action - A webinar.

In a time of deep world-ecological crisis many of us can find ourselves confronted with a sense of powerlessness and dismay. It can be difficult to know what can support us to transform our deep care into meaningful action. This two-day webinar explores how Buddhist practice and perspectives can offer us deeper resources to build personal and collective agency to meet the challenges of our times.

Saturday 19th September 12:30 – 14:30 | 15.30 – 17.30

Sunday 20th September 12:30 – 14:30 | 15.30 – 17.30



A Pollination Celebration!

BuzzFest (now in its 2nd year) is a vibrant celebration of all things pollination at Careys Secret Garden.

Set within a beautiful, immersive garden setting, BuzzFest brings together a dynamic mix of talks, live demonstrations, art, food, and family-friendly activities designed to inspire and delight visitors of all ages.

Throughout the day, enjoy a programme of expert talks and hands-on demonstrations, where you can learn more about bees, pollination, conservation, and sustainable living. Wander through the garden and discover immersive art installations that celebrate the beauty and importance of pollinators and the natural world in unexpected and creative ways.

Indulge in a delicious selection of honey-themed food and drink, alongside other seasonal treats, all carefully curated to reflect the spirit of the festival.

Families are warmly welcomed, with plenty for younger visitors to explore, including children's nature trails, interactive experiences, and opportunities to get closer to nature in fun and meaningful ways.

To book your tickets for this event, please visit their [website](#).



Campaign to get disposable BBQs banned - Litter Free Dorset

With the terrible ongoing scenes of wildfires across the UK and Europe this is a good time to highlight **Litter Free Dorset's campaign** to get disposable BBQs banned across our county and beyond.

The key issues with disposable BBQs are that they are often used incorrectly or incorrectly disposed of which can cause wildfires and damage to wildlife and the environment and create public safety issues.

Also, while some disposable BBQs state they are recyclable, this relies on people waiting until the BBQ has cooled down before removing all traces of food, separating the components of the BBQ and recycling those components individually via multiple means, so most will just end up in landfill.

Wild fires are obviously of particular concern at the moment with the current drought conditions creating dry and parched land, which will potentially increase the chance of fires starting and accelerating into large scale fires.

What can we (the public) do to support the campaign?

- Share Litter Free Dorsets campaign posts on **social media**.
- Sign the **Government petition** for a total ban.
- Download and take **LFD retailers letter** to local retailers asking for them to stop selling disposable BBQs.
- Download and **put a poster up** in your community centres, schools, local shops etc.

Ban the BBQ

Dates for your Diary

- 8 August **Buzzfest at Carey's Secret garden**
- 19 - 20 Aug. Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Show, Motcombe Turnpike
- 17 - 18 and 24 - 25 October Dorset Greener Homes
- 13 November - Dorset Youth COP 26, Kingston Maurward
- 14 November - Dorset COP26 climate conference Coastland College, Kingston Maurward campus.

To help us with a small donation

Donate Now

Please follow us on our socials





Dorset CAN

Climate Action Network

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