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Dorset Climate Action Network - Newsletter June 2026



DCAN Newsletter - June 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

After an unusually wet winter, virtually no rain fell in March or April. Then, in May, late frosts and record-breaking heatwaves arrived within days of each other. Next year is predicted to bring a super El Niño. Such increasingly erratic weather is creating mounting challenges for farmers, and higher food prices seem inevitable.

In its 2026 report, the Climate Change Committee warned that the “British way of life” is under threat from heat, flooding, and drought. Yet even this assessment does not account for the weakening—and possible collapse—of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), the system of ocean currents that helps keep Europe warmer and climatically more stable than other regions at similar latitudes, such as Moscow and Toronto.

Meanwhile, Antarctica's Thwaites Glacier—often dubbed the “Doomsday Glacier”—is showing fresh signs of instability. Scientists report that the floating ice shelf helping to restrain it is beginning to fracture, a development that could accelerate sea-level rise for decades to come. The glacier already contributes around 4% of global sea-level rise, and researchers warn that the eastern ice shelf may be approaching a critical point of failure.

But Gaia is fighting back. Tankers stranded in the Gulf by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz are being rapidly fouled by barnacle growth, while intake pipes are clogged with jellyfish and seaweed. The sandstorm season is beginning. In moments like these, Shelley's words from Ozymandias come irresistibly to mind:

'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!'

Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away.



The Great Big Dorset Hedge

We have a busy month of hedgerow surveys coming up covering every corner of the county. There is still ample time to book your place on your first GBDH hedge survey if you sign up as a volunteer promptly [here](#).

We particularly need more volunteer hedge surveyors in the North of Dorset! If you live in and around the areas of Sherborne, Gillingham or Shaftesbury and would like to help improve biodiversity and encourage nature to thrive across our landscape, then please sign up as a volunteer hedge surveyor!

Don't worry you will be guided and supported through this experience, with a fantastic group of established volunteers! We hope you are tempted to join us. We are a friendly bunch doing what we can.

Volunteers will also be enjoying a social visit to Hogchester Farm Meadows, a 50-acre nature retreat and restored wildflower meadow near Charmouth, Dorset. Located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it features 5km of walking paths, a labyrinth walk, and wildlife ponds. It is a prime destination for butterfly and bird watching.

Watch. Chat. Act.

People's Emergency Briefing

Screenings everywhere for everyone

If you haven't seen the film, there are free screenings, with discussions on action we can take, all over Dorset.

These include:

- Corn Exchange, Dorchester 4 June 7pm
- The Swanage School 5th June 7.30pm
- Carey's secret garden 9 June 9am/3pm
- Allendale Centre Wimborne 26 June 8pm
- Martinstown Village Hall 26 June 7pm
- St Andrew's Okeford Fitzpaine 3 July TBC
- Thomas Hardy School; Dorchester 13 July 6pm
- Bradford Peverell Village Hall 28th July 7.30pm
- Marnhull Village hall 11 August 7pm

Further information and ticket links for all these screenings can be found [here](#).

Some 56 MPs of all parties, including all but one of Dorset's eight MPs, have so far signed the 'Early Day Motion' calling on the Government to 'support a televised briefing on the climate and nature crisis delivered by independent experts, setting out the nature and scale of the climate and nature threats facing the UK, why these threats matter to people's lives and livelihoods, and to introduce emergency legislation, investment and public engagement commensurate with the scale and urgency of the crisis.'



DCAN Community Energy Projects

DCAN are leading two community energy projects with finance from the Great British Energy Community Fund. The first is in Loders Parish where there is no mains gas supply and so most households are heated with oil or calor or electricity. The electrical grid is highly constrained and so people would not be able to move to heat pumps and electric cars without substantial reinforcements - which are unlikely in the near term. We have identified four possible sites for small renewable energy installation in or near the village and possible sites for community car chargers. These sites could reduce energy costs, increase energy security and potentially decarbonise the whole village. In addition, Loders Parish is an excellent example of the challenges facing many other rural Dorset villages. So a solution here could be expanded to many other villages in Dorset.

The second project is looking at a possible windfarm to the NorthEast of Dorchester. The initial project is relatively modest with 1 or 2 turbines but ultimately we aspire to provide renewable energy to most of the town reducing energy costs for a substantial number of the residents. Initially the project consists of an area study looking for suitable sites outside the National Landscapes area between Dorchester and Bere Regis. Following this regional approach we hope to home in on a small number of more specific sites.

Both projects are expected to complete before the end of the year. We are always looking for people interested in supporting our community energy projects so please contact **Sam Wilberforce** or **Giles Watts** if you want to take part..



An Invitation to Dorset CAN's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2026.

Being held on Thursday 11th June at 7pm via Zoom

Followed by a talk by Andy Hadley, Cabinet member for Climate Mitigation, Energy and Environment at BCP Council AN AGM 11 June

For more information click [here](#).

[Register here](#) to join the AGM meeting.

Carbon Literacy Training - June places still available!

Would you like to understand the role your local council or community group could play in addressing the urgent need for local action to adapt to climate change, reduce risks to our communities and restore the natural environment?

DCAN's Carbon Literacy training helps councils and community groups appreciate their roles in leading place-based action and working collaboratively to improve health, well-being and resilience for our communities.

Join us to share your ideas and develop your own pledges to act to reduce the risks of climate change.

Attending both workshops and submitting successful pledges leads to achieving accreditation as Carbon Literate.

NEW DATES for 2026!

Course 10 - Friday 12th June & Thursday 18th June. Both 9am - 1pm.

To view and book the JUNE course please follow this link to [Eventbrite](#)

Complete course cost is £60 plus eventbrite fees

Further course dates for November

Course 11 - Tuesday 3 Nov & Tuesday 10 Nov. Both 9am - 1pm.

Booking details to follow.

This course will be part of the lead up to the Dorset COP at Coastland College on Sat 14 November and will be part of the international [Carbon Literacy Action Day](#).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Click to add text/plp



REPAIR CAFÉ

Join the Repair Café Volunteers!
Are you handy with fixing things? Good with tools and repair skills?



Share your skills and help others repair their broken items!

We need volunteers for:

- ✦electronics & appliances
- ✦Bicycle repairs
- ✦sewing & textiles
- ✦general fixing & tinkering

PLEASE CONTACT LOU 07974 712981

Don't Bin it. Mend it

Repair Cafés have been springing up throughout Dorset, with workshops in Gillingham, Wimborne, Weymouth, Axminster, Lyme Regis, Southbourne, Dorchester and many others listed [here](#).

A new mobile repair cafe needs volunteers across West Dorset to share their skills and help fix broken items! Lou is taking her repair cafe on the road and will be visiting villages across West Dorset. She aims to provide this valuable service to more remote locations in Dorset to help keep broken items out of landfill and also share valuable skills.

She needs skilled volunteers to support this service, so if you are interested in helping out, please get in touch with **Lou on 07974 712981**.

Another cafe is starting in Bridport, on the last Sunday of the month, 2:00 at BYCC. Please contact RepairCafe@sustainablebridport.org if you have skills which you would like to share.

Beaver Wild Release Project

In DCAN's submission to this consultation, we support the reintroduction of beavers, which improves biodiversity, mitigates the impact of climate change and improves connection of people with nature through community outreach.

Reintroduction should only be done through agreement with appropriate bodies such as farmers and land owners to ensure any negative consequences are mitigated.

We can support them by helping to promote their scheme to monitor beavers.

More information about the consultation can be found [here](#).

Activist Retreat in France!

Deeper Resources for Action with: [Adam Lobel](#), [Gee Guhyapati](#)

17 September 2026 – 24 September 2026

Turning to meet the social and ecological challenges of our times can be demanding..

This retreat in France is designed for activists who are in need of time to take stock, who may be exhausted or even feel like giving up.

More details [here](#)

For further information or questions contact: [Colin Tracy](#)

Dates for your Diary

- 9th June 6.30pm [CPRE conference on Planning](#) online via zoom.
- 11 June 7pm [DCAN AGM via zoom](#) with guest speaker.
- 19-20 August - Gillingham & Shaftesbury Agricultural Show, Motcombe Turnpike
- 13 November - Dorset Youth COP 26, Kingston Maurward
- 14 November - Dorset COP, Coastland College, Kingston Maurward campus.

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Climate Action Network

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