

Sherborne Community Focus December 2018

The Sherborne Community Focus Meeting of 4 December 2018 saw an increase in attendance. More people are hearing about the meeting and are enquiring about it. As the meetings are being held on a quarterly basis, more people are also making enquiries for support for their organisations. Networking is proving to be working very well and people are keen to see information being shared afterwards which has resulted in creating a newsletter reporting about the event.

Chris Conroy from Dorset Police gave a really interesting and thought provoking talk on cyber crime. It certainly made everyone think about how they look after all their electronic equipment. He is happy to come out to community groups and charities to show people how to stay safe on their phones, tablets, computers etc.

Sherborne Dementia Alliance are looking for funding for an Admiral Nurse for Sherborne. The group is very well supported locally by many volunteers.

Julia Marcus from Skills and Learning for Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole promoted the flexible studying scheme for carers so that they can study at a time that suits them.

The Dorset Growth Hub provides free, fully funded business support. It is available to new, start-up and existing businesses. Whether people are struggling with finance, wanting to know how to improve your digital capability or want advice on marketing, support schemes, and other services, news from around the region, as well as a list of the training, seminars, and networking events available locally, they provide it all at the Dorset Growth Hub. Its free, impartial service is available to any registered business or budding entrepreneur across Dorset.

WISE Ability helps employers find the right staff, and jobseekers to find meaningful work via employment, training, mental health services and other support services. Their employment services are cost-free to eligible jobseekers and employers.

Tony Gibbons from the Friendly Food Club runs a charity that holds cookery workshops for families and people who may be isolated in Dorset. The cookery workshops show families, young people and anyone who now lives alone how to eat healthy tasty food on a budget.

Two ladies came along from Sue Ryder and very kindly volunteered to make coffee and teas and hand out biscuits. They have a plan is to fill their shop window in Sherborne with a novelty knitted (& crochet / sewn) garden featuring lots of flowers, leaves, bugs, butterflies & birds, garden tools, plant pots etc. They plan to use lots of individual knitted items to construct the garden scene. Some of their staff & volunteers are already busy knitting & they would love to involve other individuals & groups from the Sherborne area. They said 'Whilst we represent a national charity, our shop is very much rooted in the community & this project is aimed at representing that & stimulating local interest & publicity. We are happy to give credit to anyone involved both in our display, through social media and in any press coverage we can attract. The project can suit all skill levels & we can provide some wool through donations. We would also welcome donations of wool, many knitters have hoards of leftovers that would be ideal. Our proposed time scale is to have our "garden" in place for Easter in a celebration of Spring'.

Bear Cat Collective is a not for profit collective of artists and musicians, bringing affordable, hands-on, family fun, education and entertainment for all ages to village halls, shows, fetes & festivals across Wessex. They create Live Music • Pop-Up SwapShop • Group Games & Drama • Natural & Recycled Crafts • Health & Social Care Training • all centered around Local Sustainability.

There are many reasons why people may not have learnt to read as children. Read Easy reading coaches minimise the possible stress and embarrassment involved in learning to read as an adult by providing confidential, one-to-one tuition at flexible times and in discreet and convenient places. Lydia and Penny are keen to support people in the Sherborne area so if you know someone who you think may be struggling to read please contact them.

A community development worker from Dorset County Council is happy to come and talk to you about some of the scams that are going on in Dorset such as the Nottingham Knockers who are a group people posing as pedlars (without a proper licence) who could either sell you stolen property or be trying to see if your home is worth burgling.

The Community Engagement Officer for Magna Housing came to talk about his organisation. Magna have homes all over Dorset and Somerset and support many different schemes locally such as the annual Dorset Best Village competition. Magna also has community rooms in and around Sherborne at really great prices if you want to hire somewhere quiet for a meeting. Contact Neil

Fiona Thomas and Kathy Boston-Mammah are from the Community Development Team at West Dorset District Council. They support local communities across Weymouth, Portland, West and North Dorset and can help particularly with creating sustainable communities.

The Spring Coffee and Networking Morning is on March 27th at Sherborne Football Club 10-12pm.

Thanks to Sherborne Douzelage, two hour, free training sessions were given by DCA in Sherborne for residents in the following:

Easy Steps to make Social Media work for you

Morning course - 2 hours Easy Steps to successfully raising money

Morning course - 2 hours - Easy Steps to GDPR

Morning course - 2 hours - Easy Steps to being a Trustee, roles and responsibilities

Morning course- 2 hours Easy Steps to Safeguarding

These events were well attended and proved to be helpful to the people who attended. Evening classes are still mentioned as something that people would like in the area.