DORSET COP

Event Information

Kingston Mauward Campus
Coastland College

14th November 2026

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EVENT OVERVIEW

This year's theme is How to Impact Climate and Nature

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.
- Over 30 exhibition stands, showcasing action across Dorset
- Question Time-style Panel with Council Leaders, MPs and environmental champions.

What do we hope to achieve?

- Provide an opportunity for community-led groups to inspire each other, share experiences and build networks; ultimately creating beneficial impacts for all Dorset citizens.
- Demonstrate the depth of community commitment to tackling the crises to spur both Councils and other stakeholders to accelerate leadership and action across their spheres of control and influence.
- Provide a forum for community-led groups to share and promote a common vision to tackling the crises.

GETTING TO THE COP

Arriving by Car

The venue is easily accessible from all major routes throughout Dorset.
The estate provides plenty of car parking, please follow the car parking signs and use DT2 8PY for Sat Nav or use WhatThreeWords ///yarn.soap.tweezers.

Please note: We ask all attendees not to park directly in front of the main house or to use it as a drop of zone. This area must remain clear for our own transport and emergency vehicles.

Coming by train or bus?

We have managed to secure a transit service for the event day, for anyone travelling by train or bus.

The timetable is as follows:

Dorchester South to Coastland College:
7.35am
8:00am
8:45am
9:10am
9.40am
10:05am

Return journeys from Coastland College to Dorchester South
2:00pm
2:30pm
3:30pm
4:30pm
5:00pm
5:30pm

Please note that these times are approximate.
The service will be operated by Coastland College and will use their minibus.
The minibus will have a capacity of 15 people per trip, so if busy, you may need to wait half an hour for the next bus.
The minibus is free to use for attendees, only made possible by a generous donation by Dorchester Town Council.

Car sharing

We have created a whatsapp group for anyone who wants to offer a lift or needs to request a lift from others in their area.

Join the whatsapp group HERE.

ARRIVAL AND ENTRY

Accessibility

There is a lift to ensure easy access to the main building.
Once inside, the main function rooms are on one level and there is access throughout.
If you need support throughout the day to navigate to different areas of the event, please ask a volunteer for support.

Registration/Check In

Once you arrive at the venue, you need to follow the signs to the main entrance, where there will be a registration desk to check-in.
You will be asked to show your Dorset COP ticket on arrival. Please ensure you have downloaded your ticket to your phone before the event.
To allow for quick entry, please show the QR code on your ticket via your smart phone, this will be scanned by a event volunteer.
If you do not have access to your ticket digitally, you can either print a copy and bring it along or we will have a list of all reserved tickets at the registration desk.
You must 'check-in' to allow us to confirm numbers in the building.

Please note: ALL exhibitors, workshop facilitators and presenters must also all check-in.

Other registration information

We will supply name tags for you to write your name on, these will be available at the registration desk.
Please be aware that there will be photography and filming happening throughout the venue at the event.
If for any reason you do not want to be filmed or have your photograph taken, it is important that you let the volunteers at the registration desk know, so they can supply you with a special sticker, which you will need to wear throughout the day.

Donate IT

Do you have an old computer, tablet, phone or digital camera you no longer use? DonateIT, in collaboration with Efeca, will take it from you, remove all personal data, and refurbish it for sale or direct distribution to people who do not have access to IT.

The scheme claims to help people access technology for education, employment, training, healthcare and everyday services, supporting those who might struggle to get online. It also helps keep valuable devices in use for longer, reducing waste and preventing reusable technology from ending up in landfill.

Please ask a volunteer or review the venue map for location of the drop off point.

For a full list of what Donate IT will be collecting on the day, please visit HERE

EVENT INFORMATION

Food and Drink

Food will be available during the lunchtime period from the canteen area.

Buddha Bowls - consisting of pink onion, sweet potato, pearl barley, butternut squash, harissa beans, rainbow dry slaw, cous cous and mixed vegetables - £5.50 per bowl

Macaroni Cheese and Garlic Bread - £5.50

Jacket Potato and one topping - £5.50 Additional toppings £1 each

Wraps with one filling - £3.50 Additional toppings £1 each

- Falafel
- Coronation chickpea
- Mature cheddar
- Egg mayo
- Tuna mayo and sweetcorn
- Plus salad bar toppings.

Gluten Free and Vegan options will be available

The venue accepts cash or card.

Drinks and snacks

Tea and Coffee stations will be provided in the bar area and second floor.
Snacks and soft drinks will also be available for purchase from the canteen.
Tap water will be available throughout the venue.
If you can, please bring refillable cups/mugs with you.

If you want to bring your own packed lunch, please feel free.

What to bring

Water Bottle/ Reusable Mug
If you can bring a water bottle and/or reusable tea/coffee mug to use during the day that would be great.

Cash/Card
If you are planning on buying lunch at the venue, please ensure you bring card and/or cash.

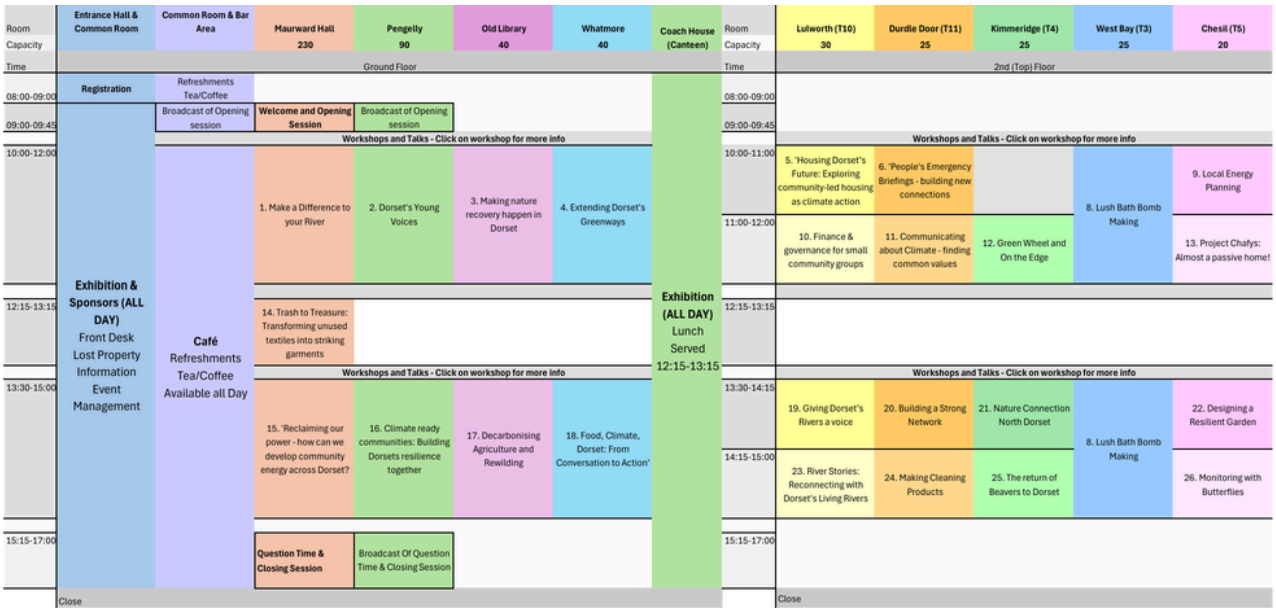
Smoking/Vaping
Please note that the venue and grounds are non smoking/vaping.

PROGRAMME

We have an exciting programme planned.

Packed with workshops, talks, a special Question Time-style session, and many exhibitors through the day.

Click on image below, for interactive, downloadable, high-res programme:

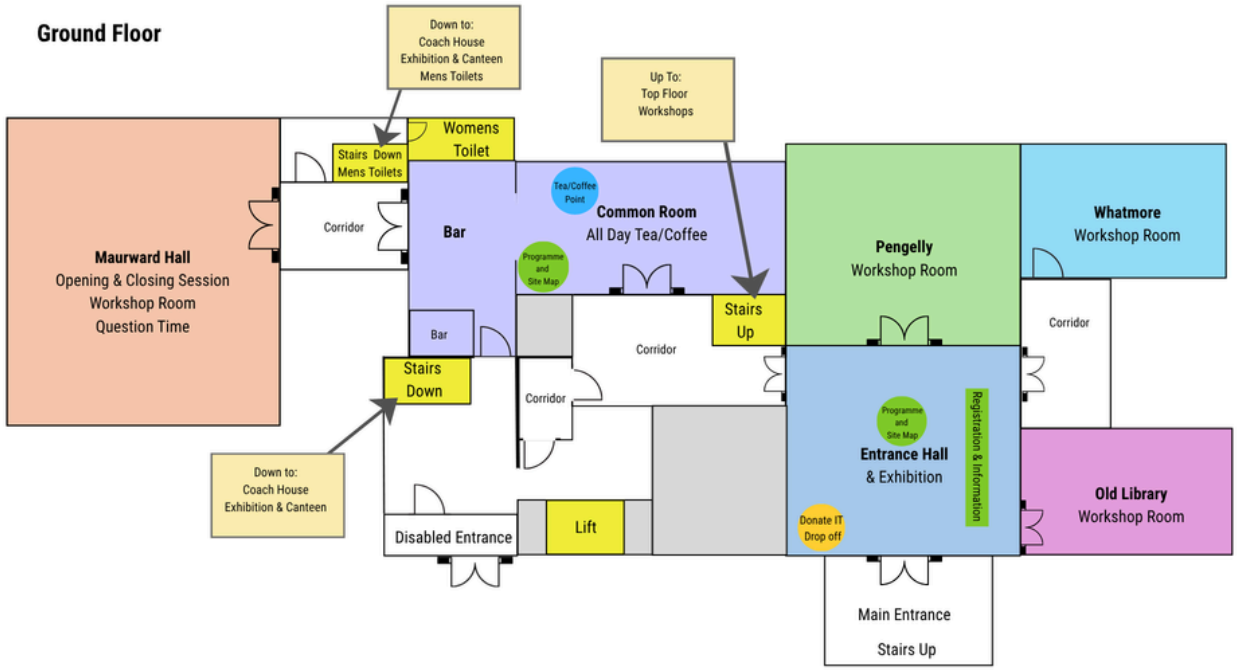


Please Note: The programme may be subject to small changes. Please check the venue room signage for 'on the day' for the latest information.

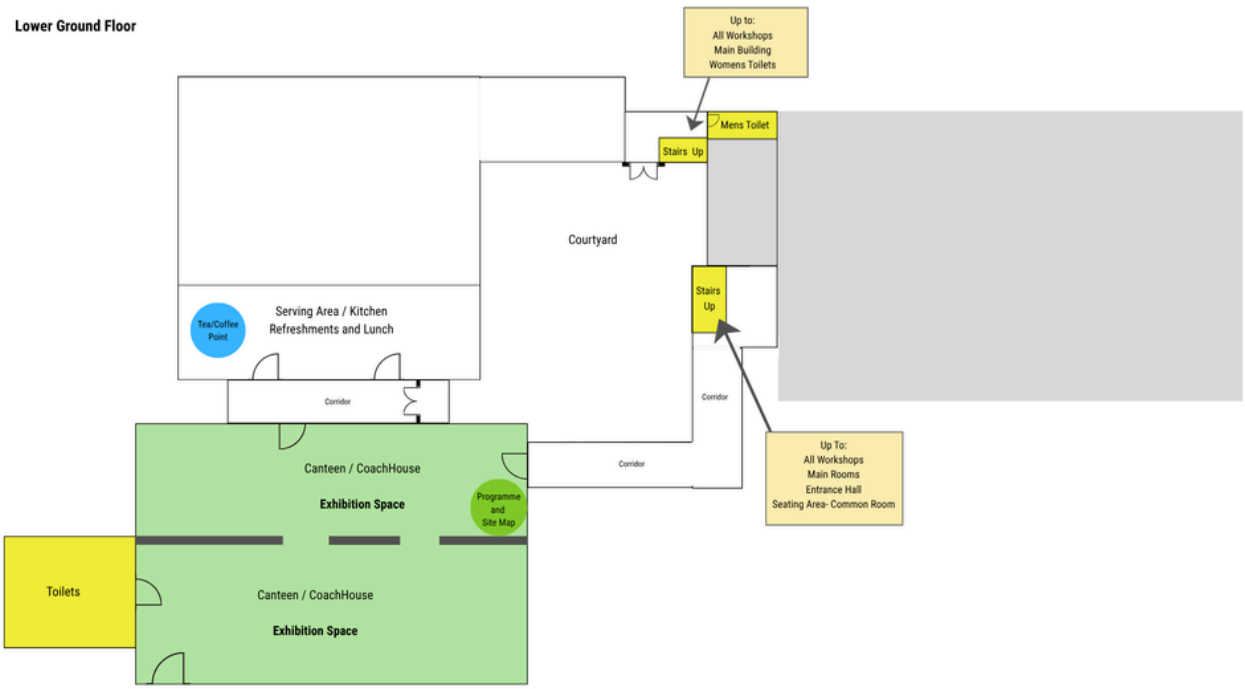
If you can not find what you are looking for, check with the registration desk in the Main Entrance Hall or ask one of our volunteers.

VENUE PLAN

GROUND FLOOR

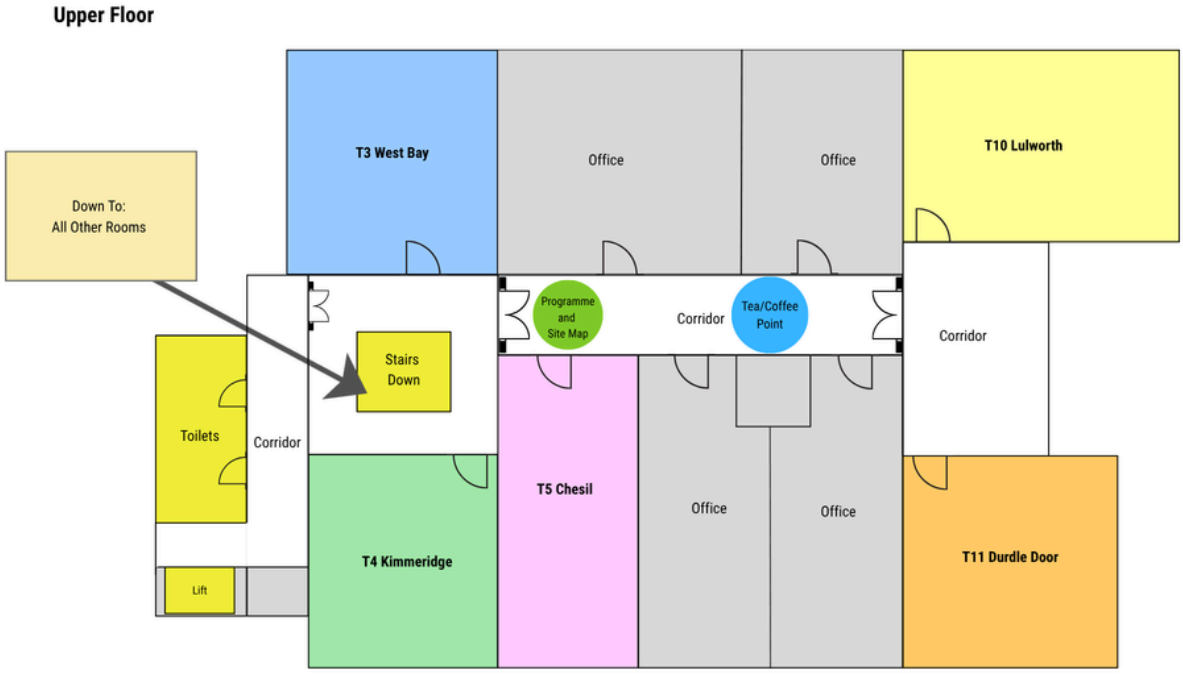


LOWER GROUND FLOOR



VENUE PLAN

TOP FLOOR



Please Note: The brochure may be subject to small changes. Please check the venue room signage for 'on the day' for the latest information.

If you can not find what you are looking for, check with the registration desk in the Main Entrance Hall or ask one of our volunteers.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

MORNING

1.
Make a difference for your river
Host: Rivers and Beaches DCAN, CROWD (Clean Rivers of West Dorset) , Dorset Rivers Partnership)

Room: Maurward Hall
10:00 – 12:00

The session aims to help communities and river groups across Dorset/BCP and surrounding counties work together and make a difference for their local river. The emphasis is on practical, round-table conversations, so that grass-roots river groups, community members and professionals can talk to each other directly and leave with clear next steps and new contacts.
The three themes will be:
1) Water testing - Riverfly/Bacteria/chemicals
2) Farming and Land Use
3) Dealing with Water Companies

2.
Dorset's Young Voices
Host: Dorset Local Nature Partnership

Room: Pengelly
10:00 – 12:00

Join us to hear about young people taking action to address the climate and nature emergencies.
The session will include an update from the first Dorset-wide Youth COP (for year nine students), taking place on Friday 13 November. You'll also hear about a range of projects from across the county that give young people a voice in raising their environmental concerns and support them to take action – we're hoping the session will include hearing from young voices directly. The session will include a workshop to discuss how we can best support young people to take action – we hope this will involve young people and adults working to develop opportunities together. We'll then look to develop plans to help to take these suggestions forward and inform future work for a range of partners.

3.
Making nature recovery happen in Dorset:
One year on from the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
Host: Community Nature Forum

Room: Old Library
10:00 – 12:00

Hear from an inspiring panel as they reflect on progress, share successes and offer honest insights into the challenges of delivering Dorset's nature recovery priorities. Bringing together voices from farming, conservation, communities and other sectors, the session will offer a range of perspectives. Then join a collaborative workshop exploring how we can work together to accelerate nature recovery across Dorset.

MORNING WORKSHOP INFORMATION CONT....

4.
Extending Dorset's Greenways
Host: Dorset Greenways Alliance, TAGs

Room: Whatmore
10:00 – 12:00

We Can't Wait Another Decade -Joining the dots to build Dorset's rural active travel network
A network of greenways connecting rural communities could play a key role in cutting rural car use and enabling more people to walk, wheel and cycle. But even a short section can take decades to deliver. This workshop brings together groups from across Dorset campaigning to create or extend rural traffic-free paths. What's actually stopping them getting finished — and what could we do, together, to speed up a rural active travel network for the whole county? Posters will pre-presented on some of Dorset's emerging greenways including the North Dorset Trailway (Surminster Newton to Stourpaine), the West Dorset Trailway (Maiden Newton to West Bay), the Chideock to Bridport Path, the Burton Bradstock Greenway, the Piddle Path and the Cordite Way (Holton Heath to Poole).

5.
Housing Dorset's Future: Exploring community-led housing as climate action
Host: Barefoot Architects

Room: Lulworth
10:00 – 11:00

How community led housing and self-build can create sustainable communities in Dorset and build belonging. This workshop will explore innovative models for finding land, securing planning permission and funding the homes we need across our rural communities. Run by Sam Goss, founding director of Barefoot Architects, a certified B-Corp, and architect of eco-homes and cohousing projects, including the zero-carbon affordable community land trust cohousing project 'Hazelmead' in Bridport.

6.
People's Emergency Briefings - building new connections
Host: CCA Political Pod. a global community of practice within the Climate Coaching Alliance (CCA)

Room: Durdle Door
10:00 – 11:00

A workshop at the Dorset COP for organisers and facilitators involved in community screenings of the UK National Emergency Briefing film. We want to find out the best ways to build on the new energy and connections being created by the screenings to develop more local actions to adapt to climate change. Emergency planning and protection, yes, but also joyful collaboration to promote growing food and nature connection. How have you maximised on turning the energy and interest from the post-screening discussions into local action? Sign-ups, new volunteers, revitalised groups?
And what impact is it having on our politicians, locally and nationally? They are now getting letters from constituents who have never written to them before expressing their views about climate change.

MORNING WORKSHOP INFORMATION CONT....

8.
Lush Bath Bomb Making (AM)
Host: Lush

Room: West Bay

Available Morning and Afternoon
10:00 - 12:00
13:30 - 15:00

Bath bomb workshop - continuous throughout the day

Bath bomb making with our team! Join us to find out the ins and outs of bath bomb making and take home your own handmade product.

9.
Local energy planning tools and data
Host: Dorset Council Sustainability team

Room: Chesil
10:00 - 11:00

In this session Carl Warom from Dorset Council will outline data and tools available to help you scope and plan potential local energy projects in your area.

10.
Finance and governance for small community groups
Host: Dorset CAN - Finance Team

Room: Lulworth
11:00 - 12:00

Your legal requirements
Managing your finances
Understanding and measuring your impact

MORNING WORKSHOP INFORMATION CONT....

11.
Communicating about Climate - Identifying common values
Host: Climate Outreach

Room: Durdle Door
11:00 - 12:00

How do we present climate change?
Scary disaster or Opportunities for progress?
Do we emphasise the impending disasters or the real progress we are making to solve it?
Negative stories make people stop listening; positive stories over-reassure people.
Balancing urgency with optimism is essential. And how do we choose the appropriate message for different audiences? How do we find points of agreement and shared values with different people? Are there different value systems which can identify and tap into? How can we frame the problem which bypasses defences, and links to people's concerns?
This workshop uses Climate Outreach and other recent research to show how we might be more effective in drawing people in.

12.
Green Wheel - How to engage your local council in green action
Host: Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee (SuSAC)

Room: Kimmeridge
11:00 - 12:00

Presentation and discussion on the concept of creating a 'Green Wheel' around towns and villages and how engaging with your local council can help protect the environment and stop urban sprawl with contributions by Nature Friendly Town (NFT) Shaftesbury and Orchard Town Shaftesbury, with special introductions by Dorset CPRE on their latest 'On the Edge' campaign and the National Trust on their new 'Plain to Sea' project. Presenters are Dr Jamie Medley (The Green Wheel Project and Orchard Town) and Amber Harrison and Jen Hirsch (NFT).
The Green Wheel Project/NFT/Orchard Town Shaftesbury has an exhibition in the Coach House
Dorset CPRE has an exhibition in the Coach House
The National Trust has an exhibition in the Coach House

13.
Project Chafeys, nearly a passive house!
Host: Project Chafeys

Room: Chesil
11:00 - 12:00

"Project Chafeys" and sharing our experience of getting a 1960's bungalow from an EPC D to EPC A scoring 115 and going gas free in 2024.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

LUNCHTIME WORKSHOPS

14.
Trash to Treasure, Simple fixes to transform unused textiles into striking garments.
Host: Jenny Morrisetti of Sustainable Dorset

Room: Maurward Hall
12:15 - 13:15

Sustainable Fashion - how to kickstart change in your community. Latest update from Sustainable Fashion Week. Grab your lunch and join us in the main hall for a drop in session on sustainable fashion topics! Information Exchange - simple steps; running clothes swaps, pop up mending stations and fashion shows.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

15.
Reclaiming our power - how can we develop community energy across Dorset
Host: South West net Zero Hub, DCAN Energy Team & Dorset Community Energy

Room: Maurward Hall
13:30 - 15:00

The UK clean energy transition is full steam ahead and we want communities to be part of it.
Community-led energy projects are growing in number and importance for delivery of green energy at low cost. This is at last being recognised and supported by government. This workshop will provide you with the information and inspiration needed to set up your own community energy project.
We will have poster presentations by Dorset Community Energy, Dorset CAN, Dorset/BCP Councils and a number of community organisations across Dorset.
The keynote talk will be given by Sam Moore of Southwest Net Zero Hub which is the grant administration body for Great British Energy.

16.
Climate ready communities: Building Dorset's resilience together
Host: Dorset Council - Climate Adaptation Team

Room: Pengelly
13:30 - 15:00

Climate change is already affecting communities across Dorset, from flooding and extreme weather to heatwaves and disruption to critical infrastructure.
This interactive workshop will explore what community resilience means in practice, share lessons from recent emergencies, and introduce Dorset's emerging Climate Adaptation Strategy.
Working together, participants will identify the climate risks facing their communities, consider practical actions that can strengthen local resilience, and help shape Dorset's future approach to climate adaptation.
The insights gathered will directly inform the development of Dorset's Climate Adaptation Strategy.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS CONT...

17.
Sustainable and climate-friendly land management
Host: Coastland College, West Dorset Wilding, NFU

Room: Old Library
13:30 - 15:00

Coastland college and partners will explore how land can be managed more sustainably through rewilding, soil management, improved farming and biodiversity enhancement. techniques.
We will also show how education for sustainable development is being brought to life through the college's annual Environment Week and how this is being embedded across the curriculum to provide the skills needed for a greener economy..
Speakers include Martin Oliver (Coastland College), Sam Rose (West Dorset Wilding), ex-NFU chair George Hosford, Marie Taylor (Head of Curriculum – Agriculture, Land-based Engineering and Blacksmithing and Welding) and Mark Burges (Coastland College)

18.
Food, Climate, Dorset: From Conversation to Action
Host: Feeding Dorset Partnership/Help & Kindness

Room: Whatmore
13:30 - 15:00

Food, Climate, Dorset: From Conversation to Action - What could you change where you live – and who do you need alongside you to make it happen? with Feeding Dorset Partnership/Help & Kindness and Bridport Food Matters - (Dorset's Sustainable Food Places).
Food connects all of us – to our communities, our health, our environment and the places where we live. But how do we turn concern about our food system and climate into practical local action ?
Join Bridport Food Matters and Feeding Dorset Partnership/Help & Kindness for an interactive session that starts with people, ideas and connections rather than presentations.
We'll explore challenges and opportunities around growing and access to land, skills, food distribution, community food hubs and wider food-system change – drawing on what is already happening across Dorset and asking what could happen next.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS CONT...

19.
Giving Dorset's Rivers a Voice: Rights of Nature and a Charter for Dorset's Rivers
Host: DCAN, Dorset Flowscapes, UK Rivers Rights Network & Matrix Chambers

Room: Lulworth
13:30 - 14:15

Dorset's rivers sustain wildlife, communities and landscapes, yet they have no voice when decisions affect them. Join us to explore the growing idea of Rights of Nature, hear how river charters are emerging in the UK, and help shape a Charter for Dorset's Rivers -- one that can support local communities in speaking up for the health, recovery and future of our rivers.

Samantha Knights KC: Barrister, Matrix Chambers
Andrew Carey: Dorset Climate Action Network / Dorset Flowscapes CIC
Josh Levene: Coordinator, UK River Rights Network; Director, Love Our Ouse (TBC)

20.
Building a Strong Network
Host: Dorset CAN, Green Martinstown

Room: Durdle Door
13:30 - 14:15

At Dorset CAN we want to build a stronger network where we can learn from one another, work together where appropriate and communicate our successes and learning easily amongst all groups.
A strong network can harness the power of the collective that will be more than the sum of its parts.
Stronger together!

21.
Nature Connection North Dorset – Identifying barriers and enabling community action for nature recovery in North Dorset
Host: Dorset Wildlife Trust

Room: Kimmeridge
13:30 - 14:15

How are communities in North Dorset currently engaging with nature? What can we build on together to truly drive community action? Together we'll explore and share learning around barriers to engagement and successful community activity for nature within rural North Dorset towns and villages.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS CONT...

8.
Lush Bath Bomb Making (PM)
Host: Lush

Room: West Bay

Available Morning and Afternoon
10:00 - 12:00
13:30 - 15:00

Bath bomb workshop - continuous throughout the day

Bath bomb making with our team! Join us to find out the ins and outs of bath bomb making and take home your own handmade product.

22.
Designing a resilient garden
Host: Forest Canopy Design

Room: Chesil
13:30 - 14:15

Designing resilient garden and growing spaces.
Let's talk about your garden or growing space!

23.
River Stories: Reconnecting with Dorset's Living Rivers
Host: Dorset Flowscapes

Room: Lulworth
14:15 - 15:00

Alongside the essential citizen science, pollution monitoring and measurement, there are other ways we can help to revive and restore our rivers.
When we meet a river through story, art, dream and our own experience, humans of any age can fall in love again with a river.
This interactive, joyful session by Dorset Flowscapes helps unearth the story-scape that exists around Dorset's rivers and marks the start of a Dorset-wide Listening: an invitation to communities to tell us what their rivers mean to them.
Together we will explore what we are grateful to our rivers for and what it is we grieve for.
We will share stories and memories from the watersheds we inhabit and start to reweave and remember connections to our rivers.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS CONT...

24.
Making Cleaning Products
Host: Beaminster Area Eco Group

Room: Durdle Door
14:15 - 15:00

Showing you how to make your own eco cleaning products.

25.
The return of beavers to Dorset.
Host: Dorset Wildlife Trust

Room: Kimmerridge
14:15 - 15:00

Eurasian beavers (Castor fiber) are once again recognised as being a resident native species in England. They are one of the world's most adept natural engineers, with an incredible ability to create new wetlands, restore habitats and promote biodiversity, benefitting both wildlife and people.
Dorset Wildlife Trust released two beavers back in February 2021, as part of an enclosed scientific study looking at how beavers influence their environment. Learn about these unique mammals and discover how the beavers and their industrious habits have affected the hydrology and wildlife in the project area.
You'll hear from Steve Oliver, Dorset Wildlife Trust's Rivers Conservation Officer, who will talk about this exciting local project and what the future holds as wild release projects begin to get underway and we learn to live alongside these influential mammals once again.

26.
Monitoring Nature Recovery with Butterfly Data - citizen science in action
Host: Dorset Butterfly Conservation

Room: Chesil
14:15 - 15:00

How butterfly transect data can help us explore Nature Recovery in Dorset

QUESTION TIME SESSION

27.
Question Time
Host: Richard Thomas (Sustainable Shaftesbury & Dorset CAN)

Room: Maurward Hall
15:15 - 16:15

Climax of the event this year is a hard-hitting BBC-style 'Question Time' event where the audience will have the opportunity to put their questions on action and leadership directly to three of Dorset's MPs, the leaders of Dorset and BCP councils, and three leading independent climate experts - including Lt Gen. Nugee.

The Panel

- Dorset council leader Nick Ireland (LibDem)
- BCP leader Mille Earl (LibDem)
- Dorset MP Edward Morello (LibDem, West Dorset),
- Dorset MP Lloyd Hatton (Lab, South Dorset)
- Dorset MP Simon Hoare (Cons, North Dorset)
- General Richard Nugee, a leading contributor to the headline-making National Emergency Briefing last November in Westminster,
- Olympian Laura Baldwin who is one of four leading Champions for Earth and an international ambassador for sustainability in sport.
- Big Oil whistleblower Caroline (Caz) Dennett, who also founded Don't Pay for Dirty Water, a campaign supporting people to take action against their polluting water company.

See next page for further Question Time Panelist detail.

QUESTION TIME PANEL



Lloyd Hatton, MP for South Dorset (Labour).



Edward Morello, MP for West Dorset (Liberal Democrat) since 2024.



Olympian Laura Baldwin is an Olympic sailor and climate campaigner



Cllr Nick Ireland , LibDem leader of Dorset Council.



Caroline (Caz) Dennett is a social scientist, researcher, environmental and human rights activist based in Weymouth.



Retired General Richard Nugee served in the British Army for more than 35 years.



Simon Hoare, MP for North Dorset (Conservative) since 2015.



Cllr Millie Earl, LibDem leader of Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council.

For a full bio on each panelist, please visit Question Time Panel



CONTACT US

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