SPRING EDITION - MARCH 2026



WELCOME

Welcome to the Spring edition of our newsletter.

As we move into the warmer months, there has been a huge amount of activity across the estate - from the completion of our winter conservation work to the start of an exciting spring and summer volunteering programme.

Since our last edition, our dedicated team of volunteers have helped control invasive species in the woodland, supported restoration work on Talbot Heath, and taken part in path maintenance, habitat creation, and litter picking. With bird nesting season approaching, we're asking all visitors to help protect this special environment by keeping to marked paths and walking dogs on short leads.

The restoration of the White Farm cottage and Grade II-listed barn is underway, alongside new site fencing and the planting of native hedging. Heathland and woodland management have also progressed significantly, with scrub clearance and thinning works.

A full programme of community events is taking place this spring, from nature-based workshops and family activities to the annual Harmony conference in June. We encourage all community members to come along, get involved, and enjoy the season.

The Talbot Village Trust team wishes everyone a wonderful spring and summer full of new energy and connection with nature.

GRANTS UPDATE

We're thrilled to have received so many wonderful applications for our Spring 2026 Capital and Small Grants programmes — thank you to everyone who applied! Shortlisted organisations have been notified and will be assessed over the coming weeks, with decisions expected in April and May 2026.

Keep an eye out for the Autumn 2026 grants round, opening in Spring 2026 - we can't wait to see more amazing projects!

Other Funding Sources

We hope the following external funding resources will be helpful in identifying other potential funders who may be able to support your work.

External funding resources:

- BCP Council Fund Finder (website and email alerts) and What Funds email newsletter
- Free funding advice and support service available via email: funding@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
- CAN100 - website and email newsletter (free membership)
- Dorset Council Fund Finder (website and email alerts)
- Volunteer Centre Dorset email newsletter
- Dorset Chamber's Build: Not-for-Profit Growth Programme
- Small Charity Week
- Energy Resilience Fund
- Action Funder
- Active Dorset Funding Finder
- The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme
- Cornerstone - Church of England

Thank you once again for all the amazing work you do.

We look forward to keeping in touch and supporting your efforts wherever we can!

Capital Funding / Loan Options for Charities Relating to Energy

Energy costs have been increasing for all of us, but where to start in exploring how to invest in energy resilience? BCP Funding Advisor, Jane Joy, put together current capital funding and loan opportunities available to charities for energy-related improvements. These include national programmes offering grants and blended finance for energy efficiency works, renewable energy installations, and other projects aimed at reducing long-term energy costs, as well as regional support available to organisations in Dorset.

The information may be helpful for charities considering building improvements, sustainability projects, or measures to improve energy resilience.

Download Here

EVENTS

EVENTS IN THE WOODS

Spring equinox event - Saturday 21st March



As the days draw longer, and the weather warms, we celebrate the coming of spring with an afternoon of creativity and storytelling. Do join us on Saturday 21st March to welcome the new season: we begin with a one-hour family workshop led by artists from CoCreate, making paper crow puppets to guide our 4pm woodland procession. The workshop runs 2.30-3.30pm, costs £4 per person and must be booked in advance:

Book here

At 4pm, everyone is welcome to join our free fireside storytelling in the woods, with original and folk tales shared by Anna Shiels and Martin Coyne, followed by marshmallows toasted on the fire until around 5pm. No booking is required. Do wrap up warm, and bring chairs or blankets if you wish.

Common Roots



Our partners Common Roots CIC offer thoughtful nature-connecting events in the woods, including monthly women's circles, creative writing workshops and family activities in the Easter holidays...

Keep an eye on their webpage or Facebook and Instagram

Learn more

HARMONY CONFERENCE

Tickets will soon be available for this year's Harmony conference, bringing together people and organisations creating harmony in Dorset. The two events will have complementing, but very different programmes, so you're recommended to attend both:

- 16th June Bournemouth University
- 17th June Kingston Maurwood

More details

COMMUNITY NEWS

Spring and summer volunteering programme



Our spring and summer volunteering programme offers a wide variety of outdoors activities across our sites in Wallisdown, including some ‘citizen science’ wildlife monitoring, creating new habitats and managing bracken.

If you’d like to know more, and join the sessions, email charlie@talbotvillagetrust.org

Hear about John's volunteering journey here!

Contact Charlie

Commemoration of Georgina Talbot



We were delighted to join St Mark's School and Church, together with members of the Talbot Village History Group, in a pupil-led service to commemorate our one of our founders, Georgina Talbot.

During the service we presented the school with a certificate of thanks, originally presented in 1909 to Albert Cull, retiring headteacher after 25years' service. Mr Cull was the second headteacher at the school. The certificate was found by local resident Debbie Peach in her loft and donated to us. We can only imagine it had lain there undiscovered for perhaps a century. After a little expert restoration work and framing, it will now hang in the school.

Our thanks to the children for a thoughtful service of thanksgiving and commemoration, with a floral tribute presented to Georgina's memorial.





Shrove Tuesday

We teamed up with St Mark's Church to celebrate Shrove Tuesday in the wood - by making pancakes over an open fire. There were mixed results, ranging from scrambled pancakes to crepes of a professional standard. Thank you to everyone who joined us on this inaugural (and somewhat experimental) event…we hope to have many more!



ESTATE NEWS

White Farm

You may have noticed we've got the builders in at White Farm. They are restoring the cottage and Grade 2 listed barn which we hope to use for a variety of community activities in the future. There's a lot to do, and works will be complete by next winter.

We've also installed new fencing to secure the site, and our team, including our weather-hardy volunteers, have planted native hedging.

Bird nesting season on Talbot Heath

Talbot Heath is home to ground nesting birds including the nightjar and the Dartford warbler. To leave them undisturbed it is essential that walkers keep their dogs on the lead when visiting through the Heath, especially between March and September. The Heath is a protected habitat, a registered Site of Special Scientific Interest. Please help us let the wildlife thrive by keeping to the marked paths, with dogs on short leads. In early 2027 we'll be able to open the Heathland Support Area, which has been carefully designed for local residents to walk their dogs. This will provide a space for dogs to exercise off the lead if desired, with less impact for the wildlife. Please bear with us while we prepare the site, installing fencing, laying paths and planting trees, ready for opening this coming winter.

Heathland Restoration



A major focus this winter has been the restoration of our heathland, a rare and valuable habitat that requires considered management. We've carried out extensive gorse clearance to open up the heath, allowing more light to reach the ground and encouraging the growth of heather and other native plants.

At the same time, we've been maintaining and clearing heathland paths to ensure safe, enjoyable access for visitors.

We've also strengthened our working relationship with our heathland co-owners, BCP Council. Regular meetings are helping us develop a more coordinated, collaborative approach to managing this important landscape for the benefit of wildlife and people alike.



Woodland Management





Our woodlands have seen significant activity through planned thinning works, which are vital for long-term woodland health. Removing selected trees and scrub allows more light to reach the woodland floor, supports a

wider range of plants and wildlife, and helps remaining trees grow stronger and more resilient.

This year, contractors used a remote-controlled robo mower to clear dense scrub and invasive growth. This technology reduces soil compaction, improves safety on difficult terrain, and speeds up work that would otherwise be highly labour-intensive.

We've also carried out some limb removal and full removal on several of the larger trees around the estate. These trees were assessed as having a higher risk of falling or dropping a limb, so the work was completed as a safety precaution.



Following the clearance, the team and our volunteers carried out a dedicated litter pick, removing a full truckload of rubbish that had been hidden by vegetation.

We owe enormous thanks to our team of volunteers who have helped managing invasive species, creating habitats and keeping these areas clear of litter. This winter has been exceptionally wet, yet our resilient team have worked with us every week to improve these habitats. Thank you!

SHARE YOUR NEWS

We welcome your news, photos, and updates. Although we can't feature everything, selected items may appear in future editions of 'TVT Times'.

To contribute, please get in touch!

CONTACT US







THANK YOU!

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