SUMMER EDITION - JUNE 2026



WELCOME

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter.

In recent months, we were delighted to bring together over 100 charity leaders, partners and local stakeholders at Lighthouse, Poole to launch our new strategic direction. This marked an important moment to share our vision for the next decade, focusing on the lasting impact we aim to make in supporting charities and communities across South East Dorset.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate the incredible work of local organisations. We are especially grateful to those who contributed through performances and presentations, helping to showcase the creativity, dedication, and impact within our community.

Alongside this, our work continues across grants, events, and community initiatives. From funding opportunities and volunteer programmes to

environmental projects and seasonal events, there are many ways to engage, collaborate and make a difference in the months ahead.

We hope you have a wonderful and restorative summer, and we look forward to staying connected in the months ahead.

STRATEGY LAUNCH



In late April we were delighted to host more than 100 charity leaders, industry representatives, and local stakeholders at the Lighthouse, Poole to launch our new strategic direction.

Our new strategy sets out the impact we want to make in the next decade, aligning our focus on both current and future needs of the charities and communities we support.

The event not only provided insights into our direction of travel, but also created a moment to celebrate and recognise the important and impactful work of philanthropic organisations and teams across South East Dorset.

We are incredibly grateful to representatives from Common Roots, Longspee Academy, Spear Bournemouth, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and Lewis-Manning Hospice Care Rising Voices Choir who generously gave their time to perform, share, and present during the event. Your words and impact are nothing short of inspiring.






Learn more

GRANTS UPDATE

Applications for Talbot Village Trust's Capital Autumn 2026 Grants Programme are currently open, closing on 28th June 2026.

The programme supports capital projects over £10,000 and aims to fund meaningful, long-term investments in facilities, buildings, and equipment across Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole, East Dorset and Purbeck.

As a local grant-giving charity, Talbot Village Trust is proud to support organisations delivering practical improvements and lasting community impact across the region.

If you are considering applying and would like to discuss your project or eligibility, please do not hesitate to contact our team.

Capital Grants Programme

Project types:

- Purchase, refurbishment, or repair of buildings and physical spaces, or major equipment over £10,000

Grant details:

- Requests for capital costs over £10,000
- Open to organisations with at least one year of signed accounts
- Projects must show that the capital expenditure is strategic and planned
- At least 25% matched funding must be secured before funds can be drawn down
- We cannot fund work already completed or projects that have fully started before the Trustees' decision - but later phases or new activities may be included
- The majority of the Capital Grant awards in 2025 averaged £12,500

Application process:

- Apply online by 28th June 2026 (11:59pm)
- Application form supports attachments, images, and other media
- Shortlisting results in July 2026
- Assessment calls or visits to follow in July-September 2026
- Decisions made in November 2026
- Grantees will need to submit an end-of-project report

Apply now

Support and FAQs

We know how much effort goes into preparing an application, so we've created a detailed FAQ page to help.

You'll find clear guidance on eligibility, what we fund, how to apply, and tips for strengthening your submission.

Read FAQ

Small Grants Programme

The popular Small Grants Programme will move to a monthly rolling basis to enable faster distribution of funds to local charities and grassroots organisations, with a refreshed launch planned for summer 2026.

More details to follow.

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
- BIG GIVE
- Energy Resilience Fund
- Action Funder
- Active Dorset Funding Finder
- 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 Council's Funding Advisor, Jane Joy, has 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

Summer celebration event - Saturday 20th June



Celebrating the height of summer, we're holding an afternoon of creativity and storytelling. Join us on **Saturday 20th June at 4pm** to celebrate the longest day with a procession into the woods for storytelling around a fire and marshmallows.







The stories are original and folk tales shared by Anna Shiels and Sharon Coyne, followed by marshmallows toasted on the fire until around 5pm.

The event is free and no booking is required. Meet outside Slades Park Pavilion Cafe (BH10 4HG) just before 4pm.

Do wrap up warm, and bring chairs or blankets if you wish.



Summer Events

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 school holidays.



Keep an eye on their webpage or Facebook and Instagram for more details!

Website

Facebook

Harmony Conference

At Talbot Village Trust, we believe education plays a vital role in building healthier, more connected communities, so we're delighted to support Dorset's Lord Lieutenant, Michael Dooley, in the 5th annual Creating Health and Harmony Conference. Supported by community members from across the county, Michael brings together people from education, community organisations, business, faith groups, the arts and the voluntary sector to explore how the principles of harmony - respect for one another and for the natural world - can be embedded in learning.

Join us on **Wednesday 10th June**, 9am to 4pm at the Lees Lecture Theatre, Bournemouth University Talbot Campus.

Book your place

Art at St Mark's Church and Talbot Fest

St Mark's Church, Talbot Village are developing their programme of arts events this summer: there's lots to enjoy with Alice in Wonderland family panto, The Three Musketeers, Much Ado About Nothing and Crystal's Vardo.

Take a look at their Facebook page 'The Arts at St Mark's' to find out more and book your tickets.





Visit Facebook page

The Church also invites you to Talbot Fest on **Saturday 18th July**. Join us there for family fun, makers market, bbq, bar, live music and stalls.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Summer volunteering programme

With bird nesting season now in full swing, our volunteering scheme is focusing on creating habitats, and conducting wildlife surveys.

Over Winter, our incredible team of volunteers have been focussed on the removal of overgrown or non-native species, such as gorse, holly and laurel. Through spring and summer, we are thrilled to see the arrival of bird nesting season in the woodland and heathland - the birdsong is spectacular. We are doing our part by building habitats like dead hedges, bird boxes and hibernacula. We are focussing on connecting our community with the wildlife in these spaces, through citizen science activities such as bird and riverfly surveys. We really do have ways for everybody to get involved!

If you'd like to know more, and join the sessions, email our Volunteer Coordinator Charlie below.







Email Charlie

St Mark's School reception places



ESTATE NEWS

White Farm



You may have noticed we've got the builders in at White Farm. They are restoring the Grade 2 listed cottage and barn. We hope to be able to use the space for a variety of activities in the future.

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

Keep an eye out as the site continues to take shape over the coming months.







Bird nesting season on Talbot Heath

In April we installed a beautiful sculpture of a giant bird nest to the Mayford Road entrance to Talbot Heath. The nest was created by local willow artist, Bob Brewer, to remind dog walkers to keep their dogs on a lead when visiting the Heath. Sadly, the sculpture was stolen in May. Despite extensive searching, led by many local residents, we have been unable to recover it. Our huge thanks to all those who alerted us to the theft, and who gave up many hours searching.



However, the message remains: 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.

Heathland Support Area

Over the coming months we will be continuing to prepare the Heathland Support Area for opening in early 2027. This will include making accessible and mown paths, installing fences and creating new grassland habitats. In the colder months we'll be planting new trees and hedges too. In the meantime, please continue to stay off the site, allowing our contractors to work safely

Find Out More

Heathland Restoration

We're delighted to welcome back Toby Hoad and his equine team from the Dorset Horse Logging Company. On **Thursday 9th July** they will join us on Talbot Heath to roll the bracken, helping control its vigorous growth which if left unchecked will smoother other more delicate species. You are very welcome to come and join us to watch the horses in action. Our team will be on site to share information on the process. Please do keep dogs on leads.



Reptile Survey Supports National Adder Research Project



Talbot Heath recently hosted an important reptile survey as part of a wider Natural England project investigating the genetics and population health of adders across England. Working alongside resident Amphibian and Reptile Conservation herpetologist and a PhD student from Newcastle University, the survey aimed to safely capture and release adders to support ongoing national research.

The survey was a success, with three female and one male adder recorded, alongside sightings of sand lizards, common lizards and slow worms. We were also fortunate to observe some of the heath's rare ground-nesting birds, including the nationally important Dartford Warbler.







Lowland heathland is one of the UK's rarest habitats and provides an essential mosaic of bare ground, heather, gorse and rough grass that reptiles depend upon for basking, shelter and breeding. However, many heathlands are now fragmented and require active management to maintain suitable conditions for wildlife.







Following the survey, we will be working closely with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation to further enhance habitat across the heath through

the creation of bare ground scrapes, clearing invasive gorse and re-aging areas of heather.



DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR CHARITIES

Finding inspiration in the storytelling of others



The 2026 Smiley Charity Film Awards winners are a useful reminder that powerful charity storytelling does not depend on big budgets or highly polished production. What stands out is the strength of the idea: a clear human story, a focused message, and an emotional connection that helps audiences understand why the work matters

The winners show many different ways to tell a story. Some films use one personal experience to open up a wider issue. Others ask a simple question, challenge an assumption, or reveal the everyday reality behind a cause. Titles such as The Fatal Question, In Charge of My Story, Room for an Elephant, What Does Hope Mean to You? and The Magic of Stories show how a strong concept can create curiosity before the film has even begun.

The range of approaches is also encouraging. The winners include campaign films, personal testimonies, awareness pieces, public appeals, and longer-form documentaries. There is no single “right” way to tell a

charity story. A film might be hopeful, challenging, warm, direct, playful, or deeply moving, as long as it feels honest and rooted in the people or communities it represents and doesn't make victims out of the people taking part.

For any charity thinking about future communications, the winning films offer a helpful starting point. How could your story be told through one person, one question, one place, one object, or one moment of change? Not for imitation, but for inspiration.

FIND OUT MORE





THANK YOU!

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