



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As the chairman of Island Community Action, I regularly reflect on the journey and the unique ability of our charity to adapt to the constant changes in funding, policy, and services dictated by community needs and funders' requirements. Supporting an island community that prides itself on being unique, self-reliant and family-oriented brings complexity and joy to supporting this place we call home.

Island Community Action is a volunteer organisation that has been providing activities and services to the Portland community since 1999. We are currently three years into our five-year initiative, The Portland Project, which is part funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, with match funding being provided under an innovative five-year Service Level Agreement with Portland Town Council.

To date, the initiative has seen us grow our offer to deliver a much more comprehensive range of activities, including expanded workstreams for volunteering, creativity, food and the environment, children, families, young people, and community development. It is an approach that has enabled us to work more creatively, holistically and, where possible, collaboratively to address some of the broad challenges impacting local residents.

Our longest running project, Helping Hands, provides over 20 essential services and activities to support to the island's older residents and those impacted by disability and / or long-term significant illness. The project, which aims to facilitate and support independent living, receives no long-term grant funding for its older people's activities and relies on local fundraising activities, smaller short-term project grants and local and legacy giving. Regarding the latter support, it's worth pointing out that if you leave a legacy or contribute to a national charity, your gift is rarely spent locally and, instead, goes into the charity's general funding pot. It's an important point should you wish to give, donate, or leave money to a local cause. Naming Island Community Action is, therefore, a great way to ensure your gift remains on the island.

Our charity has always been driven by the desire to make a meaningful difference to the lives of those around us. Through the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors and our staff's unwavering commitment, we have touched the lives of countless individuals and families, providing vital support in times of need and fostering a sense of unity and belonging within our community. Whether it's through initiatives that support older people, educational opportunities for our youth, or activities that seek to reduce loneliness or improve our environmental, ICA always been at the forefront of positive change, responding to the evolving needs of our community with creativity and passion.

As chair, I am continually inspired by the big-heartedness that defines our community. The outpouring of support for our charity's initiatives, the countless hours volunteered by dedicated individuals, and the profound acts of kindness that permeate our island are a testament to our community's incredible strength and resilience.

I am humbled by the tireless efforts of everyone involved in making our charity a force for good in our community. As we look to the future, I am confident that our charity will continue to be a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision of compassion and solidarity.

Thank you all for your unwavering support, and to the ICA team who make it all happen, our volunteers who make it all work and our funders who make it all possible. I look forward to continuing this incredible journey of positive change with every one of you.



Doug Pigg
Chair – Island Community Action (ICA)

KEY FUNDERS & SPONSORS

GRANTS

ICA gratefully received grant funding contributions from the following organisations in 2023:



- **The National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities** – Funding contribution towards a range of new and expanded workstreams. Funding running 2021-26.
- **Portland Town Council** – Match funding contribution under a new five-year Service Level Agreement contribution for The Portland Project. Cover several extended and new services.
- **iWill (via the Dorset Community Foundation)** – Contribution towards the Portland Youth Council.
- **John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation** – Contribution towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Aware scheme.
- **Sport England (via Active Dorset)** – Contribution towards Tales and Trail
- **The Big Green Week (via Save the Children)** – Contribution towards Growing Local
- **UK Research Institute (UKRI)** – Funding to cover delivery of the Weymouth & Portland Research Network's Stage 1 – *Voices from a Forgotten Town: Young and Vulnerable People Share Their Visions for the Future* project.

NON-GRANT DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

In addition to ICA's successful grant applications, the charity was grateful to benefit from a range of local funding opportunities over the past 12 months, including

- **Portland Court Leet** – Towards Helping Hands
- **The Rotary Club of Island & Royal Manor of Portland** – Towards young people's First Aid training
- **Portland residents** – Legacy and local donations towards our core costs.

GENERATED INCOME

ICA generates income through a range of activities, including:

The Giving Lottery – An online alternative to ICA's original lottery at:

www.givinglottery.org.uk/support/island-community-action

One-off or regular donations – Made by cash, cheque, standing order or via Local Giving at: www.localgiving.com/charity/islandcommunityaction













Legacy gifts – Made via the donor's will, these contributions range from direct donations instead of flowers at a funeral to specified sums of money, a % of an entire estate or a particular item.

Donations of prizes – From unwanted gifts to free experiences, trips and treatments.

Merchandise

ICA sells cards, lottery tickets, merchandise and more. 2020 also saw us open our Teemill website at: <https://islandcommunityaction.teemill.com>



 <p>Unisex All merchandise printed on 100% organic cotton, using eco-friendly inks in a low carbon factory harnessing the power of renewable energy.</p>	 <p>Men's Add a splash of cool colour to your wardrobe with this stylish range of designer men's apparel. Perfect for you, for gifts, for all seasons.</p>	 <p>Women's Check out our collection of on-trend merchandise, specifically designed for those who love unique, eye-catching designs and bold prints.</p>	 <p>Ammonite Women's Tee Designed by Red Stone - London, this stylish Ammonite design pays homage to Portland's position as a Jurassic Coast fossil hotspot.</p>
 <p>Kid's From fun prints to perfect fits, this collection has been designed to make kids look good and feel amazing.</p>	 <p>Rainbows Kid's Tee Forget your troubles and get ready to spread some positive vibes with our colourful Believe in Rainbows Kid's Tee.</p>	 <p>Cult Portland's weird and wacky reputation comes to the fore with a quirky twist on some well known cult brands.</p>	 <p>Hoodies A fresh collection of hoodies designed to make maximum impact with cool designs and cotton softness.</p>
 <p>Love Love is in the air and we want you to hold it close to your heart with our new 'Love Portland' collection.</p>	 <p>Love Portland UK Tee If you're proud to be a Portlander or simply love the island, why not tell the world about it with a Portland UK Tee.</p>	 <p>Wild This collection pays tribute to Portland's wilder side, from its fossils and fauna to its stormy seas and water sports.</p>	 <p>White Boat Kid's Tee A perfect choice for kids that love getting out on the water...or have a bit of a passion for all things boaty!</p>

PROJECTS & SERVICES

The Portland Projects 11 workstreams have been developed in response to our island's key challenges and the identified needs and wants of local residents.

1. HELPING HANDS – OLDER PEOPLE + THOSE IMPACTED BY DISABILITY AND / OR SERIOUS, LIFE LIMITING OR TERMINAL ILLNESS (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED):

Current services:

- Advice
- Befriending (face-to-face and telephone)
- Dog walking
- Brain Games – conversation and games (suitable for those with mild dementia)
- Chat A Latte: Coffee, cake and good conversation. ICA's follow-on project for our 2022 Warm Bank.
- Chesil Art Group (Portland and Wyke Regis)
- Exercise: Get Together – gentle seated
- Exercise: Osteocise – mid-range
- Exercise: Fit+ – advanced aerobic
- Exercise: Yoga – mind and body (16yrs+)
- Food: The Dining Room, Sunday Lunch Club and other foodie outings
- Shopping: In-store @ Tesco
- Songs R Us: Singing group featuring harmonies and a wide range of songs.
- Special events (e.g. Senior's Christmas lunch and Christmas hampers)
- Social: Bingo
- Social: Coffee mornings
- Transport: Medical and essential appointments
- Transport: Other (e.g. social outings, visiting relatives in care homes etc.)
- Good Neighbour Scheme (small tasks and errands e.g. admin, DIY, prescriptions, shopping etc.)

2. CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES – ICA are working in collaboration to develop and deliver a range of youth focused services and activities. These include a youth volunteering scheme, life and leadership skills training, consultation activities and events. ICA also manage the Portland Youth Council.

3. COMMUNITY CRAFTERS (ALL AGES) – Community-based creative and crafting projects for good causes. Aimed at reducing isolation and loneliness and strengthening community and intergenerational bonds.

4. GROWING LOCAL (ALL AGES) – Providing opportunities for residents to volunteer and participate in 'hands-on' activities that develop their skills and interest in food and growing, encourage their passion for nature and the environment and increase their understanding around the links between climate change, the natural world and food.

The emphasis is on simple and fun community-based activities that keep participants engaged and empowered to progress, whatever their passion or skill level, from simple Do One Thing for Portland activities, like building a bug hotel, to signing up for a litter pick or foraging walk, taking part in beginner's or specialist cookery course or volunteering for (or driving) a large scale environment / nature based project.

The overall aspiration is to provide participants with the confidence and knowledge to make simple changes that benefit themselves and the planet. The project also focuses on bringing people together in settings that not only help them feel more connected to their community, but also helps them understand the benefits of engaging with and protecting Portland's amazing natural environment for today's and future generations.

ICA are collaborating with a range of organisations to deliver linked activities:

- EDEN Portland + Exeter, Nottingham Trent and Bournemouth Universities to deliver significant environment related projects.
- Atlantic Academy to develop a new wildlife and growing garden + cookery, growing and environment-based activities.
- b-side to deliver Future Portland, a multifaceted project aimed at empowering residents to protect and enhance their local environment, biodiversity and significant landmarks.

5. **VOLUNTEER BUREAU** – Supporting those wishing to volunteer or offer volunteer roles, from recruitment to training and DBS checks.
6. **COMMUNITY HUB** – Providing advice, information and signposting to local residents around a host of different subjects. ICA deals with around 7-8,000 queries a year.
7. **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS** – ICA's three qualified Community Organisers provide a range of community consultation services for ICA and other organisations. Past consultation clients include Eden – Portland, Dorset Council, NHS Dorset and Portland Town Council.
8. **COMMUNITY CONNECTORS** – Residents trained by ICA's Community Organiser team to identify and signpost those in potential need of support.
9. **COMMUNITY FORUM** – A space for local organisations to network, coordinate support, forward plan and build capacity.
10. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT** – Providing advice, information and training for other local community-based organisations.
11. **COLLABORATIONS** – ICA continues to work in partnership with a number of groups and support structures to improve Portland's infrastructure and support offer, including:
 - The Integrated Care System (ICS) Portland Steering Group
 - Portland Hospital Development Group
 - Dorset Community Mental Health Alliance Group
 - Weymouth and Portland Innovation Group (Mental Health & Wellbeing)
 - Weymouth and Portland Community Research Network
 - High Angle Battery Delivery Group

ACHIEVEMENTS

TABLE 1: CLIENT / PARTICIPATION NUMBERS ACHIEVED FOR YEAR 2 (2022-23)

WORKSTREAM KEY N/A = NO INDIVIDUAL TARGETS ORIGINALLY SET ¹ = FIGURE BASED ON KNOWN NUMBERS OR INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING ONCE ONLY	NO. OF COURSES OR ACTIVITY SESSIONS		NO. OF INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING ACROSS COURSES / SESSIONS		NO. OF INTERACTIONS (PEOPLE X ATTENDANCES – UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	
	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED
HELPING HANDS (OLDER PEOPLE + THOSE IMPACTED BY DISABILITY AND / OR SERIOUS, LIFE LIMITING OR TERMINAL ILLNESS)						
Befriending (face-to-face and telephone sessions with befrienders)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	666
Club activities (art and exercise)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	2,539
Good Neighbours errands (Includes basic DIY, prescription collections and deliveries, shopping and other small errands)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	979
Food based activities (e.g. lunch clubs and foodie outings)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	834
Purely social activities (non-food celebration and bingo)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	3,499
Transport (essential appointments and activities)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	1,743
Transport (in-store shopping)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	206
Telephone catch-ups (by ICA office staff and volunteers – based on a minimum five calls per day x five days weekly x 48 weeks)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	1,200
SUB-TOTAL – ACTUALS ACHIEVED			500	576	9,000	11,666
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES						
Portland Youth Council – Intro sessions (delivered to 11-16 year olds via education / youth based groups)	5	5	400	545	400	545 ¹
Portland Youth Council – Council sessions	32	32	10	10	300	320
Portland Youth Council – Public events / campaigns: Coronation Cinema (500+ attendees), Pride Month (300+ attendees), Pirate Day (200+ attendees) and Portland Sparkle (500+ attendees)	4	4	1000	1500	250	1000 ¹
Portland Youth Council: Project collaborations (with local organisations – Atlantic Academy, b-side, Casterbridge Speakers, Court Leet, Dorset Youth Association – Voice X, KNEED, Portland Town Council + The Drop In)	4	8	4	8	4	8 ¹
Portland Youth Council: Thorpe Park trip	0	1	0	48	0	48
Youth based life and leadership skills training: Team Building, Manifesto Creation, Consultation Planning, Consultation and Research Skills, Interview Skills, Recording Skills. First Aid, Public speaking and Presentation Skills	6	8	10	19	80	103 ¹
SUB-TOTAL – ACTUALS ACHIEVED	51	58	1,424	2,130	1,034	2,024

KEY N/A = NO INDIVIDUAL TARGETS ORIGINALLY SET ¹ = FIGURE BASED ON KNOWN NUMBERS OR INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING ONCE ONLY	WORKSTREAM		NO. OF COURSES OR ACTIVITY SESSIONS		NO. OF INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING ACROSS COURSES / SESSIONS		NO. OF INTERACTIONS (PEOPLE X ATTENDANCES – UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)
	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED	
CREATIVE							
Advent Angels	24	24	24	24	24	24	24 ¹
Community Crafters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild 'n' Woolly (61 volunteers / 700 items) • Winter Warmers (16 volunteers / 25 items) • Crowns for the Coronation (56 volunteers / 56 items) • Pride Feathers (52 volunteers / 300 items) • Octopi (17 volunteers / 17 items) • Butterflies (44 volunteers / 203 items) • Book Binding and Printing (7 volunteers / 14 items) • Hand Puppets (4 volunteers / 12 items) • Digestive System (1 volunteer / 10 items) 	0	9	0	112	0		1,337
Spin A Yarn monthly get together social crafting sessions	0	3	0	32	0		66 ¹
Cratativity hampers (activities for vulnerable clients, including those who are housebound or impacted by disability / serious illness).	N-A	N-A	80	146	80		146 ¹
Nothe of the Living Dead	1	1	150	192	150		192 ¹
The Portland Shed (NOW AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT)	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A	N-A		N-A
SUB-TOTAL – ACTUALS ACHIEVED	25	37	254	506	254		1,765
GROWING LOCAL (FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT)							
Cooking Courses	24	8	30	15	120		60
Growing Courses	24	0	30	0	120		0
Specialist Courses	6	6	60	60	60		60
Environment Activities: Large-scale activities with Atlantic Academy (x 2 – BioBlitz and Do One Thing event – same students attended both events)	0	2	0	300	0		300 ¹
Environment Activities: Large-scale activities with b-side (x 3 – How To Look After An Island = 50, Environment Fayre = 300+ and Future Portland = 72)	0	3	0	422	0		422 ¹
Environment Activities: Portland Pickers (includes 4 individuals doing weekly picks x 48)	4	3	30	34	90		308
Environment Activities: Hedgehog Heroes	0	1	0	11	0		11
SUB-TOTAL – ACTUALS ACHIEVED	58	23	150	842	390		1,161

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	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED	YEAR 2 TARGET	YEAR 2 ACHIEVED		
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT								
Consultation events: <ul style="list-style-type: none">High Angle Battery (face 2 face and digital @ various locations – for Dorset Council = 2 separate participation routes / 563 participants)Weymouth & Portland Research Network – Voices from a Forgotten Town (young people’s consultation = 3 sessions / 216 participants)Portland Youth Council (younger people = 2 sessions / 109 participants)ICA (older people = 1 session / 85 participants)	6	8	750	973	750	973 ¹		
Portland Community Forum (includes physical sessions x 4 and digital interactions x multiple / total current membership = 109 / final figure based on members engaging with two sessions, though most engaged more)	4	4	100	109	100	218		
Community Connectors – Pilot with ICA volunteers and staff (includes everything from sorting Portland Foodbank vouchers for individual and family use to support with GP eConsults)	0	0	0	541 (number of referrals)	0	541		
Infrastructure Support for local third sector community-based organisations (number of organisations supported)	N-A-	N-A-	8	8	24	24		
Portland community representation on steering groups (x 7)	36	76	N-A-	N-A-	36	76		
SUB-TOTAL – ACTUALS ACHIEVED	46	88	858	1,631	910	1,832		
GRAND-TOTAL – ACTUALS ACHIEVED	180	206	3,186	5,685	11,588	18,448		

ADDITIONAL 'OTHER' KEY STATS:

- **Enquiries**
 - 22,387 = total ICA related phone calls, digital conversations and face-to-face enquiries
 - 7,484 = total non-ICA related phone calls, digital conversations and face-to-face enquiries

NB: We are confident these significant numbers have much to do with ICA's increasing role as a trusted information source, especially for older residents who may feel wary of other sources, have limited access to other sources or may not be digitally active or confident.

- **Digital...**
 - Facebook – Island Community Action = 2,068 likes / 2,357 followers
 - Facebook – Island Community Action Community Crafters = 458 members

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of clients / participants engaged:

The total number of clients / participants engaged across ICA's active workstreams are as follows:

- Helping Hands = 576
- Youth based activities = 2,130
- Creative = 506
- Growing Local = 842
- Consultations = 973
- Portland Community Forum = 109
- Community Connectors = 541

TOTAL = 5,667 (excludes Portland representation and infrastructure support)

NB: The numbers above do include repeats. However, we are confident that the number of separate individuals engaged exceeds 2,500.

Age breakdown of ICA clients / participants

- 15% = 5-10yrs
- 22% = 11-15yrs
- 3% = 16-24yrs
- 4% = 25-34yrs.
- 6% = 35-44yrs
- 9% = 45-54yrs
- 12% = 55-64yrs
- 16% = 65-74yrs
- 21% = 75yrs+
- 1% prefer not to say

Gender breakdown

- 57% = Women / girls
- 42% = Men / boys
- 1% = Other

CLIENT / PARTICIPANT IMPACT

ICA regularly seeks feedback regarding the impact of its activities, services and support offer. This feedback enables us to measure impact and assess areas for improvement.

TABLE 2: CLIENT / PARTICIPANT IMPACT FOR YEAR 2 (2022-23)

WORKSTREAM AND QUESTIONS	YES %	NO %	N/A %
HELPING HANDS (OLDER PEOPLE + THOSE IMPACTED BY DISABILITY AND / OR SERIOUS, LIFE OR TERMINAL ILLNESS)			
Has ICA made you feel happier and / or more confident?	99	1	0
Have ICA's activities helped you feel less lonely and / or worried	99	1	0
Has ICA helped you socialise with others?	98	0	2
Have ICA's activities helped your mobility / health	91	5	3
Has ICA helped you feel safer?	90	5	5
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES - YOUTH COUNCIL			
In-depth evaluation not undertaken in Year 2	N/A	N/A	N/A
CREATIVE - COMMUNITY CRAFTERS			
In-depth evaluation not undertaken in Year 2	N/A	N/A	N/A

WORKSTREAM AND QUESTIONS	YES %	A LITTLE %	NO %	N/A %
GROWING LOCAL – HAS PARTICIPATING IN THIS ACTIVITY...				
Increased your knowledge and skills	100			
Increased your understanding of the benefits associated with buying, cooking and / or growing your own or locally produced food (e.g. health, social, environmental and financial)?	83	17		
Made you more likely to buy locally produced / grown food?	80	20		
Made you more likely to cook at home / expand your repertoire at home?	100			
Made you feel happier / more positive?	100			
Increased your opportunities to socialise?	100			
Made you feel healthier?	64	9		27
Increased your overall confidence?	84	16		
Made you feel more involved in your community?	75	25		
Made you more likely to get involved with your local community e.g. as a volunteer, by joining an existing project (food, growing or environment based) or starting your own?	75	15	10	
Did you enjoy this activity?	100			

VOLUNTEERS

TABLE 3: VOLUNTEER NUMBERS ACHIEVED FOR YEAR 2 (2022-23)

WORKSTREAM	NO. OF INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS		NO. OF VOLUNTEER HOURS	
	TARGET	ACHIEVED	TARGET	ACHIEVED
VOLUNTEER BUREAU				
Helping Hands	0	125	0	24,000
Nothe of the Living Dead	0	107	0	1,284
Portland Youth Council	0	10	0	2,280
Community Crafters	0	112	0	896
Growing Local	0	61	0	666
Events	0	12	0	125
Project support	0	2	0	41
ICA Board of Trustees	0	5	0	240
ICA staff team (staff who have done volunteer hours in addition to paid hours)	0	4	0	1,738
SUB-TOTAL	0	438	0	31,270

In addition, ICA delivered:

- 34 x individuals to non-ICA volunteering roles
- 12 x Volunteer of the Month awards (celebrating volunteers from across different organisations on the island)
- The Advent Angels Christmas Campaign (celebrating formal and informal volunteer heroes across the island)

Age breakdown of ICA volunteers

- 1% = 5-10yrs
- 4% = 11-15yrs
- 7% = 16-24yrs
- 7% = 25-34yrs
- 9% = 35-44yrs
- 8% = 45-54yrs
- 20% = 55-64yrs
- 33% = 65-74yrs
- 11% = 75yrs+

Gender breakdown

- 65% female
- 34% male
- 1% other

Total volunteer hours

We can only provide an estimate for this figure because so much volunteering goes unlogged e.g. odd errands carried out by befrienders or Good Neighbour volunteers. However, based on what we do know, we can say that volunteers gave a total of 31,270 hours during the year. This equates to £375,240 back into the local economy (based on UK Living Wage, £12 per hour).

ICA's evaluation survey showed the key reasons people decide to volunteer are that it:

- Makes them feel happy / positive
- Allows them to give something back to their community
- Helps them feel connected to their community
- Extends their social networks
- Makes them feel needed and useful
- Gives them the opportunity to participate in activities that interest them

100% reported that volunteering with ICA also increased their confidence awareness around the island's wider support offer, volunteering opportunities and other activities in general.

We also experience individuals transitioning from client to volunteer and back again.

PORTLAND'S FIRST YOUTH COUNCIL



Isabelle Bowring

Youth Council Member

Isabelle wants to improve LGBTQ+ Rights and Equality.

Isabelle is passionate about representing your voices about LGBTQ+ lives and wants to advocate for more support clubs and events.



Matilda Busby-Wilcocks

Youth Council Member

Matilda is passionate about social and developmental opportunities for young people.

Her aim is to create more fun events for young people, influence different career opportunities and campaign for fairer public transport.



Leah Foot

Youth Council Member

Leah is passionate about helping the environment.

Leah wants to reduce food waste by campaigning for more opportunities for young people to learn how to cook from scratch and appreciate food.



Grace Hawkins

Youth Council Member

Grace is standing to improve sport equipment on the island so that exercise is more accessible to everyone.

She would like to push for more outdoor equipment for the Island.



Charlie Jackson

Youth Council Member

Charlie hopes to make a difference to young people's lives on the Island.

He is interested in using his experience to promote and improve activities for young people.



Lucy Masters

Youth Council Member

Lucy wants to bring more safety and fun to the Island.

She is looking to make differences to the outdoor facilities on the island and ensure that these can be safely accessed by all.



Storm Middleton

Youth Council Member

Storm is looking to improve support and opportunities for small businesses on the Island and create more youth provision.

She believes in providing more workshops for young people to learn outside of school.



Aidan O'Neill

Youth Council Member

Aidan wishes to advocate for the environment on the Island.

Aidan would like to increase opportunities for outdoor activities that promote respect and enjoyment of our natural world.



Miya-Lei Taylor

Youth Council Member

Miya wants to influence the support, information and social opportunities for young people.

This includes supporting local youth clubs to reinstate some services, advocating for outdoor play facilities to be refurbished and make all opportunities more accessible.



Joe Pascoe

Youth Council Member

Joe is hoping to make the Island a fairer place to live.

He wants to improve job opportunities on the island and campaign for more support for young people to learn skills that could help them discover different careers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In its first year, the Portland Youth Council identified five key priorities, these were identified through the Youth Councillor's own manifestos, additional consultation with peers and evidenced local need. These priorities were as follows:

1. Improve employment, training and volunteering opportunities
2. Promote equality and diversity
3. Protect the environment
4. Increase social opportunities and affordable activities
5. Improve Public spaces.

Regular sessions – Councillors attended 32 regular sessions and participated in 5 face-2-face introductory sessions with 545 11-16 year olds (ahead of the Yr 2 elections)



Training sessions – Eight completed: Team Building Day, Manifesto Creation, Consultation Planning, Consultation and Research Skills, Interview Skills, Recording Skills, First Aid and Public speaking and Presentation Skills.

Consultations – Two consultations delivered, with 109 young people participating.

Collaborations – Atlantic Academy, b-side, Casterbridge Speakers, Community Crafters, Court Leet, Dorset Youth Association, Portland Town Council and The Drop In.

Events:

- **Coronation Cinema event with Portland Town Council** – Portland Town Council originally quoted over £10,000 to deliver an outdoor cinema event for the Coronation. PYC secured an alternative at just over £2,000)
- **Pride Window** – PYC collaborated with ICA's Community Crafters to deliver over 500 crotchet/knitted feathers and create a stunning pair of Pride wings for ICA's window.
- **Pirate Fun Day** – PYC delivered a range of low cost activities, including a Basketball Challenge and Treasure Hunt



Summer Trip – Raised £710 towards a Thorpe Park trip for 48 young people AND secured a free coach from local company, Excelsior Coaches. Included 20 free tickets (for identified young carers and volunteers + those from disadvantaged backgrounds) and a 28 reduced price tickets).

Representation – PYC represented Portland's youth at various Dorset wide events (including Portland's Beating the Bounds. celebration) and fed into local projects.

Portland's Youth Council is managed by ICA, with the support of Portland Town Council,

BEGINNER'S COOKERY COURSE

Island Community Action: Registered Charity 1157978
The Easton Centre, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1EB / 01305 823789
office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk / www.islandcommunityaction.org

ICA collected feedback from students and young people after the cookery sessions. 100% said they enjoyed their experience.

Critically, the cookery sessions also enabled us to engage a number of students with SEND needs.



GROWING LOCAL: SPECIALIST



GROWING LOCAL: ENVIRONMENT

This year ICA worked in collaboration with Atlantic Academy, b-side, Hedgehog Friendly Portland and a number of local enthusiasts to deliver a range of activities and events focused on the environment, climate change and biodiversity. These included...

How To Look After An Island – Three linked events delivered in collaboration with b-side:

1. **How To Look After An Island** – Focused on bringing experts and enthusiasts together in order to discuss the ways in which we can work to balance sustainability and profitability, ensuring we meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future.
2. **Environment Fayre** – Aimed at engaging the wider community through a mix of hands-on activities, with particular emphasis on families.
3. **Future Portland** – Open to all and aimed at showcasing best practice examples of those leading the way in developing sustainable, community-based solutions.





Hedgehog Heroes –

Working together, ICA and Hedgehog Friendly Portland ran an event to inspire primary aged children to care for one of the UK's most endangered species, from how to create a hedgehog home to providing the right food.

The day also included a talk about Portland's wild flowers and an opportunity to create 'Wild Art'.



Do One Thing for Portland –

Young and old were invited to complete challenges in order to support Portland's environment and biodiversity. With every 10 challenges completed, participants are awarded a nature themed prize.



Great for you. Great for nature. Great for Portland!

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE



DO TEN THINGS to help nature and the environment on Portland and earn yourself a special reward. For more information about the DO ONE THING project see: www.facebook.com/dotportland.



Island Community Action

Hedgehog Heroes

with Hedgehog Friendly Portland

Find out all there is to know about hedgehogs, their lives and how to help protect them.

Suitable for ages 7-10 yrs

Wednesday 31st May
1pm - 4pm
Community 2000 Hall, Easton

15 FREE places available. Advanced booking essential.
T: 01305 823789

E: office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk
f: Island Community Action - ICA
i: [islandcommunityactionportland](https://www.instagram.com/islandcommunityactionportland)

COMMUNITY FUND

ENVIRONMENT DAY AND BIOBLITZ

Throughout the 2022-2023 funded period ICA's Growing Local BioBlitz and Environment Days engaged with over 300 separate Atlantic Academy students. During these sessions students got hands-on with a multitude of different insects and plants, created bird feeders, bug hotels and toad abodes, and potted up plants for pollinators. We received 100% positive feedback from participating students.

To deliver the sessions, ICA worked with a range of local experts and enthusiasts, all of whom have committed to collaborate with the project long-term.



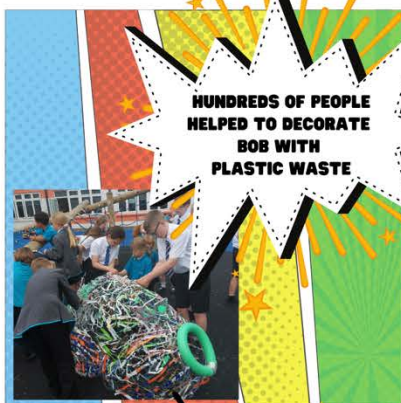
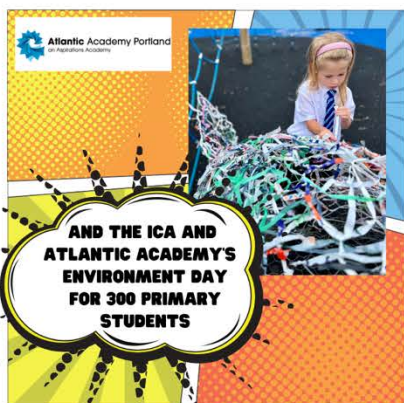
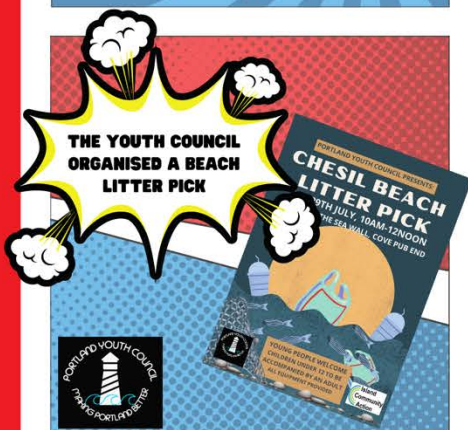


The Atlantic Academy's Environment Days were supported by Portland Youth Council, who also came up with the idea for our Bob the Blobfish sculpture (shown in the last shot). Bob was created to highlight the dangers of plastic pollution in our oceans.

His creation and evolution story are shown on the next page...

THE STORY OF A FISH NAMED 'BOB THE BLOB'

AND HIS JOURNEY TO RAISE AWARENESS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION IN OUR OCEANS



COMMUNITY CRAFTERS

Community Crafters (crafting for community-based good causes) aims to reduce isolation and loneliness and strengthen community and intergenerational bonds through a range of large-scale crafting projects.

CROWNS FOR THE CORONATION



OCTOPI AND BUTTERFLIES

Octopi created for every new baby born on the island during 2023, the octopi also formed a central display at this year's Portland Marina, Portland Week event.

Butterflies created and turned into brooches and bag tassels to raise funds for ICA's older people's activities and services.



HAND PUPPETS

Created to support communication with SEND primary students at Atlantic Academy.



SPIN A YARN

ICA's monthly crafting club, which has grown out of the Community Crafters project. The club brings people of all ages together to socialise, share skills and create ways to celebrate community creativity.



CONSULTATIONS

During the funded period ICA delivered a number of consultations. The most significant was a consultation for Dorset Council – an extremely positive development for us because it was the first time we've been approached by a county wide, statutory organisation to deliver consultation services.

The consultation focused on Portland's High Angle Battery and formed part of a large scale (successful) Heritage Lottery Fund bid to restore, enhance and protect the landmark for current and future generations.

563 responses were received in total – a response rate that Dorset Council were thrilled about.

One of the most controversial questions asked was whether the Battery's tunnels should be closed, which Dorset Council were seriously considering.

For many local people, the Battery holds a special place in their hearts. This is particularly relevant when it comes to the tunnels, which have played an important role in the lives of residents and visitors, often from childhood.

The question regarding the tunnel closures was, therefore, always going to be provocative.

Significantly, over 90% of those responding stated that they felt this was not an appropriate action. In response, Dorset Council reversed this decision – evidencing the power of community.

High Angle Battery Improvement Project

Do you visit High Angle Battery on Portland?

Please help us make improvements to transform this site of national importance by sharing your views, ideas and comments by taking part in our survey.

Survey open from the 1st to the 19th February!

SCAN ME



Tell us your views and take part in the survey today!

Find out more at: www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk
(or scan above with your phone camera to go directly to the online survey)

Dorset Council **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL** **Island Community Action**



High Angle Battery (Including Ghost Tunnels) Project Survey 1st to 26th February 2023

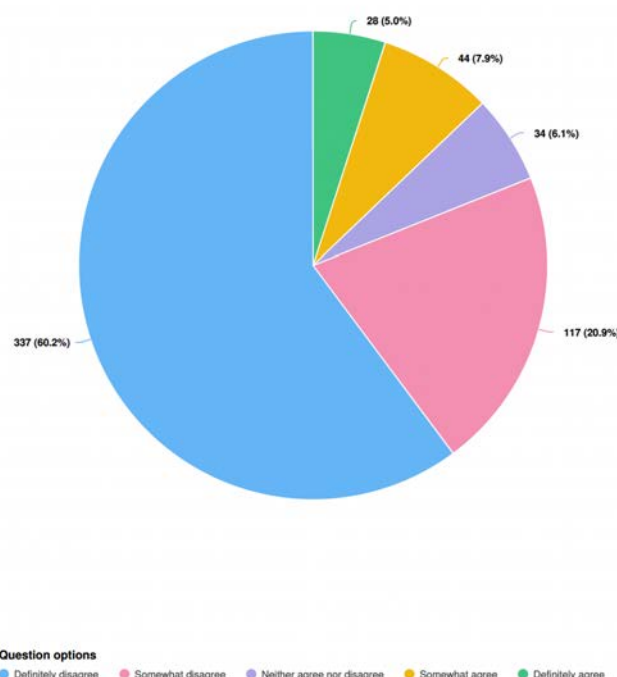


High Angle Battery (including the Ghost Tunnels) is located on Portland and is a protected as a Scheduled Monument, a status which recognises its national importance. It is part of the story of Portland's military past and a significant element in an 'arms race' in the later 19th century. It was built in the 1890s with the intention of firing shells down onto ships attacking Portland Harbour from a position invisible to those on the ships – aided by a complicated system to help the gunners locate the ships. It is a below-ground complex with buildings, tunnels, and gun emplacements. It is also due to be recorded as 'at risk' on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. The site is owned and managed by Dorset Council.

High Angle Battery Project proposal – We would like to make improvements which will transform the setting of High Angle Battery. We want to do this by:

- Carrying out improvements to some of the buildings and structures that are historically significant at the site
- Enhancing the site's variety of plants and animals found at the site e.g. bats.
- Improving safety at the site, which may include closing all of the tunnels.
- Linking with other key sites on the Island and beyond.
- Reinvigorating promotion of the site through events, talks etc to increase the number of visitors using the site
- Developing bold interpretation, including written, visual and interactive digital content, to tell the story of the site.
- Looking at the possibility of a placing a replica gun at the site
- Recruiting volunteers to look after the site following the improvement project.

Q7 The Tunnels We are considering closing all of the tunnels for safety reasons and to get drone footage of all tunnels to have a photographic record that would be available online. What is your view on this? Credit: Historic England Archive



PARTNERSHIPS

TABLE 4: COLLABORATIONS LISTS FOR YEAR 2 (2023) – TOTAL 76 ORGANISATIONS

PARTNER		NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP
1	Atlantic Academy	Consultations, events, Growing Local activities
1	b-side	Events and collaborative projects
2	Chemists, including Boots Easton and Fortuneswell	Prescriptions
4	Domiciliary care providers	Cross-referrals
1	Dorset Blind Association	Transport for their trips
1	Dorset Citizen's Advice Bureau	Cross-referrals
1	Dorset Community Action	Advice, information sharing, events
2	Dorset Council – Adult Social Care & Children's Services	Advice, information sharing, cross-referrals
3	Dorset Council – Other (Communities & Partnerships; Environment, Policy & Partnerships; Social Mobility Commissioning)	Joint projects, funding, advice, information sharing, input into Dorset's evolving statutory offer, Portland based project support.
1	Dorset Integrated Care System (NHS, Dorset Council and a range of voluntary organisations)	ICA a lead partner on the Portland Healthcare Steering Group and Portland Hospital & Healthcare Development Group
1	Dorset Mind	Advice, information sharing. cross-referrals
3	Dorset hospitals (Dorset County, Westhaven and Weymouth)	Support referrals for hospital leavers
1	Dorset Fire & Rescue	Advice, information sharing. cross-referrals
3	Dorset NHS (Transformation Team, Strategic Commissioning, Urgent Care)	Support referrals for hospital leavers
1	Dorset Super League Darts	Transport for their trips
1	The Drop-In Youth Service	Shared staffing, collaborative events and activities
1	Eden Portland	Consultation, collaborative events and activities
1	EPIC Games Dorset	Collaborative events
1	Friends of Victoria Gardens	Collaborative events
1	Housing & Care 21 (Foylebank Court)	Lunch clubs, training kitchen
1	Island & Royal Manor of Portland Rotary	Funding, information sharing
1	Lantern Trust	Cross-referrals
1	Macpherson House	Transport for their trips
1	Nothe Fort	Collaborative events
1	Opera Circus	Staff and resource sharing
1	Portland Carers Group	Advice, information sharing, cross-referrals
1	Portland Churches	Information sharing, cross-referrals
1	Portland Community Hospital	Service support, cross-referrals
1	Portland Community Partnership (PCP)	Advice, information sharing
1	Portland Connect / Tricuro	Cross-referrals
1	Portland Community Fridge	Information sharing
1	Portland Foodbank	Shared resources, cross-referrals
1	Portland Library	Information sharing
1	Portland Permaculture Group	Growing Local stakeholder
1	Portland Town Council	Portland Project co-funder, information and resource sharing, Growing Local stakeholder
1	Portland United Football Club (Youth)	Transport for their trips
1	Public Health Dorset	Growing Local stakeholder, ICA also member of the Dorset Health & Wellbeing Board
1	Rotary Club of Portland	Funding, event support and transport for their trips
1	Royal Manor Health Centre	Data sharing, cross-referrals, volunteer recruitment and Growing Local stakeholder
1	Southwell Area Living Together (S.A.L.T)	Event support and transport for their trips
1	South West Path	Development linked projects
1	Steps Youth Service	Joint projects, Information sharing, joint funding bids,
3	Universities (Bournemouth, Exeter and Nottingham Trent)	Information sharing, joint projects and funding bids and conference ./ event support
9	Venues	C2000, Easton Methodist Church, Lobster Pot, Masonic Hall, Royal Manor Health Centre, St. George's Centre, St. John's Hall, Wellworthys Sports & Social Club and YMCA
1	Volunteer Centre Dorset	Joint projects, advice, information sharing, DBS checks, PR, general support (including VC Connect)
9	Voluntary Sector groups	Joint events, shared resources, volunteer recruitment / training

CHRISTMAS

SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS MEAL

ICA's annual festive lunch for 85 older residents at The Lobster Pot, Portland Bill



ADVENT ANGELS

Special treats for 24 local community champions, from those who've supported another person or cause to those who've survived a challenging period in their life. Nominated for by the community.



CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP



Warm Spaces Update

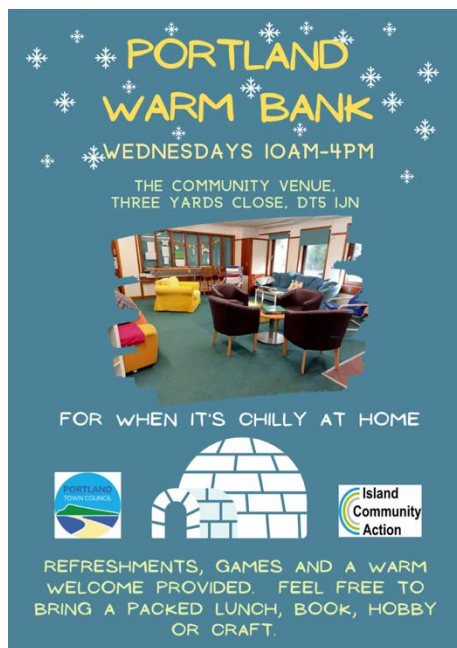
💬 LEAVE A COMMENT 🕒 21ST DECEMBER 2022 👤 ICAPORTLAND

Here is a list of current activities and warm spaces across Portland for December 2022 into 2023.

This is an evolving list that we plan to update monthly. If you are an organisation please let us have any changes or additions by the end of the month for inclusion the following month.

The spaces and activities listed on this timetable are free to attend, however, refreshments and / or snacks may cost extra. Unless otherwise stated, activities are run by the venue at which the activity is held.

No formal COVID-19 restrictions are currently in place, however, feel free to continue wearing a mask and using sanitiser etc.



MONDAY

Coffee Morning: Bringing the community together over a warm brew. 9.30am-12.00pm at The Islanders Youth and Community Centre, East Weare Road, Verne Common. Adults only.

Coffee Morning (run by The Salvation Army): 10.00-11.30am at the Easton Methodist Church, Easton.

Cuppa and Company: 10:30am-12:00pm at Portland Library, Easton. Space limited due to the library's size.

The Drop In: Safe, inclusive space for young people. 6.30-8.00pm (for those aged 11-14) at The Portland Community Venue, Three Yards Close, Fortuneswell.

TUESDAY

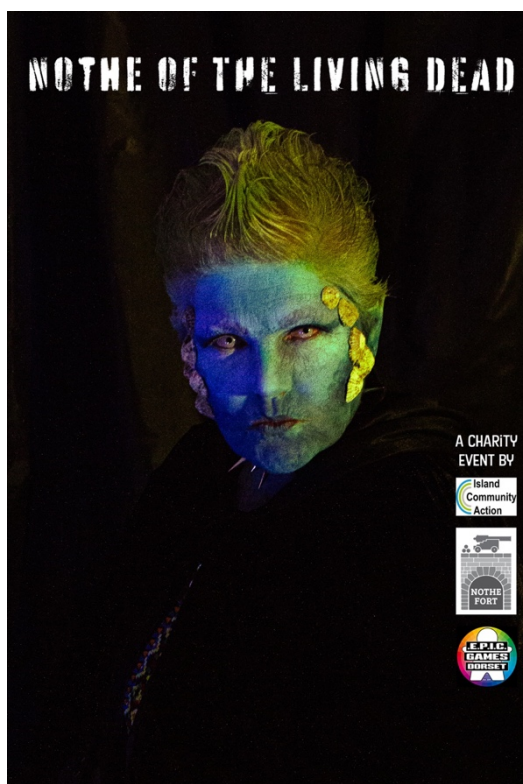
Coffee Morning: 10.00-11.30am at the Community 2000 Hall (C2000), Straits, Easton.

The Drop In: Safe, inclusive space for young people. 6.00-7.30pm (for those aged 8-11) at The Portland Community Venue, Three Yards Close, Fortuneswell.

FUNDRAISING

ICA continues to deliver large scale fundraisers, including Nothe of the Living Dead.

The theme for this year's event was Dead Men Tell No Tales, a marine inspired adventure featuring zombie pirates and a host of marine monsters. The event, which sold out and attracted 107 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, is a charity fundraiser between ICA, EPIC Games Dorset and Nothe Fort.



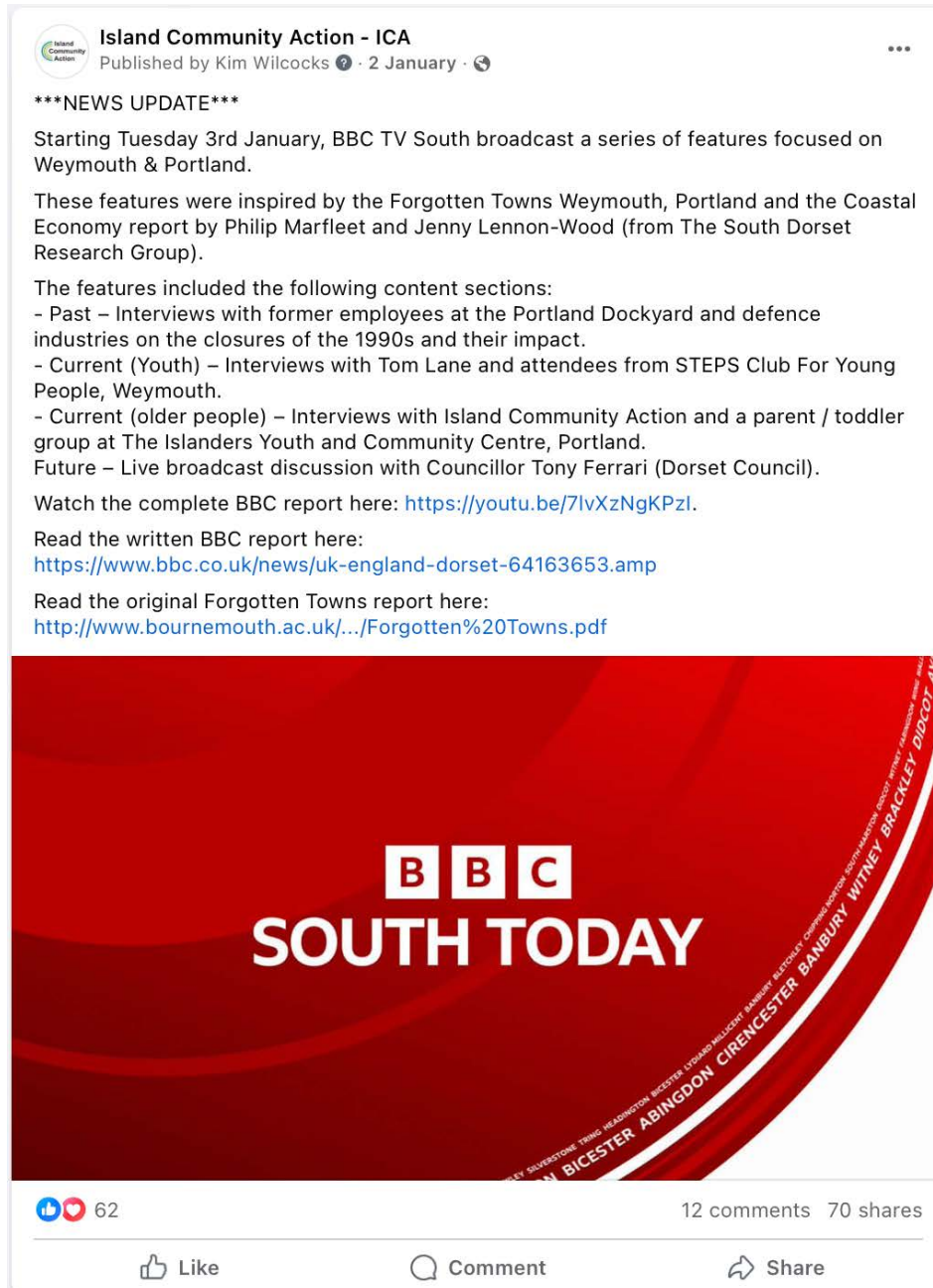
ADVERTISING & PR

ICA has continued to benefit from promotion across a range of media platforms, including BBC Radio Solent, Wessex FM, 105 FM, the Dorset Echo, the Free Portland News, partner newsletters and social media.

TV – The two most significant were:

1. **BBC South Today** – A week-long series of TV features in January based on the 2022 *Forgotten Towns: Weymouth, Portland and the Coastal Community* report, written by Philip Marfleet and Jenny Lennon-Wood.

Original BBC South report - www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lvXzNgKPzI



2. **Community Action Network** – Film, featured at the 2023 VSC EXPO, Dorset.

Film can be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aVkJ7-vTrGs&list=PLqalVXqZXdmfwHkSRWQqsH9-CDSsUfgTe&index=1

Portland: Environment Fayre at St George's Centre

1st June

ENVIRONMENT

EVENTS

FAMILY

LEISURE

PORTLAND



A family friendly environment fayre is being held on Portland this weekend (Image: B-side festival)

By Joanna Davis

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No Comments

Celebrate the unique environment of Portland with a special event this weekend.

An action-packed day of family-friendly activities and events will be held at St George's Centre in Reforne on Saturday, June 3 from 11am to 4.30pm.

It will be held in partnership with Island Community Action and the Portland Association.

There will be nature-themed challenges plus prizes, foraged and recycled art, stone carving, hedge-hogtastic tips, a chance to learn the waggle dance with the Bee Circus, take part in a BioBlitz, go on a wild foraging walk with Bushwhacker Tours or learn more about the medicinal properties of the plants around us with herbalist Andrew Cowling or make beautiful images using the power of the sun.

Keep an eye out for a few bee surprises provided by leading outdoor arts company Artizani.

See the website b-side.org.uk/events/environment-fayre for more information.

ENVIRONMENT

EVENTS

FAMILY

LEISURE

PORTLAND

Share   

0 Comments



- 1 More heavy rain expected for large parts of Dorset
- 2 Several Dorset roads still closed due to flooding
- 3 Yet another high street bank announces it will close early next year
- 4 Dorset beach named best in the world to visit in winter
- 5 Train services suspended after tunnel landslip

Future of Portland Hospital to be discussed at public meeting

3rd February

COMMUNITY

HEALTH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PORTLAND

WEYMOUTH

WYKE REGIS



Portland Hospital is high on the agenda for a forthcoming public meeting about local healthcare services - and residents are urged to submit any questions they may have in advance. (Image: Newsquest)



By Ellie Maslin

Digital audience and content editor

[@dorsetechoellie](#)

Share



6 Comments



THE future of Portland Hospital is to be discussed at a public meeting – and residents are invited to attend and ask questions in advance.

As recently revealed by the *Echo*, **Portland Hospital's minor injuries department and X-ray facilities are to remain closed for the foreseeable future, prompting further concerns among the community after beds were axed from the hospital in 2018.**

A public listening event about local healthcare services has now been called by Portland Hospital Development Group and is being held at Easton Methodist Church Hall on Wednesday February 8, from 7pm until 8.30pm.

Local healthcare bosses will be in attendance and organisers say it is an important opportunity for leaders to hear from residents about their experiences accessing and using public services, with a particular focus on healthcare.

Questions can be submitted in advance by contacting Island Community Action – details below. As well as Portland Hospital, questions are welcomed on topics including local pharmacy services, dentistry and general healthcare services relevant to people living on the island, as well as in Wyke Regis.

At the event will be Patricia Miller of NHS Dorset Integrated Care System – an organisation which comprises representatives from the NHS, local councils and voluntary groups - all of which are working in partnership to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Dorset. Also at the meeting will be Dawn Dawson of Dorset HealthCare.

Organisers have extended their thanks to healthcare figures who have confirmed attendance so far.

Huge turnout for meeting on future of Portland Hospital

12th February

COMMUNITY HEALTH PORTLAND



More than 150 people attended the meeting at Easton Methodist Church hall
(Image: Giovanna Lewis)



By Ellie Maslin
Digital audience and content editor
[@dorsetechoellie](#)

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17 Comments

More than 150 people crammed into Easton Methodist Church hall to quiz representatives from Dorset HealthCare and NHS Dorset – who gave assurances the hospital will NOT be closed down – but sidestepped questions over the future of its minor injuries unit and X-ray facility, which have been closed since January 2022.

Assurances were given that representatives will work with community groups in a bid to improve health outcomes for residents on Portland – where there is significant social deprivation and lower life expectancy compared to other parts of Dorset.

Island Community Action praised the panel for facing difficult questions and said positive steps have been made as a result of the meeting.

Chief medical officer for NHS Dorset, Paul Johnson, promised to continue working with the community over the coming 12 months and return for another public meeting in 2024 to ensure progress has been made.

Emotions ran high as attendees heard how money is being invested into hospitals elsewhere in Dorset – including at Wimborne Hospital, which is to benefit from a revamped minor injuries unit (MIU) and X-ray facility.

As reported, in January 2022 Portland's MIU temporarily closed amid staff absences during the winter Covid peak, and is the only MIU in Dorset to remain shut following the pandemic.

Attendees at Wednesday's meeting were told this is due to ongoing recruitment issues, with "difficult choices" needing to be made.

Minutes from Dorset HealthCare meetings reveal that nurses are being recruited from the Philippines for MIUs elsewhere in Dorset, and that at the time of MIU closures, staff were redeployed to Wimborne and Sherborne MIUs.

There are currently no roles at Portland Hospital advertised on Dorset HealthCare's website.

Members of the public also raised concerns that the island's population of around 13,558 people is served by one GP surgery and two pharmacies, making it difficult to access appointments and medication.



Determined to remain upbeat, CEO of Island Community Action, Kim Wilcocks, said it is to the credit of NHS Dorset and Dorset HealthCare that they were willing to listen to concerns - but that the island "deserves better."

"We feel it is vital that we take up the panel's offer to work with them in order to support the positive changes needed," she said.

"Like many other organisations on the island, we are definitely feeling the impact of cuts and challenges, with growing demands on our services.

"We understand that difficult decisions have to be made - however, what's not so clear is why Portland is so frequently at the sharp end of these decisions. We deserve better and look forward to seeing how the next 12 months unfold."

Chief medical officer for NHS Dorset, Paul Johnson praised the community for being "passionate" and gave assurances that the newly created organisation would do everything in its powers to support Portland residents.

COMMUNITY

HEALTH

PORTLAND

Share



17 Comments

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Networks to strengthen public's role in research and innovation](#)

Networks to strengthen public's role in research and innovation



12 April 2023

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has awarded 25 grants in the first phase of its £3.6 million Community Research Networks programme.

The programme will empower communities to develop grassroots research agendas and build capability and expertise in community-led forms of research and innovation.

The investment is supporting 25 collaborations, who have each received £25,000 for the initial expression of interest phase.

Over the next six months, collaborations will work with local communities to develop detailed plans for a network in their area. They will be given the opportunity to bid for a share of £3 million later this year.

Building new research collaborations

The collaborations are made up of a rich diversity of organisations, all over the UK, that recognise the value of creating new forms of locally relevant, community owned knowledge and evidence.

Whether social enterprises, local councils, museums, city farms and wildlife trusts or universities and arts organisations, these organisations are working together to build a more open, inclusive and diverse research and innovation system.

A new approach to funding

The Community Research Networks programme represents a shift in the way UKRI funds public engagement. It responds directly to our public engagement strategy goal to "make sure the benefits of research and innovation are shared widely by supporting collaboration and valuing diverse forms of knowledge".

The scheme was developed in response to scoping research undertaken by the Young Foundation, a summary of which can be seen in their report: [an equitable future for research and innovation](#).

Beyond the Community Research Networks programme, we are:

- investing in community-led research through the [Community Knowledge Fund](#)
- piloting new approaches to university-community collaboration through the [community-led research pilot](#)
- developing a programme of learning and development through the [Community Research Partnerships Learning Programme](#)

Valuing diverse knowledge and expertise

Too many communities across the UK feel that research is done to them, and not with or for them. Through this programme, communities will come together to identify and undertake research that matters to them, in ways that ensure the benefits remain with the community.

This way of working recognises and values the knowledge that communities hold about the issues they face and the solutions required. Through the networks, this knowledge and expertise will combine with and complement academic knowledge to create thriving local research ecosystems.

Responding to priorities

Tom Saunders, Head of Public Engagement at UKRI said:

“ This programme demonstrates the enthusiasm for new forms of research and innovation that respond to the priorities of communities across the UK.

These exciting collaborations are paving the way for a more open, diverse and connected research and innovation endeavour and I'm really looking forward to seeing what they can achieve.


By recognising, valuing and harnessing the knowledge and expertise of communities we can ensure that research and innovation is something that more people can contribute to and benefit from.

Related content

⇒ [UKRI public engagement strategy](#)

Subscribe to UKRI emails


Sign up for news, views, events and funding alerts.



For information about ICA's activities and services, send a message, pop-in or call 01305 823789 (Monday to Friday / 10am-2pm)

Create with avatar

Edit cover photo



Island Community Action

2K likes · 2.3K followers

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Intro

Island Community Action (ICA) is a local charity based on the wonderful and unique Island of Portland

Edit Bio

Page · Non-profit organisation

The Easton Shopping Centre, Easton Street, Portland, United Kingdom

+44 1305 823789

office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk

islandcommunityaction.org

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Photo/video

Reel


Featured

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Island Community Action - ICA

16h ·


ADVENT ANGEL - DAY SIX



Island Community Action - ICA

30 November at 11:39 ·

Great day last Saturday at our collaborative event with b-side 'How to look after an Island - ...



Posts

Filters

Manage posts

List view

Grid view

Island Community Action: Registered Charity 1157978
The Easton Centre, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1EB / 01305 823789
office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk / www.islandcommunityaction.org

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Island Community Action

A LOCAL CHARITY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

HOME ABOUT US ▾ OUR WORK ▾ GET INVOLVED ▾ WHAT'S ON? ▾ CONTACT ▾

ICA Highlights

EDIT LEAVE A COMMENT 2ND SEPTEMBER 2023 ICAPORTLAND

Some great collaborations and achievements over the last three months.

Huge thanks to everyone involved in delivering these activities and projects:

- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Portland Town Council
- Atlantic Academy
- b-side
- The Lantern Trust
- STEPS Club for Young People

SUMMARY FOR YEAR 2



QUARTERLY UPDATE

A few of ICA's highlights from June, July and August.

Advice, Information and Support
225 interactions with our community transport team, taking clients to vital appointments, clubs and social outings.
3,262 enquires about ICA services responded to.
904 enquires about 'non-ICA' services, including tourist information, referral enquiries and local recommendations, responded to.
Education and Empowerment
300+ Atlantic Academy primary students engaged in a special summer Environment Day. They made bug hotels, toad abodes and bird feeders, and looked for wild plants and mini-beasts during a bioblitz!
Portland Youth Council organised a trip to Thorpe Park for 48 young islanders. Previous fundraising meant they could offer 20 free places to young Community Champions - people who volunteer, have a caring role or have shown resilience over the past year. 28 additional spaces were offered at a discounted rate. The coach was generously provided by Excelsior Coaches.
Consultation and Collaboration
200+ Atlantic Academy senior students consulted for, 'Voices from a Forgotten Town: 'Young and Vulnerable People Share Their Visions for the Future', a project run by the Weymouth and Portland Research Network (a partnership between ICA, STEPS, and The Lantern Trust).
300+ people attend the Portland Environment Fayre - a collaboration between ICA and b-side, with support from Portland Youth Council.
ICA is currently delivering 11 separate workstreams under its new initiative, The Portland Project. We could not achieve this without the amazing support of our volunteers, partners and funders.

FINANCE

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Receipts	2	11,472	119,874	131,346	142,821
Grants and donations					
Sales		-	-	-	5,872
Fundraising and sponsorship		2,011	-	2,011	353
Motor vehicles/Minibus		11,305	-	11,305	12,163
Clubs and Memory Café		17,272	-	17,272	8,245
Memberships		-	-	-	45
Interest		27	-	27	-
Total receipts		<u>42,087</u>	<u>119,874</u>	<u>161,961</u>	<u>169,499</u>
Payments		-	-	-	1,986
Portland Shed purchases and consumables					
Portland Shed demerged from ICA		4,867	5,050	9,917	
Souvenirs of Place and Love purchases		-	9,035	9,035	-
Salaries and wages	3	-	87,772	87,772	85,616
Pension		-	1,912	1,912	3,809
Shop Purchases and Consumables		617	2,455	3,072	1,656
Rent		8,718	918	9,636	14,040
Rates, water and electric		2,940	-	2,940	2,121
Insurance		-	2,073	2,073	5,811
Telephone		-	10	10	140
Postage, stationery, printing and advertising		200	237	437	1,547
Photocopier Hire		(401)	-	(401)	3,260
Motor		2,324	6,719	9,043	6,172
Travel, accommodation and subsistence		-	-	-	304
Repairs and maintenance		1,037	-	1,037	1,732
Subscriptions and membership fees		96	135	231	1,409
Sundries		867	46	913	499
IT		782	1,304	2,086	1,196
Christmas box donations		-	-	-	131
Training, tutors and speakers		-	7,408	7,408	6,257
Fundraising		390	831	1,221	1,852
P.R. and marketing		214	1,043	1,257	738
Room hire		108	6,612	6,720	4,621
Accountancy fees		450	1,266	1,716	1,554
Catering Costs		-	2,290	2,290	956
Capital					
Computer equipment		-	-	-	2,474
Fixtures, fittings and equipment		-	(725)	(725)	1,910
Total payments		<u>23,209</u>	<u>136,391</u>	<u>159,600</u>	<u>151,791</u>
Net receipts before transfers		18,878	(16,517)	2,361	17,708
Transfers between funds		<u>(6,122)</u>	<u>6,122</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds at bank and in hand for the year		12,756	(10,395)	2,361	17,708
Bank and cash balances 31 March 2022		<u>7,300</u>	<u>99,064</u>	<u>106,364</u>	<u>88,656</u>
Bank and cash balances 31 March 2023		<u><u>20,056</u></u>	<u><u>88,669</u></u>	<u><u>108,725</u></u>	<u><u>106,364</u></u>

REFLECTIONS & THE FUTURE

2023 was yet another year of ups, downs and roundabouts. We have seen our island take centre stage on local, national and worldwide news channels. We've revelled in the excitement of a Coronation and struggled in the face of shrinking statutory provision and an ongoing cost of living crisis. Throughout all of this, however, one thing has remained constant – our amazing community, along with its generosity, humanity and resilience.

These words are particularly poignant when one considers that under the spotlight of the world's media there has been increasing awareness raised about our island's key challenges, particularly around deprivation, employment, social mobility, health and healthcare and the increasing outward migration of the young and inward migration of the old.

This 'moment in time' has created an opportunity for change and enabled us to become actively involved in the larger-scale initiatives now being created to respond to Portland's challenges. These include:

- Portland Health and Wellbeing Steering Group (with Dorset's Integrated Care System)
- Portland Hospital Development Group
- Weymouth and Portland Community Research Network

Without doubt, this work is taking up a significant amount of our time and is certainly stretching our resources thinly. However, it is critical we find a way to ensure our input and voice continues to be heard because, ultimately, we have a massive responsibility to our community.

We hope our efforts and those of our colleagues has had a positive impact. We've certainly begun to see a positive shift from both NHS Dorset and Dorset Council – a recognition that Portland deserves better and a willingness to step and achieve this for the island's community. There's still a long way to go and certainly no promise or guarantee of improvement, however, we're hopeful that the work we are now involved in will deliver positive outcomes, even if only related to the island's health and wellbeing offer in the first instance.

Looking forward, we have set the following key priorities for the coming year:

- Continue looking at ways to increase our incomings to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Increase our collaborations because, no matter how capable or determined we are, no single person, organisation or sector has the reach, resources or expertise to overcome all of Portland's challenges in isolation.
- Continue celebrating our island because no community should be judged on statistics alone. Portland may have significant hurdles to overcome BUT it's also a place of castles and kings – a unique peninsula with 185 million years of history embedded within its stone. A place where past and present collide and environment, nature, heritage, culture and community thrive.
- Support and empower residents to proactively contribute to and / or drive the delivery of solutions, whatever their skills, knowledge, experience, personal circumstances or availability – from the simple, individual act of signing a petition or taking part in a survey to the joining or leading on a local project. We all have the power to make a difference.

As Henry Ford once said, "If the people really set their minds on anything it is impossible to prevent their getting what they want."



Kim Wilcocks, CEO – ICA

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

The Easton Centre

Portland

Dorset

DT5 1EB

Tel: (01305) 823789

Email: office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/islandcommunityaction

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ICA_PortlandUK

Website: <https://islandcommunityaction.org>

Opening Hours (for calls and visits – outside of these times email or message)	
Monday	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Tuesday	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Wednesday	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Thursday	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Friday	10.00 am – 2.00 pm
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

Management Committee

Chair – Douglas Pigg

Secretary – Anita Busby-Wilcocks

Treasurer – Mervyn Burden

Trustee – Pauline Carlyle

Employees

CEO – Kim Wilcocks

Project Manager – Jackie Carpenter

Project Manager – Katy Pascoe

Project Coordinator – Georgina Bolt

All ICA staff are part-time.

ICA continues to work to a code of practice and ensure its Safeguarding and Equal Opportunities policies are adhered to at all times. ICA has full public and employer's liability insurance in place. A copy of these documents + our constitution and all other policies can be viewed at the ICA office.

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

ALBERT GOODMAN

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

**LEANNE HOUSE
6 AVON CLOSE
WEYMOUTH, DORSET
DT4 9UX**

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

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ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

CHARITY INFORMATION

Board of Trustees

Chairman	Douglas Pigg
Treasurer	Lynda Gallie
Secretary	Anita Busby-Wilcocks
Trustee	Diana Bedford

Charity Number

1157978

Charity Offices

The Easton Centre
Portland
DT5 1EB

Independent Examiner

Michelle Ferris FCA
Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Leanne House
6 Avon Close
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9UX

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Constitution, objects and policies

The charity was originally administered and managed by way of a Constitution which was first adopted on 23 June 1998. The original charity registered with the Charity Commission on 15 April 1999 under charity number 1075124. A new Charitable Incorporated Organisation was formed and registered with the Charity Commission on 24 July 2014. The new Charitable Incorporated Organisation took over the assets and activities of the original charity with that original charity becoming a linked charity of the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The report and accounts for the year include the assets and activities for both charities. The objects of both charities are similar and are to promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Portland by associating together volunteers and organisations in a common effort to advance education, protect health, relieve poverty, sickness and distress.

Committee and Management

Day to day management of the charity lies with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) reporting to the Board of Trustees, which includes a Chair and a Treasurer. The Board of Trustees holds a minimum of four face-to-face meetings in each year and other ad-hoc digital / online meetings, as required.

Investment Powers

The Constitution authorises the committee to use all money raised to further its objects and for no other purpose.

Public benefit

The charity has the public benefit in focus in all of its activities and all of those activities are directed at improving the quality of life of the residents of Portland.

Objectives, activities and achievements

Island Community Action (ICA) is a small, Dorset based charity. Since 1999, we have been supporting local communities through projects that:

- Tackle deprivation.
- Improve psychological, physical and social wellbeing.
- Reduce the impact of isolation and / or loneliness.
- Support individuals to live happier and more independent lives for longer.
- Increase life chances and quality of life through 'hands on' experiences, learning and training.
- Support those wishing to volunteer or offer volunteering roles.
- Improves community cohesion
- Inspires and facilitates collaborative working and the sharing of best practice across sectors
- Enable, support and showcase local enterprises, initiatives and activities that improve infrastructure and the environment, and contribute to regeneration and sustainable development

Under ICA's new five-year initiative, The Portland Project, 11 workstreams are being developed and delivered to achieve our objectives:

1. **HELPING HANDS** – Supporting those aged 50 years plus (in particular those impacted by poor mental, physical and / or social wellbeing, including isolation and loneliness) and also those of any age impacted by disability and / or serious, life limiting or terminal illness. Achieved through a range of over 20 activities and services, including befriending, lunch clubs and transport.
2. **CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES** – Working in collaboration with other organisations, to support their work and develop other complementary activities, including a youth volunteering scheme, life and leadership skills training, consultation activities, events and a Portland Youth Council.

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3. **COMMUNITY CRAFTERS (ALL AGES)** – Crafting for community-based good causes. Aimed at reducing isolation and loneliness, strengthening community and intergenerational bonds and increasing confidence and skills sharing.
4. **GROWING LOCAL** – Providing opportunities for residents to volunteer and participate in ‘hands-on’ activities that develop their skills and interest in food, encourage their engagement with nature and the environment and increase their understanding around the links between climate change, the natural world and food.

The emphasis is on simple and fun community-based activities that keep participants engaged and empowered to progress, whatever their passion or skill level, from simple Do One Thing for Portland activities, like building a bug hotel or bird feeder, to signing up for a litter pick or foraging walk or taking part in beginner’s or specialist cookery course.

The overall aspiration is to provide participants with the confidence and knowledge to make simple changes that not only benefit them but also the planet. These changes might include them having a better understanding of how to cook healthy, nutritious food on a budget; grow their own fruit and veg or adopt an eco-friendlier lifestyle.

The project also focuses on bringing people together in settings that not only help them feel more connected to their community, but also help them understand the benefits of engaging with and protecting Portland’s amazing natural environment for today’s and future generations.

5. **VOLUNTEER BUREAU** – Supporting those wishing to volunteer or offer volunteer roles, from recruitment to training and DBS checks.
6. **COMMUNITY HUB** – Providing advice, information and signposting to local residents around a host of different subjects. ICA deals with around 7-8,000 queries a year.
7. **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS** – ICA has three qualified Community Organisers who provide a range of community consultation services for ICA and other organisations.
8. **COMMUNITY CONNECTORS** – Residents trained by ICA’s Community Organiser team to identify and signpost those in potential need of support.
9. **COMMUNITY FORUM** – A space for local organisations to network, coordinate support, forward plan and build capacity.
10. **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT** – Providing advice, information and training for other local community-based organisations.
11. **COLLABORATIONS & REPRESENTATION** – ICA continues to represent Portland’s community and work in partnership with a number of groups and support structures where required, including: The Integrated Care System (ICS) Portland Steering Group, Portland Hospital Development Group, Dorset Community Mental Health Alliance Group, Weymouth and Portland Innovation Group (Mental Health & Wellbeing), Weymouth and Portland Community Research Network and Portland High Angle Battery Delivery Group

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Risk management

The Trustees have examined the major strategic operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to highlight and lessen these risks.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to maintain sufficient unrestricted funds to meet approximately six months unrestricted expenditure and to assist with funding any future developments.

Statement of Trustee's responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards relevant to smaller charities preparing their account on the receipts and payments basis.

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that Year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed/constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees on 29 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

D Pigg (Trustee)

L Gallie (Trustee)

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Island Community Action ("the charity") for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. the accounts do not comply with these records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
For and on behalf of

Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants

30 January 2024

Leanne House
6 Avon Close
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9UX

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Grants and donations	2	11,472	119,874	131,346	142,821
Sales		-	-	-	5,872
Fundraising and sponsorship		2,011	-	2,011	353
Motor vehicles/Minibus		11,305	-	11,305	12,163
Clubs and Memory Café		17,272	-	17,272	8,245
Memberships		-	-	-	45
Interest		27	-	27	-
Total receipts		42,087	119,874	161,961	169,499
Payments					
Portland Shed purchases and consumables		-	-	-	1,986
Portland Shed demerged from ICA		4,867	5,050	9,917	-
Souvenirs of Place and Love purchases		-	9,035	9,035	-
Salaries and wages	3	-	87,772	87,772	85,616
Pension		-	1,912	1,912	3,809
Shop Purchases and Consumables		617	2,455	3,072	1,656
Rent		8,718	918	9,636	14,040
Rates, water and electric		2,940	-	2,940	2,121
Insurance		-	2,073	2,073	5,811
Telephone		-	10	10	140
Postage, stationery, printing and advertising		200	237	437	1,547
Photocopier Hire		(401)	-	(401)	3,260
Motor		2,324	6,719	9,043	6,172
Travel, accommodation and subsistence		-	-	-	304
Repairs and maintenance		1,037	-	1,037	1,732
Subscriptions and membership fees		96	135	231	1,409
Sundries		867	46	913	499
IT		782	1,304	2,086	1,196
Christmas box donations		-	-	-	131
Training, tutors and speakers		-	7,408	7,408	6,257
Fundraising		390	831	1,221	1,852
P.R. and marketing		214	1,043	1,257	738
Room hire		108	6,612	6,720	4,621
Accountancy fees		450	1,266	1,716	1,554
Catering Costs		-	2,290	2,290	956
Capital					
Computer equipment		-	-	-	2,474
Fixtures, fittings and equipment		-	(725)	(725)	1,910
Total payments		23,209	136,391	159,600	151,791
Net receipts before transfers		18,878	(16,517)	2,361	17,708
Transfers between funds		(6,122)	6,122	-	-
Net movement in funds at bank and in hand for the year		12,756	(10,395)	2,361	17,708
Bank and cash balances 31 March 2022		7,300	99,064	106,364	88,656
Bank and cash balances 31 March 2023		20,056	88,669	108,725	106,364

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Cash at Bank	108,725	105,572
Cash in hand	-	792
	<u>108,725</u>	<u>106,364</u>
Total bank and cash balances per receipts and payments account	<u>108,725</u>	<u>106,364</u>
Other Assets and Liabilities:		
Fixed Assets		
Motor vehicles and trailer	16,354	20,441
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	8,891	10,463
	<u>25,245</u>	<u>30,904</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	<u>(1,614)</u>	<u>(1,731)</u>
Net Assets	<u>132,356</u>	<u>135,537</u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 29 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

D Pigg (Trustee)

L Gallie (Trustee)

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation of accounts

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Committee's Report and all of which are continuing.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Amounts in the Receipts and Payments Account are included as amounts are received and paid by the charity. The Receipts and Payments Account does not therefore include any accruals or prepayments.

Value added tax

Value added tax is not recoverable by the charity, and as such is included in the relevant costs in the Receipts and

2. Grants and Donations

	£
Restricted funds	
Dorset Youth Association	11,499
Dorset Council	10,000
National Lottery Community Fund	64,718
Active Dorset	5,500
Hall & Woodhouse	800
Dorset Community Foundation	7,275
J Hornby	2,640
John Turner Foundation	500
Portland Town Council	15,000
Nothe Fort	1,942
	<hr/> 119,874
Unrestricted	
General donations	11,472
	<hr/> 11,472
Total	<hr/> <hr/> 131,346

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3. Staff Costs and Emoluments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	86,124	79,328
Employers National Insurance Contributions	1,648	6,287
	<u>87,772</u>	<u>85,616</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum (2022: none)

The average weekly number of employees during the year, calculated as full time equivalents, were as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	4	4

4. Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following balances of grants and donations held on trust and to be applied for specific purposes.

	Balance 1 April 2022 £	Income/ receipts £	Payments £	Transfers from/(to) General funds £	Balance 31 March 2023 £
Growing Local Project	14,706	5,500	(8,671)		11,535
Helping hands	4,490	5,882	(16,494)	6,122	-
Portland Project	74,818	108,492	(106,176)		77,134
Portland Shed	5,050	-	(5,050)		-
	<u>99,064</u>	<u>119,874</u>	<u>(136,391)</u>	<u>6,122</u>	<u>88,669</u>

Growing Local Project received funding from Sport England (via Active Dorset)

Helping Hands received funding from Hall & Woodhouse, John Turner Foundation, John Hornby and Nothe of the Living Dead.

Portland Project received funding from National Lottery, Portland Town Council, Dorset Community Foundation, Dorset Youth Association and Dorset Council

The Portland Shed de merged from Island Community Action in the year