



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

While every year brings challenges for our community, this year has shown the passion, commitment and determination Portlanders have for delivering transformational impact. For ICA, this was demonstrated by the Woolly Wonders Yarn Bomb Festival, which attracted over 1,500 volunteers of all ages to create a phenomenal display of colour and storytelling in Easton Gardens. The beauty of this project was that it offered ways for all to participate, from school children to older residents restricted to home. For some, it was a starting point for change – they came to knit but went on to join other activities, increasing their confidence and opportunities to socialise and feel more connected to their community.

I'm proud that ICA continues to deliver in this progressive way, from passion-based projects that spark interest to core services that support the most vulnerable. I'm also proud that we continue to represent our community and play a key role in the development and delivery of solutions for some of our community's key challenges. One example is the Future Portland Community Benefit Society (CBS), created by three experienced and successful organisations: b-side, ICA, and The Portland Association.

Future Portland aims to help our community have a stronger voice and greater influence over what happens on our island, from returning assets to community ownership to ensuring that development on Portland benefits local people and the environment.

This year, ICA has worked with over 5,000 clients – an impressive achievement, but behind this statistic are real stories of challenge, resilience and hope. When I hear feedback from those helped by our organisation, I am not only reminded that ICA delivers exactly what it promises, independently and in partnership, but also that our cost-benefit compared with equivalent private sector providers demonstrates exceptional value for money.

To ensure we continue to deliver our services for maximum impact, ICA is reviewing its systems and processes, including exploring the opportunities that AI can, where appropriate, help improve the efficiency and accessibility of our services.

Our 'Volunteer Army' remains the beating heart of ICA. Around 1,500 volunteers have engaged with ICA this year, some giving just a few hours and others committing to week-on-week involvement. Regardless of the time they give, whether as befrienders, drivers, crafters, or role-play actors, our volunteers have surpassed expectations once again, for which we are hugely grateful.

My busy 'Team of Ferrets' (so called because a group of ferrets is called a 'business') has continued to deliver against a backdrop of challenges, including the cost of living crisis, increased demand due to statutory reductions, and shrinking funding opportunities.

Our strategic focus has evolved to meet these demands. We are now working within six targeted workstreams, ranging from Helping Hands for our older residents to a dynamic Culture, Heritage and Nature offer. Our Portland Youth Council has gone from strength to strength, launching a campaign to protect local wildlife that has helped educate hundreds of their peers about our island's biodiversity.

Looking ahead, the year promises to be just as challenging. As we enter the final year of our National Lottery funding, the window to secure our long-term sustainability is narrowing. However, with major investments proposed for the region through initiatives such as Pathways to Prosperity, ICA must remain in place so that Portland secures its fair share of funding and opportunity.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. We appreciate it more than you know.



Doug Pigg
Chair – Island Community Action (ICA)

KEY FUNDERS & SPONSORS



ICA covers its running costs, including the cost of its activities and services through a mix of grant funding, donations, local giving, legacy gifts and fundraising events.

GRANTS – We are hugely grateful to have received grants from the following funders for the period April 2025-March 2026:

- **The National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities** – Towards The Portland Project, covering 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 towards The Portland Project. Covers several extended and new services.
- **Dorset Council** – Towards our core costs, Helping Hands (older and vulnerable people), our cultural offers and youth projects.
- **Dorset NHS Health & Wellbeing Fund (via Dorset Community Foundation)** – Towards our health and wellbeing offer.
- **McCarthy Stone Foundation** – Towards our Christmas 2025 activities for older and vulnerable residents.
- **Postcode Community Trust** – Towards our core costs (funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery and awarded by Postcode Community Trust).
- **Wessex Water Community Fund (via Dorset Community Foundation)** – Towards our Community Connectors project.

NON-GRANT DONATIONS and FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES for the same period, unless otherwise stated:

- **Portland Court Leet** – Towards our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (for 2025 activity).
- **Portland United Service Lodge 3473** – Towards Helping Hands (our older and vulnerable people's project)
- **The Rotary Club of Island & Royal Manor of Portland** – Towards our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (for 2025 activity) and Helping Hands.
- **Portland residents** – Legacy and local donations towards our core costs.

GENERATED INCOME

ICA generates income through a range of activities, including:

Activities and events – ICA charges for some of its regular club activities. It does so on a cost recovery basis in order to ensure their sustainability. ICA also fundraises through activities like coffee mornings, bingo and special one-off events.

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

The Giving Lottery – A national online lottery. £1 per entry (40p goes to ICA). Weekly draws and a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize. Top weekly prize of £25,000. Go to ICA's Giving Lottery page at: www.givinglottery.org.uk/support/island-community-action.

The Portland Lottery – A Portland-based (ticketed) lottery. £1 a ticket (40p goes to ICA). Quarterly draws. Prize pot varies depending on the number of tickets sold. Tickets available from ICA's office, Easton.

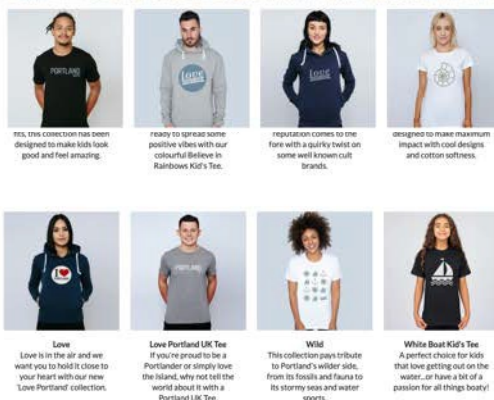
The PayPal Giving Fund – Go to: www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/hub, search for Island Community Action and then follow the instructions. You can add gift aid and select ICA as your favourite charity for future opportunities to give when using PayPal.

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>.



FINANCE SUMMARY– 2024-25

Incomings = £206,522

Outgoings = £188,758

FUNDRAISING

ICA continues to deliver large-scale fundraisers, including Nothe of the Living Dead, an annual event combining jump scares with escape dungeon-style challenges and puzzles in an hour-long experience that sees participants take on a quest to save the world from an undead takeover.

The event, a fundraising collaboration between ICA, the Nothe Fort, and EPIC Games Dorset, takes place at the Nothe Fort – voted one of the UK's spookiest locations.

Testimonials

"First time going and it was amazing. My heart was racing through fear and excitement. I loved all the challenges. It was bloody scary but fun at the same time, definitely booking up next year. Great value for money and raising money for a great charity."

"I'd highly recommend this event; I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Fantastic effort by everyone involved."

"I've done this event every year, and it keeps on getting better. The jump scares are great, the challenges are always clever and fun, and no matter how often you do it, you still get nervous. Love the whole thing, and it's raising money for some great local charities."

The 2025 Challenge – A Grimm Scary Tale invited participants to immerse themselves in a dark and twisted fairytale, where the heroes and heroines cherished in childhood have transformed into terror-filled nightmares. Here are a few shots.

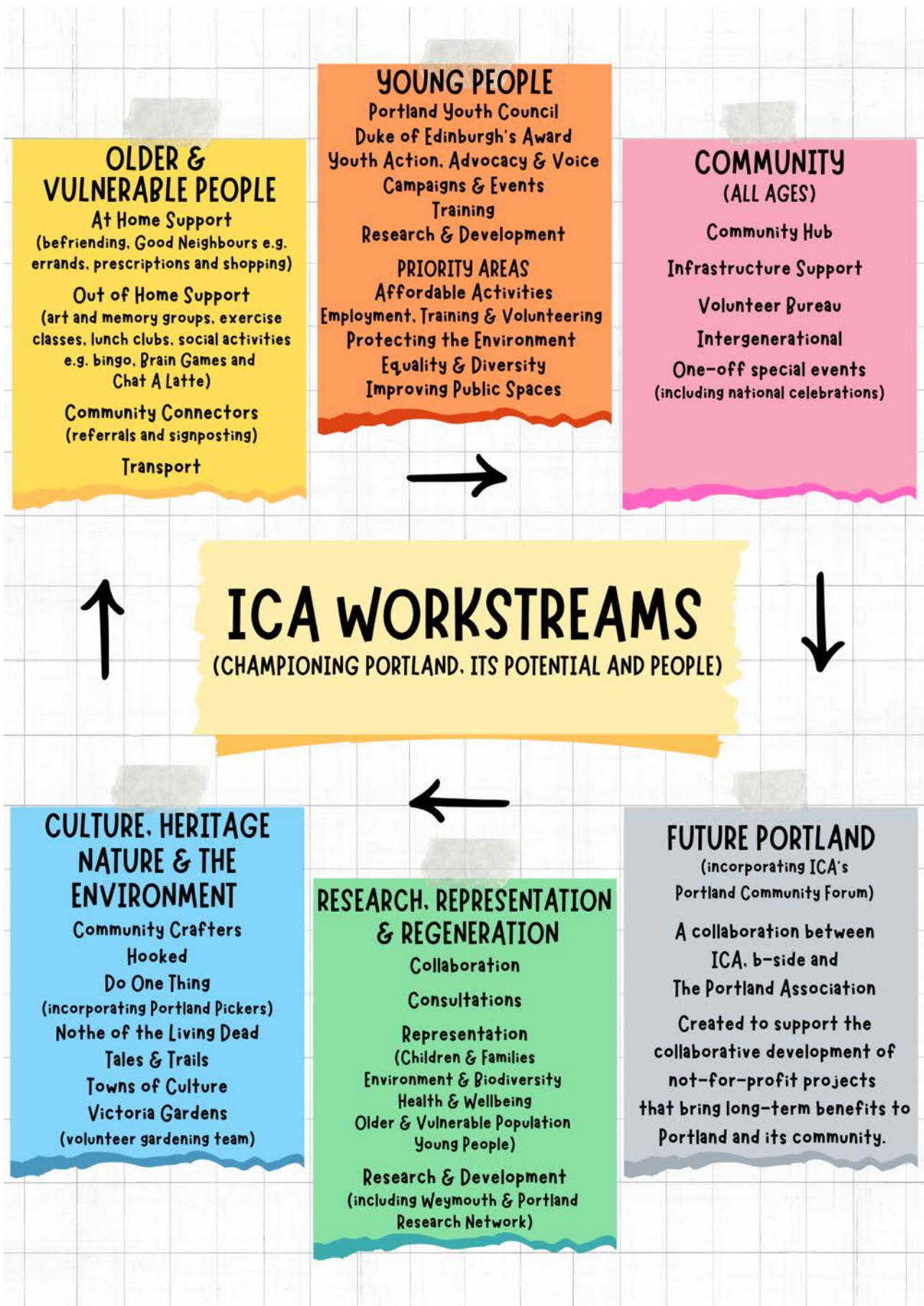


PROJECTS & SERVICES

For 2025, ICA restructured its workstreams to reflect our current workload.

All workstreams developed in response to our island's key challenges and the key needs and wants of local residents identified through ongoing consultation.

IN SUMMARY



IN DETAIL

- **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)
 - Brain Games – conversation and games (suitable for those with mild dementia)
 - Chat A Latte: Coffee, cake and good conversation.
 - Chesil Art Group (x 2 – Portland and Wyke Regis)
 - Exercise: Get Together Club – gentle seated (x 2)
 - Exercise: Osteocise – mid-range
 - Exercise: Fit+ – advanced aerobic
 - Food: The Dining Room, Sunday Lunch Club and other foodie outings
 - Memorability (social and activities for those with memory difficulties + carers)
 - Shopping: In-store @ Tesco
 - Special events (e.g. Seniors' Christmas lunch and Christmas hampers)
 - Social: Cash Bingo (x 2)
 - 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. dog walking, prescriptions, and shopping)
 - Community Connectors (connecting people to the right help, both ICA and non-ICA).
- **CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES** – ICA is working in collaboration to develop and deliver a range of youth-focused services and activities, including a youth volunteering scheme, life and leadership skills training, consultation activities and events. ICA also manages the Portland Youth Council (PYC) and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (DofE).

ICA's works independently and in partnership to help strengthen Portland's 'youth voice,' ensuring young people are not only part of the local decision-making process but are also empowered to proactively lead and contribute to the development and delivery of collaborative solutions (built on robust and meaningful peer-led research and consultation). Working alongside our island's young people, we also want to ensure these solutions help address their key challenges and priorities, increase confidence, skills and aspirations, reduce incidences of marginalisation and improve long-term prospects and opportunities.

Current PYC priorities are: more affordable activities, employment, training, and volunteering; equality and diversity; improving public spaces; and protecting the environment.

Portland Youth Council is delivered in partnership with Portland Town Council. DofE is delivered in partnership with Atlantic Academy.

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ALL AGES)** – Includes:
 - **Community Connectors** – Residents, volunteers and organisations trained to identify and signpost those in potential need of support.
 - **Community Forum** – A space for local organisations to network, coordinate support, forward plan and build capacity.
 - **Community Hub** – Advice, information and signposting to local residents around non-ICA-related subjects.
 - **Events** – One-off large-scale community events, including national celebrations
 - **Infrastructure support** – Advice, information and training delivered or organised through ICA for other local community-based organisations.
 - **Volunteer Bureau** – Support for those wishing to volunteer or offer volunteer roles, from recruitment to training and DBS checks.

- **CULTURE, HERITAGE, NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT (ALL AGES)** – Includes:
 - **Community Crafters** – Creativity and crafting for local good causes, to reduce isolation and loneliness, strengthen community and intergenerational bonds, and showcase Portland's amazing artistic talents.
 - **Hooked** – A dedicated crafting group for those in their 20s, 30s and 40s.
 - **Do One Thing** – Activities and events that engage and inspire individuals to protect and enhance Portland's amazing biodiversity and environment.
 - **Nothe of the Living Dead** – An annual fundraiser between ICA, EPIC Games – Dorset and Nothe Fort. Described as a mash-up between The Walking Dead and Crystal Maze, the event sees participants attempt to solve a series of mental and physical challenges while being terrorised by a horde of hungry zombies.
 - **Halloween Treasure Trail** – Weymouth half-term activity with Weymouth Bid
 - **Tales & Trails** – Interactive walking experiences that encourage people to discover more about Portland and its amazing culture, environment/nature, heritage and history.
 - **Victoria Gardens** – ICA supports the Gardens' volunteer gardening team.

- **RESEARCH, REPRESENTATION and REGENERATION** – Currently includes:
 - **Community Consultations** – ICA provides a range of community consultation services for itself and other organisations. Past clients include MEMO, Dorset Council, NHS Dorset and Portland Town Council.
 - **Collaborations and Representation** – ICA continues to work in partnership with a number of groups and networks to improve Portland's infrastructure and support offer across a number of strands, including...
 - **Older and vulnerable residents**, e.g. working with Dorset Council, NHS – Dorset, Dorset Fire & Rescue Service, etc., to ensure equality of offer for Portland's most vulnerable residents.
 - **Children and Families**, e.g. working with Dorset's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS), Chesil Locality – Portland Local Alliance Group (LAG/lead – Dorset NHS) and the Portland Family Hub (lead – DC).
 - **Environment and Biodiversity**, e.g. supporting the delivery of Portland's Biodiversity Plan (lead – Portland Town Council).

- **Health and Wellbeing**, e.g. working to improve Portland's health outcomes (lead – The Dorset Integrated Care Board)
- **Research and Development** – Weymouth & Portland Community Research Network (leads – ICA, Steps Youth Service, The Lantern Trust and Bournemouth University).
- **THE FUTURE PORTLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY (CBS)** – A collaboration between ICA, b-side and The Portland Association.

We formed the CBS in response to our individual and collaborative research and consultations, which led to the realisation that we share a vision and desire to support Portland's community in having a stronger voice and more influence over what happens to and on our island.

Our key ambitions include:

- Working collaboratively to drive and support a dynamic and innovative vision and future for Portland
- Helping to mobilise and encourage community action, ambition and aspiration
- Improving the lives, opportunities, and experiences available to Portland residents
- Showcasing and protecting Portland's unique heritage, culture, and history, including its natural and built environments.

Future Portland is a membership-led organisation, with all members getting a say and a vote on the CBS's most important decisions. Members also get to invest in projects that benefit Portland and its community, and, depending on the project, they may also receive special perks, like discounts and member-only events.

ACHIEVEMENTS

TABLE 1: CLIENT / PARTICIPATION NUMBERS ACHIEVED FOR YEAR 4 (2024-25)

WORKSTREAM	NO. OF COURSES OR ACTIVITY SESSIONS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS ENGAGING IN ACTIVITY	TOTAL INTERACTIONS (CALCULATION DEPENDENT ON ACTIVITY)
	YEAR 4 ACHIEVED	YEAR 4 ACHIEVED	YEAR 4 ACHIEVED
HELPING HANDS (OLDER PEOPLE + THOSE IMPACTED BY CHRONIC/SERIOUS ILLNESS OR DISABILITY)			
Befriending (face-to-face and telephone sessions with befrienders)	N-A	N-A	490
Club activities (art, exercise, games)	N-A	N-A	5,213
Food based activities (e.g. lunch clubs and foodie outings)	N-A	N-A	2,096
Good Neighbours errands (e.g. prescriptions, shopping and other errands)	N-A	N-A	840
Purely social activities (non-food celebration and bingo)	N-A	N-A	3,733
Transport (essential appointments and activities)	N-A	N-A	2,277
Transport (in-store shopping)	N-A	N-A	425
Catch-ups calls (by ICA office staff and volunteers – minimum ten calls per workday)	N-A	N-A	2,535
SUB-TOTAL – ACTUALS ACHIEVED	5,484	894	17,609
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES			
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentoring (8 sessions) Training: Cooking, First Aid – Theory & Practical, Camping Skills, Route Planning, Map Reading, Navigation, Countryside Code, Equipment Identification & Packing Skills, Presentation Planning & Delivery, Health & Safety, Risk Identification & Management (12 sessions) Overnight camping – Tent erecting/pack up, Games Creation, Sleep & Clear (3 sessions). Food – Meal planning, Shopping, Food Preparation (3 sessions) Hiking & Navigation Practice (2 x 2-4 hr. sessions) Hiking & Navigation Practice (2 x 4-6 hr. sessions) Assessed Hiking (2 x 4-6 hr. sessions) 	32	30	960
Portland Youth Council (PYC) Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch (assembly for 11-16 year olds via/1 session/200+ participants) Open evening (1 session/8 volunteers/8 participants) Meetings (36 sessions/18 participants) 	38	226	226
PYC – Activities: Remembrance Day (200+ attendees), Christmas Sparkle (50+), Atlantic Academy Christmas Fair (100+), Chinese New Year @ Atlantic Academy (551 students), Easter Fundraiser (150+), Chessington World of Adventures trip (47)	6	1,098+	1,098+

WORKSTREAM	NO. OF COURSES OR ACTIVITY SESSIONS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS ENGAGING IN ACTIVITY	TOTAL INTERACTIONS (CALCULATION DEPENDENT ON ACTIVITY)
	YEAR 4 ACHIEVED	YEAR 4 ACHIEVED	YEAR 4 ACHIEVED
PYC – Collaborations, Advisory (and other input): Atlantic Academy, b-side, Butterfly Conservation Trust, Casterbridge Speakers, Chesil Youth Pride, Christians Against Poverty, DofE, Dorchester Youth Council, Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset Council, Dorset Local Nature Partnership (Youth Food), Dorset Wildlife Trust, Dorset Youth Council, Dorset Youth Voice, The Drop In, Friends of Victoria Gardens, Future Portland, Hedgehog Friendly Portland, Isle of Portland Orchids, Pink & Green (Rory Pilgrim), The Portland Association, Portland Court Leet, Portland Local Alliance Group (LAG), Portland Rotary, Portland Town Council, Portland & Weymouth Towns of Culture, St. Nics, Save the Children, UK Parliament and Weymouth Youth Council,	30	21	630
PYC – Training: Team Building Day, Power Structures & UK Democracy, Running a Meeting, Fundraising, Consultation, Public Speaking, Finance & Budget, Poster & Graphic Design, Campaign Delivery and Conservation Awareness	10	18	180
Makers Market: Training (3 sessions), Christmas Selling (2 sessions) and Summer Selling (1 session)	6	18	51
SUB-TOTAL	122	1,411+	3,145+
CULTURE, HERITAGE, NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT			
Specialist Activities/Courses/Workshops	31	608	608
YEAR OF WELLBEING			
Wellbeing Tasters (Portland) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFX Make-Up (1 session/2 volunteers/13 participants) Wreath Making (1 session/2 volunteers/22 participants) Managing ADHD (1 session/1 volunteer/9 participants) Kayaking (1 sessions/1 volunteer/8 participants) Cake Picnic (1 session/12 volunteers/300+ participants) 			
Wellbeing Tasters – Craft Day (Portland/4 volunteers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basket Weaving (2 sessions/16 participants) Gilding (2 sessions/14 participants) Mosaics (2 sessions/16 participants) Pottery (2 sessions/25 participants) Printing (2 sessions/9 participants) Sketching (2 sessions/8 participants) Zen Calligraphy (2 sessions/24 participants) 			

Wellbeing Trips (Off-island) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass Painting (1 session/2 volunteers/10 participants) • Comedy Club (1 session/2 volunteers/12 participants) • Fused Glass (1 session/1 volunteer/9 participants) • Secret Garden (1 session/1 volunteer/10 participants) • Bucklers Hard (1 session/1 volunteer/10 participants) • Sculptures by the Lake (1 session/3 volunteers/15 participants) • Fishing (1 session/1 volunteer/11 participants) • Bridport Hat Festival (1 session/2 volunteer/9 participants) • Cinema (1 session/1 volunteer/11 participants) • Mystery Tour (1 session/1 volunteer/7 participants) • Winchester (1 session/1 volunteer/29 participants) • Spice Ship Lunch (1 session/1 volunteer/11 participants) 			
Crafting Clubs (excludes sessions in own time): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Crafters (46 sessions/30 participants/504 interactions) • Hooked (27 sessions/32 participants/248 interactions) 	78	62	752
Community Crafters Projects (excludes sessions in own time): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Teddies (128 beneficiaries) • Remembrance wreaths and poppies (22 direct beneficiaries/indirect unknown) • Christmas Cosies fundraiser (1 beneficiary – ICA) • Woolly Wonderland: Yarn Bomb Festival (3,000+ beneficiaries – those who engaged) • Children’s Crotchet Club (12 sessions/16 participants) 	Unknown	3,167	3,167
Nothe of the Living Dead (24 sessions/75 volunteers/192 participants). Participants only counted here.	24	192	192
Environment/Nature-based Activities (excludes sessions in own time): Collaboration between ICA’s Do One Thing for Portland and PYC’s Campaign – Protecting and Respecting Local Wildlife and Public Spaces campaign. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portland Creatures – Biodiversity & Environment (1 PYC session/2 volunteers/18 PYC participants) • Portland Creatures – Artwork creation (1 PYC session/1 volunteer/18 PYC participants) • Portland Creatures – Asset creation (various sessions, number unknown/ICA designing assets/content categorised by age – Friends, Explorers, Investigators and Heroes + PYC supporting with content research) • Nature Day with Atlantic Academy (1 session/18 volunteers/300+ participants) • Wild Words writing competition (collaboration with PYC/ various sessions, number unknown/2 categories/2 volunteers/70 participants) • Nature & Shared Spaces workshop (collaboration with PYC/1 session/6 participants) 	4	412	412

Tales & Trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Trail (1 session/6 volunteers/129 children [excludes other family members]) Portland History Trail (1 session/3 volunteers/20 participants) Myths & Legends Trail (1 session/2 volunteers/35 participants) Murder Mystery Trail (1 session/12 volunteers/120 participants) Family Halloween 'Live Action' Treasure Trail (1 session/12 volunteers/120 participants) 	5	424	424
SUB-TOTAL	142	4,865	5,555
COMMUNITY			
Advent Angels	24	53	53
Consultation activities delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portland Town Council – Easton Square Anti-social Behaviour (1 x digital survey + 1 x face-to-face sessions/total 56 participants) Future Portland launch and consultation (1 x face-to-face workshop/8 volunteers/60 participants) Atlantic Academy – Senior Student Summer Event Consultation (1 x face-to-face/464 responses. PARTICIPANT NUMBERS RECORDED IN YOUTH SECTION ABOVE. Portland Town Council – Community Plan (1 x digital survey + 6 x face-to-face sessions/504 digital participants and 53 face-to-face at public sessions) MEMO/Eden Portland (1 x digital survey + 2 x Bowers Mine visits + 4 x face-to-face public sessions/608 digital participants, 304 mine visit participants and 700 face-to-face at public sessions/8 volunteers) ICA – Older People (1 x public session/18 volunteers/90 participants) + Joint delivery with Dorset Coast Forum for Dorset Council – High Angle Battery Community Consultation (1 x digital survey/600 responses) 	20	2,975	2,975
Community Connectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referrals (various organisations – 173 participants) Contacts (various sessions – 238 participants) 	N-A	411	411
Infrastructure Support for local third sector community-based organisations (number of organisations supported)	21	21	21
Minibus hires to support other organisations and groups	47	791	791
SUB-TOTAL	112	4,251	4,251
GRAND-TOTAL	5,860	11,421	30,560

ADDITIONAL OTHER 'KEY STATS'

Enquiries:

- 17,968 = total ICA-related phone calls, digital conversations and face-to-face enquiries
- 6,731 = total non-ICA related phone calls, digital conversations and face-to-face enquiries

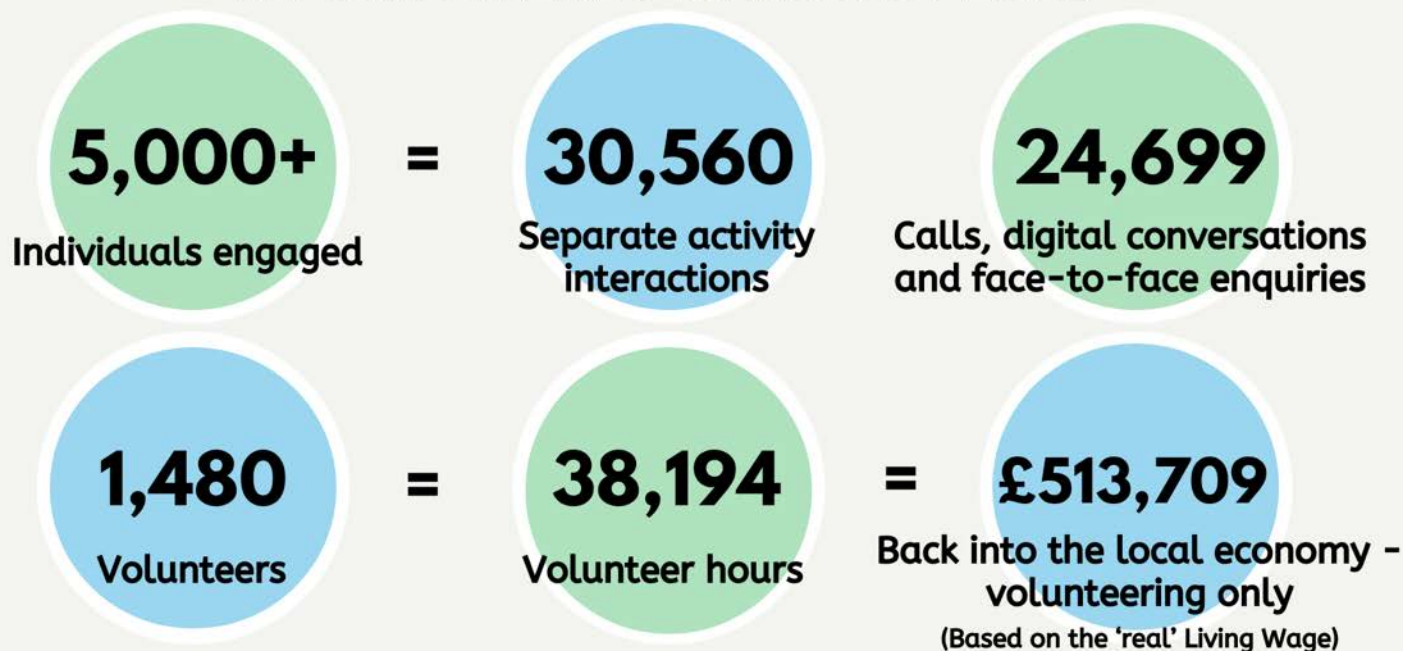
NB: We are confident these significant numbers have much to do with ICA's increasing role as a trusted information source, especially for older residents who may feel wary of other sources, have limited access to other sources or may not be digitally active or confident.

Digital...

- Facebook – Island Community Action = 2,471 likes/2,983 followers
- Facebook – Island Community Action Community Crafters = 493 members



ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS ICA'S SIX WORKSTREAMS - SEPTEMBER 2024 TO AUGUST 2025



In addition, ICA boosted the local economy through its generated income, successful funding bids, job creation and purchased resources, including venue, tutor and specialist provider hire. ICA also collaborated with 117 organisations to develop and deliver its own and new island-based services. ICA IS GRATEFULLY PART-FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND AND PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL.

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS –

Number of clients/participants engaged:

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

- Helping Hands = 894
- Children, Youth and Families = 1,411
- Culture, Heritage, Nature and The Environment = 4,865
- Community = 4,251

TOTAL = 11,421 (excludes participants engaged via Portland representation events)

NB: The numbers above do include repeats. However, we are confident that the number of separate individuals engaged exceeds 5,000.

Age and gender breakdown of ICA clients/participants (figures are approximations based on a selection of key activities).

Age:

- 20% = 5-10yrs
- 20% = 11-15yrs
- 1% = 16-24yrs
- 3% = 25-34yrs.
- 4% = 35-44yrs
- 6% = 45-54yrs
- 10% = 55-64yrs
- 18% = 65-74yrs
- 18% = 75yrs+

Gender breakdown:

- Helping Hands and Community Connectors – 71% female/29% male
- Youth – 54% female/46% male
- Culture, Heritage, Nature, Environment – 55% female/45% male.

NOTE: Except for Community Connectors (people in crisis) and DofE, we see closer to a 50/50 split for one-off ICA services, activities and events e.g. transport, Christmas meals, trips, fundraisers, etc. For our ongoing activities, e.g. Portland Youth Council, Community Crafters and many of our older people's clubs, we have a much higher percentage of women.

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 'HELPING HANDS' FOR YEAR 4 (2024-25)

WORKSTREAM AND QUESTIONS	YES %	NO %	N/A %
HELPING HANDS (OLDER PEOPLE + THOSE IMPACTED BY DISABILITY AND / OR SERIOUS, LIFE OR TERMINAL ILLNESS)			
Has ICA's activities made you feel happier and/or more confident?	99	1	0
Have ICA's activities helped you feel less lonely and/or worried	98	2	0
Has ICA helped you socialise with others?	98	0	2
Have ICA's activities helped your mobility/health	92	1	6
Has ICA helped you feel safer?	93	4	3

TABLE 3: CLIENT/PARTICIPANT IMPACT 'COURSES and TRAINING' FOR YEAR 3 (2024-25)

WORKSTREAM AND QUESTIONS	YES %	A LITTLE %	NO %	N/A %
COURSES, TASTERS and TRAINING				
Did you enjoy this activity?	91	5	0	4
Did this activity increase your knowledge and skills	84	5	6	5
Did this activity increase your overall confidence?	81	13	6	0
Did this activity make you feel happier/more positive?	82	15	3	0
Did this activity increase your opportunities to socialise?	83	12	5	0
Did this activity make you feel healthier?	68	19	6	7
Did this activity make you more likely to get involved with other community-based activities?	96	4	1	0
Did this activity enable you to find out more about the support available locally?	90	9	1	0

VOLUNTEERS

TABLE 4: VOLUNTEER NUMBERS ACHIEVED FOR YEAR 4 (2024-25)

WORKSTREAM	NO. INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS	NO. VOLUNTEER HOURS
	ACHIEVED	ACHIEVED
VOLUNTEER BUREAU		
Helping Hands (includes older and vulnerable)	110	19,182
Families, children and young people (includes Portland Youth Council, DofE and Maker's Market – 42 adults)	42	943
Families, children and young people (includes Portland Youth Council and DofE – 45 young people)	45	1,360
Culture, Heritage, Nature and Environment (Nature Day [172 hrs.] Portland Pickers [420 hrs.], Tales & Trails [368 hrs.] and Halloween [96 hrs.]	75	1,056
Community Crafters (Remembrance [80 hrs.] Teddies [640 hrs.], Cosies [200 hrs.] and Yarn Bomb [10,000+ hrs. based on 50 plots x 200 hrs. per plot – conservative estimation])	1,564+	10,920+
Nothe of the Living Dead	75	1,000+
Events and general project/office support	53	330
ICA Board of Trustees (allowing 72 hrs. x 4 + 960 hrs. x 1)	5	1,032
ICA staff team (extra hours in addition to paid hours)	4	2,371
TOTAL	1,973	38,194

NB: Allowing 25% repeats, we're confident the number of individual volunteers lies around 1,480.

In addition, ICA delivered 12 x individuals to non-ICA volunteering roles and the Advent Angels Christmas Campaign (celebrating local formal and informal volunteers).

Age and gender breakdown of ICA volunteers (figures are approximations based on a selection of key activities).

Age:

- 0% = 5-10yrs
- 12% = 11-15yrs
- 6% = 16-24yrs
- 7% = 25-34yrs
- 10% = 35-44yrs
- 12% = 45-54yrs
- 15% = 55-64yrs
- 21% = 65-74yrs
- 17% = 75yrs+

Gender: 74% female/26% male

Total volunteer hours

This figure is an estimate 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 38,194 hours during the year. This equates to £513,709 back into the local economy (based on UK Real Living Wage, £13.45 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 back to their community
- Helps them feel connected to their community
- Extends their social networks
- Makes them feel needed and useful
- Allows them to participate in passion-based activities.

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.

WORKSTREAM PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

OLDER AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

One significant development has been the expansion of our Community Connectors initiative, which has created an invaluable opportunity for two-way referrals and knowledge sharing with a wide range of providers, including Citizen's Advice Bureau (via Energy Bus), Age UK, local Food Banks, Portland Carers, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue, Dorset NHS, Two Harbour Healthcare, Dorset Council's Adult Services and Wessex Water.

As a result of this work, we have had contact with 238 people and made 173 direct referrals. We have also improved our A to Z Directory across relevant subject areas (Carers, Finance, Food, Home Safety and Transport), enabling us to build an extensive library of information regarding local support providers.

These activities include coffee mornings, talks, partner events and two separate living aids demonstrations with the Greenwood Independent Living Centre (seven individuals and their families progressed to direct contact with the Centre).

In detail

Through our Community Connectors project, ICA has provided a wide range of information and support to some of Portland's most vulnerable residents. This has included empowering people to represent themselves or, for those less able to act for themselves, contacting relevant services directly on our client's behalf.

TABLE 5: CONTACT BY PERSON FOR YEAR 4 (2024-25)

ACTIVITIES	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Coffee morning 1	3	8	11
Chat a Latte	2	13	15
Coffee morning 2	5	15	20
Foodbank referrals	13	40	53
Get Together Club	1	11	12
Greenwood Living Aids	9	24	33
Health & Wellbeing Fair	14	18	32
Ladymead Retirement Complex	2	6	8
Masons	15	21	36
Wyke Fellowship	5	13	18
TOTAL	69	169	238

TABLE 6: REFERRALS BY ORGANISATION FOR YEAR 4 (2024-25)

ORGANISATION	TOTAL
Dorset Fire Service	27
Finance	23
Health	9
Food	53
Other	61
TOTAL	173

ACTIVITY EXAMPLE: Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service

Working with Island Community Action, and similar organisations that support their local communities, is extremely important for the DWFRS Prevention Team. We aim to provide our service to the most vulnerable members of the community to keep them safe from the risk of fire. Without partners spreading the word about Safe & Well (now Home Fire Safety following a rebrand) we would not be able to reach the people who need us the most. Island Community Action making referrals to us, and helping to spread awareness about Home Fire Safety, enables our messages to reach more people, allows us to share advice and guidance on reducing the risk of fire, and ultimately helps to keep people safe. We are pleased to work with Island Community Action and are grateful for them reaching out to enable us to create a partnership. We look forward to continuing to work together to support the residents of Portland to reduce the risk of fire in their homes.

Natalie Waters
Partnerships Officer

ICA have directly referred 27 clients to DWFRS for a Home Fire Safety check and have given out several leaflets so clients are aware of the service and book direct if needed. Here are a few comments from our clients



ACTIVITY EXAMPLE: Greenwood Centre – Living Aids Demonstration

During a visit to the Greenwood Independent Living Centre (ILC) in Dorchester, to learn more about the wide range of disability equipment and services provided by the occupational therapists it was discussed how best the service could be accessed by people living on Portland.

Organised by ICA in collaboration with ILC a practical demonstration of small living aids was advertised for a morning in March at C2000. Due to an overwhelming response an afternoon session was also needed. To ensure the sessions were accessible to all ICA laid on transport for four clients including one client in a wheelchair. In total 33 people attended.

ILC put together a 12-page document detailing pictures and descriptions of all the products demonstrated, potential suppliers and guide prices that was given to everyone attending. This covered, Eating & Drinking, Food Preparation, Washing & Dressing, Bathing & Showering, Getting in/out of bed, Transfers in/out of a car and Assistance with Communication.

Following the presentations, the ILC was approached by seven individuals and their family members for further advice and information.



ACTIVITY EXAMPLE: Health & Wellbeing Fair – Masonic Hall, Portland

Two Harbours Healthcare Ltd invited ICA to have a stand at their Health & Wellbeing Fair at the Masonic Hall in July. A friendly and informative fair designed especially for those aged 60 and over. The event provided opportunities for local residents to explore a wide range of local health, social, and voluntary services that support wellbeing, independence, and peace of mind. There was also access to free advice, blood pressure checks, and a chance to connect with others in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

ICA spoke to 32 individuals and made several direct referrals to other local service providers.



ACTIVITY EXAMPLE: Weymouth & Portland Lions Club



The Lions Club's Message in a Bottle initiative is a simple yet effective way for people to keep their basic personal and medical details readily available, enabling them to be easily located by emergency services. The bottle, which is kept in the fridge, provides peace of mind that prompt and appropriate medical assistance can be provided, and next of kin notified. The Lions Club keeps ICA supplied with bottles, which we then distribute to the community. This is carried out via coffee mornings, talks, ICA groups, and footfall in the office. We have distributed over 70 bottles this year.

The Lions Club has also been collecting and recycling glasses since 1967, and what started as a single club activity has grown to become a nationwide effort with clubs across the UK collecting millions of pairs of spectacles over the last 35 years. ICA has assisted them by acting as a collection point in the community. We've had a fantastic response. Dave Woolford, Lions Club member, is pictured collecting hundreds of pairs of glasses which will be redistributed in the UK and over 25 other countries.



Overall impact

Through these combined activities, Community Connectors has:

- **Supported independence** by helping people stay in their homes for longer. This has been achieved in three ways...
 - Focusing on prevention, by getting them into our own and partner activities before there's even a problem, so they know where to go for support.
 - Taking an early action approach when issues do arise.
 - Providing essential 'at-home' support to support our clients' needs, e.g. prescriptions, shopping, errands, and hospital transport.
- **Reduced isolation** by boosting independence, confidence and happiness, whether 'at home' or 'out of home'. For example, for those unable to leave home or with limited access to life outside of their home, we have provided home-based activities, like Community Crafters. This has enabled them to continue to participate in community life and even extend their social networks. We've also provided dog walking services so clients can keep their pets.
- **Ensured nutrition** by providing support with shopping, running lunch clubs, and other food-based activities. Also, providing referrals to non-ICA food-based activities, like foodbank referrals and external food providers.
- **Maximised income** by assisting with personal applications for Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance. Also, where required and appropriate, signposting to other relevant support providers, e.g. CAB and Age UK.
- **Raised awareness** of available support through the provision of information about local and non-local services, including statutory and non-statutory providers.
- **Championed** individuals by acting on their behalf or providing them with direct support through a wide range of health and wellbeing processes, e.g. supporting them through medical diagnosis and treatments.

YOUNG PEOPLE

PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL (PYC)

PYC priorities remain:

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.

Achievements:

- 18 Youth Councilors (72% retention rate throughout Yr 3)
- 36 regular PYC sessions
- 409 Youth Council interactions
- 1,098+ public interactions with PYC activities.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

ICA continued to grow its Duke of Edinburgh Award, strengthening our partnership with Atlantic Academy, following Dorset Councils decision to end its role as the Licensed Organisation for youth groups and schools across the county.

The scheme is open to all 11-16 year-olds, but those from low-income/disadvantaged backgrounds were prioritised and ICA put special measures in place to ensure they could participate e.g. securing additional funding to cover participation and equipment and offering payment plans where required.

Achievements:

- 30 participants
- 32 DofE sessions
- 960 DofE participant interactions.



PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL OVERVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

September 2024 - August 2025

Part funded



STRUCTURE

For the 2024-2025 term, Portland Youth Council (PYC) piloted a new structure. This was after two years of busy preparation and learning, during which time Island Community Action's (ICA) dedicated facilitators worked with local young people aged 11-16 to refine a programme that young people could call their own.

The new structure does more to recognise the different learning and engagement styles that young people display in order for the programme to be as inclusive and relevant as realistically possible. This has meant opening up three new roles that potential members can choose from (these are explained below) and changing the previous fortnightly meetings to weekly. Because of this new structure, we have been able to expand the programme to cater for more than the original 15-member cap.

We have found that having the investment and time of dedicated facilitators has led to greater retention rates, exceeded targets, and increased funding. Combined, these achievements have enabled the programme to achieve even more than the young people had originally committed to.

Thank you to our supporters at Portland Town Council (PTC), Dorset Council (DC) and the National Lottery Community Fund for making this possible.

Leadership Team

- Advisory board for external organisations and projects
- Decides how PYC resources are distributed
- Decides event delivery and fundraising details
- Designs and delivers a campaign and a consultation
- Can be part of the delivery team as well.



Delivery Team

- PYC Event and fundraising preparation and delivery
- Volunteers for external events
- Planning and delivering PYC trip for local young people.



Event Team

- Volunteers in stewarding and delivery of events both PYC related and for external organisations/projects.

Year 3

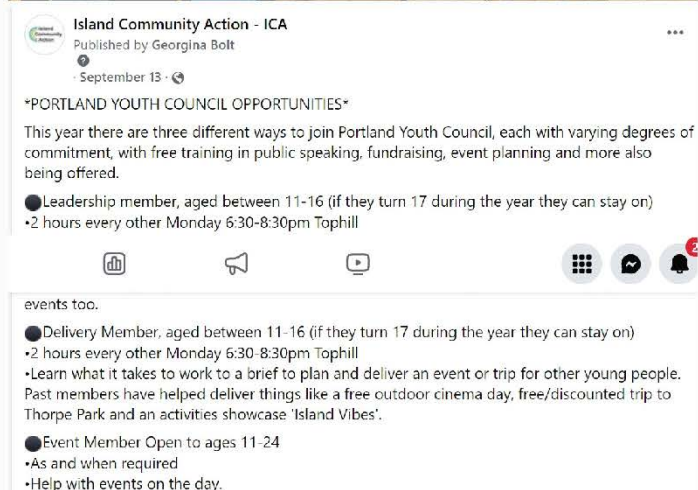
September - October 2024

Recruitment:

- Assembly for an estimated 200 students at Atlantic Academy
- Youth led open evening with eight participants
- Social media campaign.

24 members recruited:

- Delivery team x 6
- Leadership team x 14
- Events team x 4.



Sessions & Activities:

- Youth Council led interviews
- Team building day for Leadership and Delivery members
- Power Structures and UK Democracy training
- Running A Meeting training.



November - December 2024



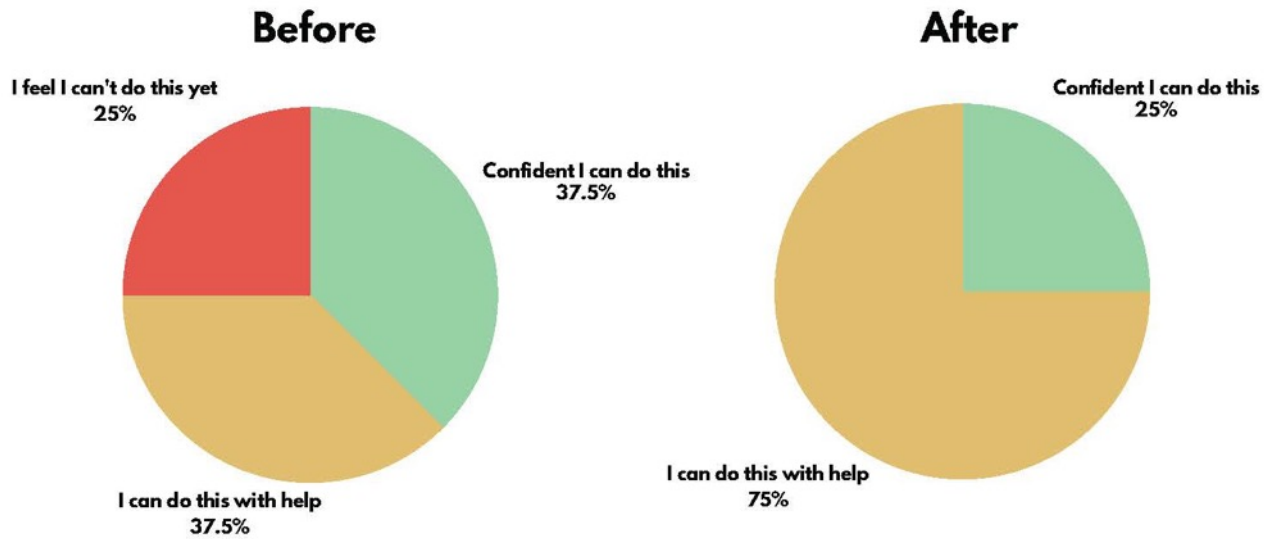
Sessions & Activities:

- Laying a wreath for Remembrance Day and helping with light duties
- Fundraising training
- Consultation training
- Feeding into Dorset Coast Forum and b-side consultation
- Christmas fundraiser strategy planning and preparation
- Portland Christmas Sparkle fundraising event - three separate affordable activities delivered
- Atlantic Academy Christmas Fair fundraising event
- Eight young people completed four sessions of the Maker's Market entrepreneur's course
- Easter fundraiser decision.

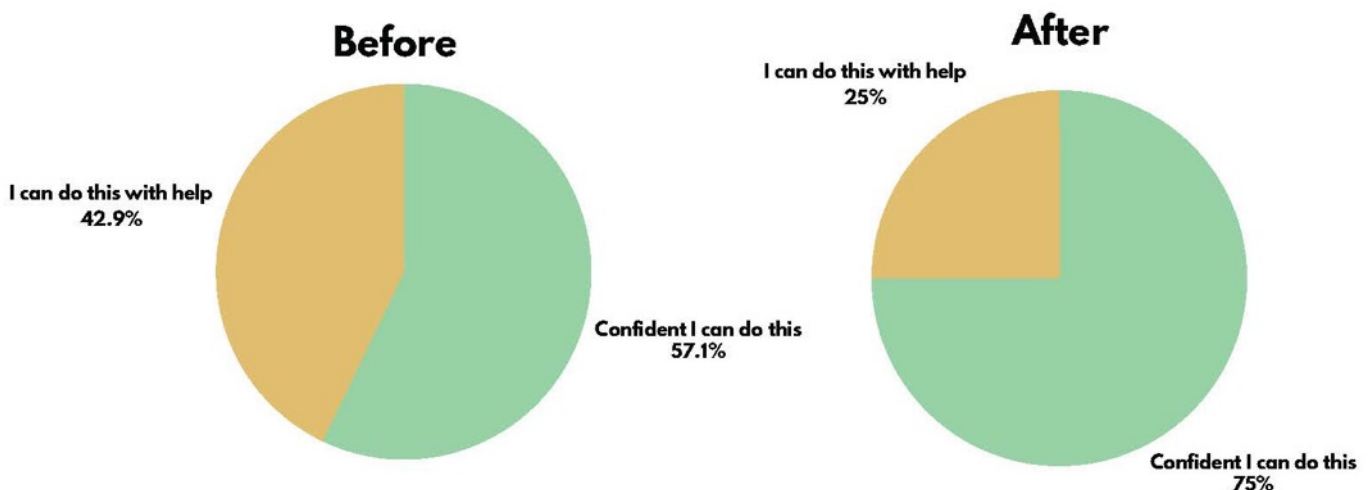


Makers Market

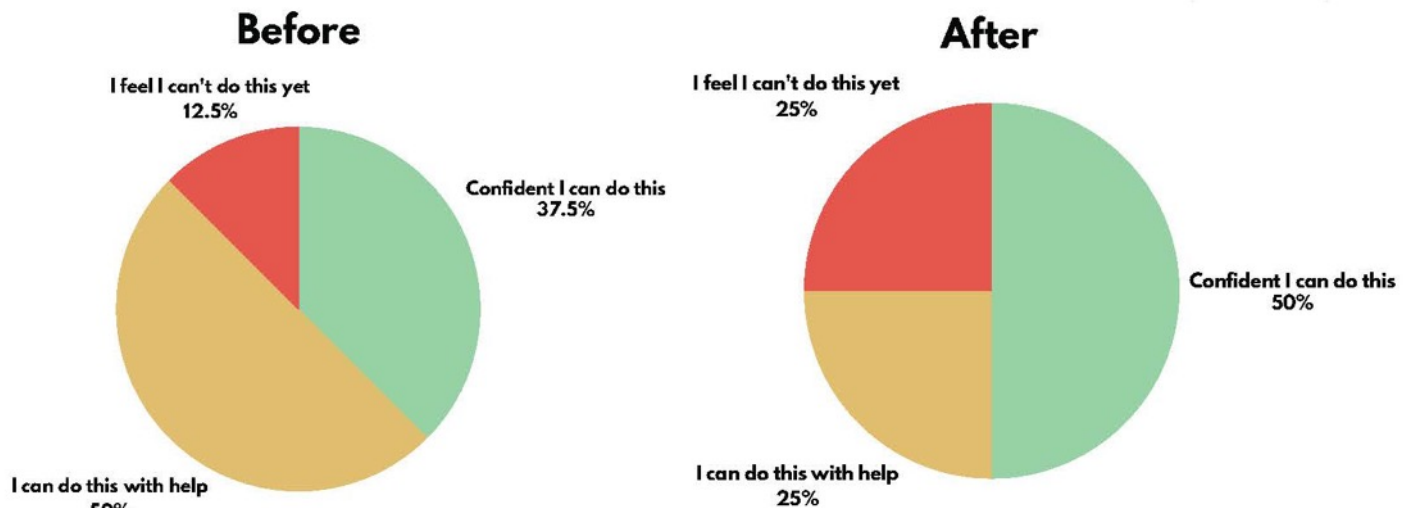
Confidence in writing a business plan



Confidence in understanding profit margin and pricing



Desire to take further education routes into business (GCSE)



January 2025



Sessions & Activities:

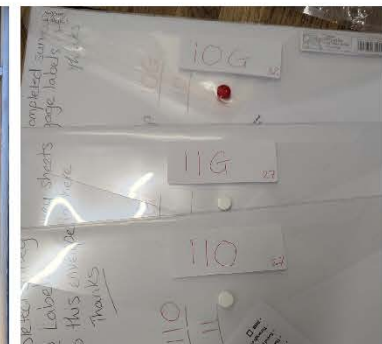
- Campaign decision
- Consultation event design and decisions
- Public Speaking Training
- Chinese New Year event preparation.

23 members continue



Chinese New Year event delivery:

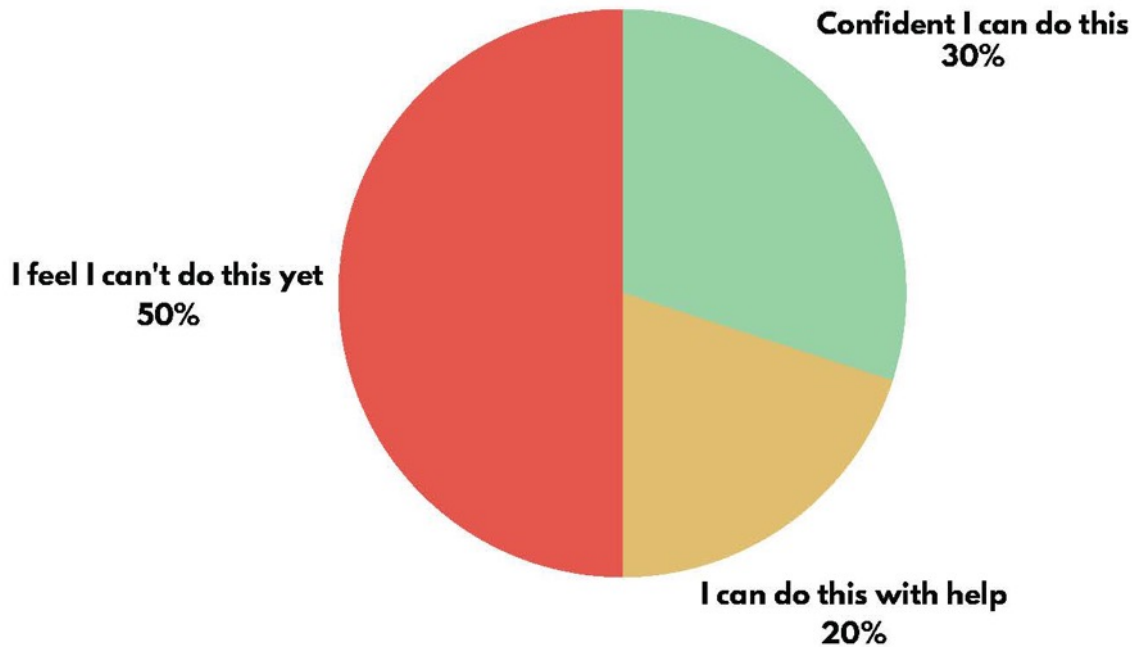
- All students (464) in the secondary years received a red envelope with chocolate coins and a consultation kit for the forthcoming PYC summer trip
- An hour of Chinese New Year activities for 30 secondary students, planned and led by 17 of our youth councillors
- 100 spring rolls and 100 fortune cookies shared out during secondary lunch
- A sit-down Chinese meal for 87 primary and secondary students
- ICA window takeover.



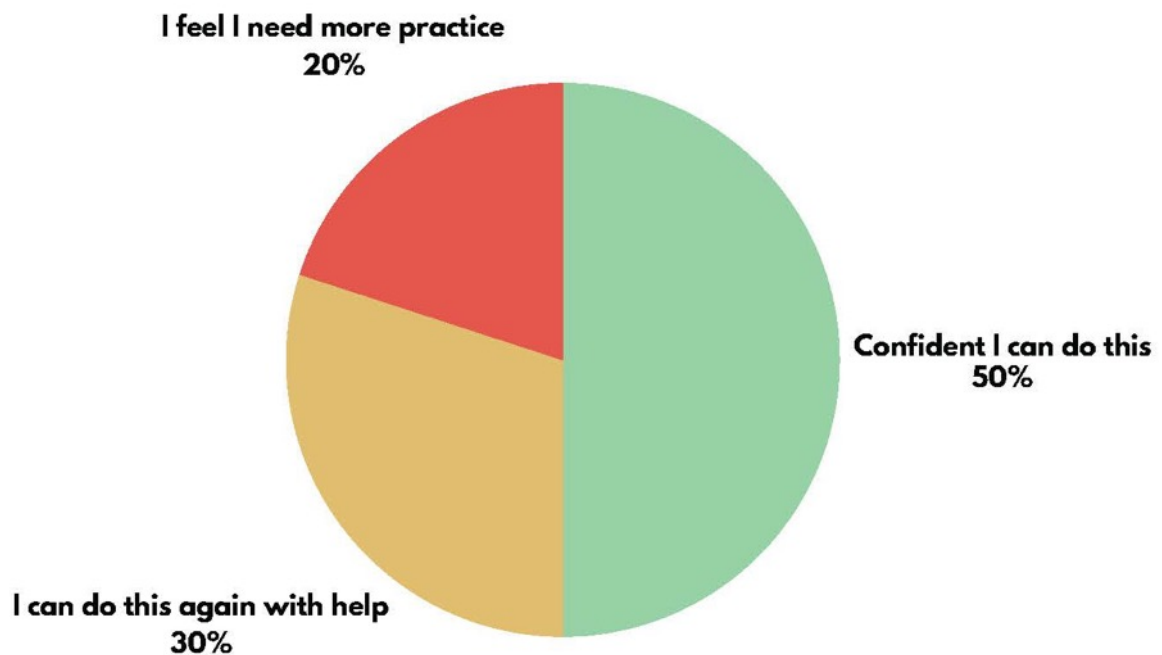
95% of young people who participated reported that they had learnt something new about Chinese New Year.

Public Speaking Training from Casterbridge Speakers

Confidence in public speaking before training

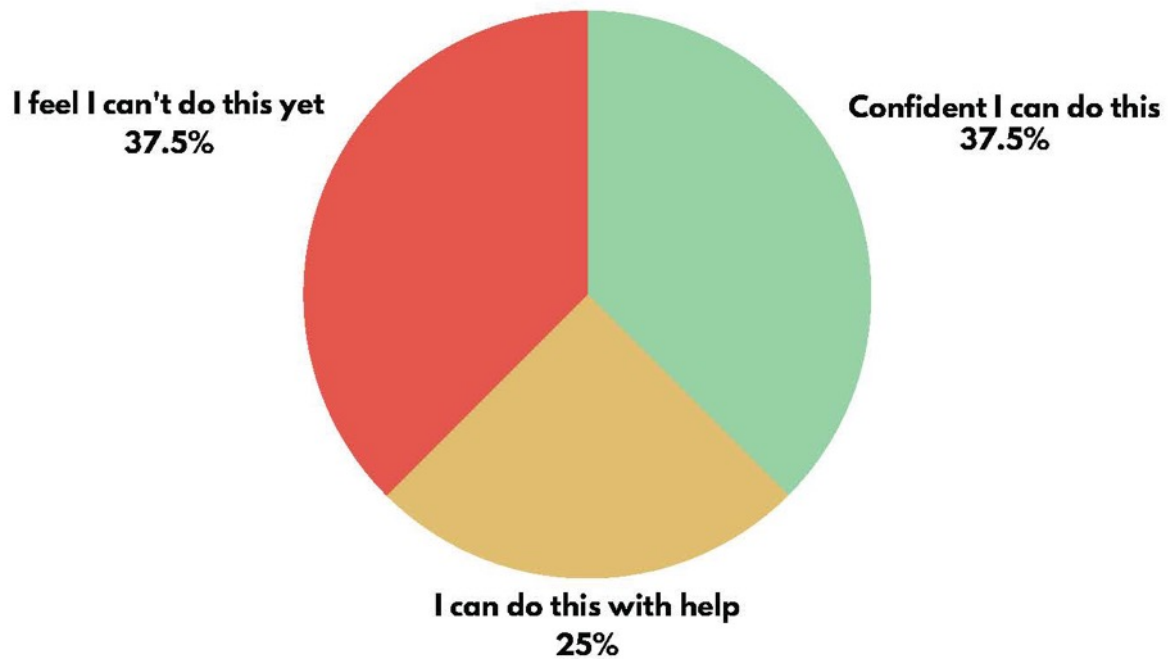


Confidence in public speaking after training

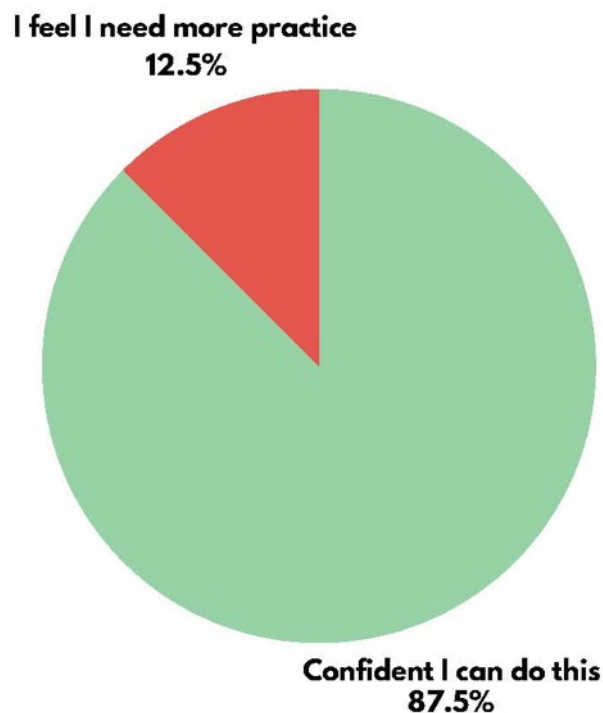


Budget and Finance training from Christians Against Poverty

Confidence in knowledge before training



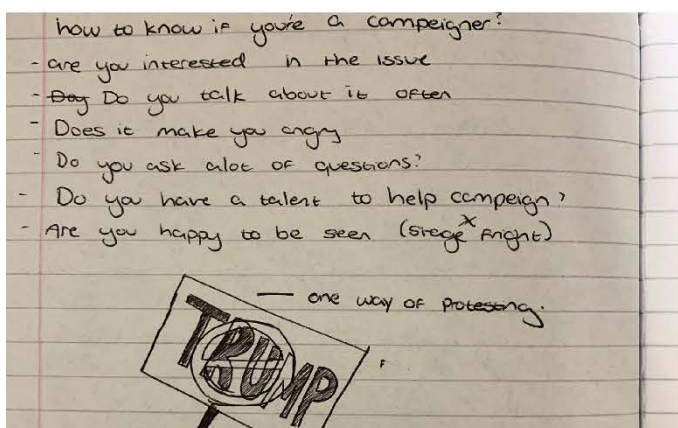
Confidence in knowledge after training



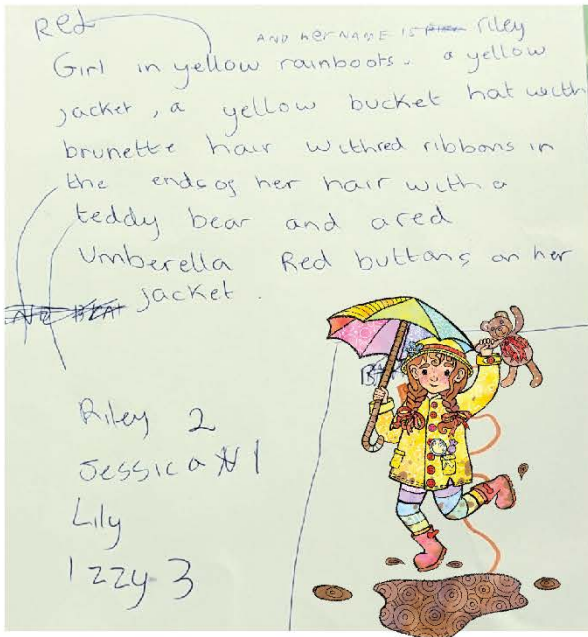
February 2025

Sessions & Activities:

- Poster & Graphic Design training
- Finance & Budget training from Christians Against Poverty
- Campaign Delivery training from Save The Children
- Designed poster for Public Speaking training
- Data input and analysis from Chinese New Year consultation
- Preparation for Protecting and Respecting Local Wildlife and Public Spaces campaign. Included democratically choosing a campaign artist (Charlie Pascoe)
- Met with the Chesil Youth Pride lead.

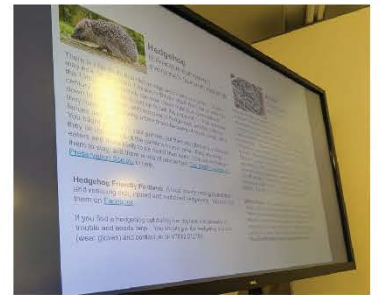


March 2025



Sessions & Activities:

- Public Speaking training workshop for six non-PYC people living on Portland
- Session from biodiversity specialist Steve Christmas to inform campaign
- Submitted thoughts to Dorset Local Nature Partnership's Youth Food Conversation
- Prepared for Easter fundraiser
- Helped to direct and feed into campaign art with Charlie Pascoe
- Researched facts for campaign booklet
- Met with Rory Pilgrim to find out about a local film project around youth voice.



April 2025

Sessions & Activities:

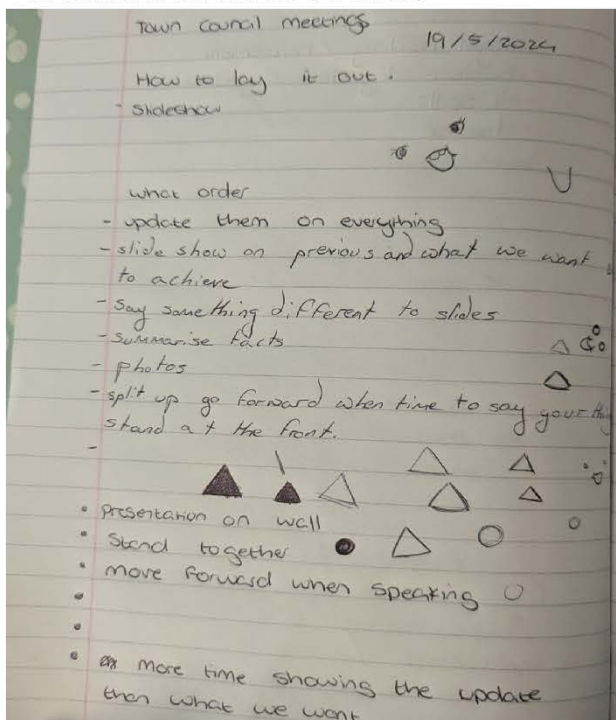
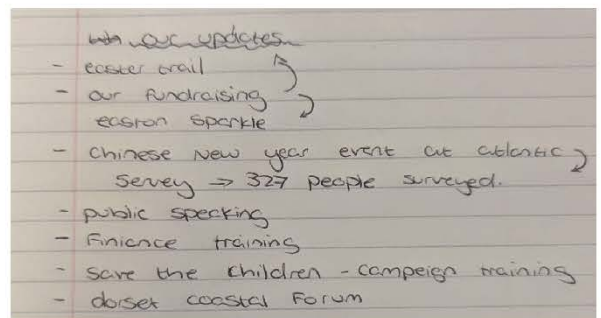
- Paignton Zoo trip to inform next stage of campaign. Included a conservation talk from the Zoo's Education Team
- First part of campaign launched with a nature trail for children and families. 129 children took part
- Easter fundraiser and Portland Rotary Club coffee morning
- Met with Dorset Youth Voice to discuss how Portland Youth Council members can stand to represent Portland in the county.



Sessions & Activities:

- **Wild Words writing competition launched as part of PYC's Protecting and Respecting Local Wildlife and Public Spaces campaign**
- **Claudia from Saint Nics visited to talk about an opportunity to get involved with the steering group for Portland and Weymouth Towns of Culture's Cultural Passport scheme**
- **PYC members attended County Hall, Dorchester to meet with Weymouth, Dorchester and Dorset Youth Councils and take part in discussions around children's rights and the the Dorset Local Plan (2026-2043)**
- **Preparing for Portland Town Council full meeting presentation**
- **Decisions around recruitment in September**
- **2 former PYC members interviewed and offered places for Portland Rotary's Leadership course based in Wales.**

PYC member!



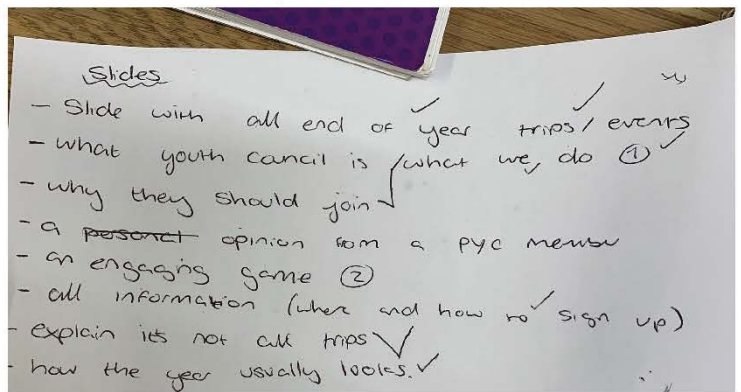
Tier 1 changes: Eco friendly/ Green feature on bi
where Portland Town Council are based. Bird
Make 4 areas - ^{protected} verges - rare ^{abundant} ^{lady} ^{bug}
Tier 2 changes: Skate park - natural elements o
out of recycled materials. Built to Play. Biosurle:
gardens - filtering pollutants. Nature themed bi

Tier 3 changes: Changes to the Neighbourhood plan require new buildings to include nature friendly features.

June 2025

Sessions & Activities:

- 2 PYC members joined the steering group for Portland and Weymouth's Cultural Passport scheme
- 70 applicants to Wild Words story competition
- Presentation and year end preparation
- 2 members joined Dorset Youth Voice
- 2 in house work experience placements
- Youth led PYC recruitment campaign activity for 2025-26 term
- Preparation for youth trip for 47 local young people.
- Wildlife Day with Atlantic Academy for 300+ primary students with an additional 18 secondary students volunteering to support its delivery.



July 2025

Sessions & Activities:

- Presentation to Portland Town Council
- Preparation for Chessington World of Adventures Trip for 47 local young people.
- Requested Portland Town Council to consider three key campaign points:
 1. New housing developments to include bird and bee bricks
 2. Saving a patch of local 'rare' orchids
 3. Changes to the Neighbourhood plan to include wildlife preservation considerations in new developments.
- End of year celebration



August 2025

Sessions & Activities:

- Nature & Shared Spaces workshop with 6 young people, included walk and artist workshop to explore themes of public spaces and how we respect them
- 7 young people signed up to our Young Peoples Entrepreneur Market with 4 selling on the day
- 400+ young people engaged in creating items for ICA's Woolly Wonderland Yarn Bomb Festival
- End of a 12-week crochet club; engaging 21 young people aged 7-14 to create items for the installation.
- Woolly Wonderland Busy Bees competition attracts 79 participants
- 47 Portland young people went on a trip to Chessington World of Adventures.



END OF YEAR REVIEW

As we come to the end of another PYC year, we can reflect on the achievements and the lessons learned during a period of continued experimentation, adaptation, and growth - values that are important in any youth work.

This year saw the launch of a new, ambitious model for the PYC - a pilot approach aimed at enhancing engagement, flexibility, and impact through the introduction of a range of new and varied roles, which allowed us to open the programme up to the biggest number of members yet.

While the intention was to improve how the PYC operated, the reality proved more complex. The new structure didn't deliver all the outcomes we had hoped for, and it highlighted areas that need further refinement, especially in terms of maintaining momentum, ensuring clarity of roles and expectations and balancing resources. However, despite its challenges, the approach and experience delivered some incredible results, along with some valuable insights into what works and what needs to evolve.

During the year, we have seen the Leadership and Delivery team settle at 12 core members and revert to meeting fortnightly after losing some members to external factors. A further six members have continued to engage in the Event Team opportunities. As a group and as individuals, these young people have shown commendable commitment and passion, continuing to turn up, contribute, and shape the work of the PYC in many varied and meaningful ways.

Going forward, we intend to focus on a core group of up to 16 Youth Council members, whilst retaining the Event Team opportunities for anyone who wishes to join the fun! This will ensure that the high-quality work Portland Youth Council is known for continues, and we are still able to offer each young person personalised support in their journey through their early teenage years.

24 members engaged:

- Leadership team x 14
- Delivery team x 6
- Events team x 4

25 members recruited:

- Leadership team x 13 (1 didn't commit after signing up)
- Delivery team x 6
- Events team x 6 (gained 2)

18 members retained:

- Leadership & Delivery team combined (full youth councillors) x 12
- Events team x 6
- Members lost x 7 (all due to external factors)

FUNDERS:

- Portland Town Council
- Dorset Council (including Children's Services and the Portland Local Alliance Group)
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Portland Rotary

PROJECT & TRAINING PARTNERS:

- The Butterfly Conservation Trust
- Casterbridge Speakers
- Christians Against Poverty
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- The Drop In
- Friends of Victoria Gardens
- Hedgehog Friendly Portland
- Isle of Portland Orchids
- The Portland Association
- Portland Rotary
- Save the Children

ADVISORY ROLE TO:

- Island Community Action (ICA)
- b-side
- Chesil Youth Pride
- Dorset Coast Forum
- Dorset Council (including the Portland Local Alliance Group)
- Dorset Youth Voice
- Local Nature Partnership
- Portland & Weymouth Towns of Culture

CORE PARTNERS:

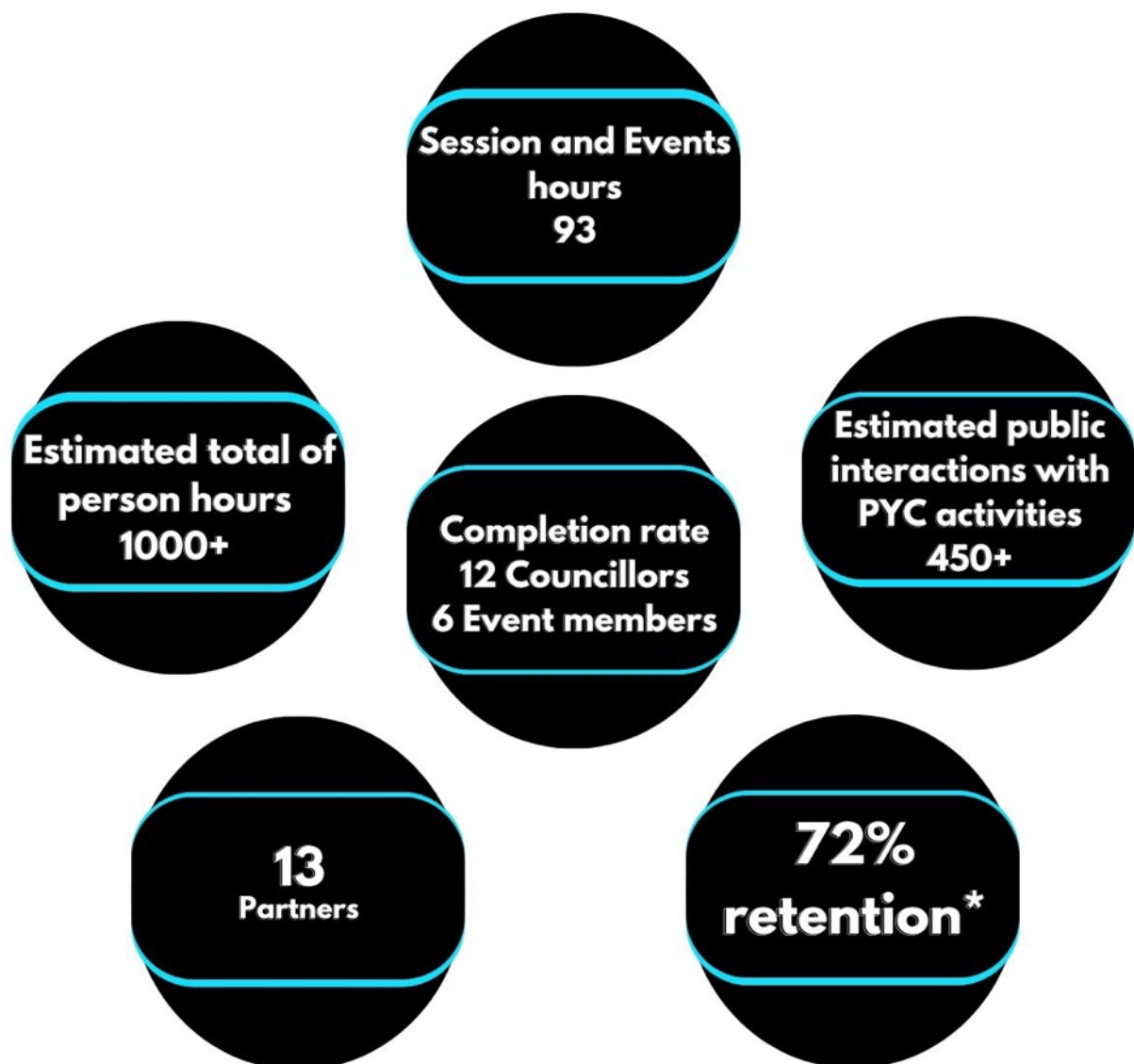
- Portland Town Council
- Atlantic Academy



PORTLAND YOUTH COUNCIL

Summary of Youth Councillor Engagement

YEAR 3
September 2024-August 2025



***Within the delivery period of the project.**

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBER EXPERIENCE

In their words...

“Being part of Portland Youth Council makes me feel accepted, happy and safe” - Connie Hawkins, Portland Youth Council member, aged 14

“Before I joined I thought I was going to get bored and now I'm excited to do it next year” - Ugochi Favour Ihuoma Azubuiké, Portland Youth Council member, aged 13

“I feel good about being part this because it gives me a really good reputation” - Bella Cronin, Portland Youth Council member, aged 12

“I feel more confident and proud of myself. It feels good to know I'm taking part of something meaningful and I feel hopeful for the future generations on Portland” - Grace Hawkins, Portland Youth Council member, aged 15

Overall impact...

98% feel they have learnt a lot from the programme, including (but not limited to) the amount of support available on Portland for young people, how to make a change in their local community and new skills like public speaking and campaign delivery.

99% feel like their ideas and experiences were listened to during their youth council experience.

11% increase in confidence in championing other people's voices and a 7% increase in confidence in being able to make their own voices heard.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Portland End of Year Report 2024-2025



Delivery Timeline

JULY

School Taster Day for 40 young people in Year 8 and 9.
8 young people from the previous year's intake volunteered to lead taster activities.
New sign-up of 28 young people.
Information session for young people and parents.

SEPTEMBER:

New volunteers recruited, inducted and trained x 3.
Volunteer planning and team-building session.
Introductory camp, hike, BBQ and litter pick with 28 young people.

OCTOBER

Funding applications submitted to DofE Resilience Fund, Tesco Bags for Help, Court Leet and Portland Rotary.

SEPTEMBER –DECEMBER

Fortnightly drop-in sessions for new participants to work on sections (Volunteering, Physical and Skills) in a dedicated space, or to share evidence and get support from leaders.

JANUARY

Introduction to DofE and team building session.
Introduction to Expedition Section requirements.

FEBRUARY

Navigation and map-reading session.
Cooking and meal planning session.

MARCH

First Aid session – Theory x 2.
Camping skills session.

APRIL

Practice hike Hardy's Monument.
First Aid session – Practical.
Route planning session for practice camp.

MAY

Practice Expedition Purbeck x 27 young people.
Assessed expedition route and meal planning session.
Assessed expedition project planning session.

JUNE

Outline of assessment criteria for expedition session.
Assessed expedition, Purbeck for 25 young people.

JULY

Project presentation to parents and 'fun' awards.
Taster Day for the new intake with 10 young volunteers helping from this year's Bronze group.
Applications from 17 young people to progress with Silver Award, 10 selected, plus two recruited as Young Leaders for next year's Bronze Group.
Volunteer Recruitment Evening – x 5 new volunteers registered.

AUGUST

Award Approval and Verification x 25 Awards.
new Volunteer Registration, induction and training.



Achievements

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS:

Number of young people registered = 28

25 x Yr 9

3 x Yr 10

7 x eligible for free school meals

11 x SEN

1 x looked after/in care

1 x English is not their first language

14 x boys/14 x girls



SESSIONS:

13 x Support sessions

13 x Training sessions

3 x camps

1 x Trip/practice hike

Attendance averages = 93%

PHYSICAL FITNESS:

**23 of the young people
have each walked 44km
(27.3 miles)!**

**4 have each walked a
distance of between 25-
35km each**

NEW REGISTRATION:

**ICA has been approved as
one of only two community
groups in Dorset to be
accepted as a DofE
Licenced Organisation**

HOURS VOLUNTEERED:

Young people x 360hrs

Volunteers x 648hrs

**(includes expedition
overnight hours)**



Benefits

NEW / IMPROVED

LIFE SKILLS

Basic First Aid
Cooking
Communication
Commitment
Critical thinking
Decision making
Employability
Focus
Initiative
Leadership
Planning
Problem solving
Responsibility
Self awareness
Self management
Teamwork
Time management

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Aspirations
Confidence
Connections
Fitness
Friendships
Happiness
Independence
Positivity
Resilience
Self belief
Self expression
Self esteem
Sense of identity
Stamina
Strength
Personal Safety
Connected to Nature

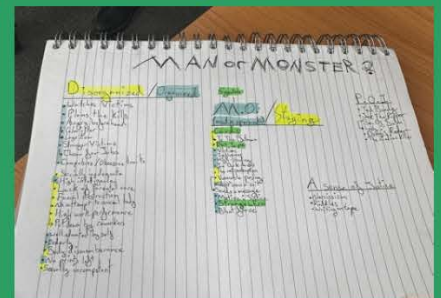


New Skills Learnt

Minimum 1 hr per week for either 3 or 6 months



Languages
Musical instruments
Life skills
Research
Animation
Traditional crafts
Precision sports

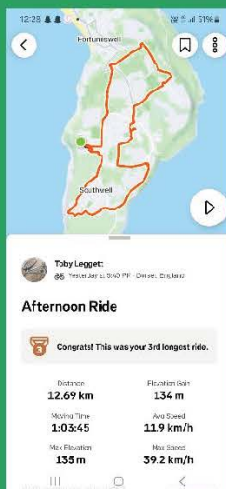


You	Name	Opponent
Winner		
1	#Legs won	0
	Duration	
	00:14:57	
	3-Dart-Avg	
28.36	Avg	29.24
46.67	first 9 Darts	23.00
	Avg. until remaining score	
42.00	170	42.25
34.67	100	37.45
	Checkout	
6	High CO	0
6.00	CO Avg	0
1/2	Doubles	-
50.00%	Double %	-
	Best	
62	Highscore	95
53	Best Leg	0
26.36	Best Leg Avg	0
	Scores	
3	1-19	3
4	20+	5
5	40+	5
1	60+	0
0	80+	1
0	100+	0
0	120+	0
0	140+	0



Physical Challenge Completed

Minimum 1hr per week x 3 or 6 months



American Football
Football
Netball
Stunt Scooter
Running & Fitness
Waterpolo
JuJitsu
Mountainbiking
Sailing

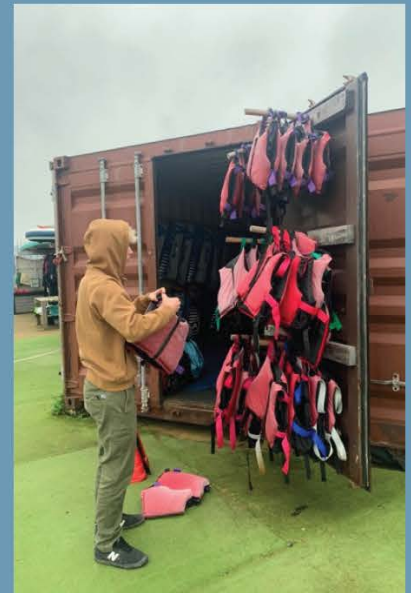


Volunteering in the Community

Minimum 1hr per week x 3 or 6 months

Portland Youth Council
Primary School Reading Buddies
Children's Sports Coaching
St John Ambulance

Zoomiverse
Librarians
Scouts



Training, Planning and Leading an Expedition and Associated Project

Completed – 13 x 1.5hr training sessions for the expedition.

Completed – Independent planning sessions for the expedition, including agreeing routes, roles and meals/shopping.

Completed – 2 x First Aid training sessions.

Completed – 2 x supported expeditions camps and 1 x practice hike.

Successfully completed an assessed, independent expedition and camp.

Successfully planned, collected data and presented their team projects to a live audience.



Participant's Take

"DofE has been life changing for me, it's taught me that I'm capable of much more than I believed." Suzy

"I'd definitely recommend doing it, it's a lot of work, a lot of learning, but a lot of fun" Caelen

"I was only going to volunteer for three months, but I enjoyed my placement so much I stayed for the whole year and have signed up for next year too!" Isabelle H

"I'm actually really glad that DofE had a skill section because it's forced me to learn how to use the camera I got for Christmas last year!" Seren

"I can't believe that I was picked to do the Silver Award, but I'm so glad I was. I actually can't wait to do another expedition, weirdly!" Giles

"It's questionable if I enjoyed the expedition at the time, but now I have such funny memories, and I am really proud of what I achieved." Poppy

"It was actually really good to be doing something outside using up my energy." Toby



Going Forward

From September 2025

ICA will be launching a Silver DofE Group

22 young people have enrolled

for the 2024 – 2025

Bronze Award group

17 young people applied and 10 were

selected for the 2025 – 2026

Silver Award Group

**2 young people have been selected to
complete the DofE Young Leaders Award**

**5 new volunteers have been recruited to
help support the delivery of the Awards.**

**We plan to continue to grow our team
so that we can accept larger numbers
for the Bronze and Silver Awards
in the future.**

COMMUNITY

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.

During the funded period, the Community Crafters delivered two significant projects:

Teddy Bears for Dorset County Hospital – Used by their dedicated play team on the Kingfisher Ward and at the Children’s Centre, home to many children’s outpatient clinics and therapies.

Over two dozen crafters have taken part from ladies in their 20s to over 80s and not only on Portland, but our community has also extended to a lady who lives in Redditch, Worcester. A total of 128 teddies in an array of colours, sizes and patterns have been received. Pictured below are some of our lovely volunteers.

Not only do the children benefit but also our crafters do too. Here are some of their comments:

“Stops me falling asleep when watching the TV”

“It keeps my mind active”

“It helps me take my mind off other things that are going on”

“Keeps my hands moving and something to do while travelling.”



Nicky Turrell visited the Kingfisher Ward at Dorset County Hospital to deliver the teddy bears on behalf of ICA to the Play Team. Paul Myatt, the Lead Registered Health Play Specialist, passed on his thanks to everyone who took part on behalf of the team.

HOOKED

A dedicated crafting group for those in their 20s, 30s and 40s, set up to provide provide a safe space for those who have found it hard to meet people their own age. Since launching, members have made items to donate to a number of community projects, including creating Dorset Council’s Christmas Stocking Installation, which raises awareness of children and young people in care; creating a beautiful woolly campfire for the local Beavers group, so they could learn camp songs, and helping turn Easton into a Woolly Wonderland, bringing joy to 1000s. Some members have even helped teach children the skill of crochet. They have also created gifts for those who have lost babies.



Woolly Wonderland – Yarn Bomb Festival

Organised by Island Community Action (ICA), the Woolly Wonderland Community Yarn Bomb Festival has seen around 1,500 people from across Portland, Weymouth and beyond create thousands of wool-based items to decorate Easton Gardens, Portland.

The event showcases knitted, crocheted, felted, sewn, wrapped, and tied decorations and community art pieces, including mermaids, a giant lighthouse, umbrellas, hot air balloons, hedgehogs, seascapes and tassels. The pieces will be used to brighten trees, fence panels, gates, and benches throughout the gardens and play area.

Individuals, families, and community groups from across the area have been working for months creating their pieces, from young children like Flo, aged three, who created tassels with her childminder, to those who are housebound due to age and frailty, like Joan, aged 97, knitting at home in front of her TV.

A range of local groups have also contributed, including ICA's Community Crafters, Hooked Crochet Club (for those in their 20-40s) and Memorability Club (for those with dementia and their carers), 1st Portland Scouts, St. John Ambulance Badgers, St. George's Primary School, Atlantic Academy's SEN Club, Hedgehog Friendly Portland, The Open Arms Youth Club, Salon 88, The Sanctuary's Wellbeing Group, Sewcial, Royal Manor Craft Workshops, the Woolnuts, and local Women's Institute groups.

Local crochet enthusiast Tash Moore said, *"I've really enjoyed working with the friends I've made at Hooked to create something people will enjoy looking at, especially children. This is something totally different for lots of us, as we usually make items like clothes, toys, and blankets rather than art, but I think we've all enjoyed the chance to be creative and pool our ideas to create a single piece."*

During the two months the project was live, thousands of local people and visitors came together to experience this truly intergenerational initiative. As part of the experience, ICA promoted Community Crafters and Hooked as great starting points to volunteer, contribute to the local community and improve health and wellbeing. We also promoted other local activities, including ICA's, as part of a more holistic, 'passion-based' approach to deliver preventative and early-action solutions within a community.





SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS MEALS

ICA's annual festive lunch for 90 older residents at The Lobster Pot, Portland Bill



A second lunch at Foylebank for a further 35 older, vulnerable residents.



12 ORGANISATIONS OF CHRISTMAS

Special treats for 12 (ended up being 13) local organisations nominated for by the community for the invaluable support they offer Portland and its residents. Each receives a hamper package donated by local residents or businesses.



Island Community Action - ICA
Published by Georgina Bolt · 14 December 2025 ·

🌟12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS - DAY 3🌟

For 12 days leading up to Christmas, we will be highlighting a charity, organisation or community group that has been nominated by members of our community.

Handmade with Love are a group of volunteers, headed by Colleen, who knit, sew and crochet items for sale at Portland and Weymouth craft fayres and online.

Colleen started fundraising for a cancer charity back in 2019, selling items to friends and neighbours. COVID put things on hold but when restrictions were lifted Colleen and her team came back with renewed energy and created, 'Handmade with Love'.

ALL proceeds raised annually (no expenses taken) are divided between three charities - Weldmar Hospicecare, Dorset County Hospital's Fortuneswell (Cancer) Ward, and a third charity decided upon by the group.

To date, the charities that have received the final third are The Air Ambulance Service, The Three Ells Trust, Dorset Blind Association, Portland Hedgehogs and WillDoes.

This year the chosen charity is Muscular Dystrophy, as a fitting tribute to one of the groups volunteers who sadly passed away as a result of the condition.

In the seven years that the group have been running, they've managed to raise a whopping £26,000 for charity.

We are astounded by this groups generosity and drive to do good, even when they're dealing with personal hardships themselves.



CULTURE, HERITAGE, NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT

Campaign: Protecting and Respecting Local Wildlife and Public Spaces

As part of this delivery year, the PYC Leadership team identified local wildlife (and the need to protect it against threats from climate change and human activities, including the actions of local residents - young and old) as the subject for their 2025 pan-Portland campaign.

The idea being to increase levels of respect, compassion and understanding to strengthen the connections between young people and nature, growing their desire to protect Portland's natural environment and reduce the activities that threaten it, including leisure-based activities and anti-social behaviour within public spaces.

In response, ICA created a two-year rolling programme for its Nature & Environment workstream that would not only support PYC's ambitions but would also create a range of linked activities to extend the campaign's reach and impact across a wider range of residents and organisations.

To achieve this, ICA supported the Youth Council to:

- Participate in a bespoke workshop, Delivering a Campaign for Change, created and delivered by Save the Children.
- Attend a research trip to Paignton Zoo with conservation talk delivered by Paignton Zoo's Education Team. 100% PYC members reported that they had learnt something new about protecting wildlife from their trip, and 72% reported that they would request more information about qualifications and careers in wildlife and environmental protection.
- Work with local biodiversity specialist and author of Portland's Biodiversity Plan, Steve Christmas, to discover more about Portland's natural environment, including the identification and mapping of 11 vulnerable local species (+ a human child) and their habitats. 75% of PYC members reported that they had learnt something new about local wildlife from Steve Christmas' talk.
- Commission local artist, Charlie Pascoe, to co-create 12 pieces of artwork, each depicting one of the species as a character to be used to front PYC's campaign to inspire young people to respect and protect not just the species themselves but also the habitats and public spaces in which they live.

In addition, ICA worked with the Youth Council to:

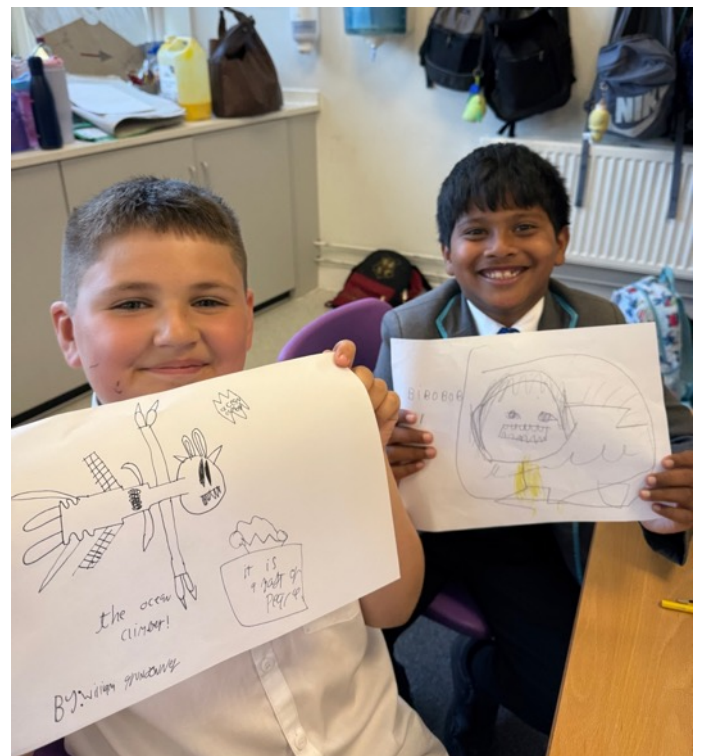
- Create a range of digital resources to be used at community-based engagement activities. This included information boards, booklets and activity ideas. Youth Council members supported this phase with research and development input.
- Develop and deliver several community-based events, including...
 - Family-friendly nature-themed island walks, including an Easter half-term Nature Trail, which provided 129 children with direct opportunities to connect with and care for nature. These activities were constructed so they could be replicated at home.
 - Wild Words short story writing competition for two age groups – 11-13 and 14-16. Inspired by the 12 local species and launched as part of PYC's ongoing campaign activity. Attracted 70 entries.

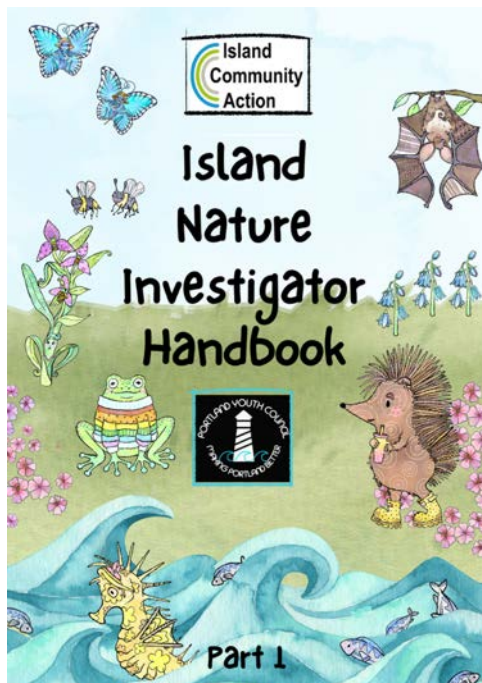
- Deliver a Wildlife Day with Atlantic Academy for 300+ primary students, with an additional 18 secondary students volunteering to support its delivery. Phased activities for four different year groups included...
 - Reception and Yr 1 – Nature Friends (entry-level activities and nature stories)
 - Yr 2 and 3 – Nature Explorers (bioblitz and nature craft e.g. toad abode)
 - Yr 4 – Investigators (looking at how creatures evolve to survive their changing environments, culminating in students creating a creature for Future Portland)
 - Yr 5 and 6 – Nature Heroes (meet the wildlife experts with Q & A)
 Six species featured (with the second six featuring next year).
- Deliver a Nature & Shared Spaces Workshop with six young people. This included a walk and an artist-led creative workshop to explore themes of public spaces and how we respect them. 82% of participants reported they had learnt something new about their local natural environment, with 100% reporting that they were better informed about how they could help take care of shared public spaces.
- Deliver concept work for a public mural focused on the 12 species.

Combined, the activities successfully delivered against both ICA's and PYC's aims and priorities:

- **Employment, Training and Volunteering** – Activities raised young people's aspirations through direct contact with professionals, with whom they worked with and learnt from. The activities also created a range of volunteering opportunities.
- **Improving Public Spaces** – Activities not only sought directly to improve public spaces, they also empowered local residents, young and old, to recognise that these spaces are shared, both with wildlife and people, and that respecting and caring for these areas brings mutual benefits to both themselves and the community of others they share it with.
- **Protecting Nature and the Environment** – Activities were designed to increase local desire to priorities and protect Portland's flora, fauna and environment.
- **Championing Equality and Diversity** – Wherever possible, activities were designed to be fully accessible to local people both in terms of cost and needs access.
- **Increasing Affordable Activities (for local young people)** – Activities provided were either free or low-cost and able to be delivered in group settings or at home. Any profits made were fed straight back into other PYC projects.







The Island Nature Investigator activities have been developed and delivered by

Island Community Action

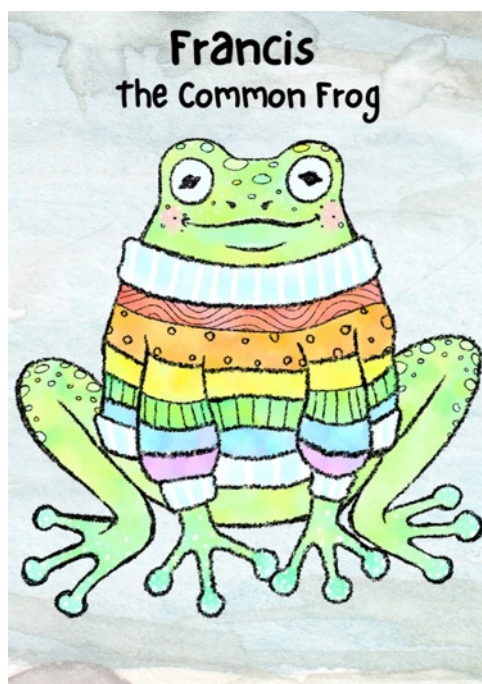
With special thanks to:

Steve Christmas - Biodiversity Adviser
Charlie Pascoe - Character Illustration

Part funded by:

Dorset Council **PORTLAND TOWN COUNCIL** **COMMUNITY FUND**

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For more information, please contact: office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk



I'm an **AMPHIBIAN**, which means I have a spine, I'm cold-blooded (my body temperature is regulated by the environment e.g. the sun), I can live on land and in water and I lay eggs.

SKIN
Water and gases can pass through my skin, which means I can breathe and drink through it. Because of this, I can hibernate in a pond during winter. Awesome, right?
My skin also changes colour to blend into my surroundings, which helps me hide from predators and my prey.

METAMORPHOSIS
The name given to my life cycle - eggs > tadpoles > froglets > adult frog.

A LONG STICKY TONGUE
Makes it easier for me to catch prey, like insects, worms, slugs and snails.

BIG EYES
I pull down into my mouth to help push my food down my throat.

WEBBED FEET
Help me to swim with speed and agility.

Introducing Hannah Hedgehog European Hedgehog

About Me
I have between 5000 and 7000 spikes.
I was born without any prickles.
When I was a baby I was called a hoglet or urchin.
I can't see well, so I use my nose (and sense of smell) to hunt.
I'm nocturnal and come out at night to hunt for tasty snacks, like worms, snails and slugs.
I hibernate during winter.

Threats I Face
Land being built on with houses that have tidy gardens or paving, fences and walls instead of plants and hedges, means there are less places for me to live.
Bonfires, strimmers and lawn mowers are really dangerous for me.
Human litter can trap me or smell like a tasty snack BUT it's actually harmful to me.

How You Can Help Me
You can feed me meaty cat or dog food, and leave me fresh water to drink but not bread or milk because I'm allergic.
Build me a hedgehog house or cut a small hole in your fence, (neighbours could do this too). This way, I can move in and out of your garden/s.
Check your gardens before mowing, strimming or lighting bonfires.

Wild Words

WINNER: CATEGORY – 11 TO 13 YEAR – FIRST PRIZE: BOBBY THE BAT

In the dark when stars shine bright,
Bobby the Bat takes flight.
Flapping wings so soft and fast,
Through the trees, he's flying past.
Bobby lives where caves are deep,
Or in tall trees where he sleeps.
Nighttime's when he comes alive,
Zooming around, he loves to dive!
Bobby the Bat, so small and brave,
Searching the sky for the bugs bats crave.
But Bobby's home is under threat,
We can help, don't forget!
Bobby eats the bugs that bite,
Helping farmers sleep at night.
But people cut the forests down,
Leaving Bobby without a town.
Lights that shine so very bright
Can confuse him in the night.
Pollution and pesticides
Make it hard for Bobby's rides.
Bobby the Bat, so small and brave,
Searching the sky for the bugs bats crave.
But Bobby's home is under threat,
We can help, don't forget!
Plant more trees, keep caves safe and sound,
Turn off lights when night comes around.
Don't use sprays that hurt his food,
Help Bobby's world be bright and good!
Bobby the Bat, so small and brave,
Searching the sky for the bugs bats crave.
If we care and do our part,
We can give Bobby a happy heart!
So when you see a bat at night,
Remember Bobby in his flight.
He's a friend in the dark, you see,
Let's keep him safe for you and me.

We need to make sure we keep all of our bats and animals safe. To do that, we should stop littering, make sure our animals get treated properly and help those animals who belong in the wild to stay there. For example, lions, tigers, bears, wolves, jaguars, monkeys, deer, zebras, eagles, hawks, owls, parrots, snakes, crocodiles, lizards, alligators, frogs, toads, sharks, beetles, ants, butterflies, grasshoppers, spiders, and crabs.

WINNER: CATEGORY: 14-16 YEARS FIRST PRIZE: FREDDIE FOX IN THE FOREST

Freddie Fox trotted along the damp grass of the forest. Graceful green grass danced in the wind as the fabulous fox left his small paw prints in a long trail. Happy and hopeful, he smiled confidently, knowing nothing could ruin his day now.

It hadn't always been this way. Not long ago, he had watched the trees fall in his old forest, crushing the graceful grass and stopping its dance. Unfortunately, his home had been destroyed by the big, monstrous machines that chopped down the trees, and he had been forced to live off the beetles he found in the nearby gardens he snuck in and out of.

He had a strong hunting spirit, unlike his friend Fiona Fox, who had been given too much human food and forgotten how to hunt. His other friend, Flynn Fox, had gotten ill from eating the rubbish humans leave behind. But luckily for Freddie, children had moved all of the rubbish out of the way for him!

Freddie heard a rustle in the bushes and out hopped a big, bad bunny. Portland people often feared these tiny creatures, so Freddie decided to slowly creep up on it, using the hunter's crouch passed down through his family. He pounced, lifting his haunches and leaping. Luckily, he landed on the bunny and finished it with a swift bite.

"Just think," he thought, "Fiona Fox can't hunt anymore because of overfeeding. I hope no humans offer me food, it's too tempting. I've seen children start telling their parents off for it."

Sitting down and sighing, he started his meal and gently used his wonderful white paws to fix his luxurious light blue bow tie. He'd found a new fantastic forest with rich hunting, but he still missed his old home. Freddie looked longingly at the empty area of green where his little fox den, also called an earth, used to be, but then he decided...

New forest, new home, new life. He finished his meal before slowly standing up and gazing around the new forest and decided to build a new home.



Tales & Trails

ICA's Tails & Trails experiences aim to improve health and wellbeing, expand social networks and feelings of belonging (helping to reduce isolation and loneliness), and increase 'pride in place' – encouraging people to love, respect and care for our island.

Tails & Trails builds on our basic walks offer by offering fun, interactive activities that bring people together to explore, discover and celebrate our island (with options to continue their journey after their initial experiences are complete).

Our trails are varied in length, type and cost in order to reduce barriers to engagement and provide simple stepping-stones into exercise for all abilities and ages. Our being to provide:

- Independent exercise options for those not attracted to (or confident enough) to participate in group experiences.
- Family/group options for those who prefer social activities.
- Deeper levels of engagement for those seeking more interactive experiences that entertain, inform and challenge.
- Options for residents and visitors to the Island.

During the 2024-25 funded period, we delivered four trails.

- **Easter Nature Trail** – Interactive trail with direct opportunities to connect with and care for local flora and fauna (families)
- **Portland History Trail** – Featuring Portland's historical past, including Q&A (all ages)
- **Myths & Legends Trail** – Exploring local tales and ending in a live storytelling session (adults)
- **Murder Mystery Trail** – Based around local significant sites (youth/adults).
- **Halloween Treasure Trail** – Family-friendly live/QR code mix trail.



In total, 424 people participated.

EASTER TRAIL



PORTLAND HISTORY TRAIL



MYTHS & LEGENDS TRAIL



MURDER MYSTERY TRAIL (ended up being indoors due to bad weather)



HALLOWEEN TREASURE TRAIL with We Are Weymouth (Weymouth BID)

This is our second year of running this family-friendly trail in Weymouth Town Centre.



See: https://youtu.be/dRf0EuDA_ak

Feedback

Easter Nature Trail

It was brilliant! Thank you to all the people that gave us such brilliant information about all the nature grounds us on the route. I'm completely obsessed with ants now!

We had such a fab time. We'll done and thank you so much to everyone involved in organising this fab event.

The trail was great, the children really enjoyed it! Thanks to all involved xx

We learned so much about Portland's local wildlife. The kids loved it. I've had to promise to set up a hedgehog house in the garden!

History Trail

Loved the walk. Have been coming to Portland for 40 years, and we visited places we have never been. It also gave us inspiration for walks of our own.

Perfect distance, interesting points. Nicely paced. Enjoyed.

Very enjoyable. I'm interested in more. Length of walk just right.

Myths & Legends Trail

Great event. The walk was very interesting, the folk tales were very good and the food and cocktails were delicious. Lovely evening all round. Thank you Island Community Action.

Really enjoyable evening. Well done to all involved.

Fascinating evening. Learned so much and met some interesting people. Thank you.

Murder Mystery

Really fun evening. Met some lovely people. A brilliantly well-organised event. Congratulations to all involved.

Thanks for organising a great event, I thoroughly enjoyed it. Well done to everyone involved x

Would never normally go to something like this, but we know ICA, so thought we'd give it a go. Glad we did. Didn't solve the crime but had a great night! Would definitely do more now.

What a fabulous night. The volunteers were amazing and played their roles brilliantly. Well done to everyone involved, and thanks ICA for putting on something so different and entertaining. More please!

Wellbeing Tasters







Feedback

I felt really connected to my community and managed to make a new friend.

I enjoyed the outing very much; it was delightful! I already knew some of the people on the trip, but I did get to speak to two new people at the event.

It was definitely an uplifting experience, especially as I was quite nervous about going.

Absolutely brilliant night, so well organised and had a lot of fun, met new people and enjoyed it from start to finish.

Really enjoyed this event. I had never been to a comedy club before and was a bit apprehensive about it, but I thoroughly enjoyed it. The experience allowed me to meet new and friendly people, whilst being able to switch off from the stresses of my daily life. Laughter is certainly a great healer, and the comedy club certainly brought that.

Thank you for putting this on. It helped with my mental health and wellbeing coming out of winter.

I would love to do the same trip again if possible.

I had so much fun. It gave me an opportunity to go somewhere different and meet new people. We all had a really lovely time. This is something that I would definitely do again. 10/10

Not something I would normally do, but now I can't wait to do it again.

I can't believe I managed to make a basket.

Really enjoyable Gilding workshop! Very relaxing and excellent for mindfulness, which I need to practice managing my cortisol levels. Thank you.

I found it very relaxing because it has to be done slowly, also very absorbing and focused.

Absolutely brilliant afternoon doing something I've always wanted to try. Really nice meeting new people and connecting with others in my community.

I really enjoyed this workshop. Once you relax into it, it becomes extremely and mindful like a successful meditation session. Thank you!

Very early on in the seminar, through the shared grounding exercise and shared experiences, I began to physically relax and feel well in my head and my body. Enjoyed the entire course.

I wish it were a weekly thing. I found it enlightening, and I felt normal again.

I found the whole workshop so helpful and informative. Charlotte allowed the group to share experiences, and that was very positive and immediately made me feel uplifted. I felt validated and not alone.

A stunning place. Peaceful and relaxing. Could have spent many more hours here. Definitely introduced me to a new venue that I'd previously had no idea about. Met some new people, which was great. Many thanks to the funders for making these trips more affordable and accessible.

It was one of my most memorable days out. The sculptures were beautiful, and the outing uplifting. Being in a group meant we got to share other activities people had enjoyed, which gave me ideas of other activities I might enjoy.

Wonderful day. Wouldn't have gone without ICA help. Many thanks.

Absolutely amazing trip to Winchester, seeing so much history. The Cathedral was absolutely stunning. Thank you for the opportunity.

Island Community Action

Arts & Crafts Wellbeing Taster Day

LEARN A NEW SKILL, MEET NEW PEOPLE AND DISCOVER A NEW PASSION (OR TWO) WITH A DAY OF INSPIRING CRAFT WORKSHOPS



BASKET WEAVING CHARCOAL DRAWING GILDING MOSAICS POTTERY



PRINTING ZEN CALLIGRAPHY + OPTIONAL LUNCH DETAILS TBC



BOOK ONLINE

Saturday 31st May
10 am - 12 noon or 2 pm - 4 pm
St George's Centre and YMCA, Portland

ACTIVITIES ARE OFFERED AT A GREATLY REDUCED RATE THANKS TO FUNDING FROM NHS DORSET'S MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING FUND (VIA DORSET COMMUNITY FOUNDATION)


NHS Dorset Dorset Community Foundation Teams of Culture 2025

Island Community Action


Kayaking

Tuesday 15th July
4.30-5.30 pm
Adventure 4 All, Portland Marina,
Osprey Quay, Portland, DT5 1DX

A FUN, BEGINNER'S TASTER, INTRODUCING THE BASICS OF KAYAKING, INCLUDING PADDLING TECHNIQUES



£10 pp (includes all equipment)



BOOK ONLINE

NHS Dorset Dorset Community Foundation Teams of Culture 2025

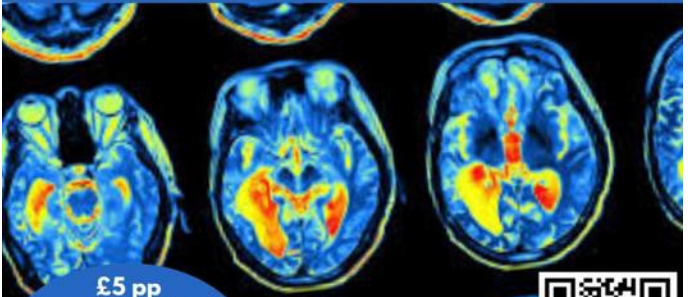
Island Community Action

18yrs +


Managing ADHD

Thursday 10th July
7-8.30 pm
Sweethill Farm, Southwell,
Portland, DT5 2DS

FASCINATING WORKSHOP, EXPLORING PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR MANAGING ADHD TRAITS AND MAKING LIFE EASIER



£5 pp (suitable for those who are diagnosed, self-identifying or supporting a loved one)



BOOK ONLINE

NHS Dorset Dorset Community Foundation Teams of Culture 2025


Island Community Action

18yrs +


Sculpture by the Lake

Thursday 21st August
10 am - 4 pm
Near Dorchester, DT2 8QU

SET ALONGSIDE DORSET'S RIVER FROME, WITH OVER 120 SCULPTURES, THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO RELAX, UNWIND AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE AND ART WORKING TOGETHER



£10, including transport and entry



BOOK ONLINE

NHS Dorset Dorset Community Foundation Teams of Culture 2025

RESEARCH, REPRESENTATION & REGENERATION

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

In addition to ICA's continual research into our island's challenges, the latest best practice models and emerging solutions, ICA has carried out the following activities to represent Portland's community:

- **Community Consultations** – ICA delivered seven consultations during the period, the three most significant being:
 - **Portland Town Council's Community Plan Consultation** – ICA delivered the consultation and analysis. A challenging activity due to the complex and dense nature of the consultation requirements.
 - **Dorset Council's High Angle Battery Consultation** – ICA co-delivered the consultation with Dorset Coast Forum. The consultation shaped the Rediscovering the High Angle Battery project. See: www.facebook.com/share/v/1F4qP4Fzsk
 - **MEMO (EDEN) Portland's Community Consultation** – This large-scale visitor attraction is currently in a significant planning stage. This is the third consultation we have delivered for the project, which has an impressive history of community engagement. It consisted of working with MEMO to create four public engagement events, two weekends of Bowers Mine visits (the location for the attraction) and an online survey.



- **Health and Wellbeing**, continued collaboration with key partners to improve Portland's health outcomes (lead – The Dorset Integrated Care Board)
- **Collaborations and Representation** – ICA's collaborative and representational work throughout the year included:
 - **Joint funding applications** with Weymouth & Portland Community Research Network (leads – ICA, Steps Youth Service, The Lantern Trust and Bournemouth University). Highly commended application but not successful.
 - **ICA staff member being invited to take on the Vice Chair role** for the Chesil Locality – Portland Local Alliance Group (LAG/lead – Dorset NHS).
 - **Ongoing consultation partner** for the Portland Family Hub (lead – DC).
 - **Dorset Towns of Culture (ToC)** – Portland and Weymouth were awarded the ToC title for 2025. The initiative consists of a collaborative network of cultural organisations from Portland & Weymouth - Activate, b-side, Island Community Action, Houseworks CIC, Saint Nics Gallery, Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust, Nothe Fort, We Are Weymouth, Weymouth Drama Group, Dorset Food and Drink.



ToC was created by The Arts Development Company and funded by Dorset Council. ToC 2025 is also part-funded by Portland Town Council and Weymouth Town Council.

ICA have been responsible for delivering the Community workstream in collaboration with Houseworks CIC.

See: www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk/news/partners-celebrate-dorset-towns-of-culture-award

Town of Culture ended with the 'Hats-Off' event, which saw hundreds of people create and wear a hat to celebrate an amazing year of creativity across Portland and Weymouth. Ahead of this celebration, people created hats at special workshops run by Houseworks CIC. ICA joined in by encouraging clients to pop on a festive bonnet in celebration of the big day.



THE FUTURE PORTLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY (CBS) – This year saw the official launch of Future Portland, along with its first project France Quarry. The latter focuses on working with the community to purchase two acres of France Quarry, a historically significant wooded area on the island that is under threat of being developed for housing.



FUTURE PORTLAND

Creating a positive future for Portland, its people and places



**KEEP FRANCE QUARRY GREEN
ACT NOW**

**We have a wild green haven in Easton
Let's save it for all!**

France Quarry is under threat of development. Future Portland are currently working to secure two acres of the site for our community – to ensure it is managed for the benefit of people and nature. To achieve this, we need to raise £60,000 by the end of March 2026. We have already raised £20,000 – please help us reach the target.

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT NOW!

By doing so, you'll be helping to secure a small but precious part of the island's natural heritage for current and future generations. Let's protect this peaceful place where people and nature thrive together.

Every pledge strengthens our case for community ownership, so that we can:

- Save a cherished green space for health and wellbeing
- Protect a vital habitat for wildlife
- Keep this land (and allotments) in community hands for public benefit, not private sale!

TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP FRANCE QUARRY GREEN

Shape a better future for Portland - act now!

Pledge your support or find out more: www.futureportlanduk.org

PARTNERSHIPS and COLLABORATIONS

TABLE 7: LIST FOR YEAR 4 (2024-25) – TOTAL 117 ORGANISATIONS

PARTNER		NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP
1	1 st Portland Scouts	Support from ICA's Hooked group.
1	Activate Performing Arts	Joint projects (Towns of Culture)
1	Age UK	Referrals for Attendance Allowance, Household Support Fund, general advice and leaflets
1	Anna's Wool Shop	Community Crafter project support and cost contribution
1	Artist's Retreat (Lyn Kirland)	Minibus hire
1	The Arts Development Company	Joint funding bids and projects (Towns of Culture)
1	Atlantic Academy	Consultations, collaborative events and projects
1	b-side	Collaborative events and projects (including Future Portland and Towns of Culture) and minibus hire
1	The Butterfly Conservation Trust	Collaborative activities
1	Casterbridge Speakers	Collaborative training workshop
1	Chemists (Boots Easton)	Prescriptions
1	Chesil Youth Pride (Dorset Council, Space Youth Project, The Drop In Portland, Weymouth College, Dorset Police)	Youth consultation
1	Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Service	Advice and Youth consultation
1	Christians Against Poverty	Leaflets and budgeting workshop for PYC
1	Domiciliary care providers	Referrals
1	Dorset Blind Association	Volunteer recruitment, promotion, cross-referrals and transport
1	Dorset Citizen's Advice Bureau	Advice, information sharing and cross-referrals
1	Dorset Citizen's Advice Energy Bus	Promotion, signposting and activity support
1	Dorset Community Action	Advice, information and training
2	Dorset Council – Adult Social Care & Children's Services	Cross-referrals and project support (Community Connectors)
4	Dorset Council – Communities & Partnerships; Family Hubs, Place and Commissioning)	Joint projects, funding, advice, information sharing, input into Dorset's evolving statutory offer, Portland based project support.
1	Dorset Council – Dorset Youth Voice	Youth consultation
1	Dorset Food & Drink	Joint projects (Towns of Culture)
1	Dorset Integrated Care Partnership (Dorset NHS, Dorset Council and a range of voluntary organisations)	Joint project delivery. ICA a lead partner on the Portland Healthcare Steering Group and Portland Hospital & Healthcare Development Group
1	Dorset Mind	Advice and information sharing
1	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service	Advice, information sharing and cross-referrals
1	Dorset Memory Box Library	Activity support
3	Dorset NHS – Hospitals (Dorset County, Westhaven and Weymouth)	Support referrals for hospital leavers

PARTNER		NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP
1	Dorset NHS – Dorset County Hospital	Teddies for DCH Children's Ward (Community Crafters)
1	Dorset NHS – Health Visitor team	Collaborative project, information sharing and cross-referrals.
1	Dorset Wildlife Trust	Collaborative activities
1	The Drop-In Portland Youth Service	Activities, signposting, cross-referrals and minibus hire
1	Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Collaborative training and project delivery
1	Eden Portland	Consultation, collaborative events and activities
1	EPIC Games Dorset	Collaborative events
1	European Parliament	Youth consultation and workshop
1	Friends of Victoria Gardens	Volunteer management, recruitment and infrastructure support
1	Greenwood Independent Living Centre	Joint event and referrals
1	Haylands Pre-school	Minibus hire
1	Hedgehog Friendly Portland	Collaborative activities
1	Help and Care	Cross-referrals (with Social Prescribers)
1	Houseworks CIC	Joint projects (Towns of Culture)
1	Housing & Care 21 (Foylebank Court)	Lunch clubs, training kitchen
1	Island & Royal Manor of Portland Rotary	Funding, information sharing, event support, signposting and joint projects
1	Isle of Portland Orchids	Collaborative activities
1	Islanders Youth and Community Centre	Promotion, referrals and minibus hire
1	Lantern Trust	Cross-referrals and Weymouth & Portland Research Network partner
1	Local Nature Partnership	Youth Consultation
1	Macpherson House	Minibus hire
1	Muntsys	Minibus hire
1	Nothe Fort	Collaborative events (NotLD and Towns of Culture)
1	Portland Carers Group	Advice, promotion, information sharing, cross-referrals
1	Portland Churches	Information sharing, cross-referrals and minibus hire
1	Portland Community Hospital	Service support, cross-referrals
1	Portland Community Partnership (PCP)	Advice, information sharing, project support.
1	Portland Community Fridge	Information sharing
1	Portland Court Leet	Funding, and information sharing
1	Portland Foodbank	Cross-referrals
1	Portland Marina	Joint projects
1	Portland Library	Information sharing and project delivery
1	Portland Local Alliance Group (LAG)	Key partner, funding, information sharing, youth consultation and joint projects
1	Portland Stone & Quarry Trust	Joint projects (Towns of Culture)
1	Portland Town Council	Portland Project co-funder, information and resource sharing, collaborative projects and events (Portland Youth Council and Towns of Culture)

PARTNER		NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP
1	Public Health Dorset	Advice and information
1	The Punchbowl Pub	Minibus hire
1	Room 2 Reward	Promotion and project delivery
1	Royal Manor Health Centre	Cross-referrals
1	Royal Naval Association	Minibus hire
1	Save The Children	Advice and bespoke training workshop for Portland Youth Council
1	Southwell Area Living Together (S.A.L.T)	Event support, including transport
1	St George's Primary School	Woolly Wonderland Yarn Bomb participant
1	St John Ambulance Portland	Promotion, advice, and training
1	Steps Youth Service	Weymouth & Portland Research Network partner
1	St. Nics	Joint projects (Towns of Culture & Cultural Passport)
1	Sweethill Farm	DofE support
1	The Open Arms	Promotion and cross-referrals
1	The Portland Association	Future Portland
1	The Sanctuary/The Cozy Corner	Volunteer recruitment and cross-referrals
1	Two Harbours Healthcare	Information sharing and cross referrals
1	UK Parliament	Collaborative training workshop for Portland Youth Council
3	Universities (Bournemouth, Exeter and Nottingham Trent)	Information sharing, joint projects and funding bids and conference/event support.
16	Venues	Atlantic Academy, The Blues Club, Bluefish Café, C2000, The Drop In, Easton Methodist Church, Lobster Pot, Masonic Hall, Islanders Youth and Community Centre, Royal Manor Health Centre, St. George's Centre, St. Georges Primary School, St. John's Hall, Sweethill Farm, Wyke Regis Community Centre, YMCA.
1	Volunteer Centre Dorset	Advice, information sharing, DBS checks, PR and general support (including VC Connect)
1	Wakeham Women Community Group	Minibus hire.
1	Wessex Water	Promotion and signposting
1	We Are Weymouth (Weymouth Bid)	Contracted projects and Towns of Culture
1	Weymouth Drama Club	Joint projects (Towns of Culture)
1	Weymouth and Portland FC Women's Team	Minibus hire
1	Weymouth and Portland Lions Club	Project support
1	Weymouth and Portland Marine Litter Project	Signposting, promotion and collaborative events
1	Weymouth and Portland Water Polo Team	Minibus hire
1	Weymouth Town Council	Joint projects (Towns of Culture and Cultural Passport) and Youth Consultation
1	Wyke Regis Horticultural Group	Minibus hire
1	Wyke Regis/Lanehouse Medical Practice	Cross-referrals



CHAMPIONING PORTLAND, ITS PEOPLE AND POTENTIAL

**SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND
THOSE WITH HEALTH CHALLENGES**



**YOUTH VOICE, TRAINING
AND VOLUNTEERING**

COMMUNITY CRAFTERS



**FOOD, GROWING, NATURE AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

VOLUNTEER BUREAU



COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS



PORTLAND COMMUNITY FORUM

COMMUNITY HUB



**COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
SUPPORT**

COLLABORATIONS



For more information about our work or how to get involved, contact us at:
The Easton Centre, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1EB
T: 01305 823789 / E: office@islandcommunityaction.org.uk
W: <https://islandcommunityaction.org>



Charity no. 1157978



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.

Woolly Wonderland: Yarn Bomb Festival: www.portlandweymouthculture.com/videos?wix-vod-video-id=6c889647105143ab8393507d96467f53&wix-vod-comp-id=comp-mbgo3wiz

luxurious magazine

HOME ABOUT US EDITORIAL GUIDELINES PRIVACY ARTICLES BY SECTOR

Portland's Easton Gardens Transformed by Thousands of Woolly Creations

by Editorial Team Published 25 July 2025 at 15:40

SEARCH LUXURIOUS MAGAZINE



A colourful yarn-filled takeover has come to Portland in the form of the Woolly Wonderland Community Yarn Bomb Festival. The Woolly creations have transformed Easton Gardens with giant lighthouses, pom-poms, mermaids, hedgehogs and hot air balloons – all lovingly knitted, crocheted and stitched by people aged from 3 to 97.

Organised by Island Community Action (ICA), the Woolly Wonderland Community Yarn Bomb Festival has seen around 1,500 people from across Portland, Weymouth, and beyond create thousands of wool-based items to decorate Easton Gardens in Portland.

The event showcases knitted, crocheted, felted, sewn, wrapped, and tied decorations and community art pieces, including mermaids, a giant lighthouse, umbrellas, hot air balloons, hedgehogs, seascapes and tassels.

The Fat Duck's Mindful Experience Menu Shows that Bigger is Not Better

From Penang to Paris, The Art of Peace by Professor Lin Xiang Xiong

Formex Turns 25: How a Family-Owned Swiss Watchmaker Beats to Its Own Drum

Four Compelling Reasons to Visit Allia Before the End of 2025

Reconnecting with Nature at Utama Spice's Kul Kul Farm Gathering in Bali

McGill Hotel Collection's Immersive Experiences in Asia for Heritage Days 2025

Hanal Pixán at Casa Xixim Will be a Quiet Celebration of Yucatán's Soul


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Jurassic Coast towns win joint culture bid



JAYNE JACKSON

The two towns will host a year of cultural events next year


7 August 2024

Portland and Weymouth have been chosen to be Dorset's joint towns of culture for 2025.

The areas will put on a year of culture events after winning their joint bid.

They will receive £30,000 from Dorset Council, match-funded by both town councils, to support a programme of activities.

The title is currently held by Bridport where the town's streets and venues have been hosting an array of music, performances and visual art.



DorsetECHO

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Please donate today so that no young person, or their family, has to face the trauma of cancer alone.

"We'll never get over losing our daughter Kirsten... but we haven't faced it alone."
- Emma & Neil

Future Portland, a community benefits society, set up

12TH JULY HERITAGE PEOPLE PORTLAND



Amanda Wallwork speaking about the Future Portland meeting (Image: Matt Austin Images, FP)

By Alfie Lumb
Reporter
@AlfieLumbjourn

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Community groups are joining forces to create a new society in the hopes of reviving derelict sites on Portland, with sights on their first major project.

Most read Commented

Island Community Action - ICA's post



You, b-side, BillWatch and 140 others

31 comments 53 shares



Like



Comment



Share

Most relevant ▾



Knitoholics

Absolutely amazingits absolutely beautiful xxx

11w

Love

Reply

Hide



Island Community Action - ICA replied · 2 replies



Catherine Bennett

Incredible. Really amazing work and project. Easton gardens will never be the same again!

12w

Love

Reply

Hide

4



Katy Pascoe Was Gingell

The best community ever!

12w

Love

Reply

Hide

6



Lizzy McEvilly replied · 1 reply



Vicky Hope

It looks incredible I'm so proud to have been a small part of it and that all three of my girls helped to design and create a piece to help bring a smile to others. This is the best project we've ever taken part in and have enjoyed it so much

12w

Love

Reply

Hide

6



Lynn Ette

Incredible! Beautiful ! Lots of hard work x

12w

Love

Reply

Hide



Archie Rowell

stunning!X

11w

Like

Reply

Hide



Janis Hill

How long is this on for please

12w

Like

Reply

Hide



Island Community Action - ICA replied · 3 replies



Charlotte Smith

Hello!

How long will the Woolly Wonderland be in the gardens for? 🌊

11w

Like

Reply

Hide

Island Community Action - ICA replied · 2 replies



Sophia Larsson

Oh that looks so fantastic, I didn't realise it was showing in Easton. I would have gone, such a beautiful and cheerful thing to do. Thank you to all the amazing crafters. Do you have your own website? Would you be showing your wonderful talents again? Well done all. ❤️ x

11w

Love

Reply

Hide





Island Community Action - ICA

Published by Kim Wilcocks · 26 July · 🌐

...

Thank you to all that came along to the Cake Picnic today, especially those who made and donated the delicious cakes, those who helped serve and also those who set up, took down and manned the Fuzzy Buzzy Bees competition stall.

The rain certainly didn't deter you because over the last couple of days more than 1,000 of you have visited Woolly Wonderland, either as creators, volunteers and/or visitors. This is more than we could ever have imagined.

Here are a few more shots of today's activities and the stunning pieces on display.

Feel free to spread the word to others. It will be up until the 15th September.

Thanks also for the part-funding provided by [NHS Dorset](#) (via the [Dorset Community Foundation](#)) under their Mental Health & Wellbeing grant programme. Part of this contributed to our Community Crafters/Hooked activities, both of which played a significant part in delivering our Woolly Wonderland Yarn Bomb Festival.



👍❤️ Jawbone, Knitoholics and 137 others · 14 comments · [19 shares](#)

👍 Like · 💬 Comment · ➦ Share

All comments ▾

Tina Lacey
It all looked amazing. So much hard work and dedication. Thank you to all involved. X
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 3 👍

Elaine Shepherd
Walked through this afternoon, what an incredible display, hats off to all those involved.
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 3 👍

Jemima Mcgrandle
Well done to all involved 🙌
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 2 👍

Pauline Gibbs
Fabulous display showing such hard work & talent. Well done everyone involved 🥰
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 2 👍

Linda Stevenson
Can't wait to visit soon with family and friends.
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 1 👍

Jennifer Dougan
Well done to you all it looks great 🙌🙌🙌
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 1 👍

Jodie House
Looks amazing 🥰
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 3 👍

Lizzy McEvilly
It was right lush it were!
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 1 👍

Kiri Cox
All really lovely! Even in the rain!
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 1 👍

Patricia Caoimhe
Love it
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 1 👍

Paula Shiels
Amazing, well done, great talent by all x
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 1 👍

Carrie Dalby
Lorraine Bash Jackie Hambling
11w · [Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Hide](#) · 1 👍

Lorraine Bash replied · 1 reply

Viv Horne
This is truly amazing! I wish I could have come to the cake picnic!



Island Community Action
A LOCAL CHARITY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

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

Wreath Making

EDIT LEAVE A COMMENT 1ST DECEMBER 2025 ICAPORTLAND

What a fabulous festive and very fizzy-filled evening our Wreath Making workshop was this year.

DONATE TO ICA AND YOUR MONEY STAYS ON THE ISLAND, SUPPORTING LOCAL PEOPLE AND PROJECTS.



Island Community Action
A LOCAL CHARITY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

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

FUNDING

ICA covers its running costs, including the cost of its activities and services through a mix of grant funding, donations, local giving, legacy gifts and fundraising events.

GRANTS – We are hugely grateful to have received grants from the following funders for the period April 2025-March 2026:

- The National Lottery Community Fund: Reaching Communities – Towards The Portland Project, covering 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 towards The Portland Project. Covers several extended and new services.
- Dorset Council – Towards our core costs, Helping Hands (older and vulnerable people), our cultural offers and youth projects.
- Dorset NHS Health & Wellbeing Fund (via Dorset Community Foundation) – Towards our health and wellbeing offer.
- McCarthy Stone Foundation – Towards our Christmas 2025 activities for older and vulnerable residents.
- Postcode Community Trust – Towards our core costs (funds raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery and awarded by Postcode Community Trust).
- Wessex Water Community Fund (via Dorset Community Foundation) – Towards our Community Connectors project.

NON-GRANT DONATIONS and FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES for the same period, unless otherwise stated:

- Portland Court Leet – Towards our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (for 2025 activity).
- The Rotary Club of Island & Royal Manor of Portland – Towards our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (for 2025 activity) and Helping Hands (our older people's project).
- Portland residents – Legacy and local donations towards our core costs.

DONATE TO ICA AND YOUR MONEY STAYS ON THE ISLAND, SUPPORTING LOCAL PEOPLE AND PROJECTS.



ICA FACEBOOK FEED



REFLECTIONS & THE FUTURE

Unsurprisingly, this has once again been a year of challenge and achievement for Portland, its community and ICA.

Externally, the island continues to be affected by Powerfuel Portland's incinerator plans, which have so far withstood all challenges and are now the subject of a further application to expand the range of materials for incineration. We await the decision on this with concern.

At the same time, major opportunities are emerging. Dorset Council's Pathways to Prosperity initiative, including the Dorset Clean Energy Super Cluster, places Portland at the centre of plans for low-carbon growth, including hydrogen storage and both floating and fixed offshore wind. ICA has been invited into these strategic discussions, an opportunity that we welcome so that we can help ensure that any future investment brings real, tangible benefits to Portland people.

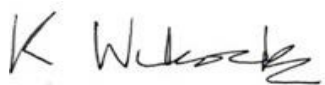
Within this changing context, ICA's own work has continued to grow. We have expanded our support for older and vulnerable residents. We have broadened our Duke of Edinburgh's Award offer to include Silver as well as Bronze, developed the Portland Youth Council, and worked with partners across Portland and Weymouth to support the delivery of the 2025 Towns of Culture programme. We also facilitated Portland Town Council's Visioning Day and played a lead role in delivering MEMO/EDEN Portland's 2025 public consultation and mine visits.

Cumulatively, 2025 saw us deliver 5,860 activities; engage 11,421 participants (participants, not individuals, which we estimate at over 5,000); generate 30,560 interactions; and deal with 17,968 ICA and 6,731 non-ICA-related phone calls, digital conversations and face-to-face enquiries. We also worked with 117 other organisations and initiatives and supported 1,973 volunteers (who gave 38,194 hours of time – worth over £513,000 to the local economy).

These numbers reflect the effort and passion of our staff and volunteers, who have worked tirelessly to meet our key aims, including: helping older and vulnerable residents stay safer and more independent at home; creating meaningful roles for young people to lead, volunteer and influence decisions; using culture, heritage and nature to increase feelings of pride and the desire to protect and champion Portland's key assets; and establishing collaborative models of working, such as Future Portland CBS and Community Connectors, that change how services and communities work together for the benefit of our island and its people.

Going forward, our focus remains on prevention, early action, building local capacity, and passion-based, community-led engagement. This combination helps us improve health and wellbeing, reduce isolation, build skills and confidence, increase opportunities, strengthen informal support networks, and unlock significant added value through volunteering and partnership. Critical to state that success can only be achieved through collaboration, because no single organisation can create transformational and sustainable change in isolation.

With continued investment, we're ready to move from proving what works to scaling it. Our biggest challenge is that our five-year National Lottery funding ends in August 2026. We are working hard to secure new investment, but with shrinking opportunities, this won't be easy. So, we end this year hopeful that we can continue as a trusted, energetic and independent voice for Portland, working alongside our community for a positive and sustainable future for our island.



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
Project Coordinator – Nicky Turrell

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 2025

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 2025

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 2025

3. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ALL AGES) – Currently includes:

- **Community Connectors** – Residents, volunteers and organisations trained to identify and signpost those in potential need of support.
- **Community Forum** – A space for local organisations to network, coordinate support, forward plan and build capacity.
- **Community Hub** – Advice, information and signposting to local residents around non-ICA-related subjects.
- **Events** – One-off large-scale community events, including national celebrations
- **Infrastructure support** – Advice, information and training delivered or organised through ICA for other local community-based organisations.
- **Volunteer Bureau** – Support for those wishing to volunteer or offer volunteer roles, from recruitment to training and DBS checks.

4. CULTURE, HERITAGE, NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT (ALL AGES) – Currently includes:

- **Community Crafters** – Using creativity and crafting for local good causes, with an aim to reduce isolation and loneliness, strengthen community and intergenerational bonds, and showcase Portland's amazing artistic talents.
- **Hooked** – A dedicated crafting group for those in their 20s, 30s and 40s.
- **Do One Thing** – Activities and events that engage and inspire individuals to protect and enhance Portland's amazing biodiversity and environment.
- **Nothe of the Living Dead** – An annual fundraiser between ICA, EPIC Games – Dorset and Nothe Fort. Described as a mash-up between The Walking Dead and Crystal Maze, the event sees participants attempt to solve a series of mental and physical challenges while being terrorised by a horde of hungry zombies.
- **Halloween Treasure Trail** – Weymouth half-term activity with Weymouth BID.
- **Tales and Trails** – Interactive walking experiences that engage participants in Portland's landscape, biodiversity and environment, culture, history and heritage.
- **Victoria Gardens** – ICA supports the Gardens' volunteer gardening team.

5. RESEARCH, REPRESENTATION and REGENERATION – Currently includes:

- **Community Consultations** – ICA provides a range of community consultation services for itself and other organisations. Past clients include Eden – Portland, Dorset Council, NHS Dorset and Portland Town Council.
- **Collaborations and Representation** – ICA continues to work in partnership with a number of groups and networks to improve Portland's infrastructure and support offer across a number of strands, including...
 - **Older and vulnerable residents**, e.g. working with Dorset Council, NHS – Dorset, Dorset Fire & Rescue Service, etc., to ensure equality of offer for Portland's most vulnerable residents.
 - **Children and Families**, e.g. working with Dorset's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS), Chesil Locality – Portland Local Alliance Group (LAG/lead – Dorset NHS) and the Portland Family Hub (lead – DC).
 - **Environment and Biodiversity**, e.g. supporting the delivery of Portland's Biodiversity Plan (lead – Portland Town Council).
- **Health and Wellbeing**, e.g. working to improve Portland's health outcomes (lead – The Dorset Integrated Care Board).
- **Research and Development** – Weymouth & Portland Community Research Network (leads – ICA, Steps Youth Service, The Lantern Trust and Bournemouth University).

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. FUTURE PORTLAND – THE FUTURE PORTLAND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY (CBS) –

A collaboration between three successful and experienced island-based organisations – ICA, b-side and The Portland Association.

We formed the CBS in response to our individual and collaborative research and consultations, which led to the realisation that we share a vision and desire to support Portland's community in having a stronger voice and more influence over what happens to and on our island.

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.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 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 2025.

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

Leanne House
6 Avon Close
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9UX

.....

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Receipts					
Grants and donations	2	147,804	5,097	152,901	130,006
Fundraising and sponsorship		1,200	4,006	5,206	3,452
Motor vehicles/Minibus		-	17,446	17,446	15,345
Contracted activities		2,607	-	2,607	-
Clubs and Memory Café		-	21,684	21,684	19,353
Trips and tickets		-	5,210	5,210	-
Lottery		-	580	580	-
Interest		-	888	888	320
Total receipts		<u>151,611</u>	<u>54,911</u>	<u>206,522</u>	<u>168,475</u>
Payments					
Purchase of equipment		13,529	-	13,529	-
Salaries and wages	3	86,018	16,621	102,639	91,635
Pension		4,604	428	5,031	4,286
Shop Purchases and Consumables		2,017	1,709	3,726	13,912
Events tickets		-	29	29	1,175
Rent		8,143	1,452	9,595	8,944
Rates, water and electric		2,700	1,906	4,606	5,766
Insurance		792	679	1,471	1,408
Postage, stationery, printing and advertising		618	-	618	540
Photocopier Hire		-	961	961	1,282
Motor		2,640	12,053	14,693	15,170
Vehicle hire		-	500	500	1,215
Repairs and maintenance		-	286	286	80
Subscriptions and membership fees		500	960	1,460	472
Sundries		-	1,663	1,663	725
IT		1,533	-	1,533	2,480
Training, tutors and speakers		8,560	1,294	9,854	9,285
Fundraising		-	-	-	2,475
P.R. and marketing		1,117	-	1,117	1,267
Room hire		6,500	5,752	12,252	10,275
Accountancy fees		615	1,479	2,094	1,746
Consultancy fees		-	-	-	30
Capital					
Computer equipment		600	-	600	-
Refurbishment		500	-	500	
Fixtures, fittings and equipment		-	-	-	386
Total payments		<u>140,986</u>	<u>47,772</u>	<u>188,758</u>	<u>174,554</u>
Net receipts before transfers		10,625	7,139	17,764	(6,078)
Transfers between funds		<u>(25,222)</u>	<u>25,222</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds at bank and in hand for the year		(14,597)	32,361	17,764	(6,078)
Bank and cash balances 31 March 2024		<u>90,863</u>	<u>11,784</u>	<u>102,647</u>	<u>108,725</u>
Bank and cash balances 31 March 2025		<u>76,266</u>	<u>44,145</u>	<u>120,411</u>	<u>102,647</u>

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Cash at Bank	<u>120,411</u>	<u>102,647</u>
Total bank and cash balances per receipts and payments account	<u><u>120,411</u></u>	<u><u>102,647</u></u>
Other Assets and Liabilities:		
Fixed Assets		
Motor vehicles and trailer	10,466	13,081
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	<u>6,423</u>	<u>7,557</u>
	16,889	20,638
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	<u>(3,576)</u>	<u>(1,614)</u>
Net Assets	<u><u>133,724</u></u>	<u><u>121,671</u></u>

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

.....
D Pigg (Chairman of trustees)

.....
L Gallie (Trustee)

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

2. Grants and Donations

	£
Restricted funds	
Dorset Council	48,546
Dorset Community Foundation	8,680
Dorset NHS	306
National Lottery	65,792
Innovate UK	647
Portland Town Council	16,429
The Court Leet of the Island and Royal Manor of Portland	1,250
Portland Rotary Club	1,327
Joan Thornton Foundation	1,000
Individual donations	3,828
	<hr/>
	147,804
Unrestricted	
General donations	<hr/>
	5,097
	<hr/>
	5,097
Total	<hr/>
	152,901
	<hr/>

ISLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3. Staff Costs and Emoluments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	87,347	75,648
Employers National Insurance Contributions	15,292	15,987
	<u>102,639</u>	<u>91,635</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum (2024: £60,000)

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

	2025	2024
	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		Transfers		Balance
	1 April	Income/		from/(to)	31 March
	2024	receipts	Payments	General	2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Growing Local Project / Do One Thing	7,974	3,630	(3,637)	(7,967)	-
Portland Project	65,634	147,334	(136,702)	-	76,266
Weymouth & Portland Research Network					
- Forgotten Towns: Voices project	17,255	647	(647)	(17,255)	-
	<u>90,863</u>	<u>151,611</u>	<u>(140,986)</u>	<u>(25,222)</u>	<u>76,266</u>

Growing Local Project now renamed as Do One Thing, received funding from Dorset Council.

Portland Project received funding from Dorset Council, Dorset Community Foundation, Dorset NHS, We are Weymouth, National Lottery, Portland Rotary Club, The Court Leet of the Island and Royal Manor of Portland, Portland Town Council, Portland Rotary Club and various individuals.

Weymouth & Portland Research Network - Forgotten Towns: Voices Project received funding from UK Research and Innovation.