



DCA Podcasts Archive (2024/25)

Safeguarding Adults Week - November 2025

This podcast focuses on Safeguarding Adults Week. We spoke to Lesley Jeavons, independent chair of the Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership about safeguarding in County Durham and also highlight the training and support we offer at Durham Community Action.

Rural Durham Community Research Network - September 2025

This podcast focuses on the Rural Durham Community Research Network. We chat to Jemma Austin, Research & Insight Project Lead at Durham Community Action about community research, the aims and objectives of the network and the work so far. We also spoke to community researchers Cath Robson from Weardale Together and Perry Gardner about the challenges rural communities face and how research can address these challenges and what benefits organisations and rural communities gain from them leading research.

Rural Housing - September 2025

In this podcast, we spoke to our Rural Housing Enabler Susan Tron about rural housing in County Durham, including parish profiles, housing needs surveys and influencing housing development in your local area.

Third Sector Trends Study - July 2025

In this podcast, we spoke to Professor Tony Chapman from Durham University about the Third Sector Trends study; a long-standing study of the VCSE sector which aims to understand the different aspects of the sector's structure and activity.

Village Halls Week - March 2025

Village Halls Week 2025 celebrates, encourages and supports the efforts of volunteers who keep rural community buildings open. In this podcast, we spoke to community halls consultant Louise Beaton about her new book "Halls for All: A History of Village Halls" which highlights the crucial role village halls play in rural communities.

County Durham Poverty Truth Commission - January 2025

This podcast episode focuses on the County Durham Poverty Truth Commission. We chat to project coordinator Cathryn Gathercole and project worker Julie Gourley about the projects aims, what it has achieved so far and plans for the future.

Trustees' Week - November 2024

This podcast episode celebrates Trustees' Week as we unite in celebrating, supporting and inspiring trustees' talents, viewpoints and experiences in County Durham.

We chat to trustees at Howden-le-Wear Village Friends and Croxdale Community Association and discuss a typical trustee 'day in the life', what they have learned in their role and their advice for others looking to become a Trustee.

Keeping your Child Safe in Sport Week - October 2024

For Keeping your Child Safe in Sport Week (7th - 13th October), we spoke to Rowena Carr, Sport Welfare Coordinator at County Durham Sport about why creating awareness for child safety in sport is so important.

Community Research Network - September 2024

This podcast will discuss the development of a community research network in County Durham; which is a way of supporting local people to have an active role in research.

Interviews include: DCA's Community Partnerships Manager, Fiona Christian, co-founder of the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action & Professor of Sociology at Durham University, Sarah Banks and artist and Derwent Valley AAP Chair, Lea McConnell.

Real People, Real Stories: Social Prescribing in County Durham – Nuvowellbeing June 2024

Real People, Real Stories: Social Prescribing in County Durham – Burnhope Community Centre June 2024

Real People, Real Stories: Social Prescribing in County Durham – Brightwoods Forest School June 2024

We talked to Nuvowellbeing, Burnhope Community Centre and Brightwoods Forest School about the impact the funding for new social prescription activity in County Durham has had in their local community.

Volunteers' Week - June 2024

As we nationally celebrate 40 years of #VolunteersWeek, we chat to NAVCA's CEO, Maddy Desforges and Teesdale Community Resources CEO, Rachel Tweddle about why volunteering is so important in their local community to inspire more people to make a difference.

Good to Grow Week - May 2024

Durham Community Action and Building Self Belief reflect on the impact Good to Grow Week has made in County Durham and chat about the power of volunteering to increase community gardening in the local area of Benfieldside in Consett.

Village Halls Week - March 2024

#VillageHallsWeek 2024 is celebrating everything village halls can do to 'go green'. In this podcast, we spoke to Auckland Youth and Community Centre about their recent Investors in the Environment bronze accreditation and Croxdale Community Association about the impact of their community garden.

Welcome Spaces - January 2024

This podcast focuses on the Welcome Spaces Fund available to organisations in County Durham and the impact the fund has made to a local community building.