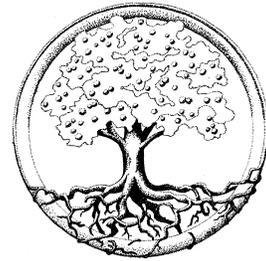


**COLE STREET FARM COHOUSING  
COMMUNITY**

***THE THRESHOLD CENTRE***  
Cole Street Farm, Cole Street Lane,  
Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5JQ  
[www.thresholdcentre.org.uk](http://www.thresholdcentre.org.uk)  
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01747 821929



**NEWSLETTER – Spring 2010**

Happy New Year to you all – a little late but heartfelt all the same! Thanks for your continued support and interest in our project.

***OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIVING AT THE THRESHOLD CENTRE***

Our community is constantly evolving and opportunities for newcomers to join us arise from time to time. As you know, we are a friendly cohousing educational community with a sustainable living ethos near Gillingham, Dorset, and the first group to offer affordable housing in conjunction with a local Housing Association.

Members can live here either as owners, part owners or rental tenants of the units, depending on availability. We also have rooms in the main farmhouse available for short/medium term self-catering stays for those who wish to get a taste of cohousing in action.

We welcome people interested in exploring co-housing or community, and people who just want a break in the beautiful Dorset countryside. Prospective residents are very welcome to come for a weekend at our B&B rates, to see if the place would suit them for a longer stay.

**For Sale:** private two bedroom cottage. Contact Nancy Winfield, [nancywinfield@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nancywinfield@hotmail.co.uk) for further details or phone 01392 211794.

**Shared equity via East Dorset Housing Assn:** a one bedroom cottage is available. Contact Amanda Pearson on [aep123@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aep123@hotmail.co.uk) for details.

**For private rental:** currently we have a large en-suite bedroom available in the farmhouse, contact Caroline Sharman on 01747 821929. The rent in the farmhouse is £80 per week, which includes bills. As well as their bed-sitting room, guests can use the sitting and dining rooms in the farmhouse, enjoy the large courtyard garden, and will share the farmhouse kitchen

**For rental via EDHA.** From September there will be a one bedroom unit available. For details contact Amanda Pearson on [aep123@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aep123@hotmail.co.uk)

If you are interested in any of the above, or would like to go on our list for future vacancies, please get in touch. We seek residents who would enjoy being part of a supportive community and would join in shared activities – these include running workshops, some meals, meditation, gardening and social time. See our website for more information.

***New Recruits!***

Our next batch of newcomers have now arrived. Linda P (as opposed to Linda J - already resident) has joined us regularly on our garden/work weekends, so we are delighted she has now become a full-time member and look forward to her teachings on permaculture and gardening generally. She is full of ideas for uses of our land and systems for sharing the work. Julie and Richard are also here now and Richard has been hard at work sorting out the initial biomass problems. We look forward to singing with Julie,

experiencing workshops with Richard and hearing their travellers' tales as they are fresh back from visiting other communities abroad.

### ***National Cohousing Events***

Alan Heeks and Amanda Pearson (both residents here at Cole Street Farm) will be involved at this event on Saturday April 24th

#### **International cohousing experts to visit London in April.**

Charles Durrett and Kathryn McCamant, the award-winning Californian architects who pioneered cohousing in the USA and wrote the cohousing 'bible', will be guest speakers at a **UK Cohousing Network Conference** on **Saturday April 24th** in London. The programme will include lessons from 20 years of cohousing in the USA, project management and design & reports from established and developing cohousing projects in the UK. Workshops will include overcoming obstacles, legal & finance, governance and more. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all those individuals and groups in the process of planning their own cohousing project and also for those just contemplating cohousing.

Fee £25 pp.

For details email: [info@cohousing.org.uk](mailto:info@cohousing.org.uk).

Full programme details [www.cohousing.org.uk](http://www.cohousing.org.uk)

Additional cohousing events in April featuring McCamant and Durrett are also planned.

### ***ECOS trust Sustainable Building Seminars – Two events in April***

#### **Sustainable Building Materials - *health, carbon, life.***

Tuesday 20th April. 9am - 4.45pm. Great Bow Wharf, Langport, Somerset.

Fee: £160 plus VAT (£188 inc.)

The seminar is for Housing Association development managers, building professionals including architects and quantity surveyors, materials suppliers and purchasing managers, building contractors and anyone in the industry who wishes to know more about sustainable building materials.

#### **Make Mine an Eco Home - *helping to make your home better for you, your pocket and the environment.***

Wednesday 28th April. Great Bow Wharf, Langport, Somerset.

Fee: £96 plus VAT (£112.80 inc.)

This interactive seminar is for homeowners, self-builders, landlords and anyone else wishing to get great ideas and a good grounding in how to carry out a sustainable building or refurbishment project.

For further information, to download a flier and to book your place online visit the Ecos events webpage at [www.ecostrust.org.uk](http://www.ecostrust.org.uk). or tel. 01458 254349

### ***EXTRA EVENTS AT THE THRESHOLD CENTRE***

We will soon have a beautiful new downstairs meditation room (thanks to Peter and Bill for all their hard work) and, as well as using the space for meditation and therapy treatments, plan to hold regular events encompassing wider aspects of sustainability.

#### **TOWARDS 2012 weekend course.**

We are fortunate to have two remarkable spiritual teachers from New Zealand staying with us in May, husband and wife team the Reverends Helen and Polaris Eggers. They are holding a 2-day workshop here on the **15/16 May** entitled **Enlightenment and the Human Energy Field**. This will be a stimulating and mind-expanding weekend! We hope you will join us. Cost £95.

Helen will be offering individual healing sessions and soul readings at the Threshold Centre throughout May. For more information and bookings contact Linda Joyce on 07973 529245. Their website is [www.way-of-the-heart.org](http://www.way-of-the-heart.org)

Subsequently we intend to hold monthly day workshops under the **TOWARDS 2012** theme. Contact Linda or Caroline 01747 821929 for more information.

## ***PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – 2010***

The cohousing and work weekends have proved very popular this year, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

### **Cohousing Workshops :**

These are residential and run from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. They provide an opportunity for individuals or groups to experience life in a cohousing community for a weekend, at the same time learning how to go about setting up a project. They are very popular, so book early to secure a place. 2010 charges: £140 for course, lunches, snacks and evening meals. B&B £25/£35 per night, depending on location.

**April 23-25: June 11-13: Sept. 10-12: Nov. 12-14**

### **Gardening/Work Weekends**

We offer bed and board in exchange for your help and it's not all work! Arrive in time for Friday supper if you can, otherwise early on the Saturday.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: July 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>: Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Open Afternoons for Visitors/Enquirers**

These take place on the **Sunday afternoon of the work weekends** from 2-4pm (see previous item). A chance for enquirers and potential joiners to have a look around, ask questions about cohousing and enjoy a cup of tea. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

### **Open Lunches**

These take place on the **first Sunday of each month from 12.30 – 3pm**. An informal gathering with a chance to look round and meet the residents. Please let us know (on 01747 821929) if you would like to come, and **bring vegetarian food to share**.

### **Meditation**

We hold open meditation on the **first Thursday of each month from 8-9pm** offering meditation and visualisation techniques suitable for all levels of experience. Please let us know (on 01747 821929) if you would like to join us. There is no charge, but donations are welcome.

With best wishes from us all,

Jane, Luke, Sarah, Amanda, Peter, Monty the dog, Caroline, Bill, Michael, Gay, Andrew, Linda P, Julie, Richard, John and Jamie, Alan, Linda J, and not forgetting Muriel.