



Welcome to our Spring 2022 newsletter about what BACH has been up to and how you can get involved.

We have made a lot of progress since we started in November 2020 and in this edition, we will give an update about the exciting projects we have in the pipeline.

We do need more people to get involved though. If you care about the need for more truly affordable housing for local people; have skills you would like to put to use; an interest in any of the ideas then please get in touch.

Website: Bridportach.org.uk

Email: info@bridportach.org.uk

You can also come along to one of our meetings which are open to members (and it only costs £1 to become a member). Let us know and we'll send you details.

Brownfield, Building Refurbishment, and New Build Sites

We are approaching some owners of buildings in the area to see if they would give, or sell at a reduced cost, buildings which we could convert to community use and housing. We have a business model for this based on a successful CLT project in Devon.

Do you have skills in this area and would like to be involved?

We are in discussion with the developers at Foundry Lea (the housing part of the Vearse Farm development) about having some community land trust units on the site. We've also approached Dorset and Bridport Town Councils about any land availability.

Our work with Raise the Roof means that we will be able to demonstrate that we can build in a different and sustainable way using local materials whilst being sensitive to our landscape, and build more homes on land than conventional designs. We need to find local landowners who would be prepared to consider such housing for local people on their land.

Bridport Housing Week

Bridport Housing Week took place in October 2021 and saw the official launch of BACH.

During an evening of presentations and discussion titled **'We Can Do It Ourselves'** our keynote speaker, Melissa Mead, gave an inspiring talk about the achievements 'by the community, for the community', on Bristol's Knowle West housing estate. Lin Scrannage described the prize-winning Bridport CoHousing project to create 53 affordable homes on our doorstep, and Amanda Streatfeild talked about the successful Symene CLT Edwards Close development. BACH spoke about the sobering statistics and consequences associated with a shortage of truly affordable homes in the Bridport area.



David Dixon opens 'We Can Do It Ourselves'

A familiarisation and training session was held with enthusiastic senior students at Bridport's Sir John Colfox School (our thanks to Melissa Mead for helping with this).

The first **Bridport Housing Fair** was hailed by the Mayor, Cllr. Ian Bark, as an important step in local attempts to create a fairer and more affordable housing system.

To quote part of the Mayor's speech:

"A roof over your head is something which in the 21st Century everyone should have access to. But sadly, for many local people, achieving this is a daily struggle...because they are trapped in a low wage economy. Our very own new Community Land Trust, BACH, is focused on exploring and finding solutions and opportunities for the future and coming together as a community to sort the problem out for ourselves."

The Housing Fair served as a platform for a range of organisations to provide valuable information to those in housing need and to those interested in rising to the challenge of finding new solutions.

Our thanks to the Mayor (pictured opposite) and all those who contributed.



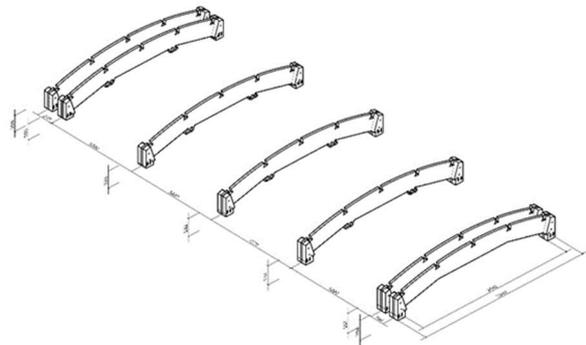
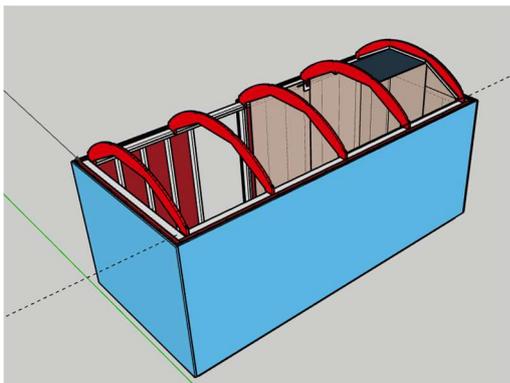
The Bridport Housing week achieved the aim of reinforcing the need for community-led solutions and showcasing examples of successful community-led projects and innovative thinking.

BACH & Raise the Roof

BACH is working with Wessex Community Assets, Bridport Town Council, Plymouth University and other partners on the Raise the Roof project. Raise the Roof aims to link the construction of community-led affordable housing with the use of local natural materials – and to enhance the local economy through the development of capacity for processing, fabrication and training.



The partners have been very busy over the last few months, working on a range of projects that will support BACH's aim of helping local people to design and construct affordable housing. In January, a course was held to build a tiny house, in a way that combined natural materials and traditional carpentry skills with digital design and fabrication. The latter entailed the making of a roof structure at Plymouth University's Digital Fabrication Lab – designed by Jack Cardno who has recently completed two years working and teaching at the Architectural Association's Hooke Park.



The next stage in the Raise the Roof project is to design a terrace of 4 houses for BACH. Plymouth University is helping to develop the technical elements – pre-fabricated panels made of local timber and with an infill of hemp and clay or lime. Four local farmers have been offered funding from Dorset AONB to plant trials of industrial hemp, which will be harvested and processed into insulation material in the autumn.

A recently graduated architect from Hooke's Design and Make programme is assisting with the co-design process for the terrace of housing. This will build on the design work done in phase 1 of Raise the Roof by Assemble Studio. BACH is now looking for a small plot of land for these houses. The intention is that they will be made from the pre-fabricated panels, assembled swiftly on-site, and then residents will self-finish the interiors. This will create permanently affordable homes – with the land held in trust by BACH.



Partnership with the Foundry Lea Skills Academy

BACH and Raise the Roof have been in discussion with Barratts and Vistry about developing a partnership with the proposed Skills Academy at Foundry Lea, the 760 home development which will begin on-site next to Bridport in 2023. It is proposed that a “makerspace” be co-located with the Skills Academy, offering:

- Training courses designed to give learners theoretical and practical training in building skills, including carpentry and joinery.
- Modules focused on the use of zero carbon materials sourced locally such as timber, hemp and clay.
- Further options of learning modules covering modern methods of construction, including off-site fabrication and digital design and manufacture.

Raise the Roof has also proposed that initial cohorts of learners could be engaged in building prototype structures using natural materials and modern methods, and that these buildings would then act as a resource for the ongoing training of learners. Target Participants would be:

- Young people.
- Unemployed people.
- Local tradespersons & designer-makers.
- People interested in self-build.

Thank you everyone!