

CD News

News, updates, information, and sharing success in our communities

Help for Pensioners to Heat their Home this Winter

Thousands of pensioners are eligible to get **Pension Age Winter Heating Payment** to help with heating costs.

Eligible people of State Pension age will get a payment between £101.70 and £305.10 depending on their circumstances.



Most people will receive payment automatically – no action is needed. A small number of people will need to apply, and more information on this is available [on this website](#). An [online eligibility checker](#) is also available.

Pension Age Winter Heating Payment replaces Winter Fuel Payment and will be delivered by Social Security Scotland.

Pensioners who were born on, or before, 21 September 1959 and were living in Scotland during the qualifying week - Monday 15 September to Sunday 21 September 2025 - will receive the payment. Payments will start in November and continue throughout the winter.

For pensioners with a taxable income of over £35,000, the payment will be taken back through the tax system.

Deadline to opt out of the payment online

People can choose to opt out of receiving the payment and can find out [how to do this online](#). The online form for opting out is available until 10 October 2025. This may be of interest to those earning over £35,000.

Forth Valley Five

Forth Valley Food and Drink have launched a new campaign 'Forth Valley Five': an exciting pledge campaign calling on cafés, restaurants, shops and hospitality businesses to commit to featuring at least five locally produced food or drink items on their menus or shelves. From craft gin and locally roasted coffee to handmade preserves and small-batch bakes, this campaign is all about making it easier for customers to buy and enjoy the best of Forth Valley while shining a spotlight on the businesses that make it happen.

Businesses that make the pledge will receive a listing in the [Forth Valley Five Digital Directory](#); PR and Marketing opportunities; a window decal, campaign QR code, and signed pledge for display; and a digital marketing kit to help you showcase your involvement across your social media channels, website, menus and more.

For more information, please visit the [Forth Valley Food and Drink](#) website.



Flu Vaccinations

Flu can seriously disrupt anyone's life, but for some people flu hits harder. Older people, pregnant women and those with underlying health conditions are at most risk of serious flu illness, hospitalisation, and in some cases, death.

Last winter, Scotland experienced very high levels of flu, with more than 6,500 adults becoming so ill that they were admitted to hospital.

The flu virus is always changing and getting vaccinated every year is the best way to stay protected.

Most people who are eligible for this year's vaccination are receiving their invitations by text, email or post, in a white envelope with clear NHS Scotland branding. Invitations will continue to be sent out as the programme progresses through the autumn and winter.

To find out if you're eligible or to book an appointment visit [NHS website](#) or call the national vaccination helpline on 0800 030 8013.

This year, the COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to people at increased risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19.



Inside this issue:

- Stirling Science Festival
- Rebel Business School
- SURF Awards
- Current Public Consultations

and much more



Stirling Science Festival

Stirling Science Festival is back and bigger than ever!

From 13-18 October take a dive into a world of discovery and fun for the whole family!

From Star Gazing and STEM Games to exhibitions, workshops and activities, the Science Festival is taking place across Stirling.

Science fun for all ages and most events are free to attend. This year there are more workshops and activities to choose from for both kids and adults.

Art & Science - Activity Trail for Families (Families) - FREE Monday 13th October 2025 - Friday 17th October 2025

A self-guided, family friendly exhibition trail of the Art & Science exhibition available in the gallery of the Pathfoot Building. Head to the Pathfoot Building at the University of Stirling from 9am to 5pm

Plean Library Lego Club Drop-In Monday 13th October 2025

Join in at Plean Library for Lego play sessions. Drop in for free all week during Mon 13th to Saturday 18th of October during opening times.

Bikes Without Barriers (8+ and 16+) Tuesday 14th October 2025 9am to 3pm

Bikes Without Barriers is an adapted cycling programme taking place at Forthbank Stadium, Stirling. The programme aims to provide opportunities for juniors and adults, living with a disability or who face barriers to participating in cycling, to enjoy the sense of exhilaration and fun that can be experienced through cycling.



All participants must be accompanied by a parent or carer at all times. Suitable for age 8+. To come along for free, please book by emailing bikeswithoutbarriers@activestirling.org.uk

Full list of activities is available on the

[Stirling Science Festival website.](#)

The festival is funded by Stirling Council and Scottish Government and supported by the Programme Board Partners: Stirling Council services, Active Stirling, Codebase, University of Stirling and Deborah McNeill Consultancy.

forth valley sensory centre

Forth Valley Sensory Centre is a place where people with a visual or hearing loss and their friends, families, carers and the wider community can access quality services and advice from our partner organisations. The Centre is inclusive, accessible and aims to promote the involvement of the wider community and build positive relationships across Forth Valley.

The Centre hosts a number of services and activities, not only for people with a sensory loss, but also for the wider community. These include: a café serving fair trade coffee, a sensory garden and a sensory room, which are open to all.

Sensory Salon Service

The centre are launching a Sensory Salon Service. This service will specialise in making all aspects of hair and beauty accessible for people living with sensory loss.



To celebrate World Sight Day and develop interest in the new service and see what Centre Users would like to see more of, they will be hosting a Pamper Day event on Thursday, 9th October at the Centre from 1- 3pm.

There will be lots of different treatments on offer. This event is ticketed with tickets costing £15 per person, this ticket includes a glass of bubbly and a goody bag.

To find out more, contact them at sensory@forthvalleysensorycentre.org or call on 01324590888.

Consultations

Stirling Visitors Levy - final few weeks

Stirling Council's consultation on the Stirling Visitors Levy is still open for a few weeks. The consultation aims to make sure the proposals for the scheme meet the needs of Stirling's visitors, residents, and businesses. We seek your views in designing a draft scheme.

Deadline: 12 October 2025.

To view the draft scheme proposals, find out more about how the proceeds will be spent and to participate visit the [Council's Engage Platform](#).



Cemeteries and Burials Strategy 2025-35

Stirling Council is developing a new Cemeteries and Burials Strategy as part of our commitment to provide a burial service that delivers for the bereaved and the wider Stirling community.



This draft Cemeteries and Burials Strategy recognises the role that local cemeteries have in the lives of our communities, and for our citizens. As part of our strategy, we have set out six strategic priorities. These are to:

- Ensure burial provision for the future
- Provide value for money
- Maintain legislative and regulatory compliance
- Deliver a modern cemetery service
- Continue to monitor and assess Stirling's burial grounds while delivering sustainable outcomes
- Preserve Stirling's heritage for the future.

Your views will help shape the development of the strategy and into the future.

Deadline: 22 October 2025

To view the strategy and give your views [visit the Engage Platform](#).



NHS Delivery - a new national delivery organisation

Scottish Government are seeking views on our proposals to reform national support and delivery services for our health and social care system. We believe such reform is necessary to enable us to continue providing high-quality health and social care services to the Scottish public in the years ahead.

The consultation paper seeks comments on their intention to combine the functions of NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) from 1 April 2026 as a first step in creating a new national organisation designed to facilitate broader transformation across NHS Scotland and beyond.

Deadline: 30 November 2026

To read the full consultation report visit the [Scottish Government Website](#).



Housing Needs

Stirling Council Housing are reviewing housing need and demand across the Stirling area and are asking residents to complete a short survey (around 10 minutes) that partners Craigforth are undertaking on their behalf.

The findings will help to:

- plan how many homes are needed in future
- set targets for affordable housing
- identify where new development may be most needed
- shape key policies including the Local Housing Strategy and Local Development Plan

There is already have been a good response rate, but they need to reach all parts of Stirling. They are especially keen to hear from residents in the **Trossachs and Teith ward**, and from **Bridge of Allan and Dunblane**.

Please promote the survey through your usual channels and local networks.

Deadline: 28 October 2025.

To take part

- Visit the [engage platform](#)
- Call 0800 433 7212 (9am–5pm, Mon–Fri; you can leave a voicemail outside these hours)

Printed copies can be requested by emailing: survey@craigforth.co.uk or call the number above.



Engage Stirling is Stirling Council's Online Engagement & Consultation Platform. Sign up to give your views and get involved.

Get analysis or reports from the consultations you took part in [Visit here](#).

STRATHCARRON HOSPICE

Make a Will Month

OCTOBER 2025



“Making a will and donating to Strathcarron gives us peace of mind as a couple and also the knowledge that the funds are going to a good cause.”

Stuart and Kate

HELP PROTECT THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE AND THE FUTURE OF HOSPICE CARE.

If you've had writing your Will on your to-do list for too long, have it written in October free of charge and make a donation towards Hospice patient care.



www.strathcarronhospice.net

Registered Charity No SC006704.

Trustee Opportunity

HSTAR Scotland are passionate about making trauma and abuse recovery possible, effective and long lasting. Over the past five years they have walked alongside more than four thousand women, helping them to be heard, healed and empowered. Each story is unique, and every woman's journey matters to us.

Their trustees play a vital role in shaping this work. They are now inviting new trustees to join our board. There are six vacancies across the Central Belt with a main focus on Forth Valley, including two places for women with lived experience of trauma.

To apply, please send your CV and a brief cover letter [here](#). Cover letter may include why you'd like to be a trustee at HSTAR; relevant skills or experience and availability.

Nominations and enquiries are open **until 31 October 2025**, with the election results to be announced at our AGM planned for January 2026.



Secret Garden



Come join the Mayfield Secret Garden

Did you know there's a little hidden garden growing in St Ninians? A group have been turning an overgrown courtyard into a colourful, welcoming space for everyone and they would love your help to keep it blooming.

- No gardening experience is necessary - just bring yourself and your ideas
- We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month between 5.30-6.30pm at St Ninians Library

It's free, friendly and a great way to meet neighbours, learn new skills and make a difference.

Whether you fancy planting flowers, helping to paint a mural, or just want a cuppa while chatting to the group, there is a place for you in the garden. Come along and see what it's all about - we'd love to welcome you. You can also keep up to speed by going to our website: www.friendsofthemayfield.co.uk

Volunteer Scotland Action Plan to Boost Participation

As part of its new five-year strategy, Volunteer Scotland has refreshed its Volunteer Action Plan (VAP) to strengthen volunteer participation.

Originally launched during the pandemic as a 10-year living plan, the VAP has now been updated to reflect changing needs and opportunities. The revised plan sets out **four priority actions**, including a renewed focus on embedding volunteering in policy, and showcasing its value to communities.

This refocused approach aims to make volunteering more visible, accessible, and impactful.

To read the full plan, visit the [Volunteer Scotland website](#).



FUNDING

[Funding Stirling](#)

Funding Stirling is Stirling Council's online funding search tool, provided in partnership with Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

You can search for funding opportunities by location, activity and other features and receive regular bulletins. For more information visit [Funding Stirling](#) on the Stirling Council website.

Global Make Some Noise

Global Make Some Noise funds life changing projects delivered by small charities, making a real difference in communities across the UK. Linking to the power of Global radio, their grants address key issues such as

- Proving shelter and safety
- Supporting physical and/or mental health
- Developing life skills
- Reducing isolation or improving inclusion

They can fund from £30,000 to £1m to registered charities and can include staff salaries, project costs and equipment.

Deadline: 14 October 2025 at 4pm

To find out more and apply [visit the Global website](#).



Volunteer Matters - Action Earth Grants

This fund offers grants to help communities to respond to the nature and climate crises. Any group of volunteers in urban areas are able to apply for grants up to £250 to run environmental activities in green spaces.

Activities should emphasize local nature enrichment and biodiversity improvements. This could include creating or improving community gardens, shared spaces, wildflower meadows, ponds, community woodlands and creating other wildlife habitats. Please note that they cannot support applications for activities which are primarily about food growing.

To find out more and apply [visit the website](#).



Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) - Community Building Fund

The CARES Community Buildings Fund can support communities to reduce their building energy costs and carbon emissions by installing renewable technologies. Grant funding is available for up to 80% of eligible costs, up to a maximum of £80,000.

The fund is primarily for renewable measures so development costs, such as building warrants and planning permission, should be a minority part of the requested costs.

Deadline: 31 October 2025

To find out more, access other support resources and apply [visit the website](#).



CFLSA Staff Lottery Grants

The grants offer assistance to charity and community groups within the boundaries of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council areas to a maximum of £600. Their objective is to support small community groups who benefit communities at 'grass-roots' level. They can fund equipment or essential materials to allow groups to continue or extend activities to the community; allow the group to raise additional funds for themselves; or aid new groups which need essential equipment to begin operating.

Deadline: ongoing

To find out more and apply [visit the website](#).

Cash4Clubs

Grants of up to £2,000 are available for community organisations working with adults from under-represented communities delivering sport or physical activity for social purpose.

Funds can be used for capital, revenue and core costs.

Deadline 8 December 2025

For more information and to apply visit [their website](#).



No One Left Behind Employability Support Grants

SVE welcomes applications of up to £5k from organisations delivering employability opportunities in the Stirlingshire area. Applications are open to organisations that can provide employability support services to the priority groups, communities and locations as detailed in Stirling's Local Employability Delivery Plan but are *not currently registered on the Employability Framework with Public Contracts Scotland*.

Deadline: Friday 24 October 2025, 5pm

For more details, guidance notes and to apply visit the [SVE website](#).

TOLBOOTH

Come and see what's happening in the Tolbooth, Stirling

Adult Ukulele

Dates: Tues 28th October to Tues 16th December 7:00pm – 8:00pm
Price: £52/£45 for 8 Sessions

This class will suit those who have learned the basics of ukulele and want to learn more advanced chords, and improve their strumming and picking techniques. Most of the learning is based around playing well-known songs together as a group. The focus is on having fun, making friends and learning at your own pace!

Tolbooth Voices

Dates: Tues 28th October to Tues 16th December 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Price: Pay What You Can £0/£26/£42/£58 for 8 Sessions

Tolbooth Voices is an exciting new adult choir aiming to put an alternative spin on the term 'choir' by performing diverse and contemporary music in a relaxed, sociable environment. Whether you're a seasoned vocalist or an accomplished shower singer, Tolbooth Voices welcomes singers of all levels. *Tolbooth Voices uses a 'pay what you can' system as we want our creative learning programme to be accessible to all no matter their financial situation.*

Pump Up The Jam

Thurs 30th October to Thurs 18th December 4:45pm – 7:15pm
Price: Pay What You Can £0/£26/£42/£58 for 8 Sessions
Suitable for 11-18 yrs.

Our song writing and band workshop Pump Up The Jam guides young musicians and songwriters to create fully-fledged bands with their own set of original music. Songs are recorded in the Tolbooth Studio, before a full live final performance in the Auditorium over an 8 week term. Pump Up The Jam uses a 'pay what you can' system. Here is a link to music created during the latest term: [Stream tolboothpumpupthejam2 | Mar-May 2025 playlist](#)

Oor Woollie

Dates: Tues 28th October to Tues 16th December 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Price: FREE Suitable for anyone high school-aged or older

Oor Woollie is a friendly group of crafters who meet during term time. While the majority focus on knitting and crochet, the group welcomes a variety of crafts. Participants are encouraged to bring their own materials, as this is not a formal class, but members are happy to provide help and guidance. Email oorwoollie@gmail.com for more info or just turn up and join in. No need for booking.

Stirling Sunshine Singers – A Dementia Friendly Singing Group

Dates: Thurs 4th September to Thurs 11th December 11:00am – 1:00pm
Price: FREE

We have partnered up with Stirling Carers Centre to create a relaxed and friendly opportunity for people affected by dementia and their carers to sing together. Join in old favourites and learn new songs in a variety of musical styles. The emphasis will be on fun and participation, with a cuppa and a chat at the end. Led by experienced community musician and local song leader Jo Miller.



Awards Shortlist



SURF, Scotland's Regeneration Forum, has announced the 2025 shortlist for the prestigious SURF Award national awards scheme, which showcases success in responding to regeneration challenges in communities across Scotland.

[The SURF Awards](#) are delivered each year by SURF, a regeneration forum with over 300 cross-sector member organisations across Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Government. 2025 marks the 27 years of the SURF Awards process.

Having assessed applications from the Isle of Skye to the Scottish Borders, across five categories, SURF's independent panel of 20 judges, drawn from national bodies and community groups, have agreed upon **15 shortlisted projects for 2025.**

View the shortlist [HERE](#)

COMMUNITY*
LAND SCOTLAND

Towards Inclusive Community Ownership

A recent research report explores barriers to community land and asset ownership in urban Scotland, with a focus on resource-deprived communities. It is based on research conducted by Community Land Scotland through the Community Ownership Hub. Key challenges include fragmented land ownership, political and legislative hurdles, and limited access to funding, expertise, and resources.

The report offers initial observations on gaps in current policy and proposes potential actions, including improving access to information, adapting legislative mechanisms for urban contexts, and enhancing public sector support.

You can read the full report on the [Community Land Scotland website](#).

Launch a Business You Love*

*without the Costs

Got a passion?

Want to turn it into a business... for free?
No, really!

Learn how to start with no money, build confidence, and make sales in just 5 days with Rebel Business School.

What's stopping you?



Here's what you need to know

When? 10th–14th November (5 Day Programme)

Where? In person at CodeBase Stirling, FK8 2HX

Time? 10am – 2pm

You can join for free today at:

therebelschool.com/stirling

Scan to learn more



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



The Ecosystem Fund

Rebel Business School is a fully-funded programme open to everyone—no experience needed.

Climate Checkup

The Climate Checkup programme, delivered by Climate Confident Scotland, offers free, tailored support to help community organisations and social enterprises across Scotland take practical steps towards climate action. Designed for groups managing buildings or delivering local services, the programme provides a one-to-one session with a climate adviser to assess current activities, identify opportunities for improvement, and develop a bespoke action plan.

The service is open to charities, social enterprises, and voluntary organisations, regardless of size or location. Sessions are delivered online or in person, depending on availability and need. To book a Climate Checkup, please visit the [Climate Confident Scotland](https://www.climateconfident.scot.nhs.uk/) website.



Prevention in Health

A partnership of third and community sector organisations have come together to set out the urgent action required if preventative approaches are to help tackle Scotland's growing health inequalities crisis.

This joint statement comes as major policies and frameworks have set out prevention as a key approach to how public services should operate; the [Public Service Reform Strategy](#), the [Population Health Framework](#), and the [Health and Social Care Service Renewal Framework](#).

To read the full statement and recommendations visit the [CHEX website](#).



Challenge Poverty Week

Don't miss out!

Mon 6 - Sun 12 October 2025

This week highlights the injustice of poverty in Scotland, and to show that collective action based on justice and compassion can create solutions.

Find out more at the [Poverty Alliance website](#) or visit the [Stirling Council website](#) to find out more about work in this area.

Contact

Communitydevelopment
@stirling.gov.uk

01786 233076

Facebook

If you need help in understanding this Bulletin or need it in a different format call us on 01786 404040.

To subscribe / unsubscribe please [email us](#).