

CD News

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



Celebrating Culture

On 1 May 2026, Stirling Council and local partners will deliver a new annual celebration of culture, which will see the whole area come alive at night with an exciting range of events and activities.

The event will showcase the best of Stirling's music, dance, comedy, art, crafts, film, literature and more.

Culture Night Stirling will be for everyone to enjoy and will bring together communities and organisations from a variety of sectors including the arts, heritage, education, hospitality and tourism. We will be encouraging local communities, businesses and organisations to work with Stirling's creative community using the [Scene Stirling Creative Directory](#).

Would your community consider hosting a cultural event on the 1st of May? A funding pot is open. For full guidance, and support from the Scene Stirling team visit the [fund site here](#).

Evaluating Prevention Resources

Many third sector organisations provide support or run services that prevent things happening. However, prevention is hard to evaluate. We are often asked questions such as:

- How do we measure something that hasn't happened?
- What does a positive approach to prevention look like in practice?
- How do we evaluate long term when funding is short term?

Evaluation Support Scotland have developed a guide to share learning from their work about how to evaluate prevention. They suggest approaches you can take, and share examples from the third sector.

For third sector prevention case studies and guidance on evaluating prevention in specific areas, such as health inequalities or violence against women, please see the [prevention page of the ESS website](#).



Winter Warmth



Stirling Libraries are offering free hot drinks over the winter. Why not drop in to your local library and see what's happening? They have newspapers, board games and jigsaws available too. There are lots of groups and activities planned if you'd like to talk about books, try out some crafty skills or find out about local and family history.

There are author visits coming up as part of Book Week Scotland, an annual celebration of books and reading. It will take place across Scotland on 17–23 November 2025. This year's theme, Friendship, invites us to explore the connections that shape our lives – through stories, shared experiences, and the simple act of reading together.

See the [What's on in the libraries](#) webpage for all the details and instructions on how to book your free tickets.



Inside this issue:

- Stirling Good Food Fortnight
- Culture Night
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- Cosy Cafe - Cowie

and much more



Stirling Good Food Fortnight

1-14 March 2026

The Stirling Food Partnership is planning the first **Stirling Good Food Fortnight** in March 2026. This Fortnight will celebrate the food community and serve as a platform for public engagement on the journey towards becoming a Good Food Nation.

If you want to get involved in the Fortnight, organise your own events, open your community garden for the day, run a community café or lunch, have a cooking demonstration in your local hall, create a fruit bar or larder or any food related activity, [please get in touch](#).

The Partnership will also be gathering voices to inform [Scottish Government's Good Food Nation Plans](#) which sets out a vision where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day. As local authorities and health boards develop their Good Food Nation Plans they need your thoughts.

As the Stirling Food Partnership sets its priorities and future direction, it brings together public, third sector and community partners involved in food related work. If you want to be part of the partnership, or get information about events and initiatives, [please get in touch](#). Look out for more information soon!



New Report - Collective Wellbeing

Carnegie UK has launched the latest edition of its Life in the UK Index, showing that the lives of people in the UK have not improved over the past year.

Now in its third year, the Life in the UK index is beginning to tell a longer-term story of what life is like for people who live in the UK. Despite some signs of hope, in 2025 life in the UK predominantly remains characterised by persistent inequality and wellbeing stagnation.

Financial pressures have eased slightly for some households, but millions continue to face hardship. Those living in social housing, larger families and people on low incomes remain most affected by economic inequality.

To read the full report visit the [website here](#).



Bridge of Allan Flood Scheme Project Update

The Bridge of Allan flood protection Scheme (Option 2B) is now confirmed and is in the detailed design stage. The drop in sessions below will provide information on the current status and next steps. The project is due for construction from Summer 2026- Winter 2027.

Please come along and find out more on the project, ask questions and have a chat.

- Monday 10 Nov - 2pm—5pm
- Tuesday 11 Nov - 3pm—7pm
- MS Teams online session Monday 17 Nov -7.30 - 8.30pm

Please sign up for the online sessions by 5pm on Wednesday 12 November via flooding@stirling.gvo.uk

For more information [visit the Council website](#).

Draining the Rain in Stirling - £6m to Improve Urban Waters

Scottish Water is to start work on a £6.2m project to reduce spills and sewer related debris entering the River Forth in Stirling.

Under its Improving Urban Waters programme, the publicly owned utility will be replacing two storm overflows and upsizing the associated pipework and manhole chambers in Woodside Road and Laurencecroft Road in the Raploch area of the city.



Scottish Water Senior Project Manager Ethan Gillies Denning said: "These are overflows that are high priority for replacement to help improve water quality, reduce sewer-related debris and minimise spills during heavy rain.

"The work doesn't require any major traffic management, but we will divert a core footpath in Woodside Road and a cycle path in Laurencecroft Road.

The work in Raploch is part of Scottish Water's Improving Urban Waters programme, an additional £500million package of investment to improve the environment and make it more enjoyable for customers to explore their local area.

Working closely with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Scottish Water has identified priority storm overflows for improvement or replacement and for water quality or aesthetic – sewer related debris – reasons.

Work is due to begin on Monday 20 October 2025 and will be completed by autumn 2026.

The project is being delivered by Scottish Water's alliance partner Caledonia Water Alliance.



Consultations

Free Bus Travel Scheme Evaluation

Transport Scotland has commissioned an evaluation of the Scotland-wide Free Bus Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled People - the concessionary bus pass. The scheme provides free bus travel within Scotland on any registered bus service to anyone who lives in Scotland and has a National Entitlement Cards (NECs) - such as Older person's free bus pass and Disabled person's free bus pass .



The evaluation aims to establish whether the scheme has achieved its objectives and delivered benefits to older and disabled people. If you have one of these cards, please complete the following survey, no matter how often or how little you use it.

Deadline: 23 November 2025

To access the survey visit the [site here](#)



Disability-based violence

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to support the prevention, eradication, punishment, and reparation of violence based on disability, has decided to prepare guidelines on the subject.

To this end, the Committee calls all interested persons with disabilities and/or their representative organisations to provide written contributions on the content of the guidelines.

Deadline: 30 November 2025

For more information visit the website [here](#) and to complete the survey [here](#).



Council Tax Consultation

The Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) are seeking views on the future of council tax in Scotland. Council tax is a vital source of funding for local services such as schools, social care, roads, libraries and waste collection. The council tax system has remained largely unchanged since its introduction over 30 years ago.

Deadline: 30 January 2026

[Read the consultation paper](#). The consultation paper contains full background information for this consultation. For more details about the consultation visit the [Scottish Government Website](#)



Action for ME 2025 Big Survey

Action for M.E. carries out their survey every five years to use in their work and illustrate the impact of ME.

The Big Survey is open to people living in the UK with ME, whether or not they have a diagnosis. It is also open to people living in the UK with long Covid and who experience [ME symptoms](#), even if they don't have a diagnosis.

Deadline: 27 January 2026

To complete the survey visit the [website here](#).



School inspections are changing Shape What's Next

School Inspection Consultation for Young People

School inspectors are thinking about making changes to the way schools are inspected. An inspection is when people visit a school to see how things are going and if they can be even better. In Scotland, school inspections are carried out by HM Inspectors (school inspectors). They are interested in getting young people's views to help shape what happens in the future.

Deadline: 26 November 2025

For more details about the consultation, including videos explaining the consultation, visit the [Scottish Government Website](#).



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](#).

Co-Creating a New Way of Working

Together we want to create the new chapter of partnership working in Stirling.

Stirling Council has commissioned and funded [Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise \(SVE\)](#) to develop a new way of working that will set out how the Council and third sector organisations collaborate.

SVE will be working with the sector to co-design the name, structure, and title of the new partnership model. Nothing is set in stone yet, so this is your chance to tell them what really matters to you in how we work together with the local authority in the future.

Kate Hudson, Head of People and Community Wellbeing at Stirling Council, said: "As Council Officers serving the public, we see every day how complex the system of support for communities can be, and we are keen to make sure the Council works to remove barriers in that system, both for those who live and work across Stirling, and for the third sector and community organisations we know are providing vital support services within our communities. We are delighted to be working with SVE and look forward to co-producing a standard that works for the communities of Stirling."

This is your opportunity to say what matters to you and help create a way of working that is meaningful, fair and sustainable for years to come.

This approach will:

- Strengthen trust and collaboration between the Council and the third sector.
- Recognise and value the contribution of the third sector in improving outcomes for local people.
- Offer flexibility, so organisations can engage at a level that matches their capacity, ambition, and experience.
- Ensure fairness and transparency in how support is shared, from funding and in-kind resources to access to community assets.

Look out for more information soon.

The New Code of Fundraising Practice

Updated guidance for charities, community groups and social enterprises



After extensive consultation with the fundraising community, a revised Code of Fundraising Practice has come into force from 1 November 2025. Now shorter and more principles-based, the new Code is designed to support ethical, modern and innovative fundraising across the UK.

The Code of Fundraising Practice sets out the standards expected of all charitable fundraising in the UK.

All charitable organisations engaged with any type of fundraising activity are advised to become familiar with the Code. [Code of Fundraising Practice | Fundraising Regulator](#)





The Albert Halls and Tolbooth

Join Stirling's New Performance Drumming Group

Thursdays 6pm–8pm
Nov 20–Dec 18 & Feb 19–Apr 30
Final Performance: Friday 1st May 2026



A new community drumming ensemble is launching, open to anyone aged 16+, with no musical experience required. Led by a professional tutor, participants will take part in 16 fun, energetic workshops, culminating in a live performance at Stirling's first-ever Culture Night.

Expect a powerful, theatrical experience blending rhythm, movement, and storytelling—created collaboratively by the group and tutor. Drums will be carried during performance, with adaptations available to support individual needs.

Spaces are limited - so booking is required for full term. To [book see the website](#).



An Invitation to Join...

Stirling Junior Gaelic Choir

P1 - S6

MONDAYS 5-6 pm

Bridge of Allan Church Hall

With Conductor Zoe Perman and support from Stirling Gaelic Choir

No prior Gaelic required!

Contact Catriona Laird for more information: cmmlaird@gmail.com

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.

Self Management Fund

Self Management for Life: Round 3 will support projects supporting people to self manage at an early stage with their long term condition, disability or unpaid caring responsibility, targeting health inequalities or supporting people on long waiting lists.

Third sector and community organisations can apply for a small grant of up to £15,000 for up to 12 months or up to £150,000 for up to 36 months.

The [Self Management Fund](#) has been administered by the ALLIANCE on behalf of Scottish Government since 2009, supporting 495 projects across Scotland since its inception.

Deadline: 19 December 2025

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



ALLIANCE

Big Give: Earth Raise 2026

Charities delivering climate action work or environmental projects can benefit from this match funding event designed to coincide with World Earth Day in April 2026. Every donation received during the campaign period will be doubled.

Earth Raise utilises their Multi Model of match funding. Environmental charities apply to Big Give and can select either the 1:1 or Pledge Model of match funding. Their application is assessed by Big Give and our partners, EFN. Successful charities are awarded a sum of match funding which is ring-fenced for their organisation. This match funding is unlocked by public donations given through Big Give's online fundraising platform during the week of the campaign.

Deadline 16 January 2026

For more [visit the website here](#).



National Lottery Awards for All Scotland

This fund supports projects that bring people together and help communities across Scotland thrive. Social connections and community activities are at the heart of healthier, happier lives, that's why we support community-led projects.

For community-led projects, groups can apply for between £300 and £20,000 to support work lasting up to 2 years. For projects that focus on the arts or sports, groups can apply for up to £10,000 for work lasting up to 12 months.

For more information on priorities and to apply visit the [website here](#).



AWARDS FOR ALL SCOTLAND

Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust



The Trust accepts applications from community or not-for-profit groups and is keen to support local groups to implement projects that improve the environment or provide a benefit to both the local community and general public.

Grants up to £10,000 are available for a wide range of projects, including improvements to play areas, parks and footpaths, works to community halls, historic and religious buildings, and projects aimed at conserving or improving native biodiversity, such as local woodlands and community gardens.

For more information, deadlines, an application pack or advice on making an application, please email the Trust manager Audrey Morrison at morrisona@stirling.gov.uk

ClubSport Stirling

ClubSport Stirling is a voluntary organisation that supports the growth and development of sports clubs in Stirling's communities. They can provide financial assistance to affiliated clubs for scholarships and club development.

For more information visit [Club Sport Stirling](#)



The Conservation Volunteers - I Dig Trees

TCV with the support of OVO Energy have 12,000 packs of trees to distribute to community organisations. All tree varieties are native to the UK and available in packs of 50.

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



Bringing Scotwest closer to home for the community of Cowie

Scotwest Credit Union are committed to improving the financial wellbeing of individuals and families across our Common Bond which includes the Stirling Council area. That's why they're coming out into the community — visiting local hubs and centres to answer questions, and introduce the benefits of saving and borrowing with Scotwest.

They are launching a 'drop-in' service on Tuesday 11th November 2025 at the Cowie Community Hub. Whether you're a current member or curious about what Scotwest can offer, come along for a friendly chat to find out about:

- Opening a savings account
- Applying for loans
- Managing your money more confidently
- Setting up online banking

Bringing Scotwest to your Community

Cowie Hub, 18-20 Main Street, Cowie, FK7 7BL – no appointment needed, just drop by and say hello!

They will be at the Cowie Community Hub on the following dates:

9th December; 6th January; 3rd February; 3rd March

If you think a regular Scotwest drop-in could support the visitors to your local hub - whether it's a community centre, library, or support organisation - we'd love to hear from you. Centre organisers can contact us by emailing wellbeing@scotwest.co.uk or calling us on 0141 227 2390 to explore setting up a visit.



IT Skills at your local Library

Do you need some help with your smartphone, tablet or iPad? Want to learn more about getting online?

Then the Library service can help! I.T. & ME appointments offer support with using your device or with learning new digital skills. It's completely free to take part and you don't have to learn everything at once, you can learn at your own pace in a relaxed atmosphere with a dedicated I.T. & ME volunteer.



You can book an I.T. & ME appointment by calling your local library branch or by contacting Heather Walsh, Digital Volunteer Coordinator here: Email: walshh@stirling.gov.uk



Managing charity trustee information

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has introduced a new legal requirement for all Scottish charities to submit detailed information about their trustees. This change, effective from 30 June 2025, is part of the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023, aimed at enhancing transparency and public trust in the sector.

From this date, charities completing a new online annual return must include details for each trustee through OSCR Online. Charities are encouraged to begin collecting this information now and ensure their OSCR Online access is up to date. Trustees concerned about personal safety can apply for an exemption from having their name published.

For full guidance and exemption criteria, visit [OSCR's official website](https://www.oscr.gov.uk).

Disqualification of Individuals

From 31 August 2025, new rules on the automatic disqualification of individuals from acting in Scottish charities came into force under the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023.

OSCR have published [updated guidance](#) outlining the changes. To support charities in undertaking appropriate checks and due diligence when appointing new trustees, OSCR has published an updated [trustee declaration form](#) which is used as part of the application for charitable status process.

Information on other changes to charity law as part of the [Charities \(Regulation and Administration\) \(Scotland\) Act 2023](#) can be found [here](#).

Highlighting Community Halls and Centres:

Cowie Community Centre

This June, **Cowie Rural Action Group (CRAG)** proudly secured the lease of their local community centre—marking a major milestone in their mission to strengthen community ties and expand local opportunities.

Since then, CRAG has been busy transforming the space into a vibrant hub of activity. One of their standout initiatives is the **Cosy Cup Café**, a welcoming spot designed to bring people together over affordable, quality food and friendly conversation.

The café recently underwent a cheerful makeover, with fresh décor, new tables and chairs, and a warm, inviting atmosphere. Whether you're popping in for a cuppa, enjoying a homemade lunch, or celebrating a birthday, the Cosy Cup Café is the perfect place to relax and connect.

Opening Hours:

- **Monday:** 11am–2pm & 6pm–8pm
- **Tuesday (Soup 'n' Blether):** 12pm–2pm & 6pm–8pm
- **Wednesday:** 9am–12pm & 6pm–8pm

Each week, the café welcomes 10–20 visitors, including friendly faces from neighbouring groups who come to enjoy the delicious homemade cakes and warm hospitality.

But the café is just one part of CRAG's growing list of offerings. The community centre now hosts a **gym, charity shop, laundry facilities**, and a **dynamic programme of events**. These complement regular favourites like the **Over 50s Lunch Group, Soup 'n' Blether**, and **Family Eat 'n' Play** sessions.

CRAG's efforts highlight the vital role the community centre plays in supporting Cowie's annual events and wider initiatives. It's more than just a building—it's a place where connections are made, ideas are shared, and community spirit thrives.

To stay up to date with everything happening at the centre, follow CRAG on [Cowie Rural Action Group. Facebook](#)



Pre-registration for the Gathering

The largest free voluntary sector event in the UK!

The 10-11 February sees Scotland's biggest celebration of the voluntary sector when the Gathering takes place at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC).

As well as bringing a packed programme of free workshops, seminars and activities, you'll find a wide range of exhibitors from the voluntary, public and private sectors at our ever-popular exhibition.

[Pre-register now](#) for Gathering 2026 updates straight to your inbox, and SCVO will drop you an email as soon as bookings open! SCVO members will receive early access to bookings and first look at our packed programme too...



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