



# Community Development News Bulletin - May 2026

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

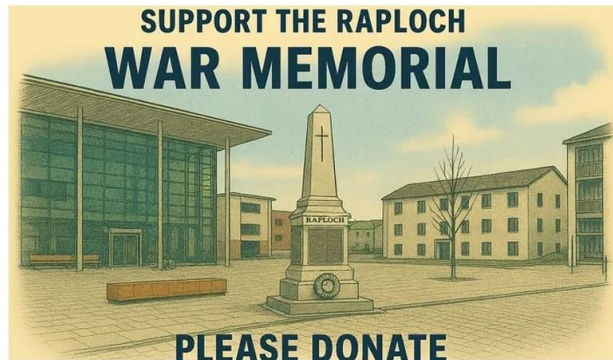
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Spotlight of the Month





Raploch has a proud history of service. Many never came home.

A permanent memorial is now underway – but **£12,000** is still needed to finish it.

Your support will help honour those who served and keep their stories alive for future generations.

*Lest we Forget*



For a number of years, a small group of locals have been working quietly behind the scenes to achieve something Raploch has long been without. A permanent war memorial to honour local men and women who served, sacrificed, and shaped the history of the community.

Some members of this small focus group are veterans themselves. All share a deep commitment to ensuring that Raploch's wartime story is properly recognised. Through determination and care, they have completed the essential groundwork needed to make this memorial a reality. This includes securing planning permission, researching and collating the names of local soldiers, and documenting Raploch's strong and often overlooked connection to military service.

Raploch has a proud history of service. Some never returned home. Some were wounded. Some came back carrying experiences that stayed with them for the rest of their lives. This memorial is intended to honour all of them, and to ensure that their sacrifice is remembered within the heart of the community they came from.

The project has now reached a critical stage. £25,000 has already been secured, allowing work to begin on the memorial. However, a further £12,000 is still required to complete it to a standard worthy of those it will honour.

Alongside the memorial, the group is also producing a Book of Remembrance. This will record names and histories, and serve as a lasting record of Raploch's contribution to wartime service. Copies of the book will be available for purchase, and this offers another meaningful way for local people to support the project.

The people leading this work have shown exceptional dedication and care in bringing the project to this point. To succeed now, they need the wider community to stand behind them. Every donation, no matter the amount, will help bring this memorial to completion. Supporting this fundraiser means helping Raploch create a permanent place of remembrance for present and future generations.

Please consider donating or sharing this page.

### [Orchard Pruning Event Success!](#)



Community development is about supporting people to come together, take pride in their local area, and create spaces that benefit everyone. A great example of this was the recent pruning session at Gowan Hill Orchard at the Top of the Town in Stirling, bringing together adults, and a group of children from Allan's Primary who kindly volunteered their time to look after this much loved green space!

Thank you to Keep Scotland Beautiful and all the community members who joined in on a magnificent spring day to help prune the fruit trees. The event brought people together to learn new skills, share knowledge, and care for a valued local space. The Community Development team are now supporting those interested to plan the year ahead with ideas ranging from apple pressing to a summer solstice event.

Our Community Development team supports communities and groups across the Stirling Council area by helping people to work together for change, giving people opportunities to achieve what they want to do, making sure people can influence and shape their communities and the issues that affect their lives, and sharing knowledge and skills.

If your group or organisation needs support, the team might be able to help by giving advice on funding and grants, acting as a first point of contact for questions about participation requests

or asset transfers, sharing information or briefings, linking groups to local community councils, and helping to find other relevant contacts.

If you are looking to start up a new activity in your area whether it's a crochet group, sports group, social group or anything in between, or just to find out more about how you can get involved, please get in touch and we will be happy to help you or point you in the right direction!

Drop us an email [communitydevelopment@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:communitydevelopment@stirling.gov.uk) to find out more.

Creativity, Community & Culture: A Placement to Remember













**Louise Rae, an Edinburgh University student on placement with the Community Development Team at Stirling Council reflects on her time supporting the craft group at Hillpark.**

"Over the past few weeks, I've had the pleasure of completing my student placement working with the Hillpark Community Centre craft group, and it has been a genuinely rewarding experience from start to finish.

One of the real highlights was being involved in preparations for Culture Night in Stirling. The group of ladies involved truly pulled together, showing incredible dedication, creativity, and teamwork. Every session was filled with conversation, laughter, and hard work as they brought their ideas to life. The result was an amazing display that the whole community could enjoy and be proud of.

Seeing the finished work showcased on Culture Night was a standout moment. It was more than just crafts on display, it represented time, effort, and community spirit coming together to celebrate local culture in a meaningful way.

Alongside this, the weekly craft group sessions at Hillpark Community Centre provided a welcoming space for creativity and connection. It was inspiring to see participants supporting each other, sharing skills, and building friendships along the way.

As my placement comes to an end, I would like to express my thanks for the opportunity to be part of such a positive and creative environment. It has been a privilege to learn from the group and to witness first hand the impact that community-led activity can have.

A real reminder that when people come together, something special is always created."

[Survey reveals struggles with cost of living](#)



Age UK has just published new polling results in [a report on the cost of living](#), which will help to put older people's experiences at the centre of any decisions made that affect their lives.

What they found especially concerning was that:

- 3.4 million pensioners (more than one in four) are struggling financially and nearly half of them have been struggling for three years or more.
- Two thirds of pensioners would rather turn off their heating than fall into debt, which means jeopardising their health when it's cold.

If you're worried about your bills, you can [visit their website](#) for more information or use their [free benefits calculator](#) to see if you're entitled to any extra help. Help is also available locally through [Stirling Councils Advice Services](#) and [Stirling's Citizens Advice Bureau](#).

[Democracy Matters](#)



The Scottish Government has published its Democracy Matters Route Map, setting out the current progress and next steps around what new community governance arrangements could look like.

Democracy Matters began with two phases of engagement with communities and the public sector which encouraged people to come together and discuss questions on the future of decision-making where they live.

To help us to turn the engagement findings into proposals for change, the Scottish Government brought together leaders from the public sector, equalities groups, the third sector and academia through the Democracy Matters Steering Group.

The Route Map sets out a direction of travel for enhancing local democracy and the work needed to deliver it. There continue to be significant points of difference in public views in the scale and pace of reform, how local governance structures should change and what approach should be taken to the further devolution of power and resources.

To read the roadmap and find out more about changes visit the [Scottish Government website](#)

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities



## Walking The Marches



The Walking of the Marches is a centuries old tradition dating back to the days before accurate maps when the only way to ensure that the burgh boundaries (or Marches) were intact was to inspect them. This tradition is maintained in many communities across Scotland, normally this is done by riding the Marches but uniquely in Stirling we have always walked them. The inspection in Stirling was completed by the Birlawmen, lead by their captain, again a unique aspect with the Birlawmen carrying picks and shovels to turn turfs to mark the intact boundaries. The tradition was maintained through most of the last century, but died out after 1978. It was revived in 2014 and since then has gone from strength to strength. Today it is a vibrant inclusive community event, still led by the Birlawmen, but many of the Birlawmen are now ladies. The whole event has been adapted to respect the past by creating an event that celebrates the city and community of Stirling.

Join in at the rotunda at the bottom of King Street in the heart of the city centre at 10.45 Saturday 30th May. After the Birlawmen confirm that the Marches are intact, the Captain of the Birlawmen invites the Lord Provost, Lord Dean of Guild and Deacon Convenor of the Seven Incorporated Trades and their parties to accompany the Birlawmen in a procession around the city to celebrate. The procession ends at the the Guildhall bowling green next to the church of the Holy Rude, where entertainment is provided with music and combat stuntmen.

In addition there is an important event on Saturday 23rd May at a unique ceremony to swear in the Birlawmen and Stewards in the Great Hall of Stirling Castle, if you wish to be part of this be on the esplanade by 10.45 to be part of the procession that sets off at 11. It is anticipated that the procession will leave the castle at 12 and head down to the Church of the Holy Rude.

[Stirling's 900 year old tradition - Walking the Marches | Stirling](#)

**Where?** Bottom of King Street, Stirling City Centre

**What?** Walking the Marches

**When?** Saturday 30th May 10.45am

Forth Valley Welcome Refugee Week Event

Refugee Week  
2026

# Together We Thrive: A Celebration of Community & Culture

Music from  
Musicians in Exile  
Artwork & Music from  
Shatha Altowai & Saber Bamatraf  
Poetry from  
Anna Yanenko

**Saturday 13th June, 12 - 4pm**  
The Tolbooth, Jail Wynd  
Stirling, FK8 1DE

scottish  
refugee  
council    REFUGEE  
FESTIVAL  
SCOTLAND    Forth Valley Welcome    TOLBOOTH

Supported by Scottish Refugee Council through the Refugee Festival  
Scotland's Small Grants Programme, and Stirling Council via Tolbooth

**What?** Everyone is invited to attend a vibrant and inspiring daytime Refugee Week celebration at the Tolbooth in Stirling on Saturday 13th June.

This special event brings together an extraordinary lineup of artists and performers from across the world.

First, published Ukrainian poet Anna Yanenko will perform a selection of her moving and beautifully crafted poetry.

Yemeni artist Shatha Altowai will showcase her powerful and captivating artwork, offering a unique visual journey through her experiences and creativity. Accompanying the talk will be the rich and soulful sounds of talented pianist Saber Bamatraf.

The event also welcomes the Glasgow-based collective Musicians in Exile, who will present an uplifting performance featuring music from a diverse range of cultures and countries.

Those attending during the day can celebrate culture, creativity, and community, and be part of an event that highlights the voices and talents of artists with refugee backgrounds. The Tolbooth

Café Bar will be open and serving some specials inspired by some of the countries presenting at the event.

Supported by Scottish Refugee Council through the *Refugee Festival Scotland's Small Grants Programme*, and Stirling Council via Tolbooth

**Where?** Tolbooth

**When?** Doors open at 12pm on Saturday 13th of June

Click this [link to register](#)

[Stirling Field & Archeological Society Summer Programme 2026](#)



**What?** Our Summer 2026 programme offers a wonderful variety of outings exploring the archaeology and history of central Scotland — from Roman forts and Iron Age hillforts to medieval abbeys and historic museums.

NB Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Participants take part on the understanding that they do so at their own risk.

**When?** Summer 2026

**Where?** Stirling

All events are **free and open to everyone** — you do not need to be a member to take part. Further details available on [Summer Programme 2026](#)

## Volunteers Week 2026



Volunteers' Week is an annual UK-wide campaign held from the first Monday in June to celebrate and recognise the contributions of volunteers.

Launched in 1984, this initiative has been running for over 40 years, providing organisations and communities a platform to thank current and past volunteers for their invaluable efforts.

The campaign highlights the diversity and unity of volunteer work across the UK. In its 40th year, the campaign underwent a rebrand, introducing a vibrant identity to inspire continued engagement.

Volunteers' Week fosters connections between national organisations and grassroots groups, celebrating the spirit of volunteering that enriches communities each year.

**The 2026 celebration will run from Monday 1st – Sunday 7th June.**

For more details on how to get involved, and to download resource packs, visit the dedicated website: [Volunteers' Week](#) and look out for local events.

**Stirling  
May  
2026**



**Meeting on Mondays from 1:30 pm till 3:30 pm**

			<b>Stirling Bus Station (Ticket and Travel Office)</b> Unit 19, Goosecroft Road Stirling FK8 2EA
			<b>Stirling Health and Care Village</b> Livilands Gate Stirling FK8 2AU
			<b>River House Stirling</b> The Castle Business Park Stirling FK9 4TW

\*No walk on May 4th\*

**You don't need to be an Enable member to come along!**

Join us for your weekly walking group. Each week we will try out somewhere new. If you would like to come along please let us know by contacting...

**Courtney Ackerman**  
Community Co-ordinator

 **07483487266**

 **communities@enable.org.uk**



**What?** The Enable Communities group in Stirling will be a social walking group aimed at adults with learning disabilities (parents/carers also welcome) it is free aside from an optional café visit.

**Where?** Various venues across Stirling City Centre

**When?** Monday 11th, 18th and 25th of May. 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Contact Courtney on 07483 487266 to find out more.

## Community is key in tackling health inequalities



Newly published evidence shows the clear impact that community-led health organisations have on the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Developed as part of the CommonHealth Assets research project, this large-scale, rigorous, and theory-based evaluation clearly shows community is key in tackling health inequalities.

The [case studies](#) show improved outcomes across all measures of health and wellbeing for people involved with community-led organisations. This work has been funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research and led by Glasgow Caledonian University, with contributions from a range of partner organisations including CHEX and SCDC.

These case studies show that the creative and varied activities these organisations deliver lead to improvements across a range of outcomes, with arts and crafts improving mental wellbeing and educational activity driving positive health outcomes.

to find out more [visit the website](#).

## Self-Evaluation Week



For the past 21 years Evaluation Support Scotland have been helping organisations to measure and explain their impact. To mark their milestone birthday this May they are launching Self-Evaluation Week (18th-22nd May) – a week dedicated to demonstrating impact and sharing learning. This year's theme 'celebrating the difference we make'

To find out more and measure what difference you are making [visit their website](#).

## Training and Development





Scottish charity law has changed, and these changes affect how charities are run and governed.

Join this practical online workshop to understand what the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023 means for your charity, your trustees, and senior managers, and what you need to do to stay compliant and confident.

**This session is suitable for:**

- Charity trustees
- Senior managers
- Charity staff involved in governance, finance, or compliance

**What the workshop will cover**

- Why new charity legislation was introduced and what it aims to achieve
- What has changed and what has not changed in charity law
- OSCR's new and enhanced powers
- What charities need to do to be compliant

The session will focus on what these legal changes mean in practice. Examples will be used to illustrate risks, responsibilities, and good practice.

This workshop will help charities move from uncertainty to clarity, and from compliance risk to confidence.

**Changes to Scottish Charity Law Workshop**

25th June 10.00am to 13.30pm

To register on this free workshop please use this [link](#)

Further details please contact Lee at [leestevenson@sventerprise.org.uk](mailto:leestevenson@sventerprise.org.uk)

Self -Managing Risk of Falling



**What?** As part of their campaign to raise awareness about ageing well across Forth Valley, Clackmannanshire & Stirling Social Care Partnership are hosting standalone sessions providing local opportunities to learn how to reduce your risk of falls, maintain bone health and stay independent.

The focus will be on self-managing your risk of falling; sessions will benefit those concerned about falling or interested in staying well and active

**When and Where?** 28th May 1.15pm-2.45pm, and Clackmannanshire (Cochrane Hall, Alva) 9th June, 1.30pm-3pm

You can book a session local to you, by clicking on the link [here](#)

You can also call 07929653914 and leave a message to include: your name, contact details and what session you plan on attending

## 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.

## Action Earth



Applications are invited from groups of volunteers working to improve or create outdoor sites in Urban areas across Scotland. We are looking to support projects that increase biodiversity through planting native species and creating wildlife habitats in areas such as community gardens, woodlands or ponds. We are not able to fund projects where the focus is solely on food growing.

For more information or to apply click here [Volunteering Matters Action Earth 2026](#)

## Sport Facilities Fund



Our Sport Facilities Fund (SFF) supports capital projects that help to create or improve places where people take part in sport and physical activity.

We want to support projects that provide more opportunities for people to get involved in and participate in sport & physical activity.

Our budget is circa £2 million per annum and there is likely to be greater demand and competition for funding than is available for us to allocate.

Therefore prioritisation will be given to projects that deliver the greatest impact on our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion objectives: see [Sport for Life and our approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#) - sportscotland the national agency for sport in Scotland

Projects that can clearly demonstrate an inclusive approach that targets participants in/from SIMD areas or areas of rural disadvantage, or those with additional needs, or those from ethnically diverse communities, or other protected characteristics, as identified in The Equalities Act 2010, will be prioritised.

Please read fully the SFF Guidelines for further details of the type of projects we want to invest in and those that we will not be eligible.

Please contact us to discuss your project and eligibility before starting or submitting an application [facilities@sportscotland.org.uk](mailto:facilities@sportscotland.org.uk)

**Deadlines for submission of Sport Facilities Fund applications are 5pm on the 1st April and 1st September each year.**

## Forte Charitable Foundation



### You can apply if:

- Your organisation's postcode falls within the following on the [Indices of Multiple Deprivation](#): if you are located in an urban area, you must be in the bottom 15% most

deprived areas; if you are located in a rural area, you must be in the bottom 50% most deprived areas

- Your project has a focus on community support
- Your annual income does not exceed £250,000
- You can secure 50% of the total project costs
- You can supply your most recent annual accounts
- You can start spending our grant within 1-2 months of receipt
- You are embedded in your local community

You can apply for a maximum of 50% of the total cost of the project/salary/core running costs. We do not fund capital projects.

Our preference is for front line organisations working directly with people in need. We do not support campaigning, organisational development or capacity building. We will consider new work if it is a logical extension of existing work, but do not support work which represents a significant shift away from your existing core aims and experience.

Please see '[Who and What We Fund](#)' for examples and also a full list of exclusions.

You may find our [Grants Gallery](#) helpful in illustrating the types of Community Support projects we fund.

Successful applicants can re-apply for a further two years. No further applications can be made after the completion of the third grant.

### **Ready to apply?**

Please read our [Small Grants Funding Guidelines](#) before proceeding to complete the eligibility quiz. You can check your eligibility above, however, please refer to the Funding Guidelines for a full list of exclusions. Our [Small Grants Application Guidance](#) explains how to answer the application form questions.

## Consultations



### Community Parking Management Plans



Stirling Council are reviewing how parking works across our area to make sure it supports residents, businesses, and visitors while encouraging more sustainable ways to travel. This consultation is your opportunity to share your views on how parking is provided, managed, and priced.

We would like your feedback on several key areas including pricing, availability and different type of parking. Your input will help shape future parking plans and ensure that any changes reflect the priorities of the people who live, work, and travel here.

Deadline: 10 May 2026

To take part visit the [Council's Engage Platform](#)

## Sports Strategy Consultation 2026



There is still a chance to take part in the Sports Strategy Consultation as the Council reviews opportunities to improve its leisure and wellbeing provision in order to better meet the needs of local communities and residents.

Deadline: 17 May 2026

To take part visit the [Council's Engage Platform](#)

[Support Provisions for Victims of Human Trafficking in Scotland: published guidance](#)



This consultation seeks views on whether the draft guidance is clear, practical, and accessible, and if it provides the right level of information to assist practitioners in supporting victims. Your feedback will help ensure that the guidance meets these objectives. You can find out more and access the consultation [here](#)

[Rights to Breaks for Unpaid Carers](#)



The right to breaks provisions in the Care Reform (Scotland) Act 2025 will make changes to the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 to deliver a right to personalised short breaks support for carers who can't currently access "sufficient breaks" from caring. In preparing for implementation this consultation seeks opinions. You can find out more and access the consultation [here](#)

## Local Development Plan - Consultation



Stirling Council continues work on preparing its next Local Development Plan (LDP3), which will guide future development and land use across the council area.

This stage of the consultation invites your views on the emerging Spatial Strategy and the Site Options currently being considered for inclusion in the Proposed Plan.

Public events have been organised to support people to give their views. For more details of these and further information about the Local Development Plan process, including background documents and timescales, is available on the Council's planning pages. Updates will be shared as the plan progresses.

**More information and to give your views:** [Engage Stirling](#)

## Contact us



[Communitydevelopment@stirling.gov.uk](mailto:Communitydevelopment@stirling.gov.uk)

01786 233076

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