



Community Development Bulletin - September 2026

News, updates, information and sharing success in our communities

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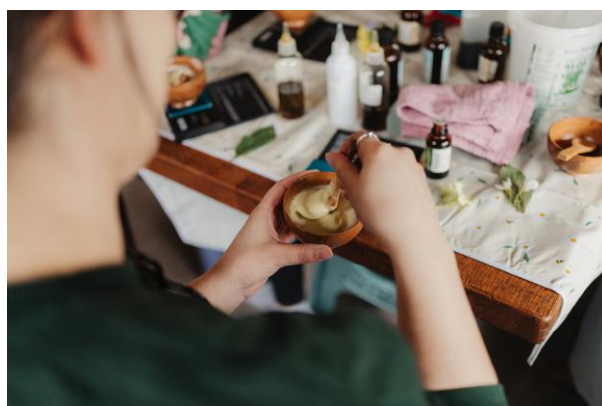
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Spotlight of the Month



Stirling Science Festival





Spark your imagination and dive into the wonderful world of STEM (Science, Technology, Arts, Engineering and Mathematics) at the Stirling Science Festival this October. Hosted by Stirling Council and partners, the festival will take place at venues across Stirling from 21-24 October featuring more than 50 events, most of them FREE to attend.

This year's theme Play, Move, Discover: The Science of Sport and Wellbeing, brings together an exciting programme of activities for all ages. Highlights include: Glasgow Science Centre's fun-packed touring exhibit, an interactive tour on Sports throughout the ages at Stirling Castle, a sports day at the PEAK and the Albert Halls Family Day.

At the Thistles Shopping Centre, take on a movement challenge with the University of Stirling and create the scariest sporting monster or discover how science can enhance your cooking skills at The Kitchen at 44.

At the PEAK, try a range of fun taster sessions and family-friendly sports activities or bring the family to the Albert Halls Family Day where you can pedal a generator bike to produce electricity, and become a nature detective with Wild Pines.

This year's festival will introduce Science Lates for the over 18s. Sessions at the Tolbooth explore topics including *The Science Behind Formula 1 Grand Prix*, and *The Swiftie Effect: What can pop fandom teach us about wellbeing?* Adults can also join a lively Science Ceilidh at the Golden Lion for an evening of science, music and dancing.

Visit the site to see all these activities and more. The full programme launches on 7th of September on www.stirlingsciencefestival.org.

New Armed Services Advice line



Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd launches the Armed Services Advice Service (ASAS) across the Stirling district to deliver a generalist advice and support service to people who served or have served in the Armed forces or are dependants of someone who has. The ASAS, funded by the Stirling's Council Community Fund and the Veterans' Foundation, defines the armed forces community as those personnel who are currently serving, those who have served in the past, and their dependants. (This definition also includes certain Merchant Navy personnel). Stirling CAB, via ASAS, will provide advice to members of the armed forces community and support front line staff in the provision of advice to the armed forces community, and it will also offer training. More particularly, it will offer wide ranging and holistic advice to the armed forces personnel and Veteran community, and their dependants, on: benefits, debt, money issues, relationships, employment, housing and homelessness, energy and legal issues.

Armed forces personnel, veterans and dependants of someone who has served in the armed forces can access the Armed Services Advice Service on the phone on **07983451739** or **01786470239** or online at asas@stirling.cas.org.uk or bureau@StirlingCAB.casonline.org.uk from Monday to Friday between 9.30am-5pm.

Transition Stirling - Library of Things





Transition Stirling

Transition Stirling is a community-led charity that helps people, businesses and organisations make better use of resources, build practical skills and strengthen local communities.

Based at the **Stirling Reuse Hub**, they keep useful items and materials in circulation through projects that reduce waste, support local people and create positive community impact, from tool lending and laptop refurbishment to materials reuse and skills development.

As well as the Reuse Hub they have a wide range of community projects including, GoodBuild, Reboot, Reclaimers, The Makers, Handyperson Service, PAT Testing, Community RePaint, Volunteering and Employability Programmes.

This month we are shining the spotlight on the Library of Things:

Need a carpet cleaner, pressure washer, sewing machine, paddleboard, gazebo or DIY tools?

Instead of buying something you'll only use occasionally, why not borrow it?

For just **£9.95 per year**, the **Library of Things** gives members affordable access to hundreds of useful items, helping households, community groups and organisations save money while making better use of the resources already available in our community.

Visit us or explore what's available at www.transitionstirling.org.uk

Email: info@transitionstirling.org.uk

Visit us: Stirling Reuse Hub, 4 Borrowmeadow Road, Springkerse Industrial Estate, Stirling FK7 7UW

Small Grants, Big Difference



*1 - "Moray Estates have been very happy to help facilitate the installation of this bench on the NC765. We will continue to work with the local community on Access projects wherever we can and we are really happy to do so. We appreciate the difference that good access opportunities can make to the Doune Community" **Rory McLeod** - Doune Estate Manager*

Sometimes the smallest projects can have the biggest impact.

Thanks to a community grant, Kilmadock Community Council was able to install a new bench along the well-used National Cycle Route 765. The bench replaced one that had been damaged by vandalism and was carefully chosen for its durability and environmentally friendly design, being made from 100% recycled materials.

While it may seem like a simple addition, the bench has made a real difference for the people who use the path every day. Walkers, cyclists and families now have somewhere to stop, rest and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. For older residents and people with mobility challenges, having a place to sit can make all the difference in helping them get outdoors and stay active.

The bench has also become a place for people to meet and chat, helping to tackle loneliness and strengthen community connections.

What started as a small improvement quickly grew into something much bigger. The project sparked new interest in the pathway and brought together local residents, volunteers and organisations to improve the route. Since then, work has taken place to clear vegetation, tackle flooding issues and make sections of the path safer and more accessible.

This project is a great example of how a small grant can do much more than fund a piece of infrastructure. It can bring people together, encourage community action and create lasting benefits for local residents and visitors alike.



2 - Doune Community Woodland Group work very closely with Moray Estates, their volunteers who have a range of skills are happy to assist when possible. Following a request for help, they were happy to install the bench and check it out for comfort!

Strathcarron Stories Photography Exhibition





A powerful new photography exhibition celebrating 45 years of Strathcarron Hospice will offer a unique insight into the people, compassion and communities at the heart of hospice care.

[Strathcarron Stories](#) is the first exhibition of its kind in the Hospice's history, bringing together two Scottish photographers to explore what Strathcarron means to the thousands of people whose lives have been touched by its care over the past 45 years. Looking back at the people, moments and communities that have shaped the Hospice since it opened in 1981, the exhibition will also look forward, inviting people to reflect on the future of hospice care and the role local communities will continue to play in supporting it. With thanks to The Robertson Trust for their generous support, the exhibition will premiere at The Tolbooth Gallery, Stirling, from 13 November to 23 December. A small preview selection of photographs from the forthcoming Tolbooth exhibition is now on display at the Barracks Conference Centre until 25 September.

A selected preview of the work will also be on display in Forth Valley Royal Hospital Atrium from 2-7 October.

Find out more about the exhibition [here](#)

Thriving During Seasonal Transitions from Summer to Autumn



As the seasons shift, the world around us changes, days become shorter, temperatures drop, and our routines are often disrupted. For many, these transitions can bring about feelings of discomfort, fatigue, or even anxiety. But seasonal changes don't have to throw us off balance. We can not only adapt but thrive during these shifts.

To support the transition from summer to autumn, households can implement various strategies to enhance resilience and well-being. Here are some practical tips:

- **Physical Activity** Staying active is crucial, especially when colder weather tempts us to stay indoors. Physical activity releases endorphins, which improve mood and help combat the lethargy that often comes with seasonal changes. Consider outdoor activities like hiking or walking, or explore indoor fitness options such as Pilates, dance, or strength training.
- **Establish Seasonal Routines** Adapting your routine to align with the season can bring a sense of control and consistency. For example, incorporating more indoor activities like reading, journaling, or practicing yoga can provide comfort. These practices not only help in adapting to the changing season but also contribute to overall health and wellness during the transition.
- [Adjust Your Wardrobe: Pack away summer clothes and bring out cosy autumn attire.](#) Gradually **layer your wardrobe** to accommodate fluctuating temperatures.
- [Nourish Your Body: Incorporate seasonal foods like pumpkins and apples into your diet.](#) and root vegetables into your meals to nourish your body for cooler months.

- **Build a Support Network** Humans are social creatures, and seasonal changes can sometimes lead to isolation. Stay connected with family, friends, or communities, even if it means engaging virtually. Sharing your experiences or simply enjoying the company of loved ones can lift your spirits and remind you that you're not facing these transitions alone.

By combining **practical home preparation, making lifestyle adjustments, and emotional resilience practices**, households can transition smoothly from summer to autumn. This holistic approach not only enhances comfort and safety but also supports mental well-being, helping families thrive during the seasonal shift.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities



Open Studios Stirlingshire





What? Open Studios Stirlingshire 2026 is an opportunity to visit artists and makers in their studios across rural Stirlingshire. Visitors can see where work is created, watch demonstrations, meet artists, and purchase artwork directly from the makers.

Where?

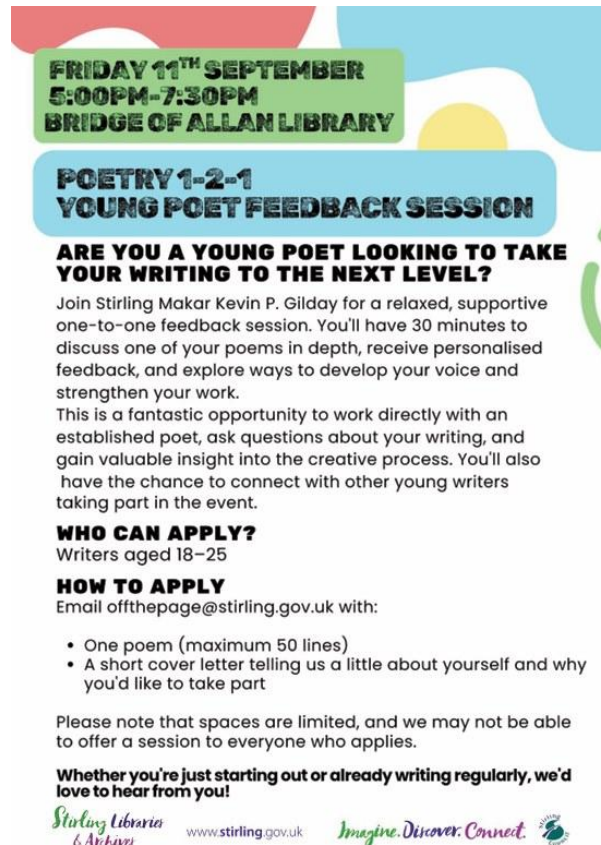
At participating artists' and makers' studios and venues throughout rural Stirlingshire. Full artist profiles, locations, and opening times are available through the Open Studios Stirlingshire programme.

When? Saturday 19th September to Sunday 27th September 2026

You can find out more [here](#)

Download the full programme [here](#)

Stirling Library



FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
5:00PM-7:30PM
BRIDGE OF ALLAN LIBRARY

POETRY 1-2-1
YOUNG POET FEEDBACK SESSION

ARE YOU A YOUNG POET LOOKING TO TAKE YOUR WRITING TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

Join Stirling Makar Kevin P. Gilday for a relaxed, supportive one-to-one feedback session. You'll have 30 minutes to discuss one of your poems in depth, receive personalised feedback, and explore ways to develop your voice and strengthen your work.

This is a fantastic opportunity to work directly with an established poet, ask questions about your writing, and gain valuable insight into the creative process. You'll also have the chance to connect with other young writers taking part in the event.

WHO CAN APPLY?
Writers aged 18-25

HOW TO APPLY
Email offthepage@stirling.gov.uk with:

- One poem (maximum 50 lines)
- A short cover letter telling us a little about yourself and why you'd like to take part

Please note that spaces are limited, and we may not be able to offer a session to everyone who applies.

Whether you're just starting out or already writing regularly, we'd love to hear from you!

Stirling Libraries & Archives www.stirling.gov.uk *Imagine. Discover. Connect.*

Email offthepage@stirling.gov.uk with:

- One poem (maximum 50 lines)
- A short cover letter telling us a little about yourself and why you'd like to take part
- Please note that spaces are limited, and a session might not be available to everyone who applies.

Free October Activity for S1 - S6



Gig In A Week Dates: Mon 12th Oct to Fri 16th Oct

Times: Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm & Fri 1:30pm-8pm

Price: FREE

Ever wanted to be in a band, write your own songs, perform live or find out what goes on behind the scenes at gigs?

Gig In A Week is a brand new free music project for young people in S1–S6, taking place at Tolbooth.

Over five days you'll: Form bands and make music with other young musicians; Write and rehearse original songs; Learn about live sound, lighting and stagecraft; Explore gig promotion, photography and band image; Enhance your skills as a musician beyond live performance; and Put on a real youth-led gig at the end of the week

The workshop will run Mon 12th Oct to Thurs 15th Oct 10am-4pm and Fri 16th Oct 1:30pm-8pm at Tolbooth. Spaces are free but limited so sign up is essential. Suitable for young people in S1-S6.



To sign up to Gig in a week or Pump up the Jam, head over to the main Tolbooth website [here](#)

Coalfield Regeneration Trust Free Football P2 - P7



Football at Bannockburn High School Astro

Coalfield Regeneration Trust (CRT) is delighted to continue its football sessions at Bannockburn High School Astro and welcomes both returning and new participants. All sessions are free and focus on improving young people's physical health, mental wellbeing, confidence, teamwork, and social connections. CRT understands that financial, geographical, and cultural pressures can sometimes prevent participation in sport, which is why sessions are delivered free of charge without compromising on quality.

All coaches are appropriately qualified, holding recognised National Governing Body coaching qualifications, First Aid certification, and current PVG accreditation. Sessions

encourage creativity, enjoyment, and play while maintaining clear expectations around behaviour, respect, and engagement. Participants are expected to follow the programme's code of conduct, arrive on time, and remain until the end of the session unless a parent or guardian has spoken directly with the coaching team.

What: Free CRT Game On football sessions.

Where: Bannockburn High School Astro.

When: Weekly sessions for Primary 2 to Primary 7 children.

Sign up [here](#)

New timetable from Inspiring Communities

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Inspiring
Communities

What's On

Services, support and community activities
From September 2026

Working alongside people and communities across Stirling to create opportunities, build confidence, reduce isolation and strengthen community life.



Opportunity

Learning, digital support, employability, volunteering and opportunities for families.



Health, Wellbeing and Connection

Friendly groups, peer support, healthy activity, creativity and social connection.



Community Power and Active Citizenship

Volunteering, participation, community voice and opportunities to shape local action.



Building stronger communities through connection, opportunity and shared power.
Working with communities, not doing things to them.

Inspiring Connections, Transforming Lives
Opportunity • Confidence • Connection • Community voice

 The Hub, Raploch Campus, Drip Road, Stirling, FK8 1RD

 01786 272358 |  info@inspiringcommunities.org.uk |  www.inspiringcommunities.org.uk

 @Inspiring_Comms |  @inspiring-comms.bsky.social

Opportunity



Increasing access to meaningful opportunities

Skills, Digital and Employability

Inspiring Digital
Friendly, practical help to build digital confidence, develop skills and get support with devices and online services.
Tuesday, 10am–11am | The Hub

Activate
Employment, training and digital support to help people build confidence and take their next steps.
Mon 1.30pm–3pm | Tue 10am–12pm | Wed 12.30pm–3pm | Fri 10am–1pm | The Hub

Job Club
Support with vacancies, CVs, applications, online job searching and training opportunities.
By appointment

Workshops and Training
Short courses throughout the year, including digital safety, managing money online, Carva, AI, communication skills, First Aid and Food Hygiene.
Dates vary

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)
Online-safety training for parents, carers, teachers, schools and community groups, helping adults keep children and young people safer online.
Dates and locations vary

IGNITE
A two-part confidence-building workshop helping people identify strengths, develop goals and communicate their ideas.
Dates vary

Baby Massage, Inspiring Senses and Messy Play are often offered as a progression. Check social media or contact us for current dates and locations.

Families and Early Years

Twinkle Stars
Art, crafts, songs, play and fun for parents, carers and children under five.
Thursday, 10am–11.30am | The Hub

Stay & Play – Plean
Toys and activities for little ones, with toast, a cuppa and time for grown-ups to meet and chat.
Tuesday, 9.30am–11am | Balfour Centre, Plean

Stay & Play – Cowie
Toys and activities for little ones, with toast, a cuppa and time for grown-ups to meet and chat.
Thursday, 9.30am–11am | Community Use Hall, Cowie

Baby Massage
A calm and nurturing course supporting bonding, relaxation and development through gentle touch and massage.
Dates and locations vary

Inspiring Senses
Sensory sessions encouraging babies and young children to explore sights, sounds, textures and movement.
Dates and locations vary

Messy Play
Hands-on, creative play using colours, textures and safe, messy activities.
Dates and locations vary

Inspiring Connections, Transforming Lives

Local opportunities. Confidence, progression and choice.

The Hub, Raploch Campus, Drip Road, Stirling, FK8 1RD | 01786 272358 | info@inspiringcommunities.org.uk
@Inspiring_Comms | @inspiring-comms.bsky.social

Health, Wellbeing and Connection



Reducing isolation and strengthening wellbeing

Drop-in and Support

Open Access
A welcoming place to use IT, charge a device, work, ask for support or simply pop in for a cuppa.
Monday 1pm–3pm | Tuesday 10am–12pm | Wednesday 12pm–3pm | Friday 10am–1pm | The Hub

H.E.A.L. – Healthy Eating, Active Lifestyle
A friendly group exploring realistic ways to support health, activity and wellbeing.
Monday, 10.30am–11.30am | The Hub

Playlist for Life Help Point
Support to create personalised playlists for people living with dementia and for those who love or care for them.
Monday, 2pm–3pm | The Hub

Inspiring Women Together
A safe and welcoming peer-support space for women aged 18 and over, offering real conversation, connection and mutual support.
Tuesday, 6.30pm–8.30pm | The Hub

Social and Creative Connection

Ukulele Club
Learn to play the ukulele with our friends at Big Noise. No experience is needed and instruments are provided.
Monday, 12.15pm–1pm | The Hub

Inspiring Creations
Bring knitting, crochet, sewing, art, craft or another creative project and enjoy time and space to make. Basic materials are available for beginners and first-time visitors.
Wednesday, 9.30am–11am | The Hub

Community Chorus
An intergenerational singing group delivered with our friends at Big Noise. Everyone is welcome and no singing experience is needed.
Thursday, 12pm–1pm | The Hub

Soup and Social
Free homemade soup, bread, tea and friendly conversation. Everyone is welcome.
Friday, 11.30am–12.30pm | The Hub



Connection is not an add-on to our work; it is one of the ways change happens.

Inspiring Connections, Transforming Lives

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Inspiring Communities

Community Power and Active Citizenship

People shaping the decisions that affect them

Take Part, Volunteer and Connect


Valued Volunteers
 Support for people interested in volunteering, existing volunteers and community peer facilitators.

 Tuesday 10am–11am | Friday 10am–11am | The Hub


Gardening Group
 Intergenerational gardening activity bringing together local primary-school children and community volunteers.

 Wednesday, 12.30pm–2.30pm | Term time | The Hub


History Group
 A friendly group exploring, discussing and sharing the history of the local area.

 Last Tuesday of each month, 11am–12pm | The Hub


Health Issues in the Community (HIIC)
 For anyone interested in improving health and wellbeing in their community. A practical, supportive and discussion-based course exploring the social model of health, health inequalities, power, participation, community voice and community development approaches that help create lasting change.

 Runs in four-week blocks on Tuesday afternoons, usually 12.30pm–2.30pm | The Hub
 Call us for current dates and details.


From Taking Part to Having Influence
 Our groups are not only activities to attend. They create routes for people to build confidence, volunteer, share ideas, shape services, develop leadership and take action on the issues that matter in their communities.

Other Ways to Get Involved

 Volunteer with us
  Become a peer facilitator
  Share ideas about your neighbourhood

 Help shape a group or service
  Take part in local conversations and action
  Work with us as a community partner


 Speak to a member of our team, visit during Open Access or contact info@inspiringcommunities.org.uk


Strong communities are built with people, not for them.
Working with communities, not doing things to them.

Inspiring Connections, Transforming Lives
 The Hub, Raploch Campus, Drip Road, Stirling, FK8 1RD | 01786 272358 | info@inspiringcommunities.org.uk
[@inspiring_Comms](#) | [@inspiring-comms.bsky.social](#) | www.inspiringcommunities.org.uk

Rural Business Forum - The Tourism Levy: Investing in Rural Futures

STEP

RURAL BUSINESS FORUM

The Tourism Levy: Investing in Rural Futures

Hear from experts and policymakers discussing Stirling's new tourism levy and its impact on rural businesses and communities.



Wednesday 23 September
 10.30am -12.30pm
 Aberfoyle Memorial Hall
 Trossachs Road, Aberfoyle, FK8 3SW



Book Now

3 - Poster for Rural Business Forum event on 23rd September.

Wednesday 23rd September, 10:30am-12:30pm, Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

Hear from industry experts and policymakers discussing Stirling's new tourism levy and its impact on rural businesses and communities. Join the Rural Business Forum for a focused and engaging session exploring the Visitor Levy and its implications for Stirling's tourism and hospitality sector. Get practical guidance and resources to help you prepare, followed by an open Q&A session to engage directly with speakers and share your views.

The event concludes with a networking lunch, offering an opportunity to connect with fellow businesses and sector stakeholders.

[Reserve your spot here.](#)

Discover Scotland's Highland Games History



What? Discover Scotland's Highland Games History with Alasdair MacDonald

Join renowned Highland Games historian and researcher Alasdair MacDonald as he explores the story behind one of Scotland's most enduring traditions. Drawing on years of research, he will trace the origins and evolution of the Highland Games, from local clan gatherings to internationally celebrated cultural events.

Where? Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Museum

When? Monday 14th September

2:00pm to 3:00pm

Book your place:

You can book your place via Eventbrite [here](#)

Training and Development / Health and Wellbeing



Health in the Community Short Course



The poster for the 'Health in the Community (HIIC) Short Course' features the Inspiring Communities logo at the top. The title 'Health in the Community (HIIC)' is prominently displayed in a large, bold font, with 'Short Course' in a smaller font below it. A circular inset image shows a group of four people (three women and one man) sitting around a table, engaged in a discussion. The text on the poster describes the course's goals: to build knowledge, confidence, and connections to help create healthier, fairer communities in Stirling. It lists the topics to be explored: the social model of health, health inequalities, power and participation, and community development approaches. The course is open to anyone living or working in Stirling with an interest in improving health and wellbeing. The schedule is Tuesdays, 15 September to 6 October 2026, from 12.30pm to 2.30pm, at the Raploch Hub. Contact information for Alyson is provided: alyson@inspiringcommunities.org.uk and 01786 272358. The poster also includes a quote: 'A 4-week short course with practical learning, friendly discussion and the chance to connect with others. Be part of positive change in your community.' and a footer with the hashtag #HIIC and the Inspiring Communities logo.

Inspiring Communities

Health in the Community (HIIC)

♥ Short Course ♥

Build knowledge, confidence and connections to help create healthier, fairer communities in Stirling.

Through the course, you will explore:

- ♥ The social model of health
- ♥ Health inequalities and what drives them
- ♥ Power, participation and community voice
- ♥ Community development approaches that create change

Open to anyone living or working in Stirling with an interest in improving health and wellbeing in their community.

Tuesdays
15 September – 6 October 2026

12.30pm – 2.30pm

Raploch Hub, Stirling

Open to anyone living or working in Stirling

Interested? Get in touch for more information or to arrange a chat.
alyson@inspiringcommunities.org.uk
01786 272358

A 4-week short course with practical learning, friendly discussion and the chance to connect with others.
Be part of positive change in your community.

Celebrating the difference we make in our communities

#HIIC #CommunityHealth #HealthInequalities #Stirling #InspiringCommunities

What? Inspiring Communities friendly Health Issues in the Community (HIIC) short course is open to anyone living or working in Stirling. Over four relaxed and practical sessions, explore what shapes our health, why health inequalities exist, the importance of community voice and how local people can help create healthier, fairer communities.

No previous experience is needed—just an interest in your community and a willingness to join the conversation.

Where? Raploch Hub, Stirling

When? Tuesdays, 15 September–6 October 2026

12.30pm–2.30pm

For more information or an informal chat

Contact Alyson at alyson@inspiringcommunities.org.uk or call 01786 272358.



Poppy Yarn Bombing Event Stirling Heath and Care Village

We have carried out a series of community yarn bombing events throughout the past 3 years as part of work to improve the outdoor space at Stirling Health Care Village. We have now returned to poppies for Remembrance Day. We had an amazing display in the past years with well over 3000 poppies used. This year we need more purple poppies.

Poppies for November



Anyone can take part, either as a formal community group, a bunch of friends, a group of staff or as an individual contributor. The poppies can be knitted, crocheted, sewn or any other way you would like to make them. Please leave 20cms string on each poppy to enable easy installation.

Completed poppies can be handed in any time up to Friday the 30th October. A box for your poppies can be found at the front of the Green Room at the Village Green communal area near the RVS café in the main Outpatient building or inside the Bellfield Centre entrance at Stirling Health and Care Village.

There are lots of patterns out there for knitting, crocheting or sewing which can be downloaded free of charge if you have access to the internet. If you can't get one this way, or you want more information please get in touch with Judith via email: judit.bognar@nhs.scot



4 - For more information email judit.bognar@nhs.scot

Volunteers

Artlink central

Needs You!

MAKING LIVES BETTER THROUGH ART

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT info@artlinkcentral.org
OR VISIT NUMBER 7, 5-7 UPPER CRAIGS, STIRLING. FK8 2DG

5 - Contact info@artlinkcentral.org for details or pop into see them at 7 Upper Craigs!

Health and Social Care Third Sector Forum - 22/9/26 @10am on Teams

The next Health and Social Care Third Sector Forum of 2026 will be held on Teams at 10am on 22nd September, 2026.

The Forum provides an opportunity for third sector organisations and individuals across Stirling and Clackmannanshire to network and stay informed about current development within Health & Social Care. This meeting sees speakers talking about Alzheimer Scotland, Beatson Cancer Charity, and Creative Scotland. - Arts and Mental Health framework.

To book your place please use Ticket Tailor link below

[Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise \(SVE\) :: Third Sector Forums](#)

Volunteering Matters - The Good Neighbour Project

Volunteering Matters connect volunteers with people who may be isolated, older, or in need of extra support, offering simple acts of help such as shopping, companionship, or a short walk. These small, consistent interactions help individuals feel safer, more connected, and better supported within their communities.

Anyone can refer into this project via **the referral form here:**

<https://forms.volunteero.org/view/3b112c29-4b7d-4e4e-9b6f-07b07497e791>

All Volunteers are fully supported with the flexibility to choose tasks that suit their time, interests and availability. Through their involvement, volunteers build confidence, develop new skills and gain a strong sense of purpose.

For more information contact;

Steph Davidson

Development Worker – RSVP Forth Valley

[07823 413 251](tel:07823413251)

volunteeringmatters.org.uk

Opening Soon Snowdrop Café Bannockburn

A vertical poster for the Snowdrop Café Bannockburn. The background is a soft-focus image of white snowdrops. At the top, the text 'SNOWDROP' is in a large, dark green, serif font, and 'café' is in a smaller, dark green, cursive font. Below this, 'BANNOCKBURN' is written in a dark green, sans-serif font, flanked by two small green leaves. On the left side, there are two logos: a blue square logo for 'Stirling & Falkland Council' and a purple and white logo for 'Stirling & Falklandshire CARERS'. In the center, there are three circular icons: a calendar, a handshake, and a group of people. To the right of these icons, the text 'LAUNCH Thursday 1st October and every Thursday thereafter from 11am-1pm.' is written. Below the handshake icon, it says 'In partnership with Stirling Carers and Bannockburn Sports Hub'. Below the group of people icon, it says 'ALL AGES welcome' with a heart symbol. At the bottom, there is a white box with a green border containing the following text: 'Where :Bluebellwood Park, Park Drive,Bannockburn Stirling FK7 0EN', 'WHAT: Hot drink, biscuits and activities as well as a programme of entertainment. Donations reinvested into Community Cafe.', 'WHO:Everyone is welcome and free to attend,just pop in. We are also actively seeking volunteers to support us', and 'Contact Iain Guthrie for more information on 07859015290 or iain.guthrie@nhs.scot'.

6 - Snowdrop Café Bannockburn opening on the 1st October at the Bannockburn Sports Hub.

Everyone is welcome and free to attend, just pop in !

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.

Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity Fund



Funding for community groups supporting people living with dementia and their unpaid carers.

Age Scotland is offering grants of between £3,000 - £15,000 to community-based organisations across Scotland that support people living with dementia and their unpaid carers. This funding is for activities and programmes taking place 1 April 2027 - 31 March 2028. The Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity (ESGA) Fund helps local groups deliver activities that reduce isolation, improve wellbeing and strengthen community support for people affected by dementia.

Applications for the 2027 funding round are now open.

Find out more about this fund and how to apply: [Encouraging and Supporting Grassroots Activity Fund | Age Scotland](#)

CARES Community Buildings Fund



The CARES Community Buildings Fund is now open and provides grants to help community organisations reduce their building's energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. It supports the installation of renewable technologies such as heat pumps, battery storage and solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, as well as some energy efficiency measures.

This Funding is now open for applications. Additional support from The National Lottery Community Fund, announced recently as part of the programme, is currently being developed and is expected to be available from the end of September. The same application process applies to both Scottish Government and National Lottery funding, so we encourage organisations to apply now rather than wait for the enhanced support to become available.

Deadline: Rolling until October 2026 or when funding is fully allocated

For guidance and further information: [Organisation fund eligibility check - Local Energy Scotland](#)

Leslie Sell Charitable Trust - Peter Sell Award



This fund which widens engagement and involvement in Scouting and Guiding – in particular, welcome applications that will encourage people to engage with scouting or guiding who have not previously done so.

They also look for projects that will have a legacy beyond the initial expenditure of the grant e.g. through a focus and engagement in environmental projects or by encouraging engagement of people in such projects, some of whom may then remain involved in the long term.

The Peter Sell Annual Award will cover something different to the normal range of Grants made by The Leslie Sell Charitable Trust.

Deadline: 14 September 2026

For more information and how to apply: [The Peter Sell Award – LSCT](#)

Forth Valley Climate Action Hub - Community Active Travel Accelerator Grant



Community Active Travel Accelerator Grants help communities in Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling make walking, wheeling, and cycling more accessible, inclusive, and appealing for everyday journeys.

First Steps grants are available to groups to explore the opportunities and challenges of community-led active travel for the first time.

Next Steps grants are available to groups that are ready to test their ideas and build on existing work to increase the number of everyday active travel journeys made in their community.

Funding is available for community-led projects that identify barriers to active travel, gather evidence, co-design solutions, and test practical initiatives that encourage low-carbon travel and support climate action. Funding can support engagement activities, campaigns, led walks or rides, place planning, e-bike initiatives and more.

Fund award sizes: Minimum:£500. Maximum:£3,000.

Applications will be reviewed monthly up until 30th October 2026, but the grant may close sooner to new applications depending on demand.

For more information: [Climate – FEL Scotland](#)

Small Eco Awards



The climate and nature emergency affects us all. But local action can make a real difference. This Fund funds projects that have environmental sustainability as their main and meet at least one of their priorities:

- help people connect with and care for nature in their area
- make a positive difference to the environment
- help people tackle pollution in their communities

For more information and how to apply: [How to apply | The National Lottery Community Fund](#)

Launch of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund – 2026-2027 (Year 6)

SVE and CTSI are pleased to announce the launch of the Communities Mental Health and Well-being Fund for Adults – Years 6, with applications opening on 9th September and

closing on 7th October 2026. This vital Fund continues to support grassroots community groups and third sector organisations across Scotland to promote and improve the mental health and well-being of adults. In recognition of the long-term impact community-based support can make, this year's Fund will offer the opportunity for 1-year small funding grants of up to £4,000. In order to make best use of the funds available, SVE and CTSI have agreed to pull together their funding and create one fund that organisations working in Stirling or Clacks can apply for. This means organisations can only put in one application whether working in Stirling, Clacks or both areas.

The Fund aimed at improving sustainability and reducing funding uncertainty for third sector organisations. Those organisations awarded two-year funding last year will receive the second-year funding subject to satisfactory first year evaluations. They will not however be eligible to apply for an award in this round.

Full application guidance and eligibility criteria will be made available ahead of the launch. Information pre-launch sessions on Tuesday 25th August 2026 at;

- The Breakfast Club, Callander Kirk, Callander from 930am – 1130am and
- CTSI at Muckhart Funders Fayre, Coronation Hall, Muckhart from 930am – 1130am.
- A detailed guidance briefing for applicants will be held on 9th September from 10am – 2pm at Hawkhill Community Centre, 132 Hillcrest Drive , Alloa FK10 1SB.

Members are free to attend either session.

For more information, please contact Tracey traceynicholson@sventerprise.org.uk or Brian brian.weaver@ctsi.org.uk

Consultations



Legal aid reform

The Scottish Government is consulting on a new Legal Aid (Scotland) Bill to modernise the legal aid system and create a simpler, more sustainable and user-focused framework for publicly funded legal assistance. While Scotland's legal aid system remains broad in scope and demand-led, concerns have been raised about accessibility, complexity, sustainability and the system's ability to respond to changing need.

You can take part in the consultation [here](#)

Closes 13th Oct 2026

Ending student tenancies in purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA)

This consultation seeks views on the specific circumstances under which student tenants will be able to end a student residential tenancy – purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA), the evidence required to support a request to end a tenancy and the process which should be followed.

You can take part in the consultation [here](#)

Closes 22nd Oct 2026

[Restricting Mobile Phones in Scottish Schools Consultation](#)

The Scottish Government have launched the 'Restricting mobile phones in Scotland's schools' consultation. This consultation seeks views and opinions on: the extent and scope of restrictions on mobile phones in schools, the impact of restricting use of mobile phones in schools, and what exemptions should apply to restrictions on mobile phones in schools.

Complete the survey [here](#)

[Your Stirling, Your Say: Early Learning and Childcare Consultation](#)



To maintain the quality of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) provision, we want to hear from you about what is working and explore whether other ELC delivery models would suit families' needs, as well as address the challenges that we are currently facing. Your feedback will help inform a review of ELC service delivery.

If you have any questions about the survey you can email us on insights@stirling.gov.uk

You can take part in the consultation [here](#)

Closes 11th September

[Have your say on the future of Gaelic in Stirling](#)

Stirling Council recognises that Gaelic is part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and cultural life and continues to support the growth of Gaelic across our communities. People across Stirling are being encouraged to take part in a public consultation that will help shape Stirling Council's Gaelic Language Plan for 2027-2032.

It is possible to respond in either English or Scottish Gaelic.

You can find the survey [here](#)

Taxi Fare Review 2026

Stirling Council reviews taxi fares and charges every 18 months and must consult on any proposals to change the taxi fare tariff.

You can find the proposal and a link to the survey for comments [here](#)

Closes 7th of October

Young People's Experience of the Food Environment in Scotland



Are you aged 11-18 and live in Scotland? We want to hear from you. Food Standards Scotland, Public Health Scotland and Young Scot are inviting young people to share their experiences of buying food and drink when out and about or ordering takeaway. Your feedback will help us better understand the factors that influence food choices and inform future work to create a healthier food environment in Scotland.

Young Scot survey link - <https://surveys.young.scot/s/B0GEJW/>

Nicotine Use and Mental Health survey



ASH Scotland is developing new resources to better support people who use nicotine products with their mental health. To ensure these resources are relevant and genuinely helpful, we would really value hearing directly from you. The survey, which should take around 10 minutes to complete, is open to anyone who uses nicotine in any format (smoking, nicotine pouches, vaping etc). This is not just for young people.

Complete the survey [here](#)

Help Shape Stirling's Next Volunteering Action Plan



As Stirling's current Volunteering Action Plan approaches the end of its cycle, we are beginning an exciting new phase, shaping what comes next. Before developing a new plan, we want to take the time to listen, reflect and truly understand what volunteering looks like across Stirling today.

- Volunteers: Share your experience, what inspired you to get involved, what keeps you volunteering, and what could make it even better. **Volunteering Survey** [here](#)
- Organisations: Tell us about your approach to volunteering, what's working well, the challenges you face, and where support or collaboration could help. **Organisation Survey** [here](#)
- Case Studies: Help bring volunteering to life by sharing real stories and examples from across Stirling. **Case Study form** [here](#)

Dumyat Survey

If you use the natural spaces around Dumyat, your views are important to global research.

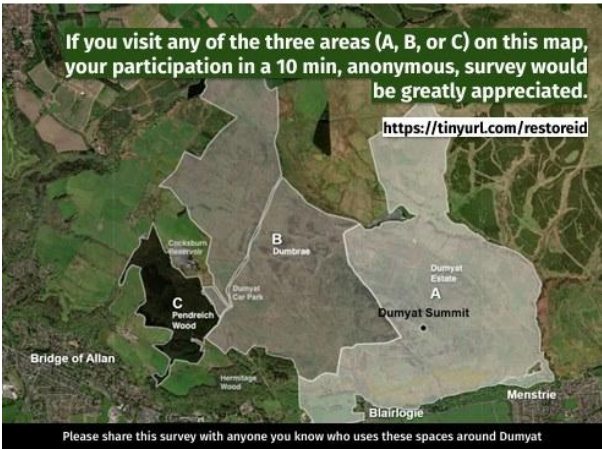
A team at the University of Stirling are conducting a study to better understand how people interact with forests and land in Stirling, and how this connects to their health, wellbeing, and ways of making a living.

Every participant will have the chance to win one of three shopping vouchers worth £50 to thank them for their time.



If you visit any of the three areas (A, B, or C) on this map, your participation in a 10 min, anonymous, survey would be greatly appreciated.

<https://tinyurl.com/restoreid>



Please share this survey with anyone you know who uses these spaces around Dumyat

If you use the natural spaces around Dumyat, your views are important to global research. A team at the University of Stirling are conducting a study to better understand how people interact with forests and land in Stirling, and how this connects to their health, wellbeing, and ways of making a living. If you visit any of the areas on this map, your participation in a 10-minute survey would be greatly appreciated. Every participant will have the chance to win one of three shopping vouchers worth £50 to thank them for their time.

Complete the survey [here](#)

Contact us



Communitydevelopment@stirling.gov.uk

01786 233076

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