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Welcome to the first e-Bulletin of the autumn season, and a happy September holiday weekend to our readers.

We've a wide range of topics this issue, and we're sure you'll find something of interest or concern to your organisation.

Please note, our **AGM** is coming up this month (24th September – details in 'Group News').

Comments and suggestions for the [website](#) and e-Bulletin are welcome. Emails to: lee.stevenson@cvvs-stirling.org.uk or donald.saunders@cvvs-stirling.org.uk

Deadline for contributions is the previous Monday. If you have any queries, please call 01786 469916 and ask for Lee or Donald.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

'Coffee Link'

The Albert Halls, Lesser Hall, Stirling
Monday, 8th September
10am - 12.30pm



Coffee Link is a new venture by Artlink Central's Fundraising Committee. All are welcome to this fundraising event, where you can find out more about the work of the charity.

Artlink Central was founded in the belief that involvement in the arts is life-enhancing and should be available to all. For further information, visit their website: www.artlinkcentral.org

Rocktalk Coffee Morning

Stirling Baptist Church, Murray Place, Stirling
Saturday, 20th September, 10 am – 1 pm

Rocktalk, Stirling's talking newspaper for the blind and visually impaired, is holding a Coffee Morning to raise funds to provide audio tapes and CD's free of charge for blind and visually impaired people in the Stirling area. Home baking and free-trade tea and coffee will be served.

John Logie Baird Awards

The **John Logie Baird Awards Programme 2008** is designed to stimulate and celebrate innovation in Scotland.

Entry into the national awards scheme gives the opportunity to compete for a coveted John Logie Baird Award for Innovation, as well as a winner's support package valued at approximately £20,000 including intensive PR coverage.

But the programme is not just about awards - even at the early stages the programme can give access to a network of support and development tools & workshops that could help you take your innovation to the next level.

The programme is free to enter, has six award categories -

- Knowledge Transfer Champion
- Impact Through Innovation
- Achievement in Innovation
- Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Young Inventor
- **Public and Third Sector**

and is open to commercial businesses, public and **Third sector organisations**, individual innovators or inventors, and university collaborations. Find out more about each of the categories, register and apply online at www.johnlogiebairdawards.co.uk
Deadline for applications is 15th September.

Epilepsy Workshops

CVS Offices, Primrose Street, Alloa
Tuesday, 30th September
11am – 1 pm

Epilepsy Connections are running a series of six informal workshops covering a range of topics (*'epilepsy myths & facts,' 'coping with stress,' 'living with long-term medication'* etc.) The workshops are for people suffering from epilepsy and for carers and families. For details, call Gill or Wendy on 01324 692030.

Refresh Lunchtime Seminars

The Rock Centre, 1st Floor, 61- 63 Murray Place, Stirling
1 pm for snacks and tea /coffee. 1.10pm talk, followed by Q&A. Finish by 1.50pm
Cost: £2 for refreshments

- **Child Protection**
Thursday, 4th October

Are you doing it right? Bill Eadie, Head of Children's Service Support & Development, Stirling Council asks:



- *Is your Child Protection policy & procedure fit for purpose?*
- *Does it comply with current best practice?*
- *Are there other things you could be doing to keep children safe?*
- *A MUST for anyone working with children, young people or vulnerable adults.*

▪ **Insights into Dementia**

Thursday, 1st November

- *Who Gets It? How to recognise it, how to avoid it and what to do if it's you or someone you care about.*

Prof. June Andrews, Director of Stirling University's Dementia Services Development Centre.

Download a copy of the seminar [presentation](#) in pdf format. If you would like to receive a copy of either seminar in mp3 audio format please email admin@rockcommunityproject.org.uk

To book: places are limited and numbers are required for catering, so please ring 01786 462647 or email refresh@rockcommunityproject.org.uk

LEADER Open Meeting

Stirling Municipal Buildings, Corn Exchange Road
 Saturday, 6th October
 1 – 3 pm (complimentary lunch from 12.30)



This is an all-area community information and consultation event about the **new LEADER Programme**, which will support community development projects in rural Stirling, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, and part of West Dunbartonshire.

If you plan to attend, you should register online at www.fvl.org.uk. For more information, email sara@fvl.org.uk

Parenting Across Scotland Conference

Parents as Partners:

Reaching families, engaging parents

28th October, Edinburgh Corn Exchange

Delegate rate £100 (some reduced rate places available).



Being a parent is the most important job anyone ever does in their lives – it is also the hardest. This is why it's crucial parents get the support they need when they need it.

Increasingly, prevention and early intervention approaches are being heralded as the way forward. How can services ensure that parents get help early and prevent problems turning into crises?

This conference is an unmissable event for local authority, NHS and **voluntary sector** staff working with children and families.

This conference will give delegates the chance to update themselves on recent research on parental attitudes, hear about examples of successful practice and about how the Scottish Government plans to support parents.

To reserve a place, or for further information, email pas@children1st.org.uk

Addressing the Issues

Violence Against Women Conference

Scottish Police College, Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine

Tuesday 21st October

FREE

This conference is brought to you by the **Forth Valley Domestic Abuse Training Consortium** and aims to help organisations respond to the Scottish Government's Violence against Women agenda and the priorities outlined in the recently published **National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan**. Come along and find out how this affects you and what you as a service provider/organisation can do to fulfil your responsibilities.

The conference will include presentations by keynote speakers including Yvonne Strachan, Head of the Scottish Government's Equality Unit, and there will be an opportunity to attend two facilitated discussion groups from a range of options, followed by a closing plenary session.

The conference is aimed at Senior Managers and professionals from **public and voluntary organisations**. Attendance at the conference should encourage you to -

- review current service provision in line with the Scottish Government's 4 P's (Protection, Provision, Prevention through Education and Participation)
- consider whether or not changes are required to the way you deliver services to clients affected by violence or abuse (including your own employees)

Thanks to funding from the Scottish Government, places on this conference are free to delegates, but pre-booking is essential. Booking forms and further information are available from Francine Orr, Policy Officer, Clackmannanshire Council, Chief Executives Services, Greenfield, Alloa, FK10 2AD, e-mail Forr@clacks.gov.uk . Forms should be returned **no later than 30th September**.

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TRAINING & RESOURCES

SCVO Briefing on Single Outcome Agreements

SCVO have produced a briefing which reviews the Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) from 29 out of Scotland's 32 local authorities. The study looks at the quality and extent of engagement and



consultation of the voluntary sector in producing the SOAs, and a sense of the extent to which the sector is involved in delivering outcomes.

The report finds that 59% of respondents do not believe that the SOA specifies extending or consolidating the role of voluntary organisations in delivering public services.

It also highlights that 52% of respondents rate that the quality and extent of voluntary sector engagement in the SOA as 'definitely weak'.

The briefing is available to download from www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/PolicyAndParliament/ViewPolicyInformation.aspx?al=t&from=h&Info=1729&CatID=10

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VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT

Stirling Carers Centre Posts

Stirling Carers Centre is wishing to recruit two enthusiastic people to expand the support of Carers in our area.

- **Health Liaison Officer** (Ref: 810)
30 hours per week, £17,100 pa
(initially up to 1 year appointment)

We are looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic person who can engage directly with Carers and professionals. This exciting new post, funded initially for a one-year pilot will help implement the Carer Information Strategy across Forth Valley.

This varied post focuses on working in partnership with Carers, professionals and staff in a hospital setting to provide relevant information and support to Carers. You will be client focused, have experience of Carers' issues and also of working in a multi-agency setting.

- **Young Carers Officer** (Ref: 910)
35 hours per week, AP2 -£18,783 – AP3 £19,926 pa
(up to 2 years contract with possibility of an extension)

Do you believe in the potential of young people? We are looking for a highly motivated and dynamic person who can engage directly with young people.

This service is a key area of support to Young Carers aged 7-18 yrs across Stirling Council area. You will offer a range of developmental activities at the weekly groups, 1:1 support, liaise with local and national partners to identify hidden Young Carers and raise awareness of Young Carers' issues in a range of settings.

Application packs for both posts can be accessed through our website www.carers.org/stirling (go to 'Publications'); email us for a pack at info@stirlingcarers.co.uk or contact the Centre on 01786 447003.
Closing date: 1st post 17 September (both posts).

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POLICY & PLANNING

'Halls for All' Campaign Prompts Research

The Scottish Government has commissioned a major new research programme into the current state of community buildings in rural Scotland.

This initiative is in response to the SCVO's **Halls for All** campaign, which in June last year petitioned the Scottish Government to give greater support for village halls and other community buildings. The petition also called for comprehensive research to establish a baseline of information about these buildings, to inform the debate on the best ways of supporting them. In the Government's own words -

"There are an estimated 3,000 community owned or managed buildings across Scotland which are key facilities for the location and delivery of services. Up to 80% of these may be in rural areas, where they are particularly important as a hub for social and cultural life in a community."

"Currently, there is a lack of comprehensive and reliable information about the location, condition and use of these buildings ... Their role is often undervalued, yet many communities depend upon these sites for accessing services and to make possible thriving and sustainable communities. "

As part of the Halls for All Campaign, a **Village Halls Summit** was held in February 2008. 250 people attended the successful event (c.200 from local community groups), - the full report can be accessed at www.scvo.org.uk/Images/Publications/

The Village Hall research programme will be jointly managed by SCVO, and carried out by a team from the Scottish Agricultural College. Results will be published in the autumn.

>>>>STOP PRESS: In what has been described as a 'smash and grab' raid on funding for village halls and other community facilities, NFU Scotland (the National Farmers Union) is seeking to remove £39.5 million from the £800 million Rural Priorities budget agreed last year. Around £32 million of the Rural Priorities funding is available for Community Facilities including village halls.

Describing the proposal as *"breathtakingly inappropriate,"* SCVO's Head of Rural Policy Norman MacAskill said, *"We have been campaigning hard for increased village halls funding for years, and we are deeply concerned at the prospect of seeing £40 million taken away from the funding stream that is set to provide much-needed cash for communities to rebuild and refurbish their community buildings."*

Watch this space.

FUNDING

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund

The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund is was established primarily to aid research into learning disability and to aid the care and relief of those affected by learning disability. It does this by making grants to voluntary organisations (including schools and Parent Teacher Associations) working in this field.



Under 'learning disability' the Trust deals with those conditions generally referred to as **severe learning difficulties**, together with **autism**. Learning disability, thus defined, is a priority for funding projects involving both adults and children. (Note: they do not offer grants for research into, or care of those, with mental illness or dyslexia.)

Grants are from £250 and the next **deadline for applications is 1st October 2008**.
www.bailythomas.org.uk/

Women's Fund For Scotland

The **Scottish Community Foundation** aims to help Scotland's communities become stronger, believing that stronger communities will be more successful communities, with a better quality of life for everyone.

They believe that women play a crucial role in creating and sustaining strong communities, but that there are often barriers which prevent their participation or engagement with local opportunities, or stop them fulfilling their potential to play a role within the broader community.

The Women's Fund for Scotland seeks to address these barriers at a local level. Grants of up to £5,000 are available to:

- Organisations predominantly run by and for women
- Organisations with women-only projects, which seek to support and empower women.

Applicants must be constituted not-for-profit groups, with an annual income of under £250,000. To find out more, go to www.scottishcommunityfoundation.com
Deadline for applications is 12th December.

GROUP NEWS

CVS Stirling AGM

John Player Building, STEP, Stirling
Wednesday, 24th September
11am Registration

CVS Stirling is holding its Annual General Meeting on the above date. The guest speaker will be Stirling's Provost **Fergus Wood**. If you would like to come along, please contact Linda on 01786 469916 to confirm attendance.

Merger Heralds New Organisation

Family Mediation Scotland and Relate Scotland have merged to form **Relationships Scotland**.



This means that now relationship counselling, mediation and use of the contact centre will all come under the one organisation.

Suzie Mosson (*left*) has been engaged as a Project Worker for Relationship Scotland on a part time basis. She will work with couples where domestic abuse has been identified, supporting women to make choices and men to make changes.

She says, "I am excited by this and the genuine impact the service can have in making women & children safe. This is not intended to replace or compete with the excellent existing arrangements in place outwith our service, but complement them."

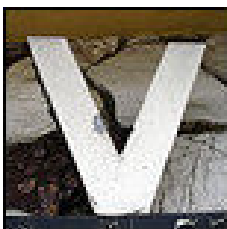
"If your relationship is troubling you because you don't feel safe, you want to change the way you behave with your partner or you belong to a group who might be interested in a free workshop please telephone me on 07920071693 or email smosso10@caledonian.ac.uk. I will get back to you if I am out of the office."

You don't have to be married to attend relationship counselling. You can attend as a single person, as a couple, or perhaps just one partner wishes to attend. Same sex couples are welcome. Our main office is located in Falkirk but sessions are available in Camelon, Alloa and Stirling. Phone 01324 670067 for an appointment.

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OTHER NEWS

Website for Young Volunteers



Young volunteers in Stirling are reminded that since September last year they have a dedicated Bebo website.

The site has many features, including a Friends page, a White Board and Blogs, as well as links for volunteering opportunities. It's a good way to profile yourself, connect with other young volunteers in the area, and find out what's going on. Check it out at www.bebo.com/VolunteerS28

'Working Towards' – Support for User-Led Services

Working Towards is a new community development project run by **Outside the Box**. It will support people across Scotland to develop new services that are led by the people who are going to be using them. *This will give people more choices in the types of services they get, and let them have more choice in their lives.*



"...too many in Scotland are marginalised and disadvantaged"

The project is part-funded through the Big Lottery Fund's Supporting 21st Century Life programme. The main development project will run for 4 years, from 2008 to 2012.

Outside the Box will give community development support to people and groups who have got ideas about what services would help them, or others like them. The project will include good practice examples and advice on how to work alongside user-led services, and on how this can give people more choice and control.

Outside the Box was set up in the belief that too many people in Scotland are marginalised and disadvantaged because of age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, disability, or because they live in poverty or in an area which has few resources.

They provide training, advice and on-going assistance to people from communities in Scotland who want to make changes. They work with:

- groups that are led by disabled or older people
- groups that support people who are living with the consequences of poverty or social isolation
- groups which are led by, or are supporting, people who are also experiencing additional barriers, for example because of age, ethnicity, gender or sexuality
- individual people, families, friends and other informal carers.

Practical support is offered for people to learn the types of skills that are important both for establishing new ventures and for sustaining them. For more information go to www.workingtowards.org

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GROUPS IN FOCUS: Heart to Heart

Heart to Heart is a charity that offers confidential support to men and women affected by divorce or separation.



Anyone who has been through – or knows someone affected by – separation or divorce, will understand how traumatic relationship breakdowns can be. Depression – anger – hurt – bitterness – loneliness ... the emotional cost can seem overwhelming.

Heart to Heart aims to provide a safe, supportive environment in which issues can be faced and discussed. Its threefold purpose is: to help people understand the past; to restore self-confidence and self-esteem; and to provide training in life skills.

Heart to Heart activities in September 2008:

- ⇒ **Annual General Meeting**
8th September, 7 pm.
St Andrews Church Hall, Leny Road, Callander
- ⇒ a **Display at a Hope 2008** event in the Inchyra Grange Hotel, Grangemouth
10th September
- ⇒ a **Training Weekend** for other organisations
20-21st September

for details of any of the above,
phone 01877 339966 or email
info@hearttoheart.org.uk

Support is offered on both a Group and an Individual basis. **One-to-one support** is given in the form of one-hour listening sessions which allow people to talk about their feelings and their situation with a trained and sympathetic listener.

Group support involves a six-week course of Monday evening meetings, each lasting 2.5 hours (7-9.30pm). Following a meal, there are short talks and discussions on the topic of the week – these include issues like “Communication and Conflict Resolution”, “Forgiveness”, “Moving On”, and many others, all issue relevant to relationship breakdown.

The current series of meetings runs from 3rd September to 8th October – anyone interested should register (contact details below).

Complementing these sessions, Heart to Heart has a range of book and audio resources available for loan.

Given the number of people affected, directly or indirectly, by separation and divorce, it seems extraordinary that this Callander-based charity is the only organisation in Scotland offering its special kind of valuable support. But this may be set to change – this month, (20-21st September) Heart to Heart is holding the first of a series of Training Events for other organisations looking to offer the same kind of service.

Heart to Heart Contacts:

Lynne Murray, Development Coordinator, Room 3, Kirk Hall, South Church Street, Callander FK18 8BN. Telephone: 01877 339966 or 07790 437713. E-mail: info@hearttoheart.org.uk Cathy Scott, Office Administrator, (same address and contact details).

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Council for Voluntary Services - Thriving and Connecting Communities in Stirling

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