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As this is our last eBulletin before the festive season descends, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a thriving New Year. There are undoubted challenges ahead, but the work of the voluntary sector has never been more important and we are confident our members will rise to meet these challenges. Remember, we are here to give help and support in any way we can – please make use of us.

*A special welcome to those who signed up at the Charities Christmas Event. We hope you find CVS membership rewarding.*

CVS Stirling will be closed for two weeks from December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Next eBulletin will be January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Comments and suggestions for the [website](#) and e-Bulletin are welcome.

Emails to: [lee.stevenson@cvS-stirling.org.uk](mailto:lee.stevenson@cvS-stirling.org.uk) or [donald.saunders@cvS-stirling.org.uk](mailto:donald.saunders@cvS-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

### Your Health Rights - a Public Event on the Patients' Rights Bill

Conference Centre, Stirling Royal Infirmary

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2009, 6.30 – 9.00pm

- *Should you have a stronger say in your own health care?*
- *Do you want to be treated with more dignity?*
- *Is your right to privacy being respected?*

These are just some of the questions that the Scottish Government is asking as part of a proposed **Patients' Rights Bill**. To assist in this consultation, NHS Forth Valley will be holding a public event to discuss the proposals and collect your views.

If you are interested in coming along, contact: [yourhealthservice@fvhb.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:yourhealthservice@fvhb.scot.nhs.uk) Tel: 0800 456033.

The Scottish Government's Consultation Document, "*Patients' Right, A Public Consultation on a Patients' Rights Bill for users of the NHS in Scotland*" can be viewed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current> and you can ask questions, submit your views and view submitted responses on this website. If you would like paper copies of the document these are available from *Patients' Rights Consultation, FREEPOST*

NATN452, Mailpoint 1, Healthcare Policy and Strategy Directorate, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 0BR, or e-mail [patientrights@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:patientrights@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Responses to this consultation paper are invited by **Friday, 16 January 2009**.

## Carols and Carillons - Christmas Concert

Dunblane Cathedral, The Cross, Dunblane,  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30pm  
Admission at the door: £5 (£4 Concessions, Children FREE)

**Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers** present their annual Christmas Entertainment: a feast of festive music for all. They will perform Christmas music from through the ages, from traditional Scottish carols to popular French, German and American Christmas melodies. The Ringers will be joined by the 75 singers of **Stirling City Choir**, and there will be lots of scope for audience participation and a chance to join in singing well-known carols.



The performances will be followed by coffee and mincemeat pies in the hall. For more information phone: 01786 825387 or email [handbells@dunblanecathedral.org.uk](mailto:handbells@dunblanecathedral.org.uk)

***Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers comprise three children's and two adult groups - 50 ringers in all.***

## Community Benefits in Public Procurement

Glasgow Opportunities, Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
(see under [SOCIAL ENTERPRISE](#) for details of this FREE event.)

## Voluntary Sector Conference

Raploch Community Campus, Stirling  
Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2009, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

This conference, hosted by Stirling Community Planning Partnership, will consider all aspects our local **Single Outcome Agreement** and its implications for Third Sector funding and service delivery across the Forth Valley area, such as –

- ⇒ **How will it work?**
- ⇒ **What does it mean for Stirling's Voluntary Sector?**
- ⇒ **How will it affect my organisation?**

This is an opportunity for all those involved in the voluntary sector to learn about the SOA, to make their views heard, and to find out how to influence the decisions that will affect them.

If you would like to attend this Conference, please get in touch with CVS Stirling or Volunteer Centre Stirling to notify your interest. A detailed programme will be published nearer the event.

- ⇒ CVS Stirling: Third Floor, Municipal Buildings, 8 Corn Exchange Road, Stirling FK8 2HU. Phone: 01786 469916 Email: [info@cvs-stirling.org.uk](mailto:info@cvs-stirling.org.uk)
- ⇒ Volunteer Centre Stirling: 4 King Street, Stirling FK8 1AY. Phone: 01786 430000 Email [june.brown@volunteerstirling.org.uk](mailto:june.brown@volunteerstirling.org.uk)

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## **TRAINING & RESOURCES**

### **SCVO Courses in January**

The following Short Courses are coming up early next year, and should be of interest to our readers. Look out for booking deadlines!

#### **1. Team Work**

The Albany Centre, 44 Ashley Street, Glasgow, G3 6DS  
21<sup>st</sup> January 2009, 9.30 am – 16.30 pm  
COST: £180

Using an overview of characteristics that help create successful teams, this one day course introduces participants to common problems that can affect how well teams work together and explores ways in which team leaders might address these.

To book, email [stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk](mailto:stacey.anderson@gcvs.org.uk) before 5<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **2. Local Plan Enquiry Seminar**

SCVO, Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6BB  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2009, 1.30 – 4.30 pm  
COST: SCVO Members: £62; Non-member voluntary org.: £95

The Local Plan Enquiry seminar will help prepare people to face a Local Plan Inquiry. This is of particular value to voluntary sector staff who have made representations on behalf of their organisations and would like to know what to expect if asked to participate in a Local Plan Inquiry. Training will be provided by Planning Aid for Scotland.

To book, email [jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk](mailto:jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk) before 12<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **3. Fundraising Fundamentals**

The Albany Centre, 44 Ashley Street, Glasgow, G3 6DS

27<sup>th</sup> January 2009, 9.30am - 4.30 pm

COST: SCVO Member: £190; Non-member voluntary org.: £29

This practical and hands-on two-day course will cover the basics for funding and supporting your organisation. It will deal with: **planning approaches to funders**, **making a case**, and **putting together an effective proposal**. In addition it will look at problems of sustainability, the needs of a variety of funders, where to get information about funder's criteria and guidelines, and how to develop relationships for longer term support.

To book, email [jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk](mailto:jane.baillie@scvo.org.uk) before 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Booking forms for all these courses can be downloaded from [www.scvo.org.uk/DocumentStore/Booking%20Form%20v01.doc](http://www.scvo.org.uk/DocumentStore/Booking%20Form%20v01.doc) More details are available on the SCVO website [www.scvo.org.uk](http://www.scvo.org.uk)

### Free 'Quick Guides'

Renfrewshire Council for Voluntary Services (RCVS) has produced a range of free 'Quick Guides' on various topics for all charities and voluntary organisations.

Each Quick Guide is a short but informative read that will quickly bring you up to speed on subjects such as **fund raising**, **committees**, **constitutions** etc. These Guides are **free** and can be found on the RCVS website at <http://rcvs.synthasite.com>. Alternatively you can call 0141 587 2487 to request a hard copy.

### Charity Technology Exchange



Charity Technology Trust (CTT) in partnership with the not-for-profit technology capacity-building organisation TechSoup, are offering charities a great opportunity to get their hands on donated or discounted technology products from partners such as Microsoft, Symantec and Cisco.

These products include **operating system software**, **server software**, and **security software** and hardware products such as **switches**, **routers**, **wireless equipment** and **firewalls**. Charities have access to a wide array of **educational resources** through the CTX Programme which also helps them best choose, implement, and use the available technology.

In order to participate in the CTX Programme, organisations must meet certain eligibility criteria. In Scotland, this means being registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). (Charitable Housing Associations registered with the Financial Services Authority under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act AND with HM Revenue & Customs confirmed charitable status are also eligible).

To take advantage of it, simply register your organisation on the website, [www.ctxchange.org](http://www.ctxchange.org). If it meets the eligibility criteria, you can go ahead, browse over 170 items, and place an order.

A small administrative fee will be charged for each request to cover the cost of the programme; however, CTX claim that charities will still make savings of around 92-96% on typical rental prices.

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## VOLUNTEERING & EMPLOYMENT

### Wanted: Members for Virtual Network

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Scotland is committed to working in partnership with the public on decision-making, setting policy objectives and developing patient care.



It has an active patient committee called **P3 (Patient Participation in Participation in Practice)**, which has been working on an initiative called **P G Tips** to encourage medical practices to set up their own patient involvement groups. Members of the Virtual Network will receive email updates on P G Tips and be kept in the loop with all the College in Scotland's initiatives relating to patient involvement. A resource of links, case studies and FAQ s are provided as well as updates on the action of P3 and topics under discussion at committee meetings.

*The **Virtual Network** is a pool of patients/members of the general public that will feed in, via email, to how primary care services are delivered through the work of P3 and RCGP Scotland. Members of the Virtual Network, will be regularly furnished with patient-focused information on workshops and conferences and receive regular e-bulletins from the National Association of Patient Participation (NAPP).*

Also, they will be occasionally invited to respond to consultation documents that require a wide patient voice from all major health bodies in Scotland (such as the Scottish Government, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland, SIGN and NHS Education for Scotland). Other opportunities for wider involvement will also be shared with the Network.

Further details can be found on the RCGP Scotland's Patient WebPages via the following link: [http://www.rcgp.org.uk/councils\\_faculties/rcgp\\_scotland/patients\\_p3.aspx](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/councils_faculties/rcgp_scotland/patients_p3.aspx)

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## SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

### Public Contracts Scotland Portal



The Scottish Government has launched its new Public Contracts Scotland Portal: a site where all contracting opportunities can be found, as well as the Government's latest procurement project for promoting and supporting Public Social Partnerships. If you're interested in tendering for any of these opportunities either individually or as part of a consortium, keep an eye on the site as it will be updated on a daily basis. **This portal gives free access to contract opportunities in Scotland**

Browse details of available contracts with Scottish Local Authorities, NHS Scotland, the Scottish Government, Agencies and NDPBs, Higher and Further Education and Emergency Services. You can also register to receive free e-mail alerts. The web address is [www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk](http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk)

### Community Benefits in Public Procurement

Glasgow Opportunities, George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009, 10am -12.30pm

FREE

As part of the Aspire to Enterprise programme, this seminar will provide information and improve understanding of the opportunities for social enterprises to encourage and respond to **community benefit** (sometimes called *social clauses*) in public procurement.

'**Community Benefits**' in this context are *contractual requirements which deliver wider social benefit within the contract* - in particular requirements in relation to targeted recruitment, training and employment outcomes.

The event will examine the legal basis for the use of community benefit clauses, discuss the issues of cost and fairness, and suggest how the supply side can be strengthened by encouragement from Housing Associations and public bodies.

Types of community benefit clauses and good practice examples will be presented. The potential benefits of using community benefits in procurement processes will be highlighted, as well as how they can be encouraged and applied. Case studies will be presented and the experience of delegates invited.

If you would like to put your name down for this event next year, email [jayne.chappell@socialfirms.org.uk](mailto:jayne.chappell@socialfirms.org.uk) or book online at [www.aspiretoenterprise.org.uk/seminar.asp](http://www.aspiretoenterprise.org.uk/seminar.asp)

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## FUNDING

### BIG Website Redesigned



The new Big Lottery Fund website, redesigned to be easier to use and more accessible, has gone live after months of research and development. Information has been rewritten to make it easier to get the facts you need more quickly.

Additional applications have been developed to make the grant application process easier and customer service more effective, and there is a user guide (on the homepage) to highlight the main changes to the site. Over the coming weeks there will be further modifications, so keep an eye out for developments on [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/)

### The Cattanach Charitable Trust

*'Helping young children to grasp the future'*

When the Cattanach Trust was established in 1992, it dealt with a very wide variety of funding appeals, growing in numbers as the Trust became well known. In the 90's they decided to adopt a more focused, 'themed' approach so as to have a greater impact on a smaller number of appeals.

The first themes adopted were homelessness and disability, followed by community deprivation. But the current theme, adopted last year and to remain in place until 2012, targets organisations and projects that offer hope of a better life to children. In their own words:

*"The Cattanach Trust believes that helping young children and improving their well-being can bring about a healthier and happier community..."*

*"By targeting its grants in this way, the Trust means to address the needs of young children living in difficult and deprived circumstances, and to help them make the most of their talents and opportunities."*

#### **So who can apply?**

The Trust will make grants to organisations working with children, preferably under 10 years of age. Projects that link to the children's parents and families will be given preference, and applications focused on parents of young children will be considered if the needs of the children are also involved.

*The Trust prefers to award a grant that makes a big difference to a small project, rather than one that makes a small difference to a big project.*

Funding is currently for UK or Scottish charities whose work is in Scotland, though this may be extended in future to include overseas work.

Grants usually range from £2-10K. They are initially for one year (funding may be extended) and include revenue and capital funding, project and core funding.

### **Applying**

The Trust prefers online applications, though the form can also be downloaded. To apply, check your eligibility, or find out more about the Trust, visit [www.cattanach.org.uk](http://www.cattanach.org.uk)

Applications should be in 6 weeks before the quarterly Trustees' meeting: next deadline is **Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009** (for the March meeting).

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## **GROUP NEWS**

### **Sunlite Café Christmas Menu**

The Cowane Centre, 69 Cowane Street, Stirling  
Tuesday – Friday, 12 – 2.30 pm

The Sunlite Café's Christmas Lunch Menu is still available - **until 19<sup>th</sup> December**. Groups are welcome, and bookings are now being taken. Just phone 01786 475459 to see what's on offer and to pre-order.

### **18 Grand Years**

Stirlingshire's most musical fundraisers, the **Grand Boys**, have handed over around a quarter of a million pounds to worthy causes since they began strumming for charity in the 1980's. The money has been raised through their charity shop in Bannockburn, as well as gigs by the band and various functions.

*Last month, they presented a total £11,000 to the following charities: PKU (Yorkhill), Leukemia (Yorkhill), Cystic Fibrosis (Yorkhill), Down's Syndrome (Scotland), Breast Cancer Care (Scotland), Forth Valley Disability Sports, Strathcarron Hospice, Ward 16 Stirling Royal Infirmary, Macmillan Nurses, St Mary's Primary School, Bannockburn Primary School, SSC and five local nursing homes.*

The Grand Boys play a wide range of music: Irish and Scottish Folk, C & W, Rock 'n Roll and 'some modern stuff.' Visit their website at [www.thegrandboys.co.uk](http://www.thegrandboys.co.uk) for details of upcoming events. They are available for bookings: email [grandboys@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grandboys@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 01786 812635.

### **Local History Society's Grant Boost**

Stirling Local History Society, which promotes the enjoyment of the history and culture of Stirling, has received a **£1,200 Awards for All grant**. This will enable the group to purchase a variety of equipment to benefit a wider section of the community, enabling

them use up-to-date technology to promote the historic and cultural interests of the inhabitants of Stirling.

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## OTHER NEWS

The **2008 Charities Christmas Event** was held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> November and, despite the credit crunch and the changed opening hours, enjoyed a decent turnout. Congratulations to everyone who took part – we hope you found it rewarding. *(Some groups have still to let us know how much they raised – please do so as soon as possible so we can finalise our figures – thanks.)*

On the principle that ‘a picture says more than a hundred words’ we’ve put together a collage of the day, which gives some idea of the spirit of the occasion:



Winner of the Christmas Hamper raffle (drawn on 8/12/08) was the charity **Home-start Stirling**. Congratulations to them!



*Lee from CVS Stirling presents Dianne Jackson of Home-start with the prize hamper.*

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