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AND SO the countdown is on for the big Christmas Charities Event on the 27th. If you're taking part (and we hope you are) – good luck on the day!

We're asking everyone to help publicise the Event in every way possible: word of mouth, emails, bulletins, newsletters, websites ... anything else you can think of. We're sending out a poster along with this e-Bulletin, which we hope you will display - we can supply more copies if required.

Let's make this year's Event the best ever!

Comments and suggestions for the website and e-Bulletin are welcome. Emails to: lee.stevenson@cvs-stirling.org.uk or 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

Art Off the Rock

Albert Halls, Stirling
Saturday, 15th November
Tickets £20



→ 6.00 pm: complimentary wine & canapés and viewing → 7.15 pm: postcard sale begins → 7.45 pm: auction begins

Tomorrow Artlink Central holds its biennial Auction of contemporary art: **Art Off The Rock**. This is a memorable social evening, and one of Scotland's leading fundraising events for community arts.

Supported by internationally renowned artists including Barbara Rae, John Knox, Phillip Reeves and Elizabeth Blackadder, the event has gone from strength to strength in the last 10 years and now attracts keen art buyers from Forth Valley and beyond. The last event in 2006 made £30,000, and this year they hope to raise even more.

Highlights of the event are:

- Auction of works by some of Scotland's leading artists (Be prepared to compete - bidding is fast and furious!)
- Highly popular sale of anonymous, post-card sized original artworks.
- Ceramics, silverwork, artwork and jewellery for sale on the contemporary arts table.
- Wine from WoodWinters Wines & Whiskies.
- ... and Special Guest and Patron Julia Donaldson (author of "The Gruffalo") will be signing copies of her book.

For more information or to order tickets, please contact Artlink Central on 01738 450971 or info@artlinkcentral.org.uk .

For a full view of the auction pieces for this year, visit the website www.artlinkcentral.org

CVS Stirling Charities Christmas Event

Albert Halls, Stirling

Thursday, 27th November, 3 – 7 pm.

STOP PRESS: We're pleased to announce the event will feature a special PRIZE DRAW. Those eligible to take part are:

- ***CVS member organisations who have a stall at the Event***
- ***New members who sign up on the day***

The mystery prize will be an item which will benefit your organisation, and the draw will take place on the day.

Climate Challenge Fund Presentation

Hillpark Centre, Morrison Drive, Bannockburn

Wednesday 26th November, 10 – 11 am

Margaret Hood from **Keep Scotland Beautiful** is doing a presentation/Q&A session on the Climate Challenge Fund. The fund is for projects which will reduce carbon emissions and carbon footprints. 100% funding is available, with grants ranging from a few hundred pounds to £1m. There is £8m in the pot this year, and around £24m over 3 years.

From 11 am - 1 pm (approx) she will be available to see groups on a one-to-one basis if they wish to discuss their projects in more detail.

Would you like to attend, and do you know of any groups who would like to attend? If so, would they like to attend the surgery also?

If you are interested, please contact Jean Cowie, Funding Officer, Communities Team, Stirling Council on 01786 432268 (*ASAP – first come first served!*)

Envision: Supporting Young People's Participation in Galleries & the Arts

The Tolbooth, Jail Wynd, Stirling, FK8 1DE

Wednesday 26th November, 10.30 am – 4 pm

£25 engage personal member - £55 engage organisational members

£65 non members



Engage Scotland is part of *engage*, the association promoting access to enjoyment and understanding of the visual arts in the UK and internationally. *engage* Scotland represents the Scottish body of *engage* members, responding to training and networking needs within gallery education with a Scottish focus. Membership has doubled in the last two years, continuing to grow with the appointment of new arts professional posts.

engage Scotland offers a programme of events supporting those working in access and education in visual arts venues in Scotland.

Since 2003 *engage*'s Envision project has supported galleries in England to engage with young people: sharing ideas, expertise, and resources, and creating opportunities for young people to have a genuine role in shaping gallery practice, policy, and environment.

This seminar is an opportunity to discuss the findings of *envision* and looks at supporting young people's participation in galleries and the arts in Scotland.

Visit www.engagescotland.org.uk for more information and to download a booking form.

Understanding the Issues Around Forced Marriages

Stirling Council, Old Viewforth, Stirling

26th November, 9.30 am

FREE



This Conference is being held during the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence,” an international campaign started by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) in 1991. *Conference Programme:*

- 09.30–10.00 Registration/Coffee
- 10.0 – 10.15 Welcome - Rebecca Maxwell, Asst. Chief Executive, Stirling Council
- 10.15– 11.00 Forced Marriage Unit, Home Office
- 11.00-11.30 Forced Marriages in Scotland – Shakti Women's Aid, Edinburgh
- 11.30-11.45 Break

- 11.45-12.30 “Arranged and forced Marriages : the Impact of Education”,
- Dr.Kalwant Bhopal, Reader, School of Education, University of Southampton
- 12.30-13.15 Forced marriages – Cultural Perspective, Stirling Multi-Cultural Partnership
- 13.15-13.30 Questions for Local Panel
- 13.30-13.50 Rashpal Nottay – Forced Marriages : the Impact on Mental Health
- Co-ordinator, Minority Mental Health, Lothian
- 13.50-14.00 Close
- 14.00 Lunch

This Conference is FREE but in order to book catering we request you to book your place by 24th November, 2008. For a registration form, contact Maya Varyani, Ethnic Minorities Adviser, Stirling Council, Room 13, Viewforth, Stirling, FK8 2ET. Tel.01786 443465, e-mail: varyanim@stirling.gov.uk

The “16 Days” runs from November 25, International Day Against Violence Against Women, to December 10, International Human Rights Day, to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasise that such violence is a violation of human rights.

Children in Need Event

St Mungo’s RC Church Hall, Mar Street, Alloa
Wednesday 3rd December, 2 – 4 pm



*Come and find out about Children in Need’s **new application process!***

In response to feedback from applicants, BBC Children in Need is changing its application process. These changes include:

- Increasing the number of application deadlines
- Quicker decisions
- Introducing a small grants programme in Scotland
- On-line applications only

The presentation will explain what this means for *your* organisation, and any organisations you support.

It will also look at **what makes a good application** to BBC Children in Need. This will help you to find out if they are the right funder for you and help increase your chances of success.

If you can’t attend you can find out more information about how to apply on the website: www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

If you would like more information about the event, call 0141 422 6111. As several of these events are being held across Scotland this autumn, please RSVP **stating the place and date of the event** to: joan.stewart@bbc.co.uk

Children's Rights and Wrongs

A REFRESH Seminar

The Rock Centre, First Floor, 61-63 Murray Place, Stirling

4th December, 1 - 2 pm

Snack lunch (with vegetarian option): £2.

The SNP agreed in Perth that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should be incorporated into Scottish Law. Does that mean it is all good common sense, or are there twists in the tale that we will only notice when we trip over them? Anne Salter from Stirling Council explains.

To book your place call 01786 462647 or email: admin@rockcommunityproject.org.uk.

Meet the Equality and Human Rights Commission Legal Team

Stirling Management Centre

21st January 2009

FREE

The **Equality and Human Rights Commission** champions equality and human rights for all, working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, ensuring that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society.

The Commission's Scotland Legal Team is visiting a number of locations throughout Scotland, hosting lunches and afternoon Information Sessions. The first, on 7th November in Oban, was judged a success, and the next will be in Stirling (*see above*). Melrose, Inverness and Aberdeen will also be visited in the New Year.

These events are for advice-giving organisations, as well as representatives of voluntary, community and educational organisations who give advice or assistance directly to the public. Those attending will have the opportunity to find out more about the Commission, discuss how we can work together and let us know what issues are most significant to you and your service users.

A confirmed agenda will be sent out closer to the time. We would also like to hear your suggestions on the equality issues most relevant to you. Email or phone us with your thoughts.

Spaces are limited and will be available on a 'first come, first served' basis. Please email roadshow@equalityhumanrights.com for a booking form.

For further details, contact James Andrew on 0141 228 5917 or David Reilly on 0141 228 5967, or visit www.equalityhumanrights.com The Commission's Scotland Helpline is 0845 604 5510.

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TRAINING & RESOURCES

SCVO Training Courses

Effective Campaigning

SCVO, Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6BB
3rd December, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

What makes an effective campaign? This one-day course will combine discussion of the specific elements that can be used in campaigning, together with a wider discussion of what makes a campaign an effective campaign. **Book by 19th Nov.**

Introduction to Managing Health and Safety

SCVO, Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6BB
9th December, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

A one-day course for those new to managing Health and Safety, covering: principles behind H&S in Britain; rights and responsibilities flowing from legislation; requirements of H&S policy and statement and fostering an appropriate H&S culture. **Book by 18th Nov.**

Exploring Earned Income – Is it a Viable Option?

The Albany Centre, 44 Ashley Street, Glasgow, G3 6DS
10th December, 9.30 am – 4.30 pm

This one-day workshop will explore how earned income can be an important potential fundraising stream and play a key role in increasing unrestricted income. Participants will identify the things an organisation needs to have in place to start from a secure base. We will discuss the options around generating income from products and/or services as well as how to scope out the competition, the essentials of planning, along with sources of support and information to get you going. **Book by 19th Nov.**

For full details about the above courses, including costs and bookings, visit the SCVO website at www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/SCVOTrainingByMonthHome.aspx

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



New Xmas Website

The Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition (SSEC) has set up a special Christmas website to showcase some of Scotland's leading social enterprises. The site, which went live on 1st November, will offer a range of affordable gifts, vouchers and services from 12 social enterprises (Kibble, Loch Arthur Creamery, Rag Tag N Textile and the Ecology Centre amongst others).

It's called the **Social Enterprise Trade Fair**, and it's a good example of a co-promotion in the social economy. Check it out on www.s2stradefair.com

Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneur Awards

Two social entrepreneur awards are being offered to not-for-profit organisations whose primary purpose is to support an issue of public interest or to further social / environmental goals.

The BoS has reserved, across two prizes:

- Up to £5 million of funding or a donation of up to £500,000.
- Up to £1 million of funding or a donation of up to £100,000.

The actual amount of funding offered to each winner will be dependent on their needs and situation. The two winners will also receive mentoring from one of the UK's leading social entrepreneurs, as well as publicity with the Sunday Times and networking opportunities.

The applicant must be "a not-for-profit organisation which is not capable of distributing profits generated by the organisation back to shareholders, members or other participants in the organisation, and whose primary purpose is to support an issue or matter of public interest or public concern or to further social and/or environmental goals for non-commercial purposes and social or community benefit."

Details of eligibility and how to apply can be found on the website

http://entrepreneurs.bankofscotland.co.uk/social/index.html?affiliate=socialEC_DM-Press

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POLICY & PLANNING

SOA (Single Outcome Agreement) Survey

Learning Link Scotland is carrying out a Baseline Study on the current involvement of Voluntary/Third Sector Adult Learning in Single Outcome Agreements (SOA) across Scotland.



The SOAs between Local Government and Scottish Government will be reviewed annually and enable local provision to be developed in the context of local need and meeting national targets set out in the National Performance Framework. This survey is important in mapping out the current involvement in SOA's.

If you haven't completed the survey yet, there's still time - it's being held open until the end of November. But please let them have your response as soon as possible. The short survey (six questions) should take no more than 10 minutes.

Learning Link stress that you shouldn't be put off if most of this area of work is unfamiliar or you simply haven't heard about it – letting them know this is really valuable too.

You can access the survey at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vQUHSoAO2njWGnTqaaRgvA_3d_3d

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FUNDING

Futurebuilders Tender Fund

The Tender Fund is a new Futurebuilders programme offering interest-free three year loans of between £3,000 and £50,000 to community and voluntary sector organisations who need relatively small sums of money to help them tender successfully for specific public service delivery contracts. More details from www.governmentfunding.org.uk/VCSLaunch.aspx?SCHEME_ID=12-S164 (Note: you have to register to use this website.)

O2 awards

Awards of up to £1,000 are available to local groups and individuals for anything that can be shown to benefit your community.

The awards are independently judged and administered by **The Conservation Foundation** on behalf of O2. The Conservation Foundation is a charity that has been judging community projects for 26 years.

O₂



The aim is to support projects that bring people together and benefit communities. Have a look at the criteria section of the website to see the kind of projects that are supported - www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

Ofcom Community Radio Fund

The Ofcom Community Radio Fund has been established to help fund the core costs of running a community radio station. The fund is targeted at not-for-profit radio stations that have a social purpose and work with their community in



running the service. The fund is administered by Ofcom (The Office of Communications) on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The second round for funding applications in 2008/09 will open on 5 November 2008 and close on 2 December 2008. The Community Radio Fund Panel will meet to consider applications on 28 January 2009.

Grants can only be made to community radio licensees who are broadcasting under a community radio licence (and not an RSL, for example). Eligible licensees must be broadcasting by the time the Panel meets to consider applications for the round applied for.

The latest application form and guidance notes are available at www.ofcom.org.uk/radio/ifi/rb...Communityfund/ For further information, please contact Ofcom's Community Radio Team via email: communityradio@ofcom.org.uk, or by telephone 020 7981 3860.

Prince's Trust Community Cash Awards

Community Cash Awards are grants of up to £5,000 to help young people set up a project that will benefit their community. This could be, for example, setting up a music studio, a youth club, a youth advisory board, a local magazine.

The following can apply:

- anyone aged 14-16 and in school, but struggling
- anyone aged 16-25, unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.

Projects must:

- be run and managed by people between the ages of 14 and 25
- clearly benefit the local community
- benefit the people running the project
- be a new or developing project.

Formal groups or organisations are not eligible to apply. Funding of up to £1,000 is available for 14-16 year olds; up to £5,000 is for those aged 16-25. To apply visit www.princes-trust.org.uk or phone free on 0800 842842.

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GROUP NEWS

Moves are afoot to start up a **Craft Group** in the Forth Valley area. If you are c.1 - 45 years of age and are interested in meeting up regularly to enjoy handicrafts (such as embroidery), please get in touch with Claire on 07734 604728.

Living Well with Epilepsy

A service for people living with epilepsy in Central Scotland

Stirling Carers Centre, Barnton Street, Stirling

21st January – 25th February 2009,

Wednesdays, 11.00 am – 1.00 pm



Epilepsy Connections is delighted to introduce a community-based service for people living with epilepsy in the Central Scotland area. The **Living Well with Epilepsy** project will help people with epilepsy and their families improve their knowledge of epilepsy-related issues and share and learn from each others' experiences

Epilepsy Connections' Gill Wilson said, *"Epilepsy is a common neurological condition that affects over 2,000 people in the Forth Valley area. A diagnosis of epilepsy can be a challenge for individuals and families to come to terms with, but with the right treatment and information about their condition, most people with epilepsy can get on with their lives and take part in the same activities as everyone else"*.

Here are some facts about epilepsy you may or may not know:

- Epilepsy is a common neurological condition that affects 1 in 200 adults and 1 in 100 children.
- Epilepsy is the tendency to have recurrent seizures, the results of a brief, temporary disruption to the usual activity of the brain.
- There are many types of seizures – what happens before, during and after seizures depends on which part of the brain is affected and how far the disruption spreads.
- Most seizures are over in a few minutes and the person recovers quickly.
- Epilepsy can affect anyone, of either gender, any age, race and from any walk of life.
- The vast majority of people with epilepsy can take part in the same activities as everyone else, with the help of simple safety measures where appropriate.
- People with epilepsy who have been seizure free for a year with or without medication can re-apply for their driving licence.
- Epilepsy is covered by the Disability Discrimination Act.

The 6-week courses, funded by Big Lottery money, cover a range of topics including myths and facts about epilepsy, coping with stress, living with long-term medication, epilepsy and memory, and include presentations by guest speakers.

If you have epilepsy, or if you live with or care for someone who has epilepsy, this is your chance to find out more. For further information or to book your place contact Gill Wilson, Living Well with Epilepsy Project Trainer, on 01324 692030 or email gwilson@epilepsyconnections.org.uk (Tues & Weds 9.30am – 4.30pm only), or call our Glasgow office on 0141 248 4125, email info@epilepsyconnections.org.uk

OTHER NEWS

Do you involve young people in your group?

Making Music Scotland is one of the thirteen volunteer Committees of Making Music, the UK's largest umbrella body for amateur music.



Making Music Scotland is trying to find out why voluntary arts organisations do or don't involve young people in their activities. What are the benefits and challenges? And how to you ensure best practice when working with young people?

If you can spare ten minutes to help with their research, please fill out their online questionnaire at <http://tinyurl.co.uk/9y2e> or if you would like to talk to a real person or get a paper copy of this questionnaire please e-mail Eleanor Logan at elogan@learningandchange.co.uk or phone 07791 749945.