Cowie Skatepark Opens

Cowie Skatepark was officially opened on the 30 April to the great excitement of the local community. After Cowie Rural Action Group (CRAG) successfully secured a Big Lottery Grant of £243,800 the young skaters had been eagerly awaiting this day, and with great patience as weather delayed things over the winter. CRAG applied for the funding after wide community consultation and a masterplanning exercise which showed there was big demand for a skatepark. They were supported by Stirling Council’s Community Engagement Team throughout this process.

It has been well worth the wait – they now have a fantastic facility with which they are really pleased. It is bigger than most of them imagined, and with all the different sections to the park there is something for everyone – total beginners to experts, and the very young to the not so young. And with the landscaping and seating surrounding the skatepark, there is a place for parents, grandparents and friends to sit and chat, and watch the skaters, bikes and scooters in action.

Clare Stevenson, Chair of CRAG, said ‘as with most big projects like this it wasn’t without its hitches and stressful times, but the final outcome is brilliant and the kids are having a great time. They are trying out new things and learning things from other skaters who are coming from all over the place, not just locally – it’s good to see them all outside enjoying the skatepark and socialising with new friends at the same time.’
Community Council Connect Fund – find out how your Community Councils have been connecting with their communities

The Community Council Connect Fund was launched at the beginning of April 2015 and this report explains how it was used and what Community Councils thought about it.

What was the fund for?

Funding was available to Community Councils to assist them to widely engage and communicate with their residents, reaching as many people as possible and encouraging greater participation and involvement by more people within their communities.

Who applied?

Twenty-four individual Community Councils applied, with 22 of the applications being successful. (There are 43 Community Council areas with currently 40 operational Community Councils.)

How did they use the fund?

Monitoring and evaluation of the projects delivered shows that the Fund was welcomed and put to good use by Community Councils; they found a range of ways above and beyond their day to day work and regular meetings which enabled them to engage and communicate with more people in their area:

One Community Council aims to be very proactive in spreading information on key issues and information from third parties via their website and publication of their minutes on the website. Recognising that not everyone is able to or chooses to access the website, with the funding they sought to deliver a regular leaflet drop for more targeted dissemination of information. The leaflets had the twin aim of disseminating information and also gathering email contact information so that future leaflets would increasingly go via email rather than hard copy, though it was recognised that there would always be need for some printed copies for those members without electronic access. Several other Community Councils used a mixture of leaflets and events for disseminating information or to discuss a particular community issue, and some used it to hold meetings to take forward discussion on issues/actions raised through previous community planning sessions or, in some towns, charrettes.

One Community Council progressed their work on developing their local community plan, using the fund towards venue hire and consultants to lead community planning meetings and events.

Several Community Councils used the fund to start a Newsletter or continue an existing Newsletter.

Some Community Councils used the fund to establish Community Council websites, whilst others used it for additional Notice Boards in the community. In some cases the intention was for the websites and notice boards to be shared with other community groups.

One Community Council increased their range of marketing materials, including a portable pop-up banner, with the primary purpose of promoting the Community Council and raising awareness of it, how it operates, how to become involved, and the work it does.

Others used the fund for social events led by themselves, which had the dual benefit of bringing the community together for interaction and fun with their neighbours, whilst giving the Community Council an opportunity to promote itself and what it does, and endeavour to attract more people to become directly involved in the Community Council and/or in aspects of their work, such as community litter picks.

What did they all think of the fund?

As well as individual projects being monitored and evaluated, a Survey Monkey questionnaire was circulated to find out if Community Councils knew about the fund and what they thought about it including the application process and the questions:
Twenty one responses were received from sixteen Community Councils, six responses were not fully completed.

100% were aware of the fund prior to the survey.

From the information they received, 62.5% thought it was perfectly clear and 37.5% moderately clear, what the fund was for.

Whether they applied or not, all were asked if they though the application form was easy to complete. 62.5% thought it was; the remaining 37.5% didn’t know because they hadn’t read it.

Responses to Why did you not apply, varied from ‘overlooked’ to ‘we didn’t have a specific need at the time’ and ‘briefly discussed, intend applying 2016/17’.

Asked what support they could have been given to help them apply replies included ‘would have liked further information’, ‘possibly someone to attend to discuss it more fully’ and ‘more ideas about suitable projects’.

Asked how the grant enabled greater engagement and communication with their communities, they told us:

‘through the notice board we are able to communicate information with many more people and several groups have asked to put notices in the board too’

‘public meetings were held in 2015 which enabled the Community Council to discuss critical issues with the community’

‘enabled us to demonstrate to residents that we could be proactive and also to publicise the range of activities we undertake’.

There were 6 responses to Tell us if you used new or different ways to engage and communicate with your community, including:

‘An open day was a new venture for us’

‘ACC has carried out a questionnaire before but didn’t have the meeting with the community so the methods aren’t new but mixing them is, for us, new’

‘Community Council meetings are open to the public but not very popular because of the administrative matters which have to be discussed. This enabled us to concentrate on the issues of concern to the community’.

93% said they would like the fund to run again and they would be likely to apply.

What happens next?

The fund has been launched for 2016-17 with 3 rounds planned; all Community Councils have been notified and are encouraged to use it for wider community engagement. If any Community Council has not received full details please contact Jean Cowie on cowiej@stirling.gov.uk 01786 233143
John Watson’s Trust

This scheme awards educational grants to under 21 year olds who are in a situation of disadvantage and/or have additional support needs. Grants have previously been awarded for dyslexia tuition; school trips; bus passes; books and equipment; equipment for a special education need; and a wide range of other activities.

Grants are also available for organisations and groups working with eligible young people. Grants can also be awarded for relevant research projects. For information, grants are awarded Scotland wide though strong preference for Edinburgh & Lothians.

The remaining deadlines for 2016 are:
- 5 August 2016
- 4 November 2016

For further details e-mail johnwatsons@wssociety.co.uk

Women’s Fund for Scotland

Thanks to a £600K grant from the UK Government's Tampon Tax, the Women's Fund for Scotland is inviting applications to a new grant making programme from organisations who are working to empower women and girls to reach their full potential.

The new programme will offer two levels of funding streams; small grants of between £500 and £2000 and larger grants of up to £30,000 over a 3 year period.

The income cap of £250,000 has also been removed to allow community groups and charities of any size to apply.

**Deadline for the first round of applications is 28th June.** For more information visit:

[https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/womens-fund-for-scotland/](https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/womens-fund-for-scotland/)

Essentia Foundation

The Essentia Foundation is offering grants of up to £30,000 (£10,000 p.a for a maximum of 3 years). The fund will help support a broad range of projects if they can demonstrate a clear fit with its key themes e.g working with young people or the elderly, health care, and in particular those who can demonstrate strong partnership working and systems in place to demonstrate the difference you are making to people’s lives.

**Closing date for applications is 6th June 2016;** full details at

[https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/essentia/](https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/essentia/)
**Community Shed Spaces**

Volunteer groups across Scotland are being encouraged to apply for a share of a new grant fund to help support the set-up of community shed spaces.

Sheds are community workshop spaces where people can come together to take part in practical skills and activities.

Grants of between £250 and £1,000 are available from the fund – with applicants encouraged to apply for some of the tools and equipment they need for their activities or ongoing costs such as help with their rent or insurance.


**Heritage Lottery Fund – open event for youth work sector**

YouthLink Scotland is delighted to be hosting the Heritage Lottery Fund on **16 June 2016 (1.45pm to 3pm)** in Edinburgh. This is an open event for the youth work sector.

HLF’s Annie Mottisfont said: “We support a vast range of projects exploring all types of heritage including local culture and traditions, people’s memories and experiences, the natural environment, traditional skills to projects exploring archives and museum collections. We have a dedicated grants programme, Young Roots, that gives young people aged 11 to 25 the chance to plan and deliver their own heritage projects. The session will include information about the types of projects we’ve funded working with young people, the different grant programmes and the support and advice we can offer prior to an application.”

To register please email jwilkinson@youthlinkscotland.org


**Resourcing Scotland’s Heritage**

Resourcing Scotland's Heritage is a Scotland-wide training programme designed to provide the heritage sector with the vital skills needed to increase fundraising income from private sources; individuals, charitable trusts and companies.

We will be launching new events and activities as a part of our extension programme and in the meantime we are delivering some of our most popular training sessions.

'In Focus: Legacies' is taking place in Glasgow on 8th June. This event features presentations and advice from Peter Littlefield of Turcan Connell and Peter Thierfeldt, Fundraising Consultant and RSH trainer.

[http://www.resourcingscotlandsheritage.org/event/in-focus-legacies-glasgow/](http://www.resourcingscotlandsheritage.org/event/in-focus-legacies-glasgow/)

These events continue to cost just £25 or £50 +VAT (depending on the turnover of your organisation). This is excellent value for money and we are delighted to be able to continue to subsidise the training in this way with the support of the HLF.

Travel bursaries are also available to cover the cost of your transport.
**Stroke Awareness Training**

Come and join a stroke awareness, free session:

1. How to recognise when someone is having a stroke
2. How to prevent strokes
3. Where to get help and support after a stroke

For more information on times, dates & venues and to book a place please contact

Kelly Sagar Tel: 01259 723950 Mobile: 07756205870 email: kellysagar@hotmail.co.uk

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**First Aid Training**

Let’s make First Aid a second nature

Everyday First Aid
Easy to teach
Easy to learn
Easy to do
Easy to recall in an emergency
It’s better to do something than nothing

Session lasts 2 hours and can be made to suit the needs of your group.

For further information or to book a session contact:
Kelly Sagar on kellysagar@hotmail.co.uk  07756205870

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**TCV Scotland**

Forthcoming training opportunities:

**June**
Summer Tree ID & Birdsong ID, Edinburgh 6 June Half-day
Using Social Media, Edinburgh 13 June

**July**
Forest Skills, Edinburgh 4 July
Lantra Brushcutters and Trimmers, Stirling 4-5 July
Sensory Awareness Training, Edinburgh 12 July

For further details or to book online just click on the course you are interested in. For further queries about any course please contact Tricia Burden on 01786 479697. We can also arrange individually tailored training, so if you have any specific learning needs in mind please contact Julia Duncan on 07843 069559.

To view our full programme go to
[http://courses.tcv.org.uk/shop/training/search?lev_type=TRAIN&s_type=2&s_region=Scotland&s_category=0&s_month=0&s_year=0&keywords=&s_code=&submit=Search](http://courses.tcv.org.uk/shop/training/search?lev_type=TRAIN&s_type=2&s_region=Scotland&s_category=0&s_month=0&s_year=0&keywords=&s_code=&submit=Search)
EU Referendum - Register to Vote

The referendum on the UK’s membership of the European Union will be held on the 23 June 2016.

You can vote in this referendum if you are registered to vote in the UK, are 18 or over on the 23 June 2016 and are either:

- a British or Irish citizen living in the UK
- a Commonwealth citizen living in the UK who has leave to remain in the UK or who does not require leave to remain in the UK
- a British citizen living overseas who has been registered to vote in the UK in the last 15 years

To vote, if you are not already on the electoral roll you must register by midnight on 7 June 2016.

Register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or call 0800 3 280 280; if registering by phone give yourself plenty time to receive the registration form and return by post to arrive prior to midnight on 7 June 2016.

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights (CRER): Call for submissions for Black History Month (BMH) October, 2016 Programme of Events

During Black History Month, the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights aims to raise awareness of the positive role that Black/Minority Ethnic men and women have played in shaping Scotland’s history. CRER, alongside various other groups, organise a diverse range of events, activities and workshops to help promote learning and understanding of Scotland’s ‘hidden’ history to inspire a greater knowledge of the contributions, sacrifices and achievements that have been made throughout the history of Black/Minority Ethnic people in Scotland. It is also an opportunity to apply lessons from the past to build a more inclusive Scotland. CRER invites you / your organisation to take part in Black History Month 2016.

Please email zandra@crer.org.uk for more information and a Form. Deadline for submitting initial ideas Friday 8 July 2016.

2016 McLellan Poetry Prize

This scheme is now open and accepting submissions of original, unpublished poetry. Poetry submissions must be written in the English language and should not exceed more than 80 lines in length. The first prize will be £1,000. The second prize will be £300. The third prize will be £100. There will also be six commendation prizes which are worth £25 each.

Applicants may submit as many pieces of poetry as they wish. There is an entry fee of £5 for the first submission. After this, the fee drops to £4 per submission. Applicants do not have to adhere to any particular topic or theme and the poem may be on a subject of their personal choosing. Once the application has been submitted, it will not be possible to make any alterations or to request a refund.

This prize is part of the McLellan Festival which is a Scottish arts festival which runs from 14 August 2016 to 6 September 2016.

This festival is named in honour of Scottish dramatist and short story writer Robert McLellan. Each year, this prize is judged anonymously by a prolific poet. Previous judges have included Simon Armitage and Jackie Kay. This year, the winner and runners up will be judged by editor, translator, novelist and poet David Constantine.
Applicants will be notified of their success before the end of July. Prize-winners will then be invited to read their work at an awards ceremony. This ceremony will take place 26 August 2016, at Brodrick, Isle of Arran. For further information, prospective applicants should see the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust website [http://www.arrantheatreandarts.org/](http://www.arrantheatreandarts.org/)

**The closing date for submitting poetry will be 19 June 2016.**

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**Welcome to Callander & Trossachs Summerfest**

We’re back for a third year with even more activities and events to entertain you at venues all around Callander!

From 16 to 31 July we’ll be open every day from 11 till 5pm at St Kessog’s, the former church in Ancaster Square, now the HQ for the Clanranald Trust. Here we’ll have a packed programme of free exhibitions with a focus on pottery and local heritage, and afternoons and evenings filled with music, poetry and films.

Add to this an evening with the former Makar Liz Lochhead in the Kirk Hall, the Riverside Ceilidh Band at the Dreadnought Hotel, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra at the High School, a community outdoor festival and ceilidh at McLaren Leisure and a whole series of craft and music workshops, walks and cycle rides we truly have something for everyone!

Look out for our bright pink brochures! The full programme will also be on [www.callandercdt.org.uk](http://www.callandercdt.org.uk) and [www.mclarenleisure.co.uk](http://www.mclarenleisure.co.uk) and we’ll keep up to date with news and any changes on Facebook ([CallanderSummerfest](https://www.facebook.com/CallanderSummerfest)) and Twitter ([@callanderfest](https://twitter.com/callanderfest)). Check in for any last minute additions or changes.

See poster at the end of this newssheet.
Forth Valley Carers Card

The Forth Valley Carers Card has been developed by carers from across Forth Valley. The aim of the card is for carers to be more easily identified by Health and Social Care professionals, and to enable them to:

- Voice their views and ideas
- Participate in care planning discussions
- Gain caring information on the person they care for
- Be recognised and valued as an equal partner in care

For more information or to apply for a card contact:
Stirling Carers Centre
01786 447003 / info@stirlingcarers.co.uk
Falkirk & Clackmannanshire Carers Centre
01324 611510 / centre@centralcarers.co.uk

The Forth Valley Carers Card is a pilot project running until November 2016. If you are issued with a card you will be contacted periodically for feedback to help with development.
Trossachs Summer Festival Saturday 30th July 2016 at McLaren Leisure Centre

Parade 11am Activities 12–4pm & Ceilidh at 8pm till midnight!

Come and join us to celebrate the penultimate day of Callander and Trossachs Summerfest 2016 with Central FM. The Summer Festival will start with a fancy dress parade at 11am from Ancaster Square followed by lots of activities at McLaren Leisure Centre. We have family, group and individual challenges with something suitable for all ages and all abilities! Some of the main challenges include a 1Km & 5km Fun Run organised by Central Athletic club, Sprint Orienteering with Forth Valley Orienteering Club, Junior Highland Games with the Rotary Club, Come and Try It sports including Sailing with Venacher Sailing Club without getting wet! There will be an Army Assault Course and Command Challenges, Tug of War, Swimming Pool Obliterator, Climbing Wall and Pony Rides. You will have the chance to try out Bikes from Recykeabike and Blazing Saddles’ will be there with their specially adapted bikes for those with additional support needs. For the less energetic there is lots to see with Dance Displays, The Ginger Juggler, The Clan Cycle Stunt Team, two live Football Matches taking place, Face Painting and Story Telling in the Tepee. Come and support local groups and businesses by visiting their stalls or try some food and drink. The day finishes with dancing to ‘Riverside Ceilidh Band’ at 8pm in the Leisure Centre.

To find out more /buy challenge tickets/book a stall/or offer a come and try it event - email tina.callandersummerfest@yahoo.com go to www.mclarenleisure.co.uk or telephone 01877-330000.