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<b>THIRD SECTOR NEWS</b>
<p><b>CHANGES TO EMPLOYMENT LAW</b></p> <p>A <a href="#">number of changes to employment law</a> are now being introduced, and these will affect employers across all sectors, including charities. If your charity employs staff, ensure you are up-to-date with the key changes. The UK Government is hosting a webinar on 23 April to provide more guidance: <a href="#">Employment Rights Act 2025: Key measures and employer actions</a></p>
<p><b>CLEAN UP SCOTLAND’S SEWAGE - PETITION</b></p> <p>Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland Together with community campaigns RAAG and SOSLeith, are calling for better regulation and enforcement to Clean Up Scotland’s Sewage. Learn more about their campaign and <a href="#">sign the petition here</a>.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">VAT ON DONATED GOODS TO CHARITIES</a></u></b></p> <p>After years of work by Charity Finance Group (CFG), alongside sector partners including Charity Tax Group, the government has introduced a new VAT relief on goods donated to charities. As of 1 April 2026, this has now come into force and, for the first time, businesses donating goods for onward distribution or use in charitable services will no longer face a VAT charge.</p>

## NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR (OSCR)

### THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT 2026 ELECTION: KNOW THE RULES ON CAMPAIGNING

The Scottish Parliamentary election will be held on 7 May 2026, and it is important that charities are clear about their responsibilities when campaigning on political issues. See guidance available on OSCR's website about [charities and campaigning on political issues](#)

### GETTING YOUR ANNUAL ACCOUNTS RIGHT: WATCH OUR WEBINAR FOR SMALL CHARITIES

OSCR recently held a webinar to help small charities understand what to include (and what not to include) in their annual accounts. A [recording of the session](#) is now available to view, along with a Q&A and a copy of the presentation slides.

### [MANAGING CHARITY TRUSTEE INFORMATION IN OSCR ONLINE](#)

Has your charity provided its charity trustee information yet? Providing this information is a legal requirement for all charities.

## RESOURCES

### MANIFESTO ROUNDUP

- [Reuse Manifesto](#) from Circular Communities Scotland
- [Manifesto for People, Place and Power](#) from Community Land Scotland
- [Strong Communities Start With Local Government Manifesto](#) from COSLA
- [Community-led Manifesto](#) from DTAS
- [Investing in Women, Transforming Communities Manifesto](#) from Engender
- [Building a Secure Foundation for All of Us Manifesto](#) from The Poverty Alliance
- [Manifesto for a Wellbeing Economy](#) from Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll)
- [Young Women Demand Manifesto](#) from The Young Women's Movement

### FIRSTPORT: [THE ENTREPRENEURS GUIDE TO SOCIAL INVESTMENT](#)

This guide explains social investment language, how revenue-based finance works, and common pathways through the social investment ecosystem. It has been shaped alongside ecosystem co-creators including Social Investment Scotland, Good Finance, and The Ventures Lab, bringing together multiple perspectives to support better decisions.

**REPORT FROM WISE COLLECTIVE EXPLORING FEMININE APPROACHES TO LEADERSHIP: [WOMEN AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE: PERSPECTIVES ON FEMININE LEADERSHIP IN ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC BUSINESS MODELS](#)**

This report finds that women-led social enterprises are prioritising wellbeing, people and long-term impact over turnover alone. It also highlights some worrying risks, including higher burnout and support structures not being properly designed.

**USEFUL RESOURCES ON CYBERCRIME:**

- [Protect your charity from cyber crime - The Charity Commission](#)
- [Cyber security for charities](#) - a number of resources published by Third Sector with the National Cyber Security Centre
- [Cyber security for boards template](#) - a free to download template by Charity Digital

**[WORKING HEALTH SERVICES SCOTLAND](#)**

Working Health Services Scotland provides free and confidential advice and health support for staff working in companies with fewer than 250 employees, as well as self-employed people. Services include quick access to counselling, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.

**SCOTTISH RECOVERY NETWORK'S NEW 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: [CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE: A 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN](#)**

*Lived experience and peer support driving mental health transformation in Scotland*

The plan sets out their vision, role, and ambitions for reshaping Scotland's mental health system over the next decade. It outlines how, through collaboration, we can build a recovery-focused mental health system powered by lived experience and strengthened by peer support.

**TRAINING AND EVENTS**

**BUSINESS GATEWAY WEBINAR: [PEOPLE, POLICIES & PROGRESS: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO HR, THURSDAY 30TH APRIL, 12PM - 1PM](#)**

In this webinar, Business Gateway experts will walk you through the essentials - from upcoming legislative changes to hiring your first employee, to building a culture that keeps your people engaged and thriving. Whether you're a new employer or looking to strengthen your HR foundations, you'll leave with practical tips to support your business and your team.

**[DISCOVER UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS: STAY INFORMED AND CONNECT WITH EXPERTS | BUSINESS GATEWAY](#)**

**SCOTTISH ELECTION HUSTINGS: FAIR AND THRIVING RURAL AND ISLAND COMMUNITIES, ONLINE, 22 APRIL, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (FREE)**

Join The Poverty Alliance and Scottish Rural Action for an online hustings event. This will be an opportunity for organisations and individuals across rural and island communities to hear from Scottish political parties about their approach to strengthening rural and island communities and tackling poverty. [Book here](#).



 Cost: £95 per person [BOOK HERE](#)

By the end of the training session, participants should be able to:

- Better understand the impact of imprisonment on children and families, including the most prevalent issues facing families
- Understand and give examples of how a family might be affected at each stage of the criminal justice process
- Understand the emotional and practical needs of children affected by imprisonment
- Understand the most relevant articles within the UNCRC which relate to children with a parent in prison
- Understand and implement Child Impact Assessments as a tool for supporting children with a family member involved in the justice system
- Apply their learning when supporting families affected by imprisonment and feel confident when supporting families in their own role

**SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION: ACCREDITED MEDIATOR AND MEDIATION SKILLS TRAINING COURSE, DELIVERED ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

Starting on **Monday 11 May**, this programme runs across five sessions over four weeks and blends mediation theory with hands-on practice. You will develop practical communication, negotiation and conflict-management skills, explore ethics, trauma awareness and diversity, and take part in supported discussions and mock mediations.

The course is suitable for professionals, volunteers and anyone keen to strengthen their mediation skills in a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Accredited by **Scottish Mediation**, the training provides a strong foundation for those wishing to progress towards practice standards, while also enhancing skills valuable across many roles.

**Places are limited, so take the next step in your professional development today.** To enrol or find out more, email [sccr@cyrenians.scot](mailto:sccr@cyrenians.scot)

## THRE (THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES)

### CAPSULE COURSES

As well as our classic full-day and half-day training sessions, you can now sign up to our capsule courses. These are bite-sized sessions on topics that will help you to put human rights and equalities into practice into your work. Each session will focus on a specific area in which you can make simple, practical changes to embed human rights and equalities into what you do, from assessing how your work impacts your community, to sharing that impact with funders in the language they're looking for.

- [Impact Assessments: Human Rights and Equalities in Practice](#). Thurs 30th April, 11am – 12pm.
- [Funding Applications: Human Rights and Equalities in Practice](#). Mon 1st June, 2pm – 3:30pm.

### NEW COURSE LAUNCH! [CORE CONCEPTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS](#)

New free resources focused on human rights from the international level down to everyday practice. Where do our human rights come from and what can we do with them? This Human Rights training will cover the foundations of human rights in law and in practice while providing you with a range of tools to take forward in your work.

The course explores:

- The legal frameworks that underpin human rights at the international, UK and Scottish levels
- What role the third sector plays in human rights practice in Scotland and the UK
- How to build rights into your work using a range of frameworks and practical examples

The live learning takes place online on Zoom over two half-day sessions. There is also an accompanying downloadable resource and pre-recorded video versions of the course for those unable to attend the live sessions. [Find out more](#).

### NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY AND SCOTTISH RURAL ACTION: [RURAL WATER AGENDA LUNCHTIME LEARNING EXCHANGE, 14 MAY, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM, ONLINE \(FREE EVENT\)](#)

This session is the first of two online sessions in the build-up to the Rural Water Agenda "Big Launch" planned for the end of the year in Edinburgh, where we will bring our collective asks regarding support for private water supplies and private wastewaters systems, directly to policy teams and decisionmakers.

### [SCVO CONFERENCE: CREATING COMMUNITY: VILLAGE HALLS AND COMMUNITY SPACES CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026, GLASGOW](#)

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) is holding their 'Creating Community' conference on Wednesday 27 May 2026 at The Pyramid at Anderston, Glasgow. This free, one-day event will give people running village halls and community spaces across Scotland the chance to connect, share ideas, and inspire each other. It is **in-person only and bursaries are available to assist travel costs**.

**[SUICIDE PREVENTION SCOTLAND CONFERENCE - CREATING HOPE TOGETHER 2026 – GROWING CAPACITY FOR HOPE THROUGH ACTION, WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026, 09:30AM – 4:00PM, RADISSON BLU HOTEL, GLASGOW](#)**

Building on the strong foundations of Scotland's national suicide prevention movement, this year's Creating Hope Together Conference will bring people together from across sectors, communities and lived experience networks to focus on how we grow capacity for hope through meaningful, collective action.

This national event is designed for:

- Professionals and volunteers across the public, private and third sectors
- People working with adults, children and young people in any setting connected to suicide prevention, mental health or wellbeing
- Organisations working in suicide prevention, mental health, wellbeing, inequality, or community-based support
- People with lived and living experience who want to shape Scotland's suicide prevention work
- Anyone supporting communities, tackling inequalities, or working collaboratively to reduce suicide risk

**GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER: GLOBAL INTERGENERATIONAL WEEK (GIW), 24TH TO 30TH APRIL 2026**

The campaign invites individuals, community groups, organisations, governments, and NGOs to come together to embrace and promote intergenerational practice in all its forms.

**Daily Themes**

- [Day 1 \(24 April\): Let's Raise Intergenerational Awareness](#)
- [Day 2 \(25 April\): Let's Challenge Ageism](#)
- [Day 3 \(26 April\): Let's Challenge Social Isolation and Loneliness](#)
- [Day 4 \(27 April\): Let's Celebrate Intergenerational Spaces and Communities](#)
- [Day 5 \(28 April\): Let's Save the Planet... Together!](#)
- [Day 6 \(29 April\): Let's Develop Intergenerational Workplaces](#)
- [Day 7 \(30 April\): Let's Improve Intergenerational Quality and Sustainability](#)

A full schedule of events is taking place across the week, including webinars, local activities and international collaborations. Please find the schedule for the webinars happening across the week [here](#).

A wide range of resources are available to support your involvement in Global Intergenerational Week 2026, including activity ideas, communications guidance and teaching materials. You can find all the resources [here](#).

**GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER - FIRST-EVER HYBRID ONE-DAY INTERGENERATIONAL TRAINING COURSE IN LERWICK ON THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2026**

This will be a fantastic opportunity for practitioners, volunteers, and organisations across the isles to come together and build skills, confidence, and ideas for intergenerational work.

• **Format:** Hybrid - online and in person at the Islesburgh Community Centre, Kind Harald St, Lerwick.

- **In person:** Alison Clyde (in Shetland)
- **Online:** Corrina or Lorraine

This blended model is a first for GWT, helping us include as many people as possible while keeping the session interactive and practical. In case you are considering training here are a couple of reasons this training is worth considering:

**1. To build practical skills you can use immediately**

You'll explore tools, resources, and approaches to design high-quality intergenerational projects that reduce ageism, strengthen community connection, and improve wellbeing across all ages.

**2. To connect locally and get personalised support**

The course gives you space to talk through ideas, challenges, and opportunities with GWT staff and local peers — helping you strengthen intergenerational work across Shetland's unique settings.

For more details and to register please [click here](#).

**LIVING WELL HUB BRESSAY, SPELDIBURN, WEDNESDAY MORNING 9.15AM – 11.15AM AND LIVING WELL HUB SCALLOWAY - WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 2-4PM**

Due to current restraints these Living Well Hubs will be suspended for the rest of 2025.

**LIVING WELL HUB, BRAE BOATING CLUB, FRIDAY 10AM – 4PM**

For the next 4 weeks the Hub will be relocated to the Brae Boating Club- Same time-10-2pm

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April**


- Come along for a cuppa and reminisce about your sporting memories with Danny and Jack between 10am and 12 noon. They will have some old photos and resources to look at – feel free to bring along anything you have, photos, trophies etc. They will also be taking along some fun activities to help us replay and reconnect with our sporting memories! <https://www.sportingmemories.uk/>
- Adult Learning SIC will be on hand to help support you with your basic digital skills between 10am and 1230pm, we can give advice on Internet Security, setting up devices, operating apps and many other IT queries

If you need to talk about advice or support, come along and see how we can help.

CLS Living Well Hub@Community Care Social Work [livingwellhub@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:livingwellhub@shetland.gov.uk)

The Hub is contactable Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm, 01595744120

## CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING



**CLIMATECAFÉ**  
SHETLAND  
presents

# CLIMATE HUSTINGS

**Thursday  
23<sup>rd</sup> April**


**Islesburgh  
Community  
Centre, room 12**








**6.30 - 8pm**

Hear from **local political candidates** about climate change, net zero, and what it means for our communities.

**Ask questions** and learn about their priorities.

Moderated by *Shetland News*  
Editor Hans Marter.



 <b>A. Armitage</b> Green Party	 <b>Vic Currie</b> Reform UK	 <b>J. Erskine</b> Labour Party	 <b>H.M. Goodlad</b> SNP	 <b>E. Macdonald</b> Lib Democrats	 <b>B. Nugent</b> Sovereignty	 <b>Peter Tait</b> Independent
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**BOOKING IS NOT ESSENTIAL BUT HELPS WITH PLANNING THE EVENT. SIGN UP HERE**  
[CLIMATE HUSTINGS TICKETS, THURSDAY, APRIL 23 • 7 PM - 8:30 PM | EVENTBRITE](#)

**WEBINAR: [WHAT'S NEXT FOR ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION? WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL, 11:00-12:00 BST](#)**

Hear expert insights from Climate Outreach, IPPR and Local Storytelling Exchange. Join the webinar to discover:

- How to effectively communicate with communities on vital infrastructure developments, including lessons for renewable energy developers.
- The economic benefits of doing engagement well in areas of clean energy rollout.
- The threats to net zero – and how we can overcome them to realise our clean energy capacity in the UK.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

### ROYAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE, DRIVER

Royal Voluntary Service has an opportunity available for a Driver to join our team across Shetland. You will join us on a part-time, permanent basis and in return, you will receive a salary of £13.49 per hour (FTE £24,552 per annum). [Apply here](#)

### SCOUTING LERWICK VOLUNTEERS

The Scout group in Lerwick is short of volunteers to run Cubs, Scouts and Administration of the group and is looking for volunteers to help with this. Anyone interested can go to: <https://volunteeringopportunities.scouts.org.uk/#/vacancylist> and search for Shetland/Lerwick for all vacancies.

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

### REPORTS

### LEGISLATION

**CALLS FOR VIEWS:** [THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A RANGE OF TOPICS:](#)