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## THIRD SECTOR NEWS

### [VE & VJ 80TH ANNIVERSARY](#)

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe and in Japan and there may be community events being planned to mark these most poignant of celebrations.

The UK government's Department of Culture, Media and Sport have launched an interactive website which offers key information and resources, including ways that everyone can get involved in the commemorations.

The site features downloadable digital materials and an interactive map of events which may be helpful. The Big Lunch will develop street party packs to help communities with accessible resources which will be available on the website [VE and VJ Day 80](#)

### [NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY CONSULTATION](#)

The Government is creating a new ten-year National Youth Strategy to tackle the challenges for this generation of young people and ensure that every young person can thrive. It aims to bring power back to young people and their communities, and improve youth-focused services, moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach from the Government.

**If you are aged 10 - 25 please help to shape the strategy. Take 5 minutes and respond to the consultation [IWill here](#).**

In the last question, make sure to include your thoughts on how young people should be involved in governance, from having a role in public appointments to better government support for young trustees, and more.

### **NATURE OF SCOTLAND AWARDS OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Nature of Scotland Awards shine a light on the great work being done to help Scotland's environment. Enter their 10 categories, including the Business for Nature award, Community Initiative award, Health and Wellbeing award, and the Nature Tourism award before 27th of May.

### **PROPOSED MERGER OF CIC REGULATOR TO COMPANIES HOUSE**

CICs are limited companies with a primary purpose of benefitting the community rather than making a profit. Set up in 2005, the [Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies](#) is responsible for deciding whether an organisation is eligible to become, or continue to be, a CIC, investigating complaints and providing help to people setting up CICs. There are currently almost 37,000 CICs.

In a [policy paper on a "new approach to ensure regulators and regulation support growth"](#), the UK government said it will merge the office with Companies House as part of a commitment to cut administrative costs for businesses by 25% by the end of the Parliament. The CIC Regulator [released a statement](#) to clarify it was "business as usual" for its customers, and their obligations and duties as a CIC remained the same for the time being.

### **CHANGING PLACES TOILETS - PAMIS CAMPAIGN SURVEY**

[PAMIS](#) are seeking your views to help inform a new Scottish Government Changing Places toilet Fund. Please take a few moments to complete our survey and tell us where you need to see more Changing Places Toilets built. Your views will help shape the fund design and ultimately create more of these life changing facilities across Scotland.

To complete the survey click here: <https://pamis.org.uk/campaigns/scotlandfund/>

## **NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR**

### **UPDATED SORP: CHARITIES ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND TO CONSULTATION AND BE READY FOR CHANGE**

The joint SORP-making body has today launched a public consultation on the next version of the charities accounting and reporting framework. The 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities' ('the SORP') ensures consistency and transparency across the sector, making charity accounts comparable, understandable and useful for donors, beneficiaries, and the public alike. It has been updated following an extensive development process informed by the views of engagement partners and a sector specific SORP Committee.

The SORP-making body is keen to hear the views of charities, preparers, auditors and independent examiners of charity accounts, trustees, employees and beneficiaries of charities and others who may use charity accounts including donors, funders, financial supporters and other stakeholders.

The [consultation on the "Exposure Draft of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities"](#) will run from 28 March 2025 for 12 weeks.

## RESOURCES

### **BIG GIVE SMALL CHARITIES WEEK - DOUBLE YOUR UNRESTRICTED FUNDING!**

Unrestricted funding is available for registered charities who sign up to this year's Charity Week. All donations received through fundraising activities from the 23rd to 30th of June will be doubled through the match funding model, so a donation of £10 will become £20. Find out more and/or apply [here](#) before 2nd of April.

### **INSPIRING SCOTLAND WEBINAR RECORDINGS**

- [Intellectual Property](#)
- [How the right CRM can transform your impact and efficiency](#)
- [Data Protection and Freedom of Information](#)

### **EMBRACE AUTISM EVALUATION REPORT (PDF)**

Embrace Autism is a partnership between Autistic Knowledge Development and the National Autistic Society, offering pre- and post-diagnostic support for recently diagnosed or self-identifying autistic adults across Scotland.

### **OPTIMISING FUTURE HEALTH – RESOURCE PACK**

To raise awareness of the health of women in later life, and how we can all prioritise healthy aging no matter what stage of life we are at, the ALLIANCE and the Scottish Government have produced a number of resources.

- [Optimising future health – Webinar Recording](#)  
This webinar explores key areas such as nutrition, exercise, sleep etc and how to navigate these with a view to healthy aging (no matter what age you currently are!).
- [Looking after your long-term health – Information and Resource Sheet](#)  
This information leaflet pulls together key information and resources on healthy habits and behaviours to support healthy aging, which are available online for free from various specialist organisations, including NHS Inform.
- Optimising future health – Graphic  
This graphic pulls together the discussion and learning from our webinar. It was produced by [Listen Think Draw](#).

### **ALISS ANALYTICS IS LIVE - HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ALLIANCE SCOTLAND**

The ALISS team is delighted to announce the launch of ALISS Analytics, a new tool designed to provide easy access to valuable data on ALISS. Users can now explore:

- Visitor and service data: insights into visitor numbers, services and organisations stats, and search trends.
- Location insights: information on services and organisations in specific regions, top categories, and most-searched postcodes.
- My Stats: insights into the number of views and saves, and other engagement data for users' own services.

**BUSINESS ENERGY SCOTLAND: [UPGRADE YOUR LIGHTING AND MAKE BIG SAVINGS ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS](#)**

Upgrading to modern lighting, such as LEDs, is a great way to make big savings on your energy bills. And with a free assessment from our team you could quickly make the switch. Get in touch today to find out how much you could save and how you could take advantage of an interest free loan from the Scottish Government - with cashback grants of up to £20,000, while funds last.

**[THRE WEBINAR - HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES IN FUNDING APPLICATIONS](#)**

This webinar was created to support organisations applying for grant funding. Across the third sector, funders are increasingly looking to understand how applicants are going to be contributing towards human rights and equalities outcomes through their work. Talking about your work in human rights and equalities terms can be intimidating. THRE's webinar aims to provide you with support on how to frame your work through the lens of human rights and equalities and demonstrate this to funders.

Further resources:

- Beyond Protected Characteristics (Equality Act): <https://thre.org.uk/topic/beyond-prot...>
- THRE's Funding and Fundraising Guide: <https://thre.org.uk/topic/funding-and...>
- Scotland's Climate Hubs: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/com>

**BUSINESS GATEWAY WEBINAR: [INSPIREHER: BUILDING CONFIDENCE](#)**

In celebration of International Women's Day, Nichola Henderson, Life Coach, Wellness Consultant and Founder of Coaching by Nic, recorded a 2-part session on how to build confidence as a woman in business.

See part 2 here: [InspireHER: Building Confidence – Part 2 - YouTube](#)

**[HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE - DIGITAL TOURISM SPECIALIST ADVICE](#)**

This service offers up to 3 days of free one-to-one specialist digital advice for small and medium-sized businesses in the tourism sector. You'll get to speak to digital experts from several disciplines who will help you understand your options and develop and exploit digital opportunities for growth.

**FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS**

**[NATIONAL RURAL MENTAL HEALTH FORUM: ONLINE SEMINAR - HOW IS METABOLISM CONNECTED TO MENTAL HEALTH, METABOLIC PSYCHIATRY HUB, THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, TUESDAY, 30TH APRIL AT 11AM](#)**

The next National Rural Mental Health Forum, featuring insights from the University of Edinburgh on metabolism and mental health, plus a session from the Ukrainian Mental Health Foundation, UCARE, on supporting the Ukrainian community.

### **PUBLIC SECTOR TENDERING - PRACTICAL STEPS FOR THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS, WED, 2 APR 2025 12:00 - TUE, 8 APR 2025 13:00, ONLINE**

Want to win public sector contracts but don't know where to start? Join this straightforward 60-minute webinar and learn how to find contract opportunities, boost your chances of receiving invitations to quote for contracts under £50,000, and set up regular email updates on new opportunities.

Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) has recently updated its system to make it easier for buyers to find third sector organisations. Our jargon-free session will show you simple, quick actions you can take immediately to:

- Find suitable contract opportunities
- Improve your visibility to potential buyers
- Build confidence using the PCS platform

### **DISABILITY, IDENTITY SPORT WORKSHOP, 3 APRIL, 6.30PM-7.30PM ONLINE**

The Disability, Identity and Sport workshop was created after a group of young people with a disability researched that there was a link between mental health problems and disability. With the support of SAMH and SDS, the DIS workshop was developed by these young people. The workshop explores disability and identity and aims to provide an understanding of some of the things people with disabilities experience when trying to engage in sport and physical activity. The workshop is designed for young people with a disability by young people with a disability. The workshop outcomes include:



**ABILITY SHETLAND**  
*Adult Sports Festival*

**SATURDAY  
26TH APRIL 2025**

10.00-11.00 Netball  
11.00-12.00 Hockey  
12.00-13.00 Football  
14.00-15.00 Table Tennis  
15.00-16.00 Kayaking & Swimming

**OVER 18S ONLY  
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE  
SESSIONS CAN BE BOOKED INDIVIDUALLY  
EMAIL [ABILITYSHETLAND@SHETLAND.ORG](mailto:ABILITYSHETLAND@SHETLAND.ORG) TO BOOK**

Logos: Ability Shetland, Scottish Disability Sport, Active Schools Shetland, Shetland Charitable Trust, sportscotland



**Ability Shetland**  
*Joining together*

**Peerie Sports Festival**

**FOOTBALL | HOCKEY | BADMINTON  
NETBALL | KAYAKING**

**Saturday 10:00 AM  
26th April - 13.30 PM**

**@Clickimin**

Open to children and young people aged between 6 and 18 years.

Limited spaces available. Please contact [abilityshetland@shetland.org](mailto:abilityshetland@shetland.org) or call 01595 743929.

Logos: Ability Shetland, Scottish Disability Sport, Active Schools Shetland, Shetland Charitable Trust, sportscotland





## **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CROSS-PARTY GROUP (CPG) MEETING TUESDAY 1ST APRIL AT THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT AND ONLINE (6PM -8PM)**

Exploring all aspects of Community Ownership in Scotland with a panel of expert speakers and our co-conveners Ariane Burgess MSP and Emma Roddick MSP. Linda Gillespie, Head of Community Ownership at Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) will share more about the opportunities and challenges of Community Ownership in Scotland and how COSS can support you. Register here: [socialenterprisescotland - SES | Event Registration Form](https://socialenterprisescotland.org.uk/SES/EventRegistrationForm)

## **THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES**

THRE Training Coming Up Soon:

- Wednesday, 2 April: [Funding and Fundraising](#)
- Monday, 7 April: [PANEL Workshop](#)
- Wednesday, 16 and 17th April: [The Basics: \(over 2 half days\)](#)

## **FREE E-LEARNING FROM JUST ENTERPRISE**

Prefer to learn at a time, place and pace of your own choosing? [Just Enterprise eLearning programmes](#) are split into short, focused modules that help you fit essential training into your busy schedule. Choose the courses that are relevant to you and your organisation and learn at your own pace via desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone.  
[REGISTER NOW](#)

## CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

### **SCOTTISH RURAL ACTION REPORT ON COMMUNITY BENEFITS IN THE ENERGY SYSTEM**

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scottish Rural Action and Community Energy Scotland hosted a roundtable looking at a strategic approach to community benefits, in the context of a just transition. The roundtable participants allowed for a multi-disciplinary approach with expertise in areas including community development, economics, policy, energy sector, and business.

### **GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK 2025, 7TH-15TH JUNE**

Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. During the week, communities, schools, businesses, churches, mosques and more join together in a wave of support for action to protect the planet.

The theme for Great Big Green Week is 'Let's swap together for good' and we're inviting you to join in, to celebrate the brilliant ways in which your community is already uniting to improve lives and those of future generations. Perhaps your school could partner with a local business, or your sports team could help create a wildlife habitat? The opportunities are endless!

Getting involved is easy. Simply head to our website and download an organisers' pack. And if you are stuck for ideas, we have an A-Z list of inspiration to get you started.

### **WEBINAR RECORDING: CAPTURING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**

Last week, Project Drawdown and [Solutions Journalism Network](#) presented [a Drawdown Ignite webinar](#) about the power of photography to inspire resilience, hope, and climate solutions. During the webinar – [a recording](#) of which is now available – two award-winning photojournalists shared tips and examples on how to visually incorporate climate solutions into your work.

### **NETREGS WEBSITE**

The [NetRegs website](#) provides free environmental guidance for businesses throughout Northern Ireland and Scotland and a range of topics such as water, waste, air quality and land management.

## **CLIMATE OUTREACH**

### **WORKSHOP ON HOW TO EARN TRUST IN A CLIMATE OF DISTRUST**

To transition to a low-carbon society, we need to be able to trust the wide range of people and organisations that can help get us there. But trust is at an all-time low. The story we're hearing around the world is of progress stalling, or going into reverse. Despite everyone's best efforts, climate messages aren't always landing as we want. Climate Outreach and The Connectives are excited to bring you a new workshop that will help you inspire hope, credibility, and connection through powerful communication. We currently have two dates with limited spaces; find out more and book below:

📅 22 April, 14:00 - 16:30 UK time - [book here](#)

📅 20 May, 14:00 - 16:30 UK time - [book here](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

N/a

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

### REPORTS

#### [THE COST OF REMOTENESS](#)

Reflecting higher living costs in remote rural Scotland when measuring fuel poverty – an update on previous research.

#### [RURAL SCOTLAND - TRAJECTORIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULTS: REPORT](#)

A report by the Scottish Government's Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population exploring the migration and mobility of young persons and young adults in rural Scotland.

#### [LAND REFORM \(SCOTLAND\) BILL REPORT](#)

The [Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee](#) published its [stage 1 report](#) on the [Land Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#) on 19 March. While the majority of the committee supported the general principles, the report says that significant change to the bill is needed if the Scottish Government's policy objectives for land reform are to be met.

### Scottish Parliament SPICE Reports

[SPICE Spotlight: Disability Benefit Reform – implications for Scotland](#)

[Delivering a model for parliamentary scrutiny of climate change: a Climate Change People's Panel](#)

### LEGISLATION

#### [WELLBEING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)

This bill seeks to promote consideration by public bodies of sustainable development and the wellbeing of future generations



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

**[LEGAL AID INQUIRY](#)**

**Closes: 17 April 2025**

[The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee](#) is seeking views on civil legal assistance, including grant funding for advice organisations. This call for views is part of a new inquiry, which aims to explore what is and is not working within the current civil legal aid system. The committee is keen to hear from solicitors, organisations offering advice on civil justice issues or supporting people in accessing civil legal assistance, and people who have experience of accessing civil legal assistance or advice on civil justice issues.

**[NATURAL ENVIRONMENT \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)**

**Closes: 9 May 2025**

The Rural Affairs and Islands Committee is looking for your views on the [Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Bill](#) which aims to help restore nature and protect biodiversity in Scotland.

**[TERTIARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING \(FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE\) \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)**

**Closing date: 11 April 2025**