

LINK Members' eBulletin September 2008

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LINK NEWS

Welcome to our new President

In August we received unanimous support for the appointment of Helen Zealey OBE MD as LINK president and Helen was welcomed to the recent LINK Gathering in Perth and will be meet more members of the network at Congress in October.

Thank you for our Web Survey

A big thank you to everyone who completed our online survey earlier this summer. We are now summarising some action points into proposals for our Internal Communication Plan, which we will circulate to everyone.

LINK Gathering on Climate Change, 28 August, Perth

Many thanks too to those who facilitated the workshops, gave presentations and who earlier helped shape the agenda. About one third of member organisations took part in discussions on developing a LINK strategic response, and the action points will be circulated and available on the LINK website soon.

LINK Soils Workshop, 7 August, Perth

Members met at relatively short notice to discuss the Soils Framework consultation, and **notes** of the meeting are available on the LINK website. **Carey Coombs** is now preparing a LINK response ready fo the closing date 22 September.

Scottish Environment Week at Parliament 2009

The date of the week, 23-27 February, after the spring recess has been confirmed. Staff, guided by the SEW Steering Group, are currently working on the possibilities of funding and partners for seminars, mid-week reception, business breakfast and public reception. At this stage funding seems elusive and work wil continue in this area.

'Moving Scotland Forward' - Scotland's Cabinet in Pitlochry

The meeting in Pitlochry in August was one of several held throughout Scotland during the summer with many of the ministers and cabinet secretaries, and Eilidh, LINK's Parliamentary Officer attending.

John Swinney introduced Alex Salmond who spoke about the current economic situation and his belief that Scotland was better placed to deal with an economic downturn than the rest of the UK despite the, 'parameters for action,(being) quite limited'. He discussed his hopes for reform of the planning system and that he felt that for business 'a fast no is better than a slow yes'. He also spoke about plans for the 'Year of Homecoming' next year.

Relevant questions in the question and answer session touched on issues such as nuclear power, energy conservation, renewables obligation and wind power.

New LINK Publications, September 2008

Beyond the CAP  3.3Mb

The LINK Agriculture Taskforce presents the case for transforming it into a European Sustainable Land Management Policy. It lays out our vision for how



CAP funding could, in future, be retained for rural areas, help maintain land managers' livelihoods and provide significant public goods.

Leaflet - 'A Vital Step for Scotland' 848Kb

New legislation represents a new opportunity to introduce sustainable management of flood risk. However, it will only be achieved if three key principles are placed at the heart of the new legislation. This leaflet produced by the LINK Freshwater Taskforce outlines the required principles.

LINK Review Report - Natural Flood Management 774Kb

Natural Flood Management (NFM), part of a Sustainable Flood Management is not new and most of the techniques are components of best practices in farming, forestry, river restoration and natural habitat management. A major element is the production of a Catchment Flood Management Plan enabling most of the current land uses to continue while introducing flood controls in key areas. This literature review looks at what can be learned from past studies and experiences in other countries.

SCVO Rural Dimension E-News

The current newsletter covers the NFUS Manifesto for the Hills, and articles on CAP. LINK is a member of SCVO and if you wish you can [subscribe](#) to their news directly.

New Director at WCL

Jodie Bettis, currently WCL Policy and Campaigns Coordinator will replace Alexia Wellbelove as Director of Wildlife and Countryside Link in September.

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NEWS

AHRC/EPSRC Research Clusters

The [Science and Heritage Programme](#) which is jointly funded by the [Arts and Humanities Research Council](#) and the [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council](#)

aims to support innovative cross-sector and interdisciplinary networking activities is making a call for proposals for research 'clusters' in the areas of higher education institutions (HEIs), heritage stakeholders and industrial and commercial enterprises with an interest in cultural heritage.

Proposals are sought that explore ideas from one of six themes which are expected to be studied further during the period of the award. The themes are: Nature of transformation; Authenticity, authentication and security; Interpretation and representation; Cultural encounters and explorations; Human and machine interfaces; Resilience and adaptation

Proposals with full economic costs of up to £30,000 and for a period of between 4 and 12 months may be submitted, with a start date between 1 December 2008 and 31 March 2009 should be submitted through the cross-council Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) System. The closing date for the receipt of proposals is 4pm Thursday 4th September 2008.



To apply download the following documents:

Research Clusters - Specification
Research Clusters - Details of the Call
AHRC Research Funding Guide

Living with environmental change

A new UK funding initiative from a group of 19 funders plans to provide £1 billion pounds over 10 years to fund research which will allow the UK to better deal with environmental change. The bids for this funding need to be genuinely multi-disciplinary. Further details can be found at

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/programmes/lwec/>

The Scottish Government is one of the funders and it is taking a lead on one of the objectives which is about impact of environmental change on plants, animals and humans. More details are available from **Edward Harkins**, Networking Initiatives Manager Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum or telephone 0141-585 6850.

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Consultations

Sign up to **seConsult**, the Scottish Government weekly email alert service to tell you of new consultations and provides brief descriptions and web links.

In addition to the Scottish Government consultations

Survey on the Funds from Dormant Bank Accounts

8 September

Scottish Ministers will set the priorities for the Scottish share of funds from Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts.

It is estimated that Scotland's share for investment in the third sector would be approximately £40m in the first year(s) and £4m per year thereafter.

Scottish voluntary organisations are encouraged to express their views on through a survey on the SCVO website at www.scvo.org.uk/dbafsurvey.

For more information contact **Carol Elder**.

Scottish Government and the Glasgow Caledonian University

30 September

The Scottish Government is funding an economic assessment of sea fishing in Scotland via Glasgow Caledonian University.

Any one who has experienced any form of sea fishing in Scotland is encouraged to respond to the **online questionnaire**.

More information is available from **Steve Bastiman** of the SSACN - the Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network www.ssacn.org

RCEP Study on Adapting the UK to Climate Change The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution is keen to hear the views of organisations and individuals with an interest in adaptation to climate change.

10 October

See Details of the Study and Response.

Submissions should be emailed to Assistant Secretary RCEP **Jon Freeman**.

Scottish Government and Joint FC-Defra consultation on the disease management of Phytophthora spp

7 and 10 October

Scottish Government and **FC-Defra** consultation on the disease management of 'sudden oak death' pathogens *Phytophthora* spp.

Responses should be sent before 7 October to **Jean Waddie** or posted to CRE 1044, Central Scanning Unit, Spur U5b, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

or before 10 October to Margaret O'Donnell, Defra, Foss House, 1–2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX or by **email**.

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Events and Seminars

11 September Sustainable Scotland: Choosig our Future

Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh.

The day will assess the legislation, policy and delivery surrounding sustainability, analysing the progress to date and how Scotland as a nation has fared since the Strategy launch in 2005.

It will assess the advancements made within the renewables field and the next stage – delivering real results and practical action on the Government's targets for sustainable development.

Organised by **Public Service Events** and sponsored by WWF and SEPA. **Programme** includes speakers Professor James Curran, Jim Mather MSP, Maf Smith and Richard Wakeford, materclasses and is CPD Certified. **Registration details.**

17 September
5-6pm

Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland Open Meeting

HEACS' Open Meeting 2008

Edinburgh

Chaired by Liz Burns, with short presentations by each of the current HEACS Working Groups who are considering the following four issues of major strategic importance at the request of the Scottish Ministers: the economic impact of the historic environment in Scotland; the infrastructure of the historic environment sector; the conservation of Scotland's rich ecclesiastical heritage; and engaging young adults in the historic environment.

More details from **Olwyn Owen**, HEACS.

18 September

The theme of the next Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum Open Forum is **Sustainable Communities and Regeneration in Scotland**.

SURF Open Forum

A morning event with two speakers and a questions and comments session.

Glasgow's Teacher Building

See the Programme. Or contact **Derek Rankine** Events Officer, telephone 0141 585 6879.

20-21 September The annual **Organic Food Festival** is the finale of Organic Fortnight, the Scotland-wide programme of events, farm visits, and promotions in the two weeks leading up

Soil Association
and Glasgow
Council

to the big event.

Book tickets for events.

Old Fruit Market,
Glasgow

23 September The Life and Culture of the Highlands and Islands Conference.

RSE, SNH and UHI
Millennium
Institute

An open invitation to LINK to attend the first of two conferences, with the second being held in Skye in 2009.

A day of six themes including 'Environment and Landscape' in the afternoon and panel discussions and members can attend one or all sessions.

RSE, Edinburgh

More details are available from Sue Walker RSE Events Officer, 0131 240 5000.

30 September Successful Scotland: The Way Forward for Single Outcome Agreements

Assembly Rooms,
Edinburgh

A **one day public policy conference** chaired by Keith Aitken to look at the issues surrounding the delivery of the SOAs, and how to build on them to make next year's agreements even more ambitious to meet the rapidly expanding ambitions of Scotland's political landscape.

Holyrood
Conferences

For more details see the **programme** or telephone 0131 272 2133.

**9 October
1.30 - 3.30pm SCVO Policy Officers Network Meeting. Main agenda item - Freedom of Information Act with visiting speaker Paul Mutch, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner.**

SCVO Policy
Officers Network

Meet at the Alcohol Focus offices, 166 Buchanan Street Glasgow G1 2LW

Glasgow

For details of the PON, contact **Jill Flye**, Policy Officer, SCVO

11 October Edinburgh Churches Climate Change Conference

Edinburgh Climate
Network

The conference is supported by Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and other church and environmental groups and is being organised by the **Edinburgh Climate Network**, an ecumenical group of Christians concerned about climate change.

Stewart Melville
College, Edinburgh

For more details and Register online.

29- 31 October iSNH Conference on 'Species Management: Challenges and Solutions for the 21st Century'

Scottish Natural
Heritage

More details or email Helen King.

Heriot-Watt
University
Edinburgh

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**LINK Diary
2008**

September 26 LINK Strategy Workshop with Bruce Britton. Venue TBA.

Autumn TBC		Possible LINK Workshop on SEA. Venue TBC.
Autumn TBC		Possible LINK Workshop on National Parks Review. Venue TBC.
October 23		Board meeting, morning Perth.
30/31		LINK Congress and Annual Review and Forward Planning, Birnam.
December TBC		LINK Workshop on Management of Task Force Workload. Venue TBA.
December 17		Festive Evening Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh.
2009		
January 22		Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm. Perth.
30-31		LINK Congress and Annual Review and Forward Planning, Birnam.
February 23-27		LINK Scottish Environment Week, Holyrood.
April 23		Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.
June 25		Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.
October 22		Board meeting, am. Board and Convenors/Members Networking pm.
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Publications Received

Cairngorms National Park Authority Progress Report 2008

Covers its seven priorities, deliverables for 2008-09 and case studies.



Black Environment Network UK

This (BEN) publication gives guidance to support organisations in setting up informal learning partnerships with ethnic communities.

Based on the methodology developed from the BEN GWLAD project in north Wales forging ways of working in a semi-rural settings with 'emergent' groups spread across a wide geographical area.



The Bat Conservation Trust Annual Review 2008

Covers the work of their bat groups, monitoring, helpline and projects.



RSPB Nature and Sustainable Growth

This report aims to stimulate debate about sustainable growth in Scotland, and calls for investment in our natural heritage to sustain it for both its own sake and for the additional benefits it generates.



Planta Europa European Strategy for Plant Conservation 2008-14

This strategy gives targets and actions for some 75 network members in 35 countries, which are aligned to the 16 targets of the CBD Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

