

# LINK Members' Bulletin December 2009

## LINK Diary Winter 2009/10

<b>December 16</b>	Festive Evening Reception, St Augustine's Church, Edinburgh
<b>January 13</b>	Parliamentary Forum, pm. Edinburgh
<b>January 18</b>	Bespoke training on fundraising, for members, day, venue tbc
<b>January 21</b>	Members and Convenors' Networking Meeting, pm. Perth.
<b>February 22-26</b>	Scottish Environment Week (all week). Holyrood.
<b>February 24</b>	SEW Midweek Reception, eve. Holyrood.

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## LINK News

**Congress:** Congress in Dunblane was well attended, with food for thought from interesting debates. A report will be on the website in early in the new year.

**Strategic Planning:** This Nov meeting confirmed priorities for collective work over the coming eighteen months, including progression of existing work on agriculture, biodiversity, landscape, marine and planning, further work on Single Outcome Agreements, sustainable land use strategy, climate; and some new areas. A report will be on the website soon.

**Single Outcome Agreements:** We have explored our draft issues and indicators with Scottish Government and CoSLA. The Local Outcome Indicators published November (see <http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/single-outcome-agreements/>) are disappointing, though accompanying Good Practice Guidance acknowledges gaps and areas to be developed. We are revising our report to publish in January. The SOAs task force will meet in January to develop plans. If you want to join, please contact **Jen**.

**Sustainable Land Use:** LINK's proposals, *Living with the Land*, were launched on 2 December in Holyrood. Our SLU task force will shortly meet with the Scottish Government lead, Sally Thomas. SG will publish plans to develop the strategy, on their website, in December. Regional stakeholder forums are planned, towards Easter, around Scotland. The SLU task force meets in January to develop thinking. To join contact **Jen**.

**Health, wellbeing and environment:** The Minister has agreed to request a debate on health and environment in response to LINK's request for joint ministerial initiative.

**WNE Bill:** LINK's bill team continues to track Government as it develops the WNE Bill, and to engage in consultation. The Bill is not coming forward until the Marine Bill and Crofting Bill are completed – ie, till spring at the earliest.

**Elections work:** Parliamentary Forum, meeting 13 January, will develop 'spinal' manifesto document, and plans for hustings, for UK elections spring 2010. Details **Andy**.

**Scottish Environment Week** Contact **Andy** for programme details and to engage.

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## Member Focus

**Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) & Rivers and Fisheries Trusts in Scotland (RAFTS)** Welcome to both RZSS, which rejoined LINK in November with Rob Thomas as rep, and also to RAFTS, whose application to join LINK has been approved recently. RAFTS' rep on LINK will be their Director, Callum Sinclair.

Membership of LINK stands at 34 member bodies.

## PUBLICATIONS

Part of the *National Conversation* series, **Rural Affairs, Environment and Climate Change** outlines SG's relationship with EU and UK, considers potential impact of Calman recommendations, examines what significant extension of devolved responsibilities ('devolution max') could mean for Scotland and options for reform and what independence could mean over and above improvements that could flow from 'devolution max'. Responses invited, either via [www.nationalconversation.com](http://www.nationalconversation.com) or to National Conversation RAECC, Area 1-H, Mailpoint 14, Victoria Quay, EH6 6QQ.

### **Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework**

Presents a national, coordinated approach aimed at ensuring Scotland understands risks and opportunities climate change presents and adapts sustainably. Overarching model with sector summaries, outlining key issues and planned activity.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/12/08130513/4>

**Helping a Changing World** Scottish Agricultural College Annual Report 2008/09,

<http://www.sac.ac.uk/mainrep/pdfs/annualreport0809.pdf>

JNCC *Nature News* Issue 22, Winter 2010, focus on new MD Marcus Yeo.

<http://www.gov.uk>

**State of Scotland's Greenspace 2009** Developed by Greenspace Scotland this first report is based on information from 20 LAs, covering 34% of Scotland's land area and 70% of its population. Data is for greenspace in urban areas.

<http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/>

**The State of the UK's Birds 2008** published by RSPB, BTO, WWT and the 5 statutory conservation agencies with information on breeding and wintering populations, decline in farmland birds, and how rarer breeding birds have fared over the last decade.

[http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/SUKB\\_tcm9-231778.pdf](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/SUKB_tcm9-231778.pdf)

**Driving Action in Scotland now and in the future** Carbon Trust Annual Review 2008/09

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/Publications/>

**Naturally at your service: why it pays to invest more** Ecosystem services and valuation

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/economicdevelopment/wellbeing.asp>

**The Ghost Orchid Declaration: Saving the UK's wild flowers today** Plantlife call to governments, conservation organisations and public to ensure we don't lose more of the UK's irreplaceable flora

<http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/assets/saving-species/saving-species-publications/Ghost%20Orchid%20Declaration%20doc%202009.pdf>

**Prospectus for Sustainable Scotland Short Course** Open University, starting February.

<http://www.openuniversity.co.uk/sustainableScotland>

**Mapping Responses to Scottish Government Consultations** Summary of academic analysis of Scottish government consultation responses. Available on request from LINK.

**Wildlife and Countryside LINK quarterly bulletin**

[http://www.wcl.org.uk/ebul11\\_home\\_2009.asp](http://www.wcl.org.uk/ebul11_home_2009.asp)

**Independent review of the IUCN Programme on Protected Areas**

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ppa\\_review\\_report\\_28\\_nov\\_09.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/ppa_review_report_28_nov_09.pdf)

**Walkipedia** - Paths for All & Living Streets. New information resource for anyone with an interest in promoting walking in Scotland; **Scotland's first ever national poll on attitudes to walking in Scotland** - Paths for All & Living Streets commissioned Scotland's first public opinion survey on attitudes to walking. <http://www.pathsforall.org.uk>

**Climate Challenge Fund Contacts List** with project summaries, names and contact details for projects signed up. Join the list by contacting Caroline StJohnston

[Caroline.StJohnston@sdscotland.org.uk](mailto:Caroline.StJohnston@sdscotland.org.uk)

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## SCVO pre-Budget Special

### Key announcements

- VAT goes back up to 17.5% in January with no other changes expected
- Empty property relief extended into 2010/11
- Mortgage interest scheme extended by 6 months
- Expanding work/training opportunities for under 24s so none need be unemployed for longer than 6 months
- Special employment support for over 50s
- State Pension to rise by 2.5 per cent in April (4 per cent in real terms)
- Child benefit and disability to rise by 1.5 per cent in April
- Financial guarantee that being in work will never leave people worse off than on benefits

### Greening Britain:

- £160m renewables innovation fund
- Additional £90m in European Investment Fund for 2020 projects (green infrastructure)
- Four carbon capture projects to be funded
- Smart Meters to be rolled out by 2020
- Addition £200m from April for energy efficiency in the home
- Boiler scrappage scheme - to benefit 125,000 homes
- An average payment of £900 a year, tax free for people putting electricity back into grid through solar or other renewable energy in own home.
- Electric cars exempt for company cars

### What wasn't there and what it means for the sector

- Any announcement on automatic opt in for Gift Aid or irrecoverable VAT which could have resulted in crucial funds for our sector.
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## CALLS FOR ACTION

**Climate Challenge Fund grant applications** Deadline 13 January 2010. For information and advice tel 01786 471333 or email [ccfenquiries@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:ccfenquiries@ksbscotland.org.uk)

**RSE Inquiry into Climate Change** At public meetings in Dundee (4 Jan 2010), Aberdeen (3 March 2010), Glasgow (4 April 2010) and Inverness (5 May 2010) RSE is keen to have stands which members of the public can visit in advance of the meetings. Contact [mrand@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:mrand@royalsoced.org.uk)

### 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

Poverty Alliance is keen to highlight any work afoot in UK. If your organization wants to publicise relevant work, complete the form on their website at [www.povertyalliance.org](http://www.povertyalliance.org)

**Research call from NERC - Proposals on Environmental Exposure and Health:**  
<mailto:dolh@nerc.ac.uk>

**Help needed to spring clean Scotland** inviting all sectors to support National Spring Clean 2010, through own events (for employees, volunteers, friends), by spreading the word, links to KSB website, articles in newsletters, mail-outs to encourage action.

[www.keepsotlandtidy.org/springclean](http://www.keepsotlandtidy.org/springclean) or [valerie.carson@ksbscotland.org.uk](mailto:valerie.carson@ksbscotland.org.uk)

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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.

<b>Options for implementation of Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation</b> 26 February 2010	Policy options for development of the SCIO, a new legal form of incorporation specifically for charities, introduced by the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulated only by OSCR (in contrast to a charitable company which is required to comply with both charity legislation and company law). <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current</a>
<b>FoI: Revised Code of Practice for Scottish Public Authorities</b> 2 March 2010	Consultation by Scottish Ministers on a revised Code of Practice for public authorities on the discharge of their functions under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004. <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current</a>
<b>Proposal to modify the LLTNP Designation Order</b>	Statutory consultation on proposals to modify the Designation Order to reduce the number of members on the Board of the National Park Authority from 25 to 17 and b) to make a technical change regarding delegation of the National Park Authority's planning functions
<b>Proposal to modify the CNP Designation Order</b> 18 January 2010	Statutory consultation on proposals to modify the Designation Order to reduce the number of members on the Board of the National Park Authority from 25 to 19 and b) to make a technical change regarding delegation of the National Park Authority's planning functions <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current</a>

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## Events and Seminars

**4 January 2010, evening, Steps Theatre, Wellgate, Dundee**

**RSE Climate Inquiry public meeting** Presentation by David Sugden, Chair of RSE Inquiry, Facing up to Climate Change, panel discussion with local stakeholders and public discussion with an opportunity to feed views into the inquiry. [mrands@royalsoced.org.uk](mailto:mrands@royalsoced.org.uk)

**20 January 2010, Edinburgh - Tackle Climate Change in Your Organisation**

One-day interactive training programme organized by SCVO

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/SCVOEvents/ViewSCVOEvents.aspx?al=t&EID=1046&from=t&f=0>

**8 February, 12.30 to 4.30pm 2010, Tolbooth, Stirling**

**Greenspace and health outcomes framework**

Greenspace and health in context of Single Outcome Agreement and National Performance Framework – exploring how greenspace can best deliver the Healthier strategic objective.

[info@greenspacescotland.org.uk](mailto:info@greenspacescotland.org.uk)

**18 & 19 February 2010, Edinburgh International Conference Centre**

**The Gathering 2010**

Voluntary sector event with marketplace and podium.

**More details** at [www.scvo.org.uk/thegathering](http://www.scvo.org.uk/thegathering)