

LINK Members' eBulletin May 2008

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LINK News

Come to the Joint UK Links Seminar on Devolution

8-9 October 2008, Birmingham

Revisiting the discussions of 2006, this seminar is an opportunity for Members, Convenors, Trustees and Staff of the four Links to exchange experience, consider whether we are making the most of the opportunities available and look in detail at particular issues. The programme will include presentations about experiences of each country and the workshops suggested to date include flooding, biodiversity, charities, marine, and possibly behaviour change and election work. Please tell **Jen** if you want to flag up other issues

More details on venue and costs will follow in the next couple of months, and courtesy of WWF UK funds to the Links we may be able to subsidise some members per country. In the meantime, please let us know if your organisation would like to send someone - or more than one!

LINK is on the Scottish Legacy Board for the 2012 and 2014 Games

LINK Board members Dan Barlow and Ian McCall attended the first meeting on 25 April. The Chair of the Board, Pam Whittle, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing in the Scottish Government, agreed that, given the breadth of interest and experience within LINK, both Dan and Ian should continue to represent LINK at future meetings. The Legacy Board will focus in five sub groups on how the games can help achieve the Government's five strategic objectives. The Greener sub-group will take forward the work of the 2014 Environmental Forum in which a number of LINK bodies have already been involved. The main areas of interest in the legacy for LINK organisations are likely to include:

- The Games' ecological footprint
- Setting new standards in design, energy use, waste etc
- Promotion of greenspace, habitat improvements and development of path networks
- The legacy of enhanced physical activity from the Games

LINK gave a **response** to the consultation on the legacy in May.

Report on IUCN by Mark Huxham, LINK Representative

There were three main activities of relevance to LINK undertaken in the last year by the IUCN UK executive committee:

1. Who pays for biodiversity?

The final report will shortly be available on the [IUCN UK website](#). The objectives were:

- To estimate the financial outlays from UK public and private entities contributing towards the 2010 target.
- To set actual expenditure in the context of the estimated costs of achieving the 2010 target and of the benefits associated with the conservation of habitats and maintenance of ecosystem services.
- To build on current national and EC initiatives for measuring biodiversity spend and support and recommend a systematic means of accounting and reporting.
- To produce an up-to-date report on biodiversity expenditure in the UK.

2. Biodiversity indicators beyond 2010

We began a discussion on what indicators should be developed for use after the 2010 target of halting the loss in biodiversity and this stimulated the dissemination of DEFRA's useful list of current indicators, [Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket](#)

2007. Following discussions with LINK members we were keen to see a greater emphasis on marine landscape ecological quality indicators. The DEFRA booklet describes the marine trophic index and the habitat connectivity index which are under development, with no data available yet. We intend to keep monitoring and encouraging developments in this area.

3. Parliamentary Seminar

The IUCN UK Committee organised a Parliamentary seminar for the All Party Group on Wildlife and Conservation at the end of April in the House of Commons aimed at raising the profile of the 2010 campaign and starting the planning for 2010 onwards.

LINK Membership

The associate membership category ceased in April 2008 and the Scottish Seabird Centre and RZSS have withdrawn. The Soil Association have demitted membership for this year with the intention of renewing their LINK membership next year. The Bumble Bee Conservation Trust (BBCT) have applied for membership and the LINK Board will email their recommendations to members soon.

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Other News

Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum

The Forum is looking for up to six new volunteer members, nearly a third of its current membership from a range of recreational, land management and community based interests. The Forum holds evening meetings five times a year and an all day Annual Event, most regularly in Deeside and Strathspey. Guidance notes, application form and the business report for the first two years of operation are available at the [Park Authority's website](#). Applications which will be considered on written merit (interviews aren't held) should be sent to [Catriona Campbell](#) at the CNPA.

Forward Scotland new website

[Forward Scotland](#) now have a new website, www.sustainableScotland.com which extends the existing Community Webnet to give portals for Businesses, People and Policy practitioners. The site has a searchable project directory which can search across both the community webnet section and Case Studies.

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Consultations

You can sign up to [seConsult](#), the Scottish Government weekly email alert service.

In addition to the Scottish Government consultations:

Historic Scotland	Consultation on the Scottish Historic Environment Policy on the Marine Historic Environment sets out proposals for Scottish Ministers policy.	30 May Email your comments or queries to Christine Kelly
HEACS Working	Consultation on the Future	27 June

Group on of Scotland's Email your comments or queries to **Malcolm Bangor-Jones**.
 Ecclesiastical **Ecclesiastical**
 Heritage **Heritage** in a
 Time of
 Demographic
 Change for a
 HEACS Report
 to be
 presented to
 the Minister.

Historic Scotland **Historic Scotland** **25 July**
 public Policy
 consultation in
 the Scottish
 Historic
 Environment
 Policy series
 on **Historic
 Battlefields**
 [Con 1005]

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority
 Consultation on the LLTNPA National Park
 27 July Submit your **comments online**
**Core Paths
 Plan**

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LINK Diary
2008

June 26 am Board meeting - LINK Perth Offices
June 26 pm Board and Convenors Networking meeting - LINK Perth Offices
June 26 pm AGM 4.30pm refreshments and BEN guest speaker - AK Bell
 Library, Perth
 Also beforehand optional ranger-led walk at 2pm.

October 23 Board meeting, morning Perth

October or November **TBC** Annual Review and Forward Planning and Annual Members' Congress

December 17 Festive Reception, evening, Edinburgh. **All and guests welcome.**

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Other Seminars and Conferences

<p>14, 21 and 28 May 5-7pm University of Strathclyde</p>	<p>Joint IEMA and IAIA</p>	<p>A Series of Three Workshops: An (unofficial) strategic environmental assessment of Strategic Environmental Assessment in Scotland Registration and further information from the IEMA website or Iain Hossack.</p>
<p>31 May Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre</p>		<p>East Lothian Environment Forum launch event for a community-wide environment forum with two workshops looking at: - the key environmental sustainability challenges facing East Lothian and how these affect local residents - how should the forum be structured and what it could achieve. Further information from Jacqueline Leslie.</p>
<p>14 May Festival Theatre, Edinburgh</p>	<p>SNH Sharing Good Practice</p>	<p>SNH workshop 'Adapting to Climate Change'. Practical management action to prepare for and adapt to Scotland's changing climate. To book a place email Karen Smith.</p>
<p>28 May Redgorton, Battleby</p>	<p>SNH, SDC and SSN Sharing Good Practice</p>	<p>Joint workshop with Sustainable Development Commission and Sustainable Scotland Network for senior managers 'Sustainable ePlaces and Development'. The role of cross-sectoral relationships, policy and people in making sustainable eplaces work. To book a place email Karen Smith.</p>
<p>2 June 9:30am–4:30pm Perth Concert Hall</p>	<p>Paths for All Partnership, Sustrans and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport</p>	<p>'Get Up and Go' the first Scottish Active Travel National Networking Event. For a booking form please email Mary Doig at the Paths for All Partnership.</p>
<p>4 June 5.45pm Royal Society of Edinburgh, George Street, Edinburgh.</p>	<p>Royal Town Planning Institute of Scotland and Royal Society of Edinburgh</p>	<p>The fifth annual Sir Patrick Geddes Commemorative Lecture 2008 will be given by Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland on 'The Biological Consequences of Living in Adverse Circumstances'. For more information and to book a place email or visit the RTPI website.</p>
<p>4 June SOAS, London</p>	<p>CIWEM - CMS 3rd Water Framework Directive Conference</p>	<p>Conference on developing the draft River Basin Management Plans; the developments across WFD work streams and how these interact; how objective setting and the River Basin Planning process will work and affect</p>

		<p>stakeholders.</p> <p>For more information and to book email or visit Coast Management for Sustainability website.</p>
<p>6 June Aberdeen</p>	<p>Macaulay Institute</p>	<p>32nd T.B. Macaulay Lecture 'Integrated Rural Development in Scotland' with Professor Mark Shucksmith.</p> <p>For more information and to book email or visit the Macaulay Institute website.</p>
<p>9 June Glasgow or 10 June Edinburgh 6.30-9.30 pm Climate Change Condensed</p>	<p>Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN)</p>	<p>A three-hour 'all-you-need-to-know' course which uses a carefully-concocted recipe of expert knowledge (brought to you on film), group discussion and pair work.</p> <p>For more information and to book email or visit the COIN website.</p>
<p>11 June Edinburgh</p>	<p>SPEL Conference</p>	<p>Scottish Planning and Environment Law annual conference.</p> <p>For more information and to book email or visit the IDOX website.</p>
<p>20 June 11am-12.30pm The Gathering exhibition, SECC, Glasgow.</p>	<p>SCVO</p>	<p>'Would more powers for Scotland benefit our voluntary sector?' part of the SCVO National Conversation series.</p> <p>Further information and booking email Catherine Sweeney or telephone 0141 225 8020.</p>
<p>21 June 10am-4pm Victoria Halls, Dunblane</p>	<p>SAGS - Scottish Allotments and Gardens Society</p>	<p>21st Century Allotments - Vision and Action. The morning session will be chaired by Aileen Campbell MSP with a report from Dr Richard Wiltshire, co-author of 'Growing in the Community'.</p> <p>The afternoon session will be chaired by Robin Harper MSP with reports from allotments across Scotland followed by workshops led by those with first-hand experience.</p> <p>Further details are on the SAGS website.</p>
<p>30 June Glasgow or 1 July Edinburgh 5.30-9.30 pm Climate Change Speaker Training</p>	<p>Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN)</p>	<p>An intensive 4-hour training course giving participants the text, information, skills and confidence to deliver a persuasive half hour talk on climate change.</p> <p>For more information and to book email or visit the COIN website.</p>

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Publications Received

The Committee of the Inquiry on Crofting Final Report presented by Professor Shucksmith to the Minister for Environment in May 2008 at Stornoway.



Future Scotland, Notes on National Conversation and Related Constitutional Debate, discussed at the Third Sector Policy Officer Network annual meeting in March 2008



Scottish Government's International Framework and Action Plan on European Engagement has been published in draft form for discussion with stakeholders before being finalised at the end of 2008.



Heritage Lottery Fund Strategy 2008-13 Valuing our Heritage, Investing in our Future

