

The Loop Newsletter

22 November 2024

NRSloop

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**For
Action**

**Important messages that
require action**

Citizens Asked to Step Forward to Volunteer for Glasgow 850

Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are being sought to support the celebrations around Glasgow 850's yearlong programme throughout 2025.

The Glasgow 850 Volunteer and Employability programme will offer Glaswegians a unique opportunity to play a key part in the city's birthday year, with roles to support the smooth running of its main events and local community projects.

In a break from the conventional volunteer programmes that recruits and trains people for specific roles, as part of a one-time event, the Glasgow 850 scheme will ask people to register to hear about a rolling programme of volunteer and learning opportunities, throughout the anniversary year.

Developed in conjunction with Volunteer Glasgow, this approach to volunteering creates an inclusive and rewarding experience for participants. It allows them to engage in a range of activities at their own pace, offering greater flexibility and choice than traditional volunteer schemes.

In registering their interest, volunteers will have the chance to be at the heart of Glasgow's 850 celebrations by supporting the signature activities including a three day music event; Clyde Chorus, People's Palace pop-up exhibition and Taste the Place food trail.

In addition to these flagship events, there will be a chance for volunteers to get involved in events run by Glasgow 850 Festival Fund recipients and locally based roles with community organisations, ensuring that participants can contribute in ways that best suit their interests and availability.

To register interest in the Glasgow 850 Volunteer and Employability Programme, visit [glasgow850 website](https://glasgow850.org.uk).





[Click here to read more](#)

Managers' Briefings

The following Managers' Briefs have been issued in the last fortnight. A full list of past briefings is available on the intranet using the button on the left.

- Driver Awareness November 2024

For Information

Service News and Corporate Updates that might affect you

Susanne Millar and George Gillespie Visit the MACC

For the last two years, Glasgow City Council have led on the management of a Multi Agency Coordination Centre (MACC) aimed at tackling unauthorised bonfires and their associated problems across Glasgow.

On Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 November, this new approach brings colleagues from Operations, Trading Standards, Community Safety, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service under one roof, situated within the Glasgow Operation Centre (GOC) in Eastgate. This streamlined approach allows for better communication across agencies and an effective, coordinated response, helping to make bonfire night safer for everyone.

For the two days the operational unit is live, the teams assess and prioritise intelligence on bonfires or accumulated materials. This intelligence is gathered through different methods, from using the Council's CCTV estate to view where the bonfires are being built, using data and knowledge from Parks and Cleansing staff of previous hot spots as well as reports from concerned members of the public. This approach focuses on efficient detection and prevention. Once detected all partners are there to address it; Community Safety provide the CCTV assets for live information, Operational staff respond to the reports to carry out uplift of the materials while Police Scotland provide support and safety to the staff on the ground.

Work doesn't just start in November, with Council staff routinely monitoring and inspecting hotspots for potential build up of materials. Proactively dealing with accumulation and monitoring what's coming through, Parks and Cleansing massively bolster the strength of the MACC by lightening the load and gathering information that can then be used in a live environment, informing the safest and most effective approach to a situation.

The MACC is a success because it brings a vast array of intelligence and experience into one place, making communication quicker and clearer. Everyone is looking at the same data, allowing teams to respond in unison. Darren Lambie, a group manager for Community Safety led on the project, helping to prioritise actions over the two days while coordinating risk assessments with our partners in the Police and Fire services. Having the right people in place on the frontline and in the operational centre helped our colleagues safely clear fourteen unauthorised bonfires across the city.

George Gillespie, Executive Director of NRS expressed his admiration for the project stating:

"It was a pleasure to visit the MACC along with the Chief Executive and see all the planning and hard work that goes into keeping citizens safe over the bonfire period. The collaboration across our services, from the intel provided by colleagues and partners to the challenging groundwork undertaken by Operational staff, in conjunction with our partners in the Emergency Services is key to keeping our city safe. It's great to see our colleagues within NRS share our assets and insights so effectively and make this project such a success, benefitting all our communities."

Constantly seeking to improve, there will be a formal debrief taking place before the New Year between the Council, Police Scotland and Fire services to review the lessons learned for next year and continually assess our practises to improve year on year. One lesson which is clear is that bringing the correct people together and sharing our skills and assets makes it safer for the public to enjoy these occasions and our colleagues to operate on the ground, with clear communication and close collaboration being at the core of its success.



NRS at Doors Open Day 2024

For Doors Open Day (DOD) Glasgow 2024, Mandy Fallens, a senior architect in Property and Consultancy Services, along with conservation accredited architect Fiona Sinclair, sought permission from Glasgow City Council to include St Vincent Street Church in the programme of buildings. This very popular event attracted over 300 visitors and gained an award from the DOD organisers owing to the special nature of the building and the effort made to permit the visits. The event facilitated a rare opportunity to see inside the last surviving intact church by world renowned architect, Alexander "Greek" Thomson.

Built in 1859, St Vincent Street Church is Alexander Thomson's masterpiece and only intact surviving church after Queens Park was destroyed by bombing in 1943 and Caledonia Road is a ruin having been burnt out in 1965. Alexander 'Greek' Thomson was one of the two great architects of international stature produced by Victorian Glasgow.

The building was bought by GCC in 1960 and was let as a church until 2021. The open event allowed visitors access to one of the finest remaining classical and romantic churches to view the building, including the highly decorative interior and the distinctive clock tower which is a prominent feature on the city's skyline.

We worked in collaboration with The Thomson Society and City Property to open the building for the event. We also displayed information about the building and the architect for visitors and provided tours on the day which were very well received.

The Thomson Society was founded in 1991, further information on the society can be found on their [website](#).

Thanks go to Philip Houston, Anna McEwan and Chloe MacKinnon who helped with setting up the event and ran tours on the day. Ken Owler and Barry Mallon from City Property also helped to make the building safe and available for the visitors who enjoyed the tours.

The DOD organisers mentioned that they received many positive comments in the festival feedback from the participants who visited, expressing their fondness for the building and the informative tours.



Huge New Community Greenspace to be Created

Derelict Glasgow land is to be transformed into a lush new community greenspace measuring almost 15 hectares.

Glasgow City Council is to create a new woodland in Cadder as part of the city's Tree Plan. The vacant site at Hapland Road and Cathkin Quarry will become a multifunctional community asset. It will increase wildlife habitat, create recreational and outdoor learning spaces and boost the city's green canopy.

A tree nursery will also be established in the North East of the city to grow native saplings for planting across Glasgow while providing training and employment opportunities via a social enterprise. Vacant and Derelict Land funding has been secured for the first phase of the project and a working group has been created to progress the idea.

The exciting new projects were highlighted in an update on the city's Tree Plan presented to the council's Net Zero committee.

The committee also heard that the council had planted over 24,000 trees across the city in 2023/24, exceeding the target for the year. This planting was carried out with the help of volunteers, schools, city businesses and partners including The Conservation Trust, Green Action Trust and Clyde Climate Forest.

Trees with smaller leaves, such as Birch, Rowan and Hornbeam, are also being planted in city streets to reduce the risk of fallen leaves blocking drains. (Evergreen trees are less suited to busy road verges, as they are more susceptible to wind damage).

Members of the public can also suggest locations for tree planting, volunteer to help with planting or buy a commemorative tree via the council's Tree Portal. It can be found [here](#).

Plans are also in the pipeline to enable city residents to sponsor a tree in their own street or a favourite city location.



Glasgow City Council at the DWP Recruitment Event

On Wednesday 23 October 2024, Tara Spooner, HR Officer (CHR), Robert Clennell, Facilities Assistant and Anne Fleming, HR Advisor (NRS), attended the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Recruitment Event at Glasgow Central Mosque.

There were over 30 employers in attendance and during the event, approximately 400 attendees showed interest in working for various roles within Glasgow City Council, as well as the Apprenticeship Scheme.

It was a very successful event and it's hoped that it will have helped the attendees in being better prepared to apply for jobs within Glasgow City Council.





Pollok Fold of Highland Cattle

Melissa Curran and the Pollok County Park team have recently returned from a fantastic weekend at the Highland Cattle Society's Autumn show and sale in Oban. The competition is judged nationally from the North of Scotland to the South of England to look for quality of the stock as well as a balanced and consistent fold.

The team were awarded the trophy for The National Best Large Fold, Best Group of Cows with Pure Calves and also Best Group of Heifers. Livestock Apprentice, Hannah Walsh also won the senior Young Handlers Competition at the show.

Not only did Melissa and the team win numerous awards in Oban but they were also successful at the Stars of the Future show in early November as one of their young bulls, Alistair of Pollok, won overall junior Highland Champion.

Melissa said 'To be recognised on a national scale is a massive achievement for the fold and shows that the hard work and dedication put into the cattle by Glasgow City Council is paying off.'

**NRS
People**

Supporting your health and wellbeing and wellness at work as well as learning and personal development



Give a Shoutout to someone special this Christmas!



Has someone gone above and beyond for you this year? Is there a particular person who always brightens your day at work?

Whether it's a colleague you see every day, someone who helped you with a project or even just someone you pass in the corridors, help bring some joy this Christmas and let them know they are appreciated.

Drop NRS Announcements an [email](#) and give them a special shout out and thanks in our final newsletter before the new year!

Send us the short message you would like featured in the newsletter before 13 December.

Free Health Checks and Incorporate Massage at the NRS People Health and Wellbeing Roadshow

The NRS People Health and Wellbeing Roadshow will be visiting St Rollox depot on Friday 29 November and Victoria Park on Wednesday 4 December.

Staff can get a free Health Checkup that will include discussions on exercise, diet, hydration, cardiac risks and diabetes as well as checks on cholesterol levels, blood pressure, pulse checks, BMI, mental health and cancer awareness.

Also available to everyone on the day is free, professional, seated massages from our partners at Incorporate Massage.

Plus, we have invited a range of financial and wellbeing services who can provide colleagues with information and support including:

- Hospital Saturday Fund
- Step Change Debt Advice
- Glasgow Credit Union
- Home Energy Scotland
- Glasgow Life discounted Gym Memberships

Please let your line manager know if you are interested in attending the event or booking an appointment with the nurse or a free massage.

Join us this November / December

You are invited to [Join us](#) this November / December for the following Health, Wellbeing, Equality and Diversity training events.

Visit the [website](#) to see the full calendar on offer each month. The page is regularly updated with new content, so please check back often.

Date, Time and Sign Up

Training and Events

<p>Tuesday 26 November 2024 9.30am until 11.30am Glasgow Credit Union Office, side entrance 95 Morrison Street, G5 8BE Sign Up</p>	<p>NEW - Managing Employees with Long Term Conditions</p> <p>This face to face session is arranged by our colleagues in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Employment and Health Team as part of the Healthy Working Lives Programme.</p> <p>Suitable for managers and HR to raise awareness of long-term health conditions, and understand the impact of these in the workplace. The session will cover both legislation and best practice in managing employees with long term conditions and be made aware of some of the risks in not managing the process correctly.</p>
<p>Thursday 28 November 2024 1pm until 4pm MS Teams Sign Up</p>	<p>LGBT Awareness session</p> <p>The session is designed to help employees gain a greater level of understanding and confidence and be less afraid of getting things wrong when interacting with or supporting LGBT+ people.</p> <p>This course is suitable for any employees seeking to develop their knowledge and skills in this area and will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ terminology and definitions • Social attitudes and experiences of discrimination faced by LGBT+ people • LGBT+ equality and inclusion good practice. <p>The session is delivered as a mixture of PowerPoint presentations, short films and group discussions together with a Q and A . Secure your spot today to be part of this crucial dialogue. Limited spaces are available, so don't miss this great opportunity.</p>
<p>Thursday 28 November 2024 9.15am until 4pm MS Teams Sign Up</p>	<p>NEW - Mentally Healthy Workplaces Line Manager Training</p> <p>The way people are managed on a day to day basis is central to their mental wellbeing and engagement, as well as trust in their employer. A supportive manager is crucial in supporting wellbeing, spotting early signs of distress, and initiating early intervention. This course has been designed by Public Health Scotland to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the key factors that contribute to mentally healthy workplaces • give managers a broad understanding of mental health in the workplace • ensure managers are aware of their responsibilities in relation to health and wellbeing. • improve managers skills and confidence in dealing with mental health in the workplace
<p>Tuesday 10 December 2024 12.30pm until 1.30pm MS Teams Sign Up</p>	<p>Menopause Café - Corporate HR</p> <p>Pop on for a cuppa and a chat in a menopause friendly space where you can share your experiences with your colleagues, hear some hints and tips or even just to connect with other people who are experiencing menopause right now.</p>
<p>Tuesday 10 December 2024 10am until 12.30pm MS Teams Sign Up</p>	<p>Race Awareness for Managers - CEMVO</p> <p>In partnership with CEWNVO this course aims to provide managers with the skills and confidence to challenge racism when encountered in work and life. It also raises awareness of the relevant legislation - to address racism both in relation to discrimination and hate crime</p> <p>This course will cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic profile of ethnic minority communities in Scotland and Glasgow • Diverse Organisations • Ethnic minority workers experiences • Prejudices in the workplace • Impact on ethnic minority individuals • Unconscious bias



Vacancies within NRS

The following job vacancies within NRS have been added to myjobscotland. If you are interested use the button to the left to go through to the job adverts.

MJS Ref	Job Title	Posts Available	Grade
GLA12854	Energy Co-Ordinator (Energy Management)	1	5
GLA12830	Mechanic (Re-advertisement)	2	5

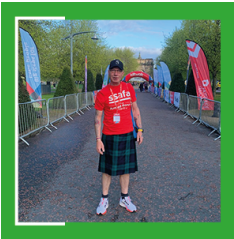
Click here to read more

GLA12858	Road Safety Assistant	2	5
GLA12832	Technician (Lighting) (Re-advertisement)	1	6
GLA12873	Architect / Urban Design Officer	1	7
GLA12889	Technician (Roads and Transport)	1	6
GLA12869	Assistant Supervisor (Roads)	1	5
GLA12876	LES Driver 2 (Term Time)	1	2

General Interest

What other teams do and events and activities that you can join

NRS Colleague Taking Part in Glasgow Kilt Walk Mighty Challenge 2025



Andrew Lockhart, a training instructor for NRS and veteran after having served 27 years within the MOD, is taking part in the Glasgow Kilt Walk to raise money for his chosen charity, Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association (SSAFA). A charity very close to his heart who helped him out after his wife suffered severe brain damage and is now in full time care at the young age of 51.

Expressing what the charity can do for veterans and their families, [Andrew's fundraising page](#) states:

Please join me in raising vital funds to support serving men and women, veterans and families who will call on SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity for help in time of need. Since 1885, thanks to the public's support, SSAFA continues to provide welfare and wellbeing assistance tailored to our Armed Forces community. They know and understand the unique demands of service life, whether in the UK or overseas, and in times of need, they help to enable the Forces family to thrive. Many thanks!

If you would like to contribute as Andrew takes on the Glasgow Kilt Walk please visit his [fundraising profile on Just Giving](#).

Children's Clothing Donations at City Chambers

Our No Wrong Door Partner, [ApparelXchange](#), are looking for donations of preloved children's clothes to help other children across the city this winter.

Donations of clothes, jackets, shoes and accessories for children up to age 18 years will be gratefully accepted.

Donors are asked to please make sure all items are clean and folded where possible, however, they are also able to accept clothing that might be damaged or stained - as they will repair and clean them if they can.

Donations can be made in one of the pods located at across the City Chambers Complex at: City Chambers West, Main Entrance, City Chambers East, 40 John Stret Reception, Exchange House, 231 George Street Reception until the 23 of December.

[ApparelXchange](#) is committed to providing affordable, sustainable fashion for all children across the city. They offer clothing packages (accessible through referrals) in their Southside shop or also online.

Santa Dash 2024 - 8 December 2024

Join Beatson Cancer Charity this year at Glasgow Santa Dash at Glasgow Green on 8 December 2024. Run, Jog, Walk or hop on your Sleigh - it's time to do your festive 5k!

Show your support to patients and families affected by cancer this winter by signing up to this year's Santa Dash. Once registered, you will receive a free Santa t-shirt to help paint your town red and yellow.

Registration for the Glasgow Santa Dash is now open. You can register by visiting the [Beatson Cancer Charity website](#).

Race numbers and t-shirts must be collected from the Beatson prior to event day, and registration will close on Thursday 5 December 2024. Collection details will be provided in your pre-event email.



Celtic Connections Line Up Blossoms With More Magic This Winter



Celtic Connections in partnership with Innis and Gunn has added more than 40 shows to its ever expanding 2025 programme, with many artists using their platform at the festival to shine a light on the natural world.

Delivered by Glasgow Life and taking place from Thursday 16 January to Sunday 2 February, the world's premier celebration of roots, world and folk music will welcome around 1,200 musicians and artists from 20 countries for 300 events in 25 venues across Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music.

The line up continues to blossom with new and established talent, and performances which delve into preserving and protecting the environment are among those set to take centre stage this winter.

The newest additions to the bill reflect the festival's wide reaching appeal, with everything from acoustic and folk music to world, jazz and blues joining the renowned impressive list of confirmed acts that will warm dark winter nights in Glasgow come January.

View the full list of events at the [Celtic Connections Website](#).

**Contact
Us**

If you have any information you would like to share through this fortnightly email, please click here to contact the NRS Promotions and Engagement Team

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