

ISSUE 2

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2026



Grangemouth Vision

Grangemouth Future Industry Board



Building Falkirk and Grangemouth's Future Workforce

Representatives from the Grangemouth Future Industries Board recently visited Forth Valley College's new £4million Skills Transition Centre to see how the region is building the skills needed for the transition to lower-carbon industries.

As part of the Falkirk and Grangemouth Growth Deal, the centre is designed to equip learners with the practical skills needed for emerging sectors and evolving industrial demands, supporting Scotland's Just Transition over the coming decade.

The team explored a range of state-of-the-art facilities designed to replicate real-world industry environments and accelerate skills development, including;

- A new interactive digital classroom using advanced learning technologies, including a life-sized hologram projection unit – the first of its kind in a Scottish college or university.
- The Driving Simulation Centre where augmented and virtual reality are being used to recreate construction vehicle scenarios, allowing learners to gain experience in a safe, controlled environment without the need for multiple vehicles or outdoor space.
- New augmented reality welding technology, where virtual welding kits enable students and apprentices to practise more frequently in the classroom, while also supporting outreach activity in schools.
- A new biotechnology learning hub which is helping support the growth of the region's life sciences sector, giving students and employees access to industry-standard laboratory equipment for hands-on learning in areas such as fermentation and sample analysis.

New Economy Secretary Makes Grangemouth A First-Week Priority

The decision by Scotland's new Cabinet Secretary for Economy Stephen Flynn to make Grangemouth one of his very first official engagements in office sends a powerful signal about the importance of the area to Scotland's economic future.

Meeting with former workers from the Grangemouth refinery before visiting industrial biotechnology company Celtic Renewables, the visit highlighted both the challenges and opportunities facing Grangemouth as it transitions towards lower-carbon industries. It aimed to reinforce the message that Grangemouth remains central to Scotland's economic ambitions and is a key location for future investment, innovation and job creation.

Speaking during the visit, Stephen Flynn said:

"It has been heartening to hear more about the work that has been undertaken by a wide range of partners to support affected workers at Grangemouth and Mossmorran and drive positive outcomes for them and their families. I was also pleased to visit Celtic Renewables, a growing success story which illustrates that there can – and must – be an incredibly bright and positive future for our industrial heartlands and the communities they support. It is imperative that we are bold, innovative and ambitious in collectively shaping Scotland's industrial future. I will work to ensure strong, vibrant and indispensable industries – which have been let down by successive UK Governments – are at the heart of Scotland's economy."

Adrian Gillespie, CEO of Scottish Enterprise, added:

"It was great to join the Cabinet Secretary at Celtic Renewables and show first hand Scottish Enterprise's continuing commitment to Grangemouth. Celtic Renewables is a strong example of an innovative, scaling company that has benefitted from Grangemouth's excellent connectivity and skills, enabled by funding and support from Scottish Enterprise and our partners."

Celtic Renewables has recently received Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise support and is now progressing its plans for a full-scale biorefinery projected to create nearly 150 jobs by 2030.

For more information, please visit the [Scottish Enterprise Media Centre](#) website.



School Pupils Name Giant Cranes at the Port of Grangemouth



Forth Ports recently welcomed local students to take part in a ‘name the crane’ competition – arranged by The Port of Grangemouth as part of the container terminal’s 60th anniversary celebrations. Four schools – Sacred Heart Primary School; Bowhouse Primary School; Moray Primary School; and Beancross Primary School – took part in the competition, with winners invited to meet the team and enjoy a tour of the port including a visit to see the cranes and equipment up close.

The three gantry cranes will from now on be known as The Forth Titan, Dougie the Docker and Sir Lifts a Lot with a new material handler to be called Libby.

One of the judges reflected: *“We were all blown away by the enthusiasm for this competition and it was difficult for the judges to get a shortlist of four names as the quality of entries was so high. We loved the humour element of some of the entries and it was great to meet Lilly, Katie, Ayda and Jacob to show them what they had named and also for us to hear why they chose the name.”*

For more information, please visit the [Forth Ports](#) website.

Falkirk Council's Community Engagement Charter

Falkirk Council are looking to gather feedback from the public to understand how well their [Community Engagement Charter](#) is working in practice.

Using five simple questions based on the Charter principles (*Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Delegate*), they are asking about people’s experiences of: receiving clear information; having opportunities to share their views; feeling listened to; working with the Council; and being supported to influence or lead decisions.

Focused on people’s experiences over the past 18 months, the feedback will help to set out what is working well, identify areas for improvement, and make community engagement more effective, inclusive and accessible going forward.

For more information, please contact: CommunityPartnership@falkirk.gov.uk

Focus on Grangemouth



Community Creativity Transforms Kerse Road



Led by Grangemouth incl. Skinflats Community Council and CVS Falkirk & District, with support from Friends of Inchyra Park, Zetland Men's Shed and Robertson Construction Central East, the Kerse Road Gap Art Project was unveiled on Saturday 25 July to delight from residents in the town centre: *"It's great to see interest and investment, the murals at the end of the town centre are a wonderful addition!!"*

Developed in response to community feedback calling for investment in the town to bring life back to the centre, and supported by Pride in Place funding from Falkirk Council, the initiative brought together volunteers, artists, community organisations and industry partners over an eight-month period to create a vibrant public artwork that reflects both Grangemouth's industrial history and the people who call it home.

Artists Donna Forrester and David Crossley brought the chosen designs to life with two striking murals depicting the cultural and industrial heritage of the area; shown above. Complementing the artwork, colourful wildflower beds introduced biodiversity and seasonal interest to the site, while handcrafted benches provide space for residents and visitors to stop and enjoy their surroundings.

Marnie Kavanagh, from CVS Falkirk & District, said:

"The Kerse Road Gap Art Project is a fantastic example of community spirit in action. This transformation would not have been possible without the dedication of all who gave their time and talent to create something that everyone can enjoy. The finished artwork is not only a striking addition to the area but also a symbol of what can be achieved when a community works together."

New Banking Hub Confirmed for Grangemouth

Grangemouth is set to benefit from a new banking hub, ensuring residents and businesses continue to have access to essential face-to-face banking services despite branch closures.



Designed for customers of all major banks, the hub will provide a counter service operated by Post Office staff, allowing people to withdraw and deposit cash, pay bills and carry out everyday banking transactions. Private consultation rooms will also be available for appointments with community bankers from participating banks, who will visit the hub on a rotating basis to offer specialist support.

The new facility represents significant investment in Grangemouth, offering a modern, shared approach to banking while maintaining the personal, face-to-face support that many value.

Celtic Renewables Community Consultation

Celtic Renewables Ltd are proposing a major planning application for the development of a biorefinery, marking a significant step in Grangemouth's transition to a greener economy. Through a series of public consultation events, residents will have the opportunity to [view the proposals](#), speak with the design team and provide feedback before a planning application is submitted. Consultation materials are also available [online](#), with space to leave your feedback.

The proposed facility, designed by engineering consultancy Allen Associates, will have ten times the production capacity of Celtic Renewables' existing demonstrator plant at Caledon Green. Using a fermentation process, the biorefinery will transform locally sourced by-products and waste from the food, drink and agricultural industries into low-carbon bio-acetone, bio-butanol, and bio-ethanol.

Speaking to the [Falkirk Herald](#), Celtic Renewables CEO Mark Simmers described the project's potential as a blueprint for future green chemical plants in the UK and overseas. Elaborating, he said: *"Our proposed new facility is a cornerstone of the Scottish and UK Government's plans to deliver an inclusive, long-term just transition for the Grangemouth area, so that it can move forward from its refining and petrochemical heritage and become a hub for Scotland's burgeoning green economy that brings with it new high-value jobs."*

To get involved, please visit: www.ironsidefarrar.com/celticrenewables/celtic-renewables-consultation-boards.pdf

Bowhouse and Kersiebank Community Action Plan (CAP) Update

Following sessions held at the Grangemouth Community Café Lunch Club and Kirk of the Holy Rood Church, the [Falkirk Community Planning Partnership](#) has been reviewing the evidence and data collected to influence further engagement with residents, community groups and organisations operating within the Bowhouse and Kersiebank areas.

To support this, a dedicated page on [Falkirk Council's Participate+ platform](#) is now live, sharing updates and offering ways for people to take part.

Next steps within the CAP include the establishment of a Community Action Planning Working Group to bring together partners – such as Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, etc. – and local community groups to continue to shape the plan to be reflective of resident's needs.



To have your say in shaping the actions taken forward through the plan, email: communityplanning@falkirk.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list; and look out for upcoming meetings and events.

The Portonian Post, Community Notice Board



Grangemouth incl. Skinflats Community Council are pleased to announce their new Community Notice Boards have been installed in Grangemouth Town Centre, with the header '**The Portonian Post**' chosen by the community.

Aiming to empower the local third sector and highlight the many community events and activities taking place, keyholders can be found at La Gondola Fish and Chip Shop, Loo Crew Shop, Project Theatre, SeaLock Infinity - SeaLock Centre, and Dundas Community Centre. If people want to place flyers or posters about local groups, events or activities, they are welcome to get in touch with a keyholder.

Community News and Events



CVS Falkirk & District Volunteering Awards 2026

The CVS Falkirk & District Volunteering Awards recognised more than 456,000 volunteering hours undertaken across 125 award nominations. On the night, CVS Falkirk & District Chief Executive Officer Victoria McRae highlighted:

“To all of our nominees, thank you. Your dedication enriches the lives of countless people, strengthens our communities, and serves as an inspiration to us all. It is a privilege to celebrate your achievements.”

The ‘Community Led Action Award’ was presented to Grangemouth-based community group, **SeaLock Infinity – SeaLock Centre**. After taking ownership of the centre, their volunteers transformed it into a welcoming, inclusive hub for all through the provision of social, educational, and recreational programmes shaped by the needs of the local community. Reflecting on their impact ahead of the ceremony, the SeaLock team shared:

“The future of community spaces depends on local people being willing to step forward and get involved. At Sealock Infinity – Sealock Centre, our volunteers have been the difference between a community hall being lost or becoming a thriving space once again. Their commitment, energy and belief in the community help keep these vital spaces open for local groups, activities and support services. By investing time and effort now, volunteers are helping build a stronger future for the whole community.”

Alongside SeaLock, the CVS Falkirk & District Award Winners for 2026 are: Blooming Bairns (Green Award); Bohdenn Richardson (Young Volunteer of the Year); Forth Valley Sensory Centre (Health and Wellbeing Award); Frank Donnelly (Volunteer of the Year); Jean Currie (Lifetime Achievement Award); Kieran Inglis (Strength in Service Award); and Safe Drive Stay Alive (Organisation of the Year).

For more information, visit the [CVS Falkirk & District](#) website.

Community Wellbeing Groups Launch at Grangemouth Stadium

Grangemouth Stadium is expanding its role as a community hub with the launch of two new wellbeing groups designed to bring people together, improve health and wellbeing, and tackle social isolation.

On Mondays from 10am – 12noon, the **Mum and Baby Group** will support parents with babies under two years old, providing opportunities to chat, share experiences and enjoy gentle walks around the stadium track. Local practitioners will also visit periodically to offer advice and support, creating a welcoming environment that promotes both mental and physical health.

The second initiative, **Stepping Out Together**, takes place on Wednesdays from 1pm – 3pm and is aimed at people aged 50 and over. Whether participants are looking to build confidence, meet new people, or overcome barriers to staying active, the group offers a friendly and inclusive space where everyone, regardless of ability, can share experiences and support one another.

Both groups are free to attend; for more information, please contact: angela@grangemouthcommunitysportstrust.org

Inner Forth Bike Bus

Developed to help local people and visitors to cycle (or walk) part of the 'Round the Inner Forth' route, the Bike Bus is a FREE transport service that loops around the Inner Forth on a Sunday. With space for 15 passengers and 12 bikes, this year the bus also welcomes Little Scottish Treasures on board to be your tour guides around the route, providing top tips on local heritage, hidden gems and activities to do in the area.

Available until 27 September 2026, passengers are advised to book their place in advance (via the [Little Scottish Treasures](#) website) to guarantee their place. For more information, please visit the [Inner Forth Bike Bus](#) website, or view the [Timetable](#) in full.

Round the Forth Passport

Whether visitor or local, Climate FORTH challenges you to pick up your [Round the Forth Passport](#) and explore the hidden heritage of the Inner Forth without driving! To make this easier, they have included [car-free adventures](#) within the passport which use public transport, walking and cycling to help you explore, whilst reducing your environmental impact and keeping active. Why not give it a go? It's FREE and fun for all the family.

Pick up your FREE passport booklet from one of the locations listed on their [website](#) or download the [digital edition](#). For more information, please visit the [Round the Forth Passport](#) website, or email: innerforth@rspb.org.uk

Grangemouth Bike Library Free Long-Term Loan Service for Young People

FEL Scotland are keen to highlight the availability of free bike hire for young people through the Grangemouth Bike Library. The hire period is for 6 months, and includes an accessories pack with helmet, lock, and lights. Referrals for the extended bike library can be submitted by schools across the Falkirk District as well as from community groups and organisations, or can be direct enquiries from households.

The Bike Library aims to encourage independent and active travel whilst ensuring that all children have the opportunity to engage in cycling as a mode of transport and recreation by providing the resources and support needed. FEL bikes come in three different sizes, suitable for pupils from Primary 5 to S2, and can be collected from schools by appointment.

To access the library, parents/partner organisations should complete the [booking form and waiver](#) using the code: GBLREF100. Once complete, FEL Scotland School Hub Project Officers, Callum and Julie, will be in touch to arrange handover of the bike at either the primary or high school. On collection, your child will participate in a short skills test in the playground to ensure that they understand how to use the brakes and gears, as well as how to fit the helmet, and use the lights and lock.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss eligibility or booking, please contact the FEL team directly by email:

- Jodie Murdoch, Project Coordinator (Schools):
jodie@felscotland.org;
- Callum Wilson, Project Officer (Grangemouth/Larbert High School):
callum@felscotland.org;
- Julie Cunningham, Project Officer (Grangemouth/Falkirk High School):
juliec@felscotland.org.



More Information



Henry Smith Foundation Holiday Grants for Children

The Henry Smith Foundation '[Holiday Grants Programme](#)' provides one-off grants to schools, youth groups and not-for-profit organisations to help children aged 13 and younger take part in recreational day trips or short residential breaks.

Grants of between £500 – £3000 are available for trips lasting from a single day up to seven days. The programme aims to support children experiencing financial hardship, systemic inequity or disability by providing opportunities for enjoyable experiences that may otherwise be inaccessible.

The applications window for trips taking place between 1 October – 31 December 2026 will be open from Thursday 20 August – Thursday 19 November 2026. Applications must be submitted at least six weeks before the planned trip, and early applications are encouraged as funding may be allocated before the closing date.

For more information, visit the [Henry Smith Foundation](#) website.

Earls Gate Community Fund

Earls Gate Energy Centre have relaunched the Earls Gate Community Fund, continuing its commitment to supporting the communities surrounding their operations.

Eligible third sector organisations can apply for grants of up to £1500. This includes charities, constituted organisations, social enterprises, and community interest companies (CIC) based in: Bo'ness & Blackness; Carse, Kinnaird & Tryst; Falkirk North; Grangemouth; and Lower Braes.

Applications should recognise one or more of the following aims: build stronger communities; reduce social isolation among vulnerable people; and strengthen community relationships.

For more information about eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit the [Earls Gate Energy Centre](#) website.

Stay Informed

As we move through the Grangemouth Just Transition process, CVS Falkirk & District will be posting regular updates on Social Media to keep community informed and engaged throughout the developments. Present on Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn, follow **@CVSFalkirk** for more.

We will also be posting updates on our Grangemouth webpage: **www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk/grangemouth**

To receive this new digital newsletter in your email inbox every quarter, please complete the registration form via the QR Code (right), or contact our team directly, by emailing: **info@cvsfalkirk.org.uk**

