

Big Picture Thinking Seminar Series

2026-
2027



Free online seminars connecting people across Argyll and Bute with inspiring international speakers to explore practical approaches and spark fresh thinking.

Part of Communities Working Together, a workstream of the Living Well Board for Argyll and Bute.

[Register now on Eventbrite](#)



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The Programme

2026-
2027

Thursday 10 September 2026 | 2-4pm



Downstream Drift: What if 'health' is part of the problem?

Dr Ally Brown, University of Strathclyde

Why prevention is so hard to act on, and how the language of 'health' can limit the solutions we reach for.

Thursday 29 October 2026 | 10-12pm



Making Better Places to Live Well

Diarmaid Lawlor, Scottish Futures Trust

What it takes to make better places to live well locally, and why collaboration is at the heart of it.



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The Programme

2026- 2027

Thursday 12 November 2026 | 2-4pm



Understanding Place

Dr Kirsten Gow

How a better understanding of place can shape more meaningful policy, services and support for rural and island communities.

Thursday 10 December 2026 | 10-12pm



Collaborating with Communities

Anne Pordes & Julie Jenson

The realities of working with communities to improve health and wellbeing, and what gets in the way.



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The Programme

2026- 2027

Thursday 28 January 2027 | 10-12pm



Why Mattering Matters

Professor Ottar Ness, NTNU Norway

Why feeling valued — and able to add value — matters for wellbeing, community participation and thriving places.

Thursday 11 February 2027 | 2-4pm



Connection, Identity and Belonging

Dr Kirsten Gow

Island diaspora, and what continued connection to home means for our understanding of community, identity and belonging.



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The Programme

2026- 2027

Thursday 18 March 2027 | 10-12pm



Deliberative Democracy: Are We Smarter Together?

Gillian Baxendine

How deliberative democracy brings diverse voices together to find common ground on the trickiest issues we face.

Thursday 22nd April 2027 | 2-4pm



Deliberative Democracy as a Practice of Change

Professor Oliver Escobar

Power, participation and the common good — democracy as a way of building the capacity for change.



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The Programme

2026- 2027

Thursday 13 May 2027 | 2-4pm



Reimagining the Role of Communities in Public Life

Dr Torange Khonsari

Enough policies, not enough practice. Stop funding policy-making and start funding implementation and action on the ground.

Thursday 10 June 2027 | 10-12pm



Changing The Rules of The Economy To Deliver Good Lives

Lisa Hough-Stewart

How the Wellbeing Economy can reshape priorities to serve people and planet, and what it looks like in practice.



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Free online seminars. Inspiring international speakers.
Fresh thinking and practical approaches to the challenges
facing communities today.

Choose one, some, or all.
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CommunitiesWorkingTogether@argylltsi.org.uk

Free to attend. All welcome.



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