

Cumbria SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership to strengthen Social Enterprise in Cumbria



Issue 6, March 2010

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Proactive Social Business



We were very pleased to have been one of the first organisations to use the newly refurbished Market Hall in Wigton for this year's annual conference and awards ceremony. I was extremely impressed with it and also very happy that NADT, one of our members hosted the day.

Speakers at this year's conference included David Dawes, a founding member of four social enterprises, including Entrepreneurs CIC and developer of one of the UK's first not for profit management consultancies. Arni Wookey, a marketing and globalisation specialist also spoke at the conference, focusing on how social enterprises can succeed and thrive in a competitive marketplace.

The two workshops held during the afternoon "Funding and Assets" and "Social Marketing" proved very popular with delegates.

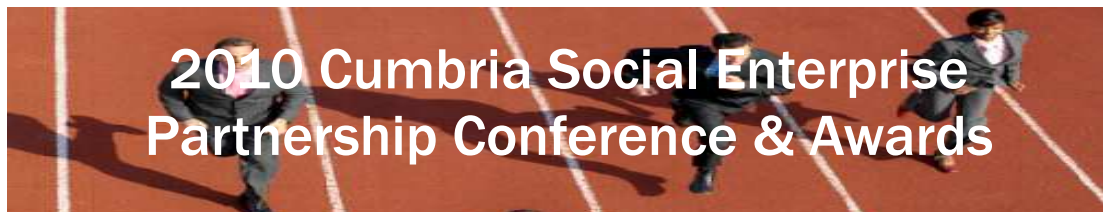
The theme of this year's conference was '**Proactive Social Business**' and the Partnership has certainly been proactive in its approach, finding innovative ways to deliver our programme of support in often challenging circumstances. I think the most important development from my point of view as Chair has been our appointment of a Partnership Manager. I'm sure that many of you have now met Rob Randell, as he has been very visible since his appointment attending network events or via the Partnership's ebulletins and newsletters. Rob's appointment has brought a great deal of additional capacity to the Partnership, enabling us to deliver a better co-ordinated programme and ultimately to support you, our members more effectively. With Rob's input we have been leading the way in the delivery of support to social enterprise in the North West.

Whilst Rob's appointment was initially to the end of March, I am hoping that we will soon be able to finalise an extension of his appointment to March 2011. This will enable us to continue building on the successes to date and hopefully deliver another full programme of support in the coming 12 months.

I would also like to thank our delivery consortium led by SECOD who have continued to do a great job this past year, under often difficult circumstances caused by funding delays.

Paul Dodson - Economic Programmes Manager, Cumbria County Council
Chair of Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership





The county's top social entrepreneurs came together to celebrate the second Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership Conference and Awards Ceremony held this year at the new Market Hall Conference Centre in Wigton on Tuesday, 16th March.

Nearly 90 delegates representing 94 organisations attended this year's CSEP Conference "Proactive Social Business" to celebrate the best in Cumbria and

with four awards up for grabs, the level and number of entries for this year's awards was even higher than last year's.



2010 AWARD WINNERS

New Social Enterprise of the Year Sponsored by CSEP	Co-operative of the Year Sponsored by CSEP	Community Enterprise of the Year Sponsored by the Development Trusts Association	Existing Social Enterprise of the Year Sponsored by CSEP
Winner: Cumbria Recycling Ltd Runner-up: Signal Films	Winner: Cleator Moor & District Credit Union Runner-up: Carlisle & District Credit Union	Winner: Watchtree Nature Reserve Runner-up: Signal Films	Winner: Growing Well Runner-up: Sound Wave



The former Market Hall in the centre of Wigton built in 1882 has undergone a sympathetic £735,000 redevelopment to provide the best in professional conference facilities. This includes a main hall capable of seating up to 180 theatre style, along with 5 smaller conference suites seating groups of 16 to 50.

There is also a licensed cafe 'Twelve 62' within the Hall offering visitors high quality food made with ingredients supplied where possible from local suppliers/producers from the Solway Plain and Cumbria.

North Allerdale Development Trust (NADT) took over the ownership of the Market Hall in February 2010 and aims to provide and host a broad range of community and conference events. NADT focuses on the support and development of community projects across the Solway Plain that stimulate new opportunities or improved facilities for all residents across the area. The charity's objectives include the provision of community facilities, promotion of the voluntary sector, relief of unemployment and the provision of education.

For more information on the Market Hall or to make a booking, Tel. 016973 41102 or Email bookings@themarkethall.org.uk or visit www.themarkethall.org.uk



Celebrating the best of Cumbrian Social Enterprise ... hear from this year's award winners



EXISTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Growing Well



Beren Aldridge, Manager & Volunteer Co-ordinator said *"The whole team were delighted to see their hard work recognised by this award. During 2009 we started a new side to our business, a Cropshare scheme, whereby local people can buy a share of our crop at the beginning of the season and then receive a weekly bag of fresh veg from the farm. This was a huge change for us, moving out of our wholesale business to a retail business and everyone worked incredibly hard to make it work."*

Getting the award seals the year as having been our most successful yet!"

For more information on Growing Well
Tel. 015395 61777 Email info@growingwell.co.uk
or visit www.growingwell.co.uk

NEW SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Cumbria Recycling Ltd

Dave Bowden, Executive Director of Cumbria Recycling said *"Cumbria Recycling only began trading in January 2009 and to be recognised by these awards has lifted the spirits of all 21 members of our hardworking team. We are extremely proud that the company has been profitable since month two without any grant assistance. The first year of business has been concentrated on establishing service levels and consolidating our processes and we would now like to focus on marketing our business and services. The award prize money of £500 will help towards doing this."*



For more information on Cumbria Recycling
Tel. 01900 605358 or visit www.cumbria-recycling.com

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR Watchtree Nature Reserve



Tim Lawrence, Watchtree's Nature Reserve Manager accepting the award said *"Everyone associated with Watchtree was delighted to win the 'Community Enterprise' award, particularly our ever growing number of volunteers who help with practical work, cycling projects and open days - without them we would not have won this honour. The highlight during the past year was the official opening of the Watchtree Wheelers cycle centre which provides opportunities for persons of all ages and abilities to improve their health and well being. The*

wildlife continues to thrive and we look forward to seeing stunning curlew, skylark, barn owl and brown here during 2010. Come and see us - we're open every day during the summer months! The training award will be used to make the business even more effective and by providing skills development for everyone associated with Watchtree."

For more information on WatchTree Nature Reserve
Tel. 01228 712539, Email. wnr@watchtree.co.uk
or visit www.watchtree.co.uk

CO-OPERATIVE OF THE YEAR Cleator Moor & District Credit Union

Tracey Dixon, Manager of Cleator Moor & District Credit Union accepting the award said *"We strive at all times to provide a wide range and high standard of financial services to our Members. With the support of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Derwent & Solway Housing Association, Cumbria Community Foundation, Francis C Scott Foundation and Cumbria County Council we have been able to extend and promote our services and therefore provide services to a larger number of people living and working within our community."*



We will use the award money to upgrade our financial accounts system, which will enable the Credit Union to extend its range of services, including automatic emailing of statements to members and enabling Members to have multiple accounts, eg. a Christmas Savings account, a holiday savings account, a general loan account, a Christmas loan account, etc."

For more information on Cleator Moor & District Credit Union
Tel. 01946 817508



**Re-using Rural Buildings of Character for Jobs & Homes
Wednesday, 21st April**

The Association of Small Historic Towns & Village with the NW Association of Civic Trust Societies, invites you to a conference at **Kendal Town Hall**.

This event will investigate the opportunities and difficulties involved in the re-use of historic buildings in rural areas.

For more information or to book a place, contact Ginny James, Tel. 01531 821904, Email vljames@onetel.com

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The Social Enterprise Mark

A Mark of assurance, of right thinking and bright thinking!

The Social Enterprise Mark offers social enterprises a simple way to inform customers about the social or environmental impacts they offer and to take advantage of the business opportunities presented by an ever growing trend in ethical consumerism. The Mark enables social enterprises to differentiate themselves with an instantly recognisable label; as a reminder that by choosing a social enterprise they are helping to create benefits for people and the planet.

There are currently no Cumbrian based social enterprises who have the Mark—perhaps your organisation could be the first ?!

To find out more about the Social Enterprise Mark, whether it's right for your organisation and how to apply, Email suebladon@rise-sw.co.uk or see their website at www.socialenterprisemark.co.uk

Cumbria Intensive Startup Support Programme



Are you thinking of setting up a new organisation?

Or was your social enterprise setup in the last 3 years?

If the answer to either of these is YES, you can now get free, specialist advice from the new Cumbria Intensive Startup Support Programme (ISUS) provided by the NWDA, utilising European, national and local funding to support new social enterprises.

Advice is available on a range of subjects including:

- How to access grants
- Choosing the right legal structure
- Business planning
- Financial management including bookkeeping and budgeting
- Marketing
- Learning from others' experiences
- Training

For further information, or just an informal chat, contact the appropriate person for your district.



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