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## Social Enterprise in Changing Times

The theme of this year's CSEP Annual Conference is '**Changing Times**', which is a very apt description of the challenging economic environment that members are currently operating in. Please make a note in your diary to find out how two very successful social entrepreneurs turned the challenge of "*changing times*" into an opportunity to establish and grow their social enterprises. Lord Andrew Mawson and Gill Coupland are keynote speakers at the our 2011 Annual Conference to be held in Carlisle on the 21st March.

I am very pleased to be able to report that the total membership of CSEP has increased by 15% over the past year, and since our last AGM our Steering Group is, I believe, a much better representation of the sector. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome to the CSEP Steering Group; Jennie Sutton from The Feelgood Group, Paul Steward from Millom Network Centre, Phil Davis from Impact Housing, Bill Smith from South Lakeland Development Trust and Daniel Heery from Cybermoor.

**Rob Randell** - Manager, Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership

## Helping to shape the future of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership

As the Economy and Enterprise representative on the Cumbria Third Sector Network (CTSN), Rob Randell, working with Paul Dodson and Viv Lewis on behalf of CSEP, has been heavily involved in the formation of the Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) since the bidding stage. LEP's are the replacement bodies for the disbanded Regional Development Agencies with a role to provide the strategic leadership and drive to strengthen the sub-regional economies throughout England. Following a consultation with CSEP members regarding the type of LEP they would wish to see for Cumbria, CSEP were involved in writing the Cumbria LEP bid that was submitted to central Government.

Once the bid was approved, CSEP, again working on behalf of the CTSN, became part of the Interim Advisory Panel for the Cumbria LEP (the other four private sector partners are the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce, the NFU, the Federation of Small Businesses and Cumbria Tourism). The Interim Advisory Panel prepared and distributed the application packs for the Private Sector Board Members and distributed these throughout their networks. The Panel also appointed George Beveridge as Interim Private Sector Chair of the Cumbria LEP.

The five remaining Private Sector seats on the Cumbria LEP Board will be chosen by the Interim Advisory Panel. By the closing date of 14th January, around 70 applications were received and the Panel is currently engaged in the selection process. A total of six applicants from the Social Enterprise and Third Sector applied for endorsement of their applications from the CTSN Executive.

An announcement on the five successful candidates is expected early March 2011.



## Business Support

Because the take-up of the CSEP business

assist programme has been so successful this year, we have been allocated a very small number of additional business assists. The support programme will fund up to 2 days of specialist consultancy support for existing Cumbrian social enterprises. This could be support in a number of things, including:

- finance and funding
- procurement
- product development
- sustainability planning
- effective governance
- measuring social benefit
- energy audits/ renewable energy systems
- internal quality systems
- ... and more

If you are interested in applying for this support [download an application form](#)



# 2010 Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership Conference & Awards



**This year's Annual Conference will be held at Carlisle United Supporters' Club, Brunton Park on Monday, 21st March from 9.30am to 12.30pm followed by lunch and networking opportunity.**

The theme of the day will be **"Social Enterprise in Changing Times"**. Full details of the event are yet to be finalised, but will include some interesting and varied workshops and keynote speakers confirmed so far include:

**Lord Andrew Mawson:**

"Andrew Mawson is social justice in motion. A hard hitting, tough talking gentle doer of big business change." You don't get praise like this from John Bird the founder of The Big Issue, without doing something very special indeed. Andrew is one of the leading social entrepreneurs in the country and is author of the both critically acclaimed and wonderfully inspirational book 'The Social Entrepreneur - making communities work.'

**Gill Coupland:**

Gill is Co-founder and Director of Angels Housekeeping, a social enterprise that was born out of the need for domestic care services in Leeds following the City Council's withdrawal from the provision of these services. In addition to being a highly respected social entrepreneur, Gill is a Social Enterprise Ambassador, appointed by the Social Enterprise Coalition. In its first three years Angels Housekeeping had grown from an operation with seven clients to a team of 30 with over 300 clients.

## **"Show everyone what social enterprise achieves in Cumbria!"**

### **2011 AWARD CATEGORIES**

<b>New Social Enterprise of the Year</b>	<b>Co-operative of the Year</b>	<b>Community Enterprise of the Year</b>	<b>Existing Social Enterprise of the Year</b>
Sponsored by CSEP	Sponsored by CSEP	Sponsored by CSEP and the Development Trusts Association	Sponsored by CSEP
Winner: <b>£500</b> + £250 PR support from <b>Big Story Media</b> Runner-up: <b>£250</b>	Winner: <b>£500</b> + £250 PR support from <b>Big Story Media</b> Runner-up: <b>£250</b>	Winner: <b>£500</b> + £250 PR support from <b>Big Story Media</b> Runner-up: <b>£250</b>	Winner: <b>£500</b> + £250 PR support from <b>Big Story Media</b> Runner-up: <b>£250</b>



**The awards are FREE to enter** and you can enter for more than one category if you fit the criteria. You can nominate your own organisation or it can be done by another person or organisation.

There is lots to be gained from applying, so please do enter. Tell us what you have achieved over the last year or two and you could win one of our great prizes. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony at the Annual Conference at Carlisle on 21st March.

**\*\* Completed applications using the Awards Application Form must be received no later than 5pm on Friday, 11th March 2011. \*\***

All members should have received information about the awards by email, including the Application Form and more detailed information about the categories and scoring criteria, but all the information and documents can be downloaded from our website (see News & Features). Anyone who has any queries on the awards should contact Bill Knowles, secod, Email [info@secod.coop](mailto:info@secod.coop) or Tel. 07590980995.

**For more information about any of the events and projects featured in this newsletter Email [enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org](mailto:enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org) or Tel. 0845 3313360**



# News on Partnership Events in 2011



# AGM

25 members representing in total 34 social enterprises attended our Annual General Meeting at the Quaker Tapestry in Kendal on 18th January.

Paul Dodson, the Partnership's Chair presented the Annual Report for 2009-10. Paul highlighted the significance the appointment of Rob Randell as Partnership Manager in September 2009 had made to the effectiveness of the Partnership, ensuring its programme of activities had been delivered successfully, both exceeding its projected targets and under budget. Also, in addition to managing the programme of activities, Rob had played a key role in the county's strategic decision making, representing the Partnership in the Third Sector Network Executive, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Bidding Consortia. Rob presented a brief report of this year's activities

and explained that the Partnership was well on track to achieve its targets.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by guest speaker Georgina Ternent from Cumbria County Council to launch The Effective Procurement in Cumbria Supplier (EPiC) Guide, who explained about the Guide and the Council's procurement website "The Chest".

## **"Working Sustainably" Financial Diversification Workshop Tuesday 15 March, 9.30am to 4pm Waterside House, Barrow, LA14 2HE**

This fully funded workshop is designed to help your social enterprise both increase turnover through trading and funding and help secure public sector contracts.

Social Enterprises are facing a whole new set of challenges to survive. This interactive workshop will help you prepare for increasingly competitive markets, new commissioning and procurement circumstances and generating income from commercial activity, all this while maintaining the ethical social objectives of the Social Enterprise. The workshop will help provide you with an understanding of:

- The potential for alternative revenue sources and how to access them.
- Developing operational plans and milestones from strategic objectives.
- Aligning your offer, promotion and therefore increased levels of paid for services.
- Opportunities in the Public and Private sectors – providing a solution.
- How bids are assessed and what will make commissioners take note of your organisation.
- What help and assistance is available.

A networking luncheon event for all Barrow-based social enterprises will also be taking place at Waterside House from 12-2pm.

These events are organised in association with Barrow Social Enterprise Network, Furness Enterprise & Cumbria CVS.

To book at place on either event, contact Monique Rebanks on 01768 800350 or Email [moniquer@cumbriacvs.org.uk](mailto:moniquer@cumbriacvs.org.uk)

## **Community Shares: Social investment in Co-operative Enterprise Wednesday 16 March, 10am to 12.30pm Quaker Tapestry, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4BH**

This fully funded event is essential for anyone interested in investment in co-operative or community benefit societies. Keynote speakers will talk first hand about their experience in advising and running community shares' offers.

Speakers will include:

- Hugh Rolo - Locality (formerly DTA & bassac)
- Daniel Heery - Alston Cybermoor Co-operative
- Gareth Nash - Co-operative and Mutual Solutions

**Community investment is different** - community investment is about engaging communities to invest in themselves. By harnessing the collective investment powers of whole communities, large amounts of capital can be raised in small sums from members of the community. Be it a small village shop or large scale housing development, a community recycling project or major renewable energy scheme, they all have one thing in common – actively committed and motivated members who recognise the wider benefits of communities investing and engaging in their own solutions.

Examples in the North West include The Old Crown Pub & Brewery @ Heskett Newmarket, Baywind Renewable Energy, FC United Football Club and One Planet shop.

This event is organised by Co-operatives North West, on behalf of CSEP, with funding from SENW, NWDA, ERDF and The Cabinet Office and is supported by Locality. Lunch will be provided for everyone who books their place by 10 March. To book a place on the event [visit the Eventbrite website](#)



**SEND US  
YOUR  
NEWS**

**It's always good to find out what other social enterprises are up to, especially if it's about new and expanding services.**

**If you have some exciting news you'd like to share with other members, then why not email us and we'll publish it in the next newsletter!**

## What an amazing year we've had!

**Prism Arts**  
Arts for Everyone



Prism Arts is an inclusive arts charity based in Warwick Bridge near Carlisle. At Prism, we believe art is for everyone and aim to deliver the best creative opportunities across the county. Prism Arts had an amazing 2010 ...

A call-out for creative Cumbrians resulted in over 100 practising artists being added to our database and to keep in touch with everyone we also launched our newsletter 'Revive!' with the latest creative opportunities and disability sector news. We hope to take this interaction to a new

level in 2011; with a series of artist' meetings set to stimulate debate and new ideas.

Our 2010 Access2Arts seminar also proved to be a big hit. The seminar explored the benefits of partnership working and how this method can improve art services. Spinning Yarns, our art workshops for people aged 55+, ran for its 7th year, despite the terrible weather at the end of the year. The Starfish Theatre, for learning disabled adults, also had a very busy year and hit the road with their dark fairytale 'The Haunted Tree's [picture above courtesy of Haltwhistle Film Co]. The play toured venues and schools across the county and found further success by partnering with DaDa (Deaf and Disabled Arts) International Festival 2010.

2011 looks set to be an even bigger year for Prism Arts with many more exciting projects, including the opening of our brand new artist studio in the centre of Carlisle. February sees the start of an exciting collaboration between Prism Arts, digital arts organisation folly and artist Rita Marcalo. Rita will be a resident artist at Lanternhouse in Ulverston and supported by Prism Arts and folly.

There are many more projects that we can't wait to share - but for now we will maintain the mystery! Check out our [website](#) or drop us an [email](#) to find out all the latest news.

## Delivering broadband the community way

## Cybermoor

65 people visited Alston for the Cybermoor NGA Rural Broadband Open Day on 9th February. Access to Next Generation Broadband will soon be critical for rural areas as urban areas begin to benefit from much faster broadband speeds. Cybermoor has lead the way in developing community owned, social enterprise wireless and Next Generation Access networks and the aim of the day was to share this best practice with other rural communities.

The event supported by CSEP, gave an opportunity for communities both throughout Cumbria and as far afield as The Shetland Isles, Wales and Oxfordshire, to come and see at first hand how a community owned co-operative can deliver broadband.

Delegates heard from Paul Dodson the CSEP Chair about the vital role social enterprises play in Cumbria, contributing £275M to the economy and creating 4,000 jobs and also about the hot-bed of other social enterprise within Alston Moor, with one social enterprise per 83 households - making it arguably the social enterprise capital of the UK!

Members of the Cybermoor team talked about some of the practical challenges and pitfalls experienced along the way, how to manage and fund a network and finding the right approach for your community. Some of the other service providers who have helped with the project explained about the different technology options available to communities who were thinking about doing it themselves.

If you weren't able to attend but would like to find out more about the day, you can download copies of all the presentations via the [Cybermoor website](#)

