

Frustrated with lack of joined-up thinking in your area such as transport, housing or affordable energy?

Do you want more say with within **your community?**

So you've got an **idea**. Who do you need to get on board to make it actually happen?

Come along and **make a difference** – translate your ideas into action and **get the community you deserve**.

Big Society, local solutions

a conference exploring locally owned, locally led initiatives

with people who have walked the talk!

(incorporating the Co-operatives SW AGM)

Tuesday 16th November

10.30am - 4pm

at The Park,

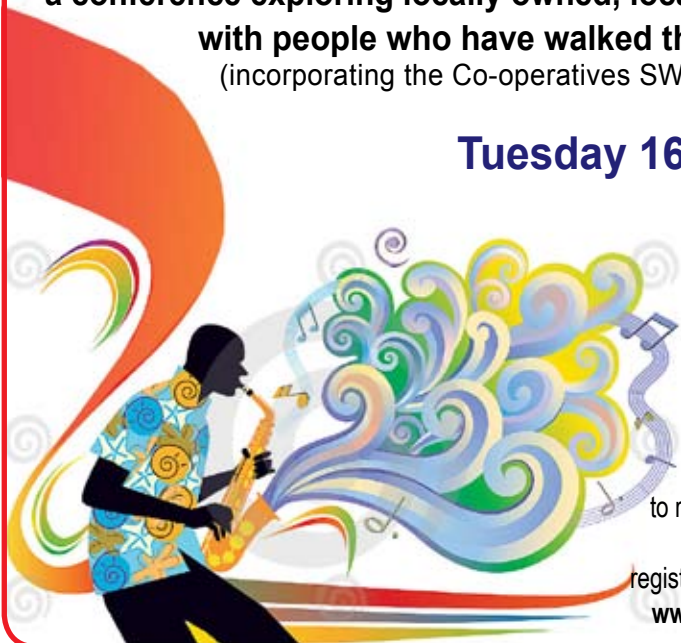
Stadium Way

Exeter EX4 6PX

(Exeter City Football

Club conference suite)

For more information or to register, call 01752 822261 or complete the on-line registration form on our website www.cooperatives-sw.coop



Top Tips...

How can co-operatives take advantage of the growing interest in the co-operative business model?

Identify yourselves as co-operatives:

- 1** Live the values and principles: redesigning and rebranding your image would just be a waste of money if your service and the way you operate is not up to scratch. Co-operative values & principles are a quality offer. First and foremost, we need to live up to them.
- 2** Use the word co-operative in your name, such as:
www.co-operative.coop
www.thephone.coop
www.co-operativefutures.coop
- 3** Use your Co-operatives UK membership to your advantage and display your membership logo. Visit www.uk.coop to find out more.
- 4** Get yourself a .coop web domain name such as
<http://www.co-operatives-sw.coop/>
<http://www.software.coop/>
<http://www.go.coop/>

Compiled by Jim Pettipher, Co-operative Futures

HURRY UP! BUY INTO REAL FOOD

The arrival of a local food store in the heart of Exeter is what many local residents have said they want - and exactly what many local producers need. Exeter, a regional capital city, is surrounded by beautiful and productive countryside but at the moment

there is no single outlet where you can find local, quality produce, with the exception of the excellent but only once weekly Farmers Market.

Now, subject to being able raise sufficient share capital, Real Food have

secured premises in Paris Street. The Real Food store will be:

- a food store specialising in local, organic and fair-trade food (you will find fruit and vegetables, dairy products, meat & a range

continued on page 4

Co-operatives South West is principally supported by The Co-operative Enterprise Hub and The Midcounties Co-operative

The Co-operative Enterprise hub helps to support and develop new and existing co-operative enterprises. Its aim is to grow the co-operative economy, creating strong ethically-led businesses with a deep sense of social responsibility. For more info visit www.co-operative.coop/enterprisehub

The **co-operative**
enterprise hub

The Midcounties **Co-operative**

Community ownership brings financial benefits

Speaking in response to the announcement on 9 August by Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, that from next week local authorities will be able to sell renewable energy to the National Grid, Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-operatives UK, who co-authored the discussion paper **A new energy infrastructure** in November 2009, which called for this step as part of a wider move towards community level energy, said:

“Co-operatives UK welcomes the news that local authorities will be able to sell renewable energy to the National Grid because it opens up opportunities for working in partnership with local communities.

“In other European countries local authorities have grasped the benefits

of co-operatives and encouraged their development in various ways.

“In France for instance, co-operatives such as Bois Bocage Energie have been developed to allow local authorities, consumers and producers to produce energy from biomass. In Denmark, local authorities have supported the growth of district heating co-operatives through acting as loan guarantors and enabling planning conditions, working alongside housing associations, local business and householders.

“Renewable energy is an area where Big Society action could flourish, with the appetite for community ownership and control mobilised to take projects forward. Local authorities will be key in seeing these partnerships develop.”

Are you a member of your local co-operative society? Come along to a members' meeting and have your say!

The Co-operative Group

Co-operative Group members can sample products 'GROWN BY US' at their Members' meeting.

“October is always an important time for The Co-operative Membership”, says says Sam Grayston, Regional Co-operative and Membership Manager. “It is the month where our members have an opportunity to voice their opinions about our Society to elected members and regional management. This year, there's an added bonus!

“As Britain's largest farmer, we have a huge variety of produce we grow which appears in our stores nationwide – from our juicy strawberries to our earthy potatoes and our crispy apples. We also support a fantastic variety of Fairtrade producers all over the world, some of whom produce wine. You will have an exclusive opportunity to sample some of our delicious Grown By Us produce at your Members' Meeting. You will also be able to sample some of our fantastic wines, at a specialist wine tasting hosted by wine expert, Stefan Szymczack.

Don't worry about driving – we're putting



on coaches from major towns and cities near to the meetings. If you are driving, there will be a range of our juices for you to try.”

Dates and venues for Half Yearly meetings

Bristol Zoo - 5 Oct, 6.30pm

Southampton Art Gallery - 7 Oct, 6.30pm

Slimbridge Wildfowl Centre - 9 Oct, 11am

Bournemouth Oceanarium - 11 Oct, 6.30pm

Liskeard: Camglaze Cavems - 12 Oct, 6.30pm

Taunton: Hestercombe Gardens Trust
- 14 Oct, 6.30pm

Torquay Town Hall (Incl Living Coasts visit offer) - 16th Oct, 11.00am

www.co-operative.coop/membership



Café Kino is a not-for-profit co-operative owned and operated by its workers and run in part by volunteers.

The community café, located in Ninetree Hill in the heart of Bristol, was set up to provide a space for independent and marginalized artists and provides delicious, ethically sourced food and drink at reasonable prices. Opening hours are from 9am until 9.30pm, every day.

As well as exhibition space, Café Kino also hosts regular meetings and events and are always open to interesting ideas. They work hard to create an atmosphere of respect and understanding in which everyone is valued, a safe space for all.

Café Kino's current exhibition is open to anyone who would like to submit artwork. This allows local artists to get exposure for their work - from illustration to printmaking and sculpture. A portion of the money from sold artwork goes to Café Kino, so by buying art you are supporting both a local artist and the co-operative.

The Midcounties Co-operative

Member Meetings give members with the opportunity to receive updates on the society's performance and its latest initiatives, and members can put their questions directly to the Board of Directors and senior management. This meeting will also include approval of dividend and approval of any proposed rule changes, if you want to help shape your Co-operative then these meetings are definitely for you.

Dates and venues for Half Yearly meetings

Shrewsbury: Lord Hill Hotel - 14 Oct, 7pm

Swindon: Menzies Hotel - 19 Oct, 7pm

Gloucester: Ramada Hotel, 21 Oct, 7pm

www.midcounties.coop

Low carbon living in Cornwall

A project to transform the rural Mid-Cornwall villages of Ladock and Grampound Road into a national test bed for achieving sustainable living on a community-wide scale is making good progress after Community Energy Plus - Cornwall's leading charity delivering local solutions to fuel poverty, energy efficiency and renewable energy - secured £500,000 of funding through the government's Low Carbon Community Challenge earlier this year.

The Low Carbon Living Ladock and Grampound Road project is supported



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by Social Economy & Co-operative Development Cornwall (trading as Kabin) - Cornwall's co-operative development body and Transition Ladock and Grampound Road - along with other community volunteers.

The project has seen a combination of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies installed across the community along with a carbon sequestration project that has involved planting nut trees to naturally absorb and hold carbon while providing a boost to local food production.

Paul Martin of Kabin says: "What is really exciting about this is that it shows what is possible when communities and organisations work together for the common good. The Transition group represents informed and mobilised community members while Community Energy Plus are experts in their field."

Kabin is helping the project to set up a community managed fund to ensure that income made by electricity generating aspects of the scheme remain a rolling resource that will benefit the

wider community. Income from Feed-in Tariffs and anticipated Renewable Heat Incentives from the government will be reinvested in more carbon saving measures so that the benefits of the programme will far exceed the initial targets of the project.

Paul Martin continues: "The Transition Group applied to Co-operative Enterprise Hub (CEH) the new service funded by the Co-operative Group and so Kabin has been able to provide up to four days advise and training. Through this CEH work we have worked with the residents of Ladock and Grampound Road and CEP to create two Industrial and Provident Societies that will own and allocate the income generated from the recently introduced Feed in Tariff (FIT). This means that income will be reinvested in yet more energy efficiency and renewable energy assets until eventually this community could become a carbon sink! And over time members of the community will become experts in issues around energy, carbon and enterprise. It's also a great example of what could be possible if the Transition Movement

Are you or do you know a student, graduate or anyone working in...

Advertising • Film and video • architecture • music • arts, crafts & design • software • fashion design, etc.?



With the number of freelancers in UK, creative industries continuing to rise and creative graduates facing a difficult job market, Co-operatives UK - the national trade body that campaigns for co-operation - has launched Creative Co-operatives, a new guide and website. Co-operatives SW, CDA (BRAVE Ltd.) and Co-operatives UK are planning an event in Bristol on **16 February 2011** aimed at freelancers, the self-employed, creative students and recent creative graduates - so please note this date on your calendar!

Celebrating 150 years of co-operation in Plymouth

Plymouth's 150th Anniversary dinner went with a bang! 350 members, their friends, family and employees came together to celebrate this unique event. Author Chris Robinson opened the night with a brief outline of his book 150 years of The Co-operative in Plymouth.

Later in the evening local employees were recognised and given rewards for their hard work and embracing the group's values and principles. A unique specially made DVD was also shown outlining the changes to



the Plymouth Co-operative over the years - starring local employees and members. Guests enjoyed a 3 course meal and danced the night away with live music. A fantastic and fun filled night had by all!

Chris Robinson's hardback book '150 years of the co-operative in Plymouth', priced at £19.95 can be purchased from major bookstores or on-line.



Continued from page 1...

of grocery items)

- a café using the same range of ingredients
- an on-site local, artisan bakery
- an upper floor community space offering a day-time and evening venue for training and talks

Initiated by Transition Exeter in March 2009, Real Food is the trading name of Exeter Local Food Ltd, a Community Benefit Society. Incorporated under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 and registered with the Financial Services Authority.

Real Food is an innovative example of an alternative retail business- giving Exeter residents the opportunity to change the way they shop!

The store will appeal to all ages and backgrounds and provide a popular, convenient and accessible venue where Exeter shoppers can enjoy buying high quality food at a fair price.

CAN YOU HELP REAL FOOD MEET THEIR TARGET?

To launch the store Real Food needs to sign the lease on the Paris Street premises by early October 2010. But they cannot do this until they have sufficient investment. Then work can start on refitting and the store can be opened as soon as possible. You can support Real Food by being a customer once it's up and running but, right now, you

can become a shareholder by making an investment. The minimum shareholding is just £100! Ask your family and friends, work colleagues, neighbours, anyone you know through work or leisure to find out about investing.

It really is hotting up now as over 200 Real Food members have already invested over £125,000 since June! This is absolutely brilliant and means we are now very close to our target of £135,000 needed to launch the business. The share offer is extended to 30th September so now is the time to invest and be part of Real Food Exeter!



This has proven to be one of the most successful community benefit schemes in the country in terms of community financial involvement.

If you're interested in buying into this business and becoming a member, download the application form from their website at www.realfoodexeter.co.uk

Continued from page 3

**COMMUNITY
POWER
CORNWALL**



and the Co-operative Movement really recognise their common ground and the potential for delivering re-localised low carbon enterprise for people and planet."

Community Energy Plus and Kabin are working together to enable more community owned renewables by supporting the development of Community Power Cornwall - a new Industrial and Provident Society, owned by its members and created to be environmentally, socially, and financially useful.

Community Power Cornwall has evolved through community led demand for the ownership and integration of renewable energy technologies into everyday lives and settings and hopes to enable local communities to collectively tackle the threats of climate change, energy security and uncontrollable fuel cost rises by generating clean, renewable energy locally involving the whole community in understanding and operations.

Community Power Cornwall will develop and operate small to medium scale community owned renewable energy installations. Its initial focus will be on wind turbines generating electricity for sale via the national grid. The Society exists to enable community ownership of these assets, to generate capital to be re-invested locally in renewable energy, and to nurture the spread of community owned renewable energy generation.

Community Energy Plus has applied for planning permission for a number of 50kw wind turbines and intends to launch a community share offer this October. For more details see

www.communitypowercornwall.coop

Contact us

www.cooperatives-sw.coop

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