



CO-OPERATIVES
South West

n e w s

spring 2010

edition no. 17

www.cooperatives-sw.coop



In response to new UK Prime Minister David Cameron forming a historic coalition with the Liberal Democrats, Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-operativesUK, said:

“Co-operatives^{UK} looks forward to working with the new government to place co-operation at the heart of the United Kingdom economy and society where it belongs.

“There is common ground between the two parties and that includes co-operative solutions for the economy and for communities, both of which we have been campaigning for.

“Britain is the birthplace of co-operation, and a new coalition government, based on co-operation between these two political parties could, we hope, help to spark a new culture of dialogue and collaboration.

“Co-operatives favour action for a more equal society, because we believe that more equal societies, economies and businesses, are better for all those who live and work in them.”

Doing business the co-operative way

Co-operatives SW invites you to participate in the **Co-operatives 2010** Friday programme, 25 June 10am-5pm

Thank you for your ideas and suggestions for the Friday of Co-operatives 2010, which this year is being hosted by Co-operatives SW. The programme has now been finalised and we are taking bookings!

This is a great opportunity to take part in a prestigious national event in our region. The Friday programme will focus on topics of interest to those working in or with small and medium sized co-operatives.

Peter Couchman, Chief Executive of The Plunkett Foundation will welcome delegates and explore the increasing variety of co-operative forms - from community shops and pubs to the fictional!

Following this will be sessions on marketing your co-operative identity and whether a ‘Co-operative Mark’ would be desirable; business networking to grow and develop the co-operative economy; a workshop on the theme ‘From Conflict to Co-operation’; and surgeries on a variety of useful topics - suggested by our members.

You will get a chance to put questions to a panel of experts - in the style of ‘Gardeners Question Time’ to help your co-op nurture and grow!

For people that don’t wish to take part in face-to-face surgeries, there will be a collection of short films and case-studies to view on screen with the aid of radio headphones, or take part in an on-line forum.

During the closing session, we will review the day and also celebrate the achievements of organisations benefiting from Co-operative Enterprise Hub awards - over a glass of wine or cup of coffee!

To book, log on to www.congress.coop, or for further information give us a call on 01752 822261

Inside...

A look at what’s going on in the South West during Co-operatives Fortnight

Join in
Be inspired
Be **co-operative!**



Co-operatives South West is principally supported by

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

What is *your co-op* doing to mark *Co-operatives* *Fortnight?*

**CO-OPERATIVES
FORTNIGHT**
19 JUNE - 3 JULY 2010

Here are a selection
of events being held
in the South West

**Bourton-on-the-Water
Sun 27th June, 2010 (11.30am - 3.30pm)**

This is just one of seven FREE Open Days around the UK organised by HF Holidays in support of Co-operatives Fortnight.

HF Holidays is a co-operative society which owns 17 Country Houses and operates sociable walking and leisure activity holidays around the UK and abroad.

On Sunday 27 June Harrington House invites its members, the local community and other local co-operatives to join them for FREE tea, coffee and cake. During the afternoon, they can find out more about the society, what it is like to be a co-operative and see how they can help and support each other in the local area.

Harrington House dates back from the Tudor period and is ideally located in the charming centre of Bourton-on-the-Water. It has spacious lounges and a walled garden just perfect for an afternoon tea. All are welcome!
www.hfholidays.co.uk



Celebrating eco progress

Over the first weekend of June, the Eden Project will provide an appropriate backdrop for an unforgettable experience to raise awareness about the impact of climate change.

Transition Cornwall have been working with The Co-operative Group Membership South West, KABIN and the Eden Project to deliver seminars and practical workshops focusing on sustainability.

"Over the past 12 months The Co-operative Group has provided a range of support to over 35 Transition Communities and it's been felt that the work being undertaken in these communities and many others across the Region should be showcased at a weekend event hosted at The Eden project, one of the most sustainable venues in the UK," said Ron Muckleston, of the Group's Regional Values and Principles Committee.

The Co-operative Group has been developing links with the Eden Project, and

**Bristol
Wed 30 June, 2010 (2pm-5pm)**

Members, supporters and anyone interested in learning about the services of Co-operative and Community Finance are welcome to come to their AGM at 2 pm on Wednesday 30th June 2010 in the Unitarian Chapel, Brunswick Court, Bristol BS2 8PE. Please contact CCF for more information.
0117 916 6750

info@co-opandcommunityfinance.coop
www.co-opandcommunityfinance.coop

**Lydney
Sat 3 July, 2010 (10am to 3pm)**



The Midcounties Co-operative have secured the use of Bathurst Park in Lydney to demonstrate, along with other co-operatives, that *There is an Alternative*. Local traders and community organisations are invited to take part. The Woodcraft Folk will be putting on games for younger people - and the event will be part of Lydney Festival so there will be music from talented musicians in the Forest of Dean. The event will also celebrate the final stages of an art competition with the winning mural - painted by young people at the event - eventually going up on show in the town.
Visit <http://www.midcounties.coop>

**Marlborough
Saturday, 19 June, 2010 (all day)**

WE LOVE MARLBOROUGH!

To celebrate co-operatives fortnight in June, *We love Marlborough* are on the hunt to find the Marlborough area person who is the spirit of co-operation incarnate. Nominate by emailing hello@welovemarlborough.co.uk or sticking a vote on Facebook!

in the past The Co-operative Insurance sponsored the annual Sexy Green Car Show. The Resilience SW event hopes to go beyond financial sponsorship, and highlight the impact of Climate Change and highlight what we, both as a retailer and individuals can do to combat its effects.

Pete Vallance, Democratic Services and Membership Manager in the Co-operative Group's South and West Region, said: "In the context of Climate Change and Peak Oil, the word 'resilience' refers to the ability to adapt to our constantly changing demands for energy and make better use of the resources that we sometimes take for granted. We hope that our members take up this opportunity to find out more about our work in this pioneering field."

Cornwall Council and Transition Cornwall Network are pleased to host Friday's event aimed at bringing together the renewable energy industry, landowners, energy consumers and community groups to increase awareness and understanding of the opportunities available for the generation of renewable and low carbon



will include a Fairtrade Tour of Eden's Biome, Love Food, Hate Waste kitchen demonstrations, common ownership of Land for Food, Local Money Flows and Plugging the Leaks, a hands-on Introduction to Sustainable Eco Building and a Practical Permaculture tour of the Gardens.

Delegates are invited to attend presentations on large and community scale onshore wind, geothermal energy, photovoltaics and biomass/anaerobic digestion. Presentations will also be made

energy in Cornwall.

Paul Martin of Kabin, the co-op development body in Cornwall which is company secretary of Transition Cornwall said: "Personally, what is most gratifying is to see our two movements working together. Both the transition and co-operative movements have self-help at their core and both have arisen as a positive response to the negative aspects of purely profit-driven activity".

Workshop subjects

on funding sources, community gain and energy service companies (ESCO's).

Carolyn Rule, Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration at Cornwall Council said 'the opportunities for renewable energy generation in Cornwall are enormous, we have a mix and concentration of natural resources, such as wind, solar, wave and geothermal which offer significant investment and employment opportunities'.

The event will take place on Friday 4, Saturday 5, and Sunday 6 June with Climate Change seminars and workshops. On Saturday morning Peter Couchman, Chief Executive of The Plunkett Foundation, will be talking about the role that co-operatives and social enterprises have to play in delivering community innovation. There will also be displays hosted by communities from the South West and local partners.

To coincide with the event, Surfers against Sewage will be organising a beach clean at a beach close to the Eden Project on Friday 4 June. The beach clean will be a free event and is open to anyone who wishes to join in.

For more information about the event please go to <https://www.co-operativememberevents.coop> or ring 01884 266892 for a booking form.

**Southampton
Saturday, 19 June, 2010 (7.30pm)**

The Burma Play

A Comedy of Terror

It is Burmese democracy leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi's 65th birthday on 19 June. Come and help mark the occasion.

'The Burma Play. A Comedy of Terror' is a story told with flair, humour and original live music. It offers a sharp, clear and vivid insight into the complicated political history of Burma, from British colonisation to Burma's slide into oppression and the current struggle for democracy.

The play has been performed at the

Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Amnesty International events and theatres across the country and has been supported by The Co-operative.

The performance will be free, although donations will be invited in lieu of this

charge, to be split equally between The Burma Campaign UK (BCUK) and Amnesty International.

Spaces are limited and priority will be given to Co-operative members.

Website: www.theburmaplay.com



**Southampton
Fri 2nd July, 2010 (7.30pm-9.30pm)**

Did you know that Southampton is a city rich in co-operatives? Come along to our celebration evening to meet those working in a diverse range of businesses. From ethical pants to graphic design, the one thing they all share are co-operative values.

Email: fay.bowden@co-operative.coop

Telephone: 01202 606671

**Wotton under Edge
Thurs 24th 10am to
Fri 25th June 4pm, 2010**

Come to our store at The Co-operative Food, 38 Long Street, Wotton under Edge, Gloucestershire GL12 7BT - and find out more about what makes the coop different and support our charity partner *Help the Hospices* by entering our prize draw.

Email: member.communications@midcounties.coop

Telephone: 0800 435 902

Castledown Radio radio for you - by you

Castledown Radio provides a 24 hour community radio service, primarily for the Tidworth Community Area in Wiltshire - near the Hampshire border. They are housed in a purpose built media centre sited near The Wellington Academy Sports Centre outside Ludgershall. Following a successful launch on the Internet, OFCOM issued Castledown Radio a community radio license in March 2006, and they now broadcast on both the Internet (www.castledownradio.info) and on FM radio at 104.7Mhz.



As a community radio station, it is run by - and for - the local community, and so relies heavily on volunteers to help with gathering information, presenting and producing

Kabin need your help



Please help Kabin, the co-operative development body in Cornwall, to reach and exceed its target to sign up 50 households to the environmental project Greener Together, aimed at reducing personal CO₂ emissions from energy use, transport and waste. We would be glad if you would like to take part.

The project involves a six month study into changes we can make to how we live. You would be asked to make one or more pledges to reduce your carbon dioxide emissions or waste.

Clayton Elliott is the designated 'eco-operator' for this project at Kabin, and will

do his best to support you throughout the project. All you need is a willingness to make changes aimed at reducing your impact on the climate. Climate change affects us all and by working together now we can reduce our impact for present and future generations. Greener Together - the co-operative way is all about working together to make a difference.

More details of the project can be found via www.co-opdevelopment.org

When you register, please make sure to select "Social Economy & Co-operative Development Cornwall Limited (KABIN)" as the participating organisation. Please pass this information on to any colleagues who may be interested. Thank you.



Some of the runners from Exeter City FC Supporters Trust - who own their own Club

partnership with Co-operatives South West. For the latter, the purpose was to show the public that co-operatives can be all types and sizes - and as an early celebration of Co-operatives Fortnight.

Barry and Scott were front runners in the marathon, and one of the runners, John (pictured left) won the Over 75 category in a respectable 4hrs 35mins - he was the oldest runner on the day! Congratulations to all who took part.

Athletic Exeter City supporters braved the early morning cold to run in the Great West Run half marathon with City legends Scott Hiley and Barry McConnell.

They were raising funds for a much needed new playing surface at St. James Park. The running group was supported by the mutual Supporters Direct, in

shows. Baz Reilly, the Station Manager comments "The volunteers are fantastic, they work really hard and produce a really professional radio station. I am very proud of them. Without them Castledown Radio would not exist".

They are always on the lookout for support from local businesses too, in the form of sponsorship of programmes or advertisements. It's a two-way benefit, and helps ensure the growth of the station's broadcasting and training facilities.

If you live in the area and are interested in becoming a volunteer for Castledown

Radio, or there's something going on in your village/town and you'd like it on the radio (there's a regular 'Around and About the Villages' spot every hour) - then give Baz Reilly a call on 01264 841047 or drop an email to studio@castledownradio.info

Contact us
www.cooperatives-sw.coop

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