



CBS Network and COMMACT UK

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NEWSLETTER - WINTER/SPRING 2012

First and foremost, apologies for the long delay since our last Newsletter!

This Newsletter is a joint venture between CBS Network (CBSN) and COMMACT UK (Commonwealth Association for Local Action and Economic Development). COMMACT UK is now run as part of CBS Network.

The first section below gives news and information about overseas projects and our partnerships with colleagues around the world. The second section details current CBSN work in Scotland and the UK.

If you have anything that you feel you might want to share with our members or an article about similar work you may be working on please send it to our Jennifer Richmond (info@cbs-network.org.uk).

This Newsletter is circulated - only by email - to past and present members of CBSN and of COMMACT UK; to all our various partners in the COMMACT and other networks overseas and to related networks in the UK; to other persons we feel might be interested in receiving it. The Newsletter will also be posted on the CBSN website. (www.cbs-network.org.uk) **Please feel free to share this newsletter with other friends, colleagues and networks where you are.**

John Pearce

Born: March 23rd, 1942
Died: December 12, 2011

As many of you know, John Pearce passed away in December 2012. John was a founding member of CBS Network and was hugely influential in the development of social and community enterprise, as well as social accounting and audit. He will be missed by many people working in this sector and in community development in the UK and further afield.

His obituary appeared in the Herald and can be accessed [here](#).

Some people who knew John have suggested he would have wanted those people who knew and respected him to contribute to a worthy cause. John wanted his extensive library of documents and reports to be available to practitioners and students of community and social enterprise. It was recently handed over to Glasgow Caledonian University, home of the new Masters' course in Social Enterprise, to form the basis of a new Social Enterprise Collection.

CBS Network, of which John was a Director for nearly 30 years, are raising funds for the Collection to be archived, catalogued and made accessible. If you would like to make a donation, please visit our site [here](#).

Overseas Projects and International Links

COMMACT INTERNATIONAL

COMMACT INTERNATIONAL are holding an International conference in Cochin on the 2nd - 4th of March 2012. Full details are to be posted on the COMMACT website www.commact.com or you can get them via Jenny Mercer jmercer@ja.com.au.

On the COMMACT website you can also find the latest India COMMACT newsletter and tributes to the late John Pearce from COMMACT colleagues.

Also on the website is the report from the 2011 Asian Solidarity Economy Forum - *Social enterprise as a Vehicle for Transformation of Communities* held in November in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. This event was attended by Carl Ditchburn, Dr Karl Birkholzer and a group of Commact colleagues from the network. Part of the emerging agenda for COMMACT will be picked up at the Cochin meeting, namely looking at the COMMACT network and how it fits with the emerging picture involving other global networks.

COMMUNITY BUILDING VENTURES - CBV

Community Building Ventures creates working links between Renton in Scotland, Middlesbrough in the north east of England and Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala in southern India. The two main partners in the UK are Renton Development Trust, based in the West of Scotland, and Community Campus 87 in Middlesbrough.

After initial development work CBV ran a successful project in 2007 taking a group of staff members and trainees across to India to help with the construction of two classrooms at a school in Bangalore. Since the construction phase the UK projects have provided resources at the school, including sponsoring two teachers and providing educational materials and furniture to a variety of projects that, our partner organisation, the READ Centre works with. CBV also sponsored the shipment of a container load of materials it had helped collect in Teesside.

March 2010 saw the delivery of the latest phase of the venture with a team of 6 staff from Community Campus 87 arriving in southern India to work alongside local craftsmen of Huyilar village (200km north of Bangalore), to help construct a small community meeting room. The Dalit community was previously visited as part of the 2007 project and has worked with the Read Centre over the last 5 years on a series of educational and developmental projects. The team from Teesside brought with them donations of educational materials and sports shirts for the children of the local Thammadihalli school and also re-visited the Jamboo Savari Dine school to see how the previous work and donations were helping the school progress.

All those involved from Community Campus are proud of what has been achieved so far and are now committed to building a long term relationship with the READ Centre. CBV is a "journey" for those involved - both as individuals and organisations.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sam Chelladurai from READ for his work on the ground in organising this phase of the project and his friendship and hospitality throughout the process. Sam writes from Bangalore

I know you have all been sacrificing your time, money and energy to raise funds and support our work in India. All your support and concern and solidarity is gratefully remembered and acknowledged by our organisation and beneficiaries, whether they are children or adults. We feel that you have added extra brightness in the heart and eyes of those you have helped. You have increased hope and trust in their lives. Thank you all.

We are now working on the development of a longer term partnership with the READ Centre and looking at a further build project in late 2012. At the same time we are also speaking with COMMACT Nepal about the possibility of another school build project. The Trustees of Community Campus 87 have agreed a three year small core funding package for the READ Centre and its work as part of the ongoing relationship and the further development of the CBV programme.

Visit www.readcentre.org for the latest gallery of image from the Huyilar project

Social Audit Network India

Patrick Boase writes.....

CBS Network has now completed the 2-year project to introduce social accounting and audit into India, funded by Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland. We have been working with the Centre for Social Initiative and Management (CSIM), a Chennai-based organisation with branches in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Pune and Mumbai. More than a dozen organisations have completed social audits and 6 people have become registered auditors. The range of organisations involved has been very wide, from very small NGO's to a company providing back-office computer services in rural areas for international corporations.

While we are not able to continue to provide financial support for the development of social auditing in India we will support CSIM in any ways we can.

Social Audit Forum Nepal

CBSN managed to secure funding to pay for Lisa McMullan from TRAIN2000 in Liverpool to Nepal to go out to Nepal 2011 to run a social accounting training programme for NGO's to lead to the development of a Nepalese handbook. The programme was very successful and CBSN is exploring what else we can do to support their development.

CBSN in Scotland, the UK and Europe

Social Accounting and Audit

CBSN continues to act as SAN (the Social Audit Network) in Scotland (SANiS). During 2011 SANiS funded a series of four seminar meetings under the Social Impact Group (SIG). Each of these seminars looked at different aspects of social; impact measurement and all were very well attended. Our thanks to Sue Sadler for organising and chairing these seminar meetings.

The Social Audit Network has updated the Social Accounting and Audit Manual (2005) and it was Prove Improve Account: New Guide to Social Accounting and Audit was published in April 2011. It was launched at SAN's Annual Conference in 2011. If you would like further information please contact Alan Kay alan.kay20@gmail.com or info@socialauditnetwork.org.uk.

SAN has also updated and upgraded its website - www.socialauditnetwork.org.uk.

SAN continues to operate along regional lines and there is a small group of dedicated people (many of them Board members who continue to promote and support social accounting and audit).

SAN's next annual conference will be held in Liverpool on 20th April 2012. For further details contact info@socialauditnetwork.org.uk.

JUST the Business (CBS Network Services)

As many of you will be aware CBS Network has had a trading arm called CBS Network Services. This was the successor to Community Economic Development which was set up to carry out our consultancies in areas that fulfilled the overall aim of the parent charity. In 2010 we rebranded and re-launched CBS Network Services and are now calling it JUST the Business (JtB) - combining social JUSTice with enterprise development. Check out our website www.justthebusiness.org and for further details contact admin@justthebusiness.org

JtB has been involved in a range of exciting contracts in 2011 and are more recently developing a game around personal development. The proposed outcome is a fully developed and tested product - an interactive game for people going through transition. Contact alan@justthebusiness.org for more details.

Social Enterprise Academy and Links to Glasgow Caledonian University

CBS Network now has three links with the Social Enterprise Academy in Edinburgh.

The first is that Alan Kay and Jackie Scutt are Associate Tutors with the Academy. Alan tends to assist in the delivery of learning sessions on measuring social impact and social accounting with audit; while Jackie assists the Academy on leadership course and in coaching.

The second is that CBS Network and the Academy have worked together with Glasgow Caledonian University to design and deliver the MSc in Social Enterprise. For more information please contact Alan Kay alan.kay20@gmail.com or visit the GCU website www.gcu.ac.uk.

STRATEGY, MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS

Although our strategic focus remains on international work, primarily with our partners in India, and on developing the practice of social accounting in Scotland, we are also interested in work that enables the social economy in Scotland and the UK to flourish!

Members are encouraged to join in the activities of CBSN/COMMACT UK and to make proposals for future projects. As a small development organisation CBSN depends on its members and volunteer directors to initiate and manage projects - if you have an idea get in touch with us!

*Carl Ditchburn
For CBS Network and COMMACT UK
JAN 2012*