

newsletter



Porthmadog
FC scores
community
goal!

Supporting
quality care



Acknowledged
innovation



Co-operative
consumer



Welcome

Welcome to the second issue of The Co-operative Loan Fund newsletter, which aims to keep you informed about just some of the fund's most recent achievements, and how it is helping to support the growth of the co-operative, mutual and social enterprise sector.

We hope you enjoy this issue

Sarah Lees

Sarah Lees
Chair, The Co-operative Loan Fund

About the fund

The Co-operative Loan Fund supports co-operatives and social enterprises throughout the UK through the provision of accessible, ethical loan finance. Loan applications are welcome from those that require finance to:

- Set up a new enterprise
- Expand an existing enterprise
- Assist employee buyouts or company successions
- Purchase a property or business
- Purchase capital equipment or create working capital

The Co-operative Loan Fund is funded by three consumer co-operatives: The Co-operative Group, United Co-operatives and Midcounties Co-operative, together with the Co-operative Bank and Co-operative Insurance Society. It is overseen by a board of directors who represent each of the funders.

The fund is managed by Co-operative & Community Finance, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in the conduct of investment business.

www.co-operativeloanfund.co.uk

Porthmadog FC scores community goal!



Porthmadog Football Club in Gwynedd has secured funding from The Co-operative Loan Fund to build a new hub for its local community.

The social club - which will be adjoined to the Porthmadog FC stadium - will provide a welcome point for football fans and tourists to the area, and it will also act as a community centre for local residents to enjoy and utilise for events.

Established in 1884, Porthmadog FC is one of North Wales' premier football clubs and one of Gwynedd's oldest surviving institutions. The club has always had a strong relationship with local residents which it made official in 1994 by becoming a community-owned company limited by guarantee. Today it has over 300 members and is run on day-to-day basis by a voluntary board of directors.

Currently its members raise income for the club through local initiatives such as car-boot sales, however it's hoped that the new social club will enable the community to generate a sustainable source of income by providing a venue for hire. The members are also

currently working together to look at the potential for developing social enterprises that can operate from the social club.

Dafydd Wyn Jones, the club's treasurer, says: "We're very grateful for the assistance and support from The Co-operative Loan Fund. Porthmadog FC is very community-focussed and the new social club will enable us to benefit local people and hopefully in the future, create new income streams."

Sarah Lees, Chair of The Co-operative Loan Fund, says: "A local hub is vital for any rural community and so we're very pleased to be able to lend financial support to Porthmadog FC and help it meet its aims. As well as providing a base for local people, we hope that the social club will also help to boost tourism in the area which is an important source of revenue for small towns such as Porthmadog."

Porthmadog FC's new social club is currently expected to be officially launched in August 2007.

www.porthmadog-fc.com

Supporting quality care

The Co-operative Loan Fund has recently provided financial support to Sparks Co-operative Ltd to help it maintain its high quality services.

Sparks Co-operative Ltd is a Bristol-based enterprise that provides a variety of child-centred services to meet the needs of local families and their children. Its services, aimed at children aged between 4 - 14 years, include a variety of play and daycare services such as a term-time after school club, a breakfast club, and a full-day playscheme during the school holidays.

The co-operative aims to provide a safe, stimulating but homely environment for the children, within a multi-cultural setting. Its activities include art and crafts, cooking, playing indoors and outdoors, developing co-operative play skills and group work.



The enterprise was developed from a local out-of-school club that had been run since 1989 by a voluntary parent management committee. In 2004, with assistance from Avon Co-operative Development Agency, it made the transition to become the first employee co-op to offer childcare in Bristol and it secured funding to enable it to expand its services to offer its breakfast and holiday club. It officially began trading in 2005.

Since then the co-operative has gone from strength to strength and it is now run by three directors who employ a team of playworkers. It offers up to 30 places for its after school club and 24 for its breakfast and holiday club. It also received recognition in 2005 when it was presented with the award for 'Co-operative of the Year' from BRAVE Enterprise Agency.

www.sparks-inc.org

Acknowledged innovation

An initiative of Hackney Community Transport - a borrower from The Co-operative Loan Fund - has been named as London's most innovative transport project at the 2007 London Transport Awards.

ScotAbility is a partnership project between the London boroughs of Camden and Islington and Hackney Community Transport. Funded by Transport for London, the project aims to improve the quality of life of residents in Camden and Islington with mobility impairments. It does this by offering the short-term loan of Personal Mobility Vehicles - including scooters and power chairs - this enables them to increase independence and reduce social exclusion.

Scotability's vehicles are available for loan for up to four days at a time, and it provides training and minor home

adaptations as part of the service. It also delivers, and collects, its vehicles directly to service users' homes.

Hackney Community Transport is one of the UK's largest social enterprises that provides a variety of local community transport services in East London and runs three major London bus routes. It has also recently expanded the provision of its services outside London to West Yorkshire and is actively looking to maintain this trend.

www.hctgroup.org



Co-operative consumer

Co-operatives offer products and services varying from breakfast cereal to bed frames, so why not support the sector by indulging in a little ethical retail therapy? In this regular feature we highlight just some of the excellent co-operatives that the Loan Fund has supported and what they have to offer.

Cambrian Organics

Cambrian Organics is an award-winning co-operative of organic livestock farmers in West Wales. Since it was established in 2001, the co-op has enabled its members to collectively market themselves and bargain more effectively with purchasers. As well as supplying established outlets with products, Cambrian Organics also sells directly to individuals via its online store. Its range includes a fantastic selection of organic lamb, beef, pork and welfare-friendly chicken. It also offers cured gammon and hams, alongside a selection of sausages and burgers. Cambrian Organics is certified by the Soil Association, which guarantees its organic authenticity.

So if you live in mainland UK or the Highlands and Islands and fancy some award-winning lamb for your dinner this Sunday, why not visit the website below and let Cambrian Organics whet your appetite.

Cambrian Organics, Horeb, Llandysul, Ceredigion SA44 4JG

Tel: 01559 363151, Email: info@cambrianorganics.com

www.cambrianorganics.com



Green-works

Green-Works in London has been operating an office furniture recycling service since it was established in 2002. The social enterprise collects redundant office equipment from businesses which it then transfers to community organisations who then repair or refurbish the equipment. Once the items are fully restored, they are delivered to local charities, community groups, local schools, hospitals and small start-up enterprises at a minimal cost.

Green-Works also offers a joinery service, situated in Wembley, which manufactures a range of new furniture products for the workplace and the home from used office furniture. The range includes desks, bookcases, shelving and storage systems, and a selection of children's furniture. The enterprise also offers a bespoke furniture design service so if you're looking for some unique additions to your home or office, or you have redundant office equipment that you'd like to be put to good use, give Green-Works a call.

Green-Works, 94 - 96 Queensbury Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 1QG

Tel: 0845 230 2 231, Email: info@green-works.co.uk



Goldenfuels

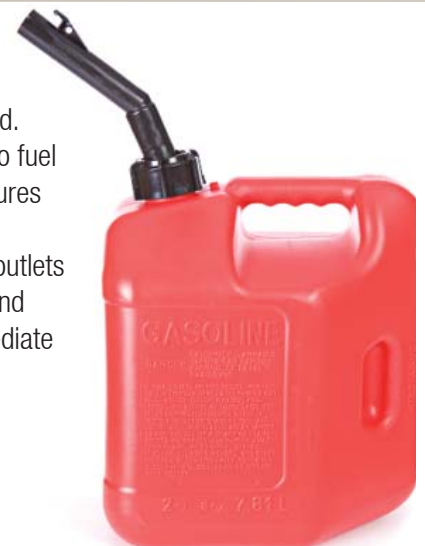
Goldenfuels is an employee co-operative that produces and distributes biodiesel across Oxford. Biodiesel is a green alternative to diesel made from vegetable or animal oils. It can be used to fuel most diesel vehicles without the need for conversion and particularly as Goldenfuel manufactures its biofuel from waste vegetable oil, it offers sizable environmental benefits.

20 litre cans of Goldenfuel's biodiesel, priced £20, can be purchased directly from one of its outlets across Oxford (details available on the co-op's website). Bulk amounts can also be ordered and delivered to any address in the mainland UK, and Goldenfuels also offers delivery in the immediate Oxford area for smaller amounts, typically for at least a barrel (205 litres).

Goldenfuels, 38 Cowley Rd, Oxford OX4 1HZ

Tel: 01865 423636, Email: info@goldenfuels.com

www.goldenfuels.com



Co-operative events

6 July 2007

Putting ethics into enterprise

York

This Young Co-operatives event, sponsored by United Co-operatives, aims to raise awareness of the co-operative movement amongst school children and young people who live in the area.

Participants in the event include Day Chocolate Company, Shared Earth, York Fairtrade Forum and Co-operatives UK.

For further details contact Young Co-operatives on 01642 789500.

6 - 7 July 2007

6th Annual Co-operative Education Conference

Norwich

This conference is open to anyone seeking a co-operative perspective to engage with others, in particular those that work with voluntary or community organisations, social enterprises, young people, and schools.

For further details contact Pam Walker on 01473 280316, email education@eastofengland.coop or go to www.eastofengland.coop to download the event flyer.

7 July 2007

Londoners Co-operate!

London

A one-day event that will provide an insight to the history of co-operation in London. Discover more about the changing nature of this important movement from its origins to the present day and how the 'co-op' became part of the fabric of everyday life for Londoners.

The event will be chaired by Dame Pauline Green, Chief Executive of Co-operatives UK, and speakers include Andrew Flinn of University College London and Mervyn Wilson, the Chief Executive and Principal of Co-operative College. It will also feature an exhibition of co-operative archives and historical material from major repositories around the country, and Display of London Co-op produced films, Peace Parade (1937) and Advance Democracy (1937), along with other short publicity films.

The event has been supported by The Co-operative Membership and the Lipmann-Miliband Trust.

For further details contact Bishopsgate Institute on 020 7392 9270 or go to www.bishopsgate.org.uk

8 July 2007

The Spirit of Co-operation

Salford Quays

To mark World Co-op Day 2007, United Co-operatives is hosting an event that will offer family fun activities alongside opportunities to look at the more serious side of co-operation. The event will feature several highlights including:

- A co-operative market
- An international symposium
- A lively Fairtrade seminar, to include a fashion show with a difference
- Live performances of newly commissioned theatre with a co-operative theme
- Co-operative cinema from the present and the past
- Children's art competition and exhibition
- Co-operative taster sessions and workshops
- A photography competition and exhibition - exploring the spirit of co-operation

For further details contact United Co-operative's Member Relations team on 01706 202030, email worldco-opday@coop.co.uk or go to www.united.coop

Apply for a loan

If you would like to apply for a loan from The Co-operative Loan Fund, please go to www.co-operativeloanfund.co.uk to download and print an application form, or contact the fund managers, Co-operative & Community Finance, on 01179 166750.

Complete the form, and send it along with two copies of your most recent business plan to: The Co-operative Loan Fund, c/o Co-operative & Community Finance, Head Office, Brunswick Court, Brunswick Square, Bristol, BS2 8PE

Further details about the fund, loan security, and lending terms are available online at www.co-operativeloanfund.co.uk

