

# network news

Welcome to the first issue of the quarterly bulletin for the Regeneration South West Network, a new initiative from the emerging South West Regeneration Centre. The goal is to grow a region-wide 'learning network' of people that are active in the fields of regeneration, renewal and social inclusion to help them share expertise and information.

We will be bringing you news of coming events, consultations, publications and new sources of useful information. We will profile regeneration practitioners working on pioneering projects as well as featuring news of successes and failures.

We want to hear and share your news, plans and experiences so if you have information for this bulletin contact the editor: Deborah Harrison [info@regenerationsouthwest.net](mailto:info@regenerationsouthwest.net)

## contents

- > **Welcome 1**
- > **Building the Regeneration Network 1**
- > **Launch Workshop Highlights 2**
- > **Beacon Hill Estate 3**
- > **Wessex Reinvestment Trust 3**
- > **Creative Enterprise 4**
- > **Centre for Local Food 4**
- > **Community Development Report 4**
- > **Community Networking 5**
- > **Consultation on South West Regeneration Centre 5**
- > **Egan Review of Skills 5**
- > **Neighbourhood Renewal Advisors 6**
- > **Coming Events 6**
- > **Future Network Plans 6**

## Building the Regeneration South West Network

Dominic Murphy

Development Manager, creating:excellence

Regeneration can be very lonely work – lots of new challenges and initiatives but often very little advice or support. At these times it's important to know that there are other people grappling with similar problems, that you can get in touch with them and access advice, new ideas or tried and tested solutions. Focused networking is vital to sharing knowledge and skills around regeneration. It provides the sort of linked-up dialogue that can help us all improve our work.

The South West Regeneration Centre is investing in building a vibrant network of people involved in regeneration. The Network is the cornerstone of the Regeneration Centre, supporting and complimenting existing networks and developing new links where they are needed. It will be a key vehicle for disseminating good practice and resources to those who can use them most effectively.

By bringing people together, the Network will act as an amplifier – ensuring that everyone working in regeneration across the region has a voice. It will ensure that central government listens to what we are learning from 'doing' regeneration on the ground with local communities. For more information or if you want to join this new network contact: Jessica Perkin [info@regenerationsouthwest.net](mailto:info@regenerationsouthwest.net)

## Launch Workshop on Partnership and Learning – the highlights

The Network's launch workshop, chaired by Judith Reynolds was held in Wellington on 15th May. It was a great success with more than 80 people attending from across the region and from a wide range of organisations, groups and agencies. The event included an introduction to the work of the South West Regeneration Centre by Dominic Murphy, the Development Manager. Jean Erskine from VOSCUR talked about effective ways to support local communities to get involved in regeneration. Hazel Stuteley presented her first hand experience of working as a health visitor with local people on a deprived estate in Cornwall. See her profiled as a regeneration champion on [www.regenerationsouthwest.net](http://www.regenerationsouthwest.net)

Tim Crabtree, who founded the West Dorset Food and Land Trust also talked about the new Wessex Reinvestment Trust (WRT) – see page 3. Kay Taplin, the new Director of the Great Torrington Development Trust, presented both the past successes and future challenges for community enterprise in this part of Devon. Lucy Wurstlin, of Culture South West, argued strongly for the contribution creative enterprise makes to regeneration and the regional economy to be properly recognised. (See page 4).

If you would like copies of any of these presentations please contact: Jessica Perkin [info@regenerationsouthwest.net](mailto:info@regenerationsouthwest.net)

An afternoon workshop, facilitated by Kevin Tinsley, focussed on discussing the interim findings of research commissioned by Government Office South West on needs and gaps in regeneration skills and knowledge in the South West.

The full report will be published soon and made available through [www.regenerationsouthwest.net](http://www.regenerationsouthwest.net) and [www.creatingexcellence.info](http://www.creatingexcellence.info)



### Feedback

Feedback from participants at the launch event was very positive:

- *Very good event, people came from everywhere in the South West, I could relate to what was being said.*
- *Enthusiasm is contagious.*
- *A very good conference, I now have a better idea of social enterprise and what people are aiming to achieve.*
- *I've found these 2 days (creating:excellence road show and this event) to be really stimulating – meeting new people with good ideas and some old friends who are still committed and enthusiastic, thanks.*

### Priorities

Here are some of the things participants thought the Network should prioritise:

- *Signposting to other networks across the region.*
- *Development of partnership working and promotion of community values.*
- *Provision of sustainable development skills training.*
- *Brokering training events, visits and contacts.*
- *Case studies and models of innovative and successful projects.*
- *Key themes of local food, health, housing, environment, enterprise.*
- *Legal structures for linking not for profit elements with trading activities.*
- *Introduce leading edge practice and encourage debate.*

## Beacon Hill Estate Community Enablement – the Key to Success

The Beacon Hill Estate in Falmouth, a community of 6000 residents, had by 1995 reached an all time low. It was an area of poor health and high rates of crime, abuse and under-achievement. Largely abandoned by statutory agencies, Health Visitor Hazel Stuteley and colleagues initiated the Beacon Project, aimed at reversing the spiral of health and social decline.

There was no funding available to 'kick start' regeneration, but work started on identifying residents able to effectively engage their peers. Simultaneously, a series of awareness raising meetings, profiling the estate's escalating problems, resulted in the commitment from key public service providers to a strategic multi-agency partnership.

The key to success was that residents were supported in their efforts to engage with other residents, and also given training in skills to run meetings and improve communication. As a result, the number of residents engaged in the process leapt from the original five to over a hundred.

This large group was then encouraged to prioritise the issues that needed to be addressed and were supported to win funding for improvements to their homes and environment.

The result was:

- Increased community cohesion
- Improved heating and insulation to over 900 homes
- Unemployment down by 70%
- 50% reduction in all crime
- 70% reduction in post natal depression
- No unwanted teenage pregnancies
- 100% improvement in boys Key Stage 5 SATS results.

For further information contact:  
Hazel Stuteley 01326 241460  
hazel.stuteley@cornwall.nhs.uk

Hazel Stuteley is the first 'regeneration champion' to be profiled on the network's web site. Visit [www.regenerationsouthwest.net](http://www.regenerationsouthwest.net) for an interview with Hazel by Deborah Harrison.

## Wessex Reinvestment Trust

The Wessex Reinvestment Trust is a pioneering community finance initiative designed to provide a springboard for rural regeneration. It offers locally delivered and affordable loan services, encourages the development of new enterprises and increases access to affordable housing and workspaces.

Based on recent research into the needs of small rural enterprises the Trust now offers:

- funding for rural small businesses and social enterprises with loans of between £500 and £200,000 to support start-ups or expansion
- loans of about £5,000 for low or moderate income homeowners to tackle disrepair
- access to affordable housing and workspaces by investing in the transformation of redundant land and property.

Potential clients will be referred to the Trust through a regional network of support agencies. In the initial two-year pilot phase the Trust aims to distribute a minimum of £200,000 in loans with a projected figure of £2 million by 2010.

For more information contact:  
Anthony Salt 01392 666285  
loan@talk21.com

## Creative Enterprise and Regeneration

Culture South West is the regional cultural consortium tasked with supporting the development of creative industries and cultural activities. Creative industries include design, craft, fashion, film, music, performing arts, publishing, architecture, advertising and the broadcast media.

Nationally the creative sector was worth £116.7 billion in 2000 representing 7.9% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It's a star performer and grew by 9% per annum between 1997 and 2000 compared to 2.8% for the economy as a whole. Nationally the creative industries sector employs about 1.95 million people and this is growing at a rate of 5% every year.

### Creativity in the South West

The South West has a large and thriving community of artists and creative entrepreneurs. The region has also begun to attract a range of creative enterprises that have relocated from London and the South East including advertising, publishing and software design companies. In the South West the sector is worth £1 billion, includes 7,500 artists and craftspeople and employs 90,000 people – around 5% of regional employment.

Creative enterprise has also proved to be a highly effective route for community regeneration. There are lots of good examples of development trusts and community projects unlocking the creative potential of local communities by generating training, jobs, community pride and well-being. Creative projects have also proved to be highly effective at involving young people in new activities and encouraging long term unemployed to explore new routes back into fulfilling work.

Culture South West has published the South West's cultural strategy called *In Search of Chunky Dunsters*. For more information contact: Lucy Wurstlin 01392 229687 [lucy.wurstlin@southwestrda.org.uk](mailto:lucy.wurstlin@southwestrda.org.uk)

## Centre for Local Food and Community Enterprise

West Dorset Food and Land Trust has just opened its new Centre in Bridport. The purpose of the Centre is to support the development of a thriving local food sector including farms, food and drink businesses, processing and marketing co-operatives and social enterprises. It provides workspaces for a cluster of local food businesses, community food initiatives and not-for-profit organisations. The Centre will act as an incubator for new enterprise and offers both training and support services as well as facilities including a commercial kitchen, office space and training room. A distribution depot and two further food preparation areas are currently being completed.

The Centre is registered with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, and will become a Learn Direct centre in September, in partnership with the LymeNet Community Learning Centre.

For further information contact:  
Tim Crabtree 01308 420269,  
[tim.crabtree@foodandland.org](mailto:tim.crabtree@foodandland.org)

## Community Development Conference Report

A post event report of the very successful Communities, Regenerators and Activists regional conference held at the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton, on 28th April this year, is now available.

Contact: Jessica Perkin 01392 254244  
[office@southwestforum.org.uk](mailto:office@southwestforum.org.uk)



## Community Networking with QUEST

Quest, a national charity for communities involved in local renewal, is running a three year programme of community networking events funded by the Community Empowerment Fund. The events are about the sharing of knowledge, learning new ways of doing things and celebrating local successes. These networking events are for local people who are working hard, usually on an unpaid basis, to improve their local neighbourhoods and to make local lives better.

Quest can offer workshops on a range of topics from successful community newsletters to resident participation in Local Strategic Partnerships. All workshops focus on practical solutions that are cheap, easy and can be applied anywhere to help local activities. Every event includes exhibitions from local, regional and national organisations, opportunities for feedback from local residents, as well as net-working boards enabling people to link up with others.

### Barton Hill pilot

A pilot event was organised in partnership with Bristol's Barton Hill Settlement in March 2003. This led to a new community newsletter being launched for a local residents association and plans for a range of visits to local projects. There was lots of feedback from the day which is now being used to shape future events.

The report *Linking People Together Better in Bristol* is available at:

[www.quest-net.org/downloads/bartonhillreport](http://www.quest-net.org/downloads/bartonhillreport)

Quest is keen to hear from people who are interested in developing a networking event for their community, particularly those in Lottery Fair Share areas or Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.

For further information contact:

Imogen McLean 01225 466303

[imogen.mclean@quest-net.org](mailto:imogen.mclean@quest-net.org)

## Consultation on South West Regeneration Centre Development Plan

The first draft of the new development plan for the South West Regeneration Centre has been completed and will be available for your comments and suggestions until the end of August.

Find it on [www.regenerationsouthwest.net](http://www.regenerationsouthwest.net) or [www.creatingexcellence.info](http://www.creatingexcellence.info)

Send your responses to: Dominic Murphy [dominic.murphy@southwestrda.org.uk](mailto:dominic.murphy@southwestrda.org.uk)  
For further information contact 0800 3283234.

The South West Regeneration Centre is designed to make it much easier for those involved in regeneration and renewal to get advice and information, sharing skills and knowledge, get support, access research, evaluations and examples of good practice.

## Review of Skills for Built Environment Professionals

The Egan Review, *Rethinking Skills*, was launched in May 2003. Its purpose is to establish the types of skills, levels of knowledge, and ways of working required by professional and technical staff in the public and private sectors to deliver the government's vision set out in *Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future*. The barriers to delivering 'sustainable communities' will be identified along with ways to stop poor practice and methods for raising standards. The findings and recommendations of the Review should be reported to the Deputy Prime Minister in Autumn 2003.

Contact: Maureen Holkham 02077 944 3707  
[maureen.holkham@odpm.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:maureen.holkham@odpm.gsi.gov.uk)

## Neighbourhood Renewal Advisers

The Neighbourhood Renewal Unit has recruited 147 Neighbourhood Renewal Advisers (NRAs) to provide face-to-face advice on 'what works' for communities and partnerships tackling neighbourhood renewal. NRAs are already working on over 160 assignments across the country.

Advisors offer expertise and advice around education, health, crime, employment, housing and the physical environment. They are also skilled in the processes of resident involvement, diversity and equality, community cohesion, project design, appraisal and management and neighbourhood management. NRAs have been recruited from a wide range of backgrounds. They include residents, service providers and regeneration practitioners.

For information about the NRAs in the South West contact: Anne Geary 0117 9001933  
ageary.gosw@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk

## Future Network Plans

Possible future themes for Regeneration South West Network Events and Briefings include: Creative Enterprise, Community Finance, Health and Regeneration, Regeneration and equalities.

We are looking at holding the next Network events, over the next six months, in the following areas: Bournemouth and Poole, Swindon and Plymouth.

Comments and suggestions on both themes and suitable venues are very welcome. Also we are keen to work in partnership with other local and or regional organisations in planning and organising Network events. If you are interested in working with the Network or have any suggestions please contact: Jessica Perkin 01392 254244, info@southwestregeneration.net

## Coming Events

### Role of Planning Aid in Planning and Regeneration Events

Organised by Planning Aid South West to discuss how their 'substantially expanded' service can be developed in partnership with those in regeneration, planning and community development.

15th September, Bristol

18th September, Exeter

Contact: Helen Clarke 01823 665532  
southwest@rtpi.org.uk

### Annual Conference and Regional Information Expo

South West Forum are combining this year's Annual Conference with a Regional Information Expo to include representatives from key regional agencies and organisations. With keynote speaker Julian Dobson, Editor of New Start magazine. 18th September at The Winter Gardens, Weston super Mare.

Contact: Jessica Perkin 01392 254244,  
office@southwestforum.org.uk

### What makes a Development Trust?

An introductory training day for new partnerships and communities wanting to set up a Development Trust. Designed to develop your understanding, clarify what you want to achieve and a look at legal structures and planning for action.

9th September, Plymouth

23rd September, Bodmin

9th October, Exeter

Contact: Diana Moore 01392 276805,  
southwest@dta.org.uk

### Exploring the frontiers of community enterprise – Development Trusts

Association Annual Conference. A chance to step back from the immediate pressures of work, to reflect, learn, inspire others and be inspired. Conference includes visits, workshops, networking and speeches.

Date: 15th -16th September

Venue: Plymouth Hoe Moat House Hotel

Contact: 01633 413102,  
dta@eesolutions.co.uk



**Regeneration South West Network** is a new initiative designed to make it easier for people working in the fields of regeneration, renewal and social inclusion to share experience, learn from each other and find out what is going on in the region. It is also a core part of the emerging South West Regeneration Centre, creating: excellence.

The vision of the Network is to achieve more effective, long term and co-ordinated action to improve neighbourhoods and the quality of life for communities in the South West. The purpose of the Network is: to provide a learning network for everyone engaged in regeneration, renewal and social exclusion, to promote exchange of experience and information, to improve access to useful information.

The Network provides opportunities for everyone to find out who has relevant experience, expertise and information and then to connect and communicate with them. To facilitate the growth of the Network we are offering a series of networking events, publishing *Network News* on a quarterly basis and a series of good practice briefings, as well as developing a regional database of contacts. Check our website for details.

**[www.regenerationsouthwest.net](http://www.regenerationsouthwest.net)**

For further information or any questions please contact:

Jessica Perkin 01392 254244,  
[info@regenerationsouthwest.net](mailto:info@regenerationsouthwest.net)

Meridian House, Retail Park Close, Marsh Barton, Exeter EX2 8LG