

Local Action for Rural Development- Carnegie Annual Rural Convention 2009

Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 November, Castle Green Hotel, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6RG

Carnegie's Annual Rural Convention is an extraordinary networking event for rural activists, professionals and policy makers. This programme brings together experts, pioneers and fiery spirits from across the UK and Ireland (and beyond.)

This year's convention focuses on mixing the insights from the Carnegie Rural Programme (the recently completed Rural Action Research Programme and Fierspirits Community of Practice) with the on the ground delivery of the European funded LEADER programme. We want to open up some of the big issues – to see how local action might address themes such as climate change, food and farming, community action planning, building local resilience and asset acquisition and development.

Who is the event for?

- All LEADER Local Action Groups in UK and ROI
- Partners in the Rural Action Research Programme
- Activists in our Community of Practice.

Most importantly, the Rural Convention is open to those seeking innovative approaches in rural development; looking for inspiration and ideas in tackling the big challenges of the day - along with some great networking opportunities

Administrative details



The event is free of charge and includes all meals including dinner on 23rd November but we are unable to cover accommodation or travel costs.

Bed and Breakfast accommodation is available at the venue (telephone 01539 734000) Please mention Carnegie UK Trust to secure special rate. £84 BB single occupancy; £49 per person BB double/twin occupancy)

Minibuses will be available at Oxenholme rail station to bring people to the venue up to 10.30am - to book your place please contact: kirsty@carnegieuk.org



Programme- Monday 23rd November

10.00 Registration with tea and coffee

10.55 Welcome/ Introduction to the Convention

11.00 Setting the Scene- Carnegie's Rural Journey: From Charter to Manifesto- Kate Braithwaite-Exploring the principles that guide Carnegie's Rural Programme plus highlights from the newly published 'Manifesto for Rural Communities-Inspiring Community Innovation.'

ENGAGING WITH COMMUNITIES Presentations and Discussion - Chaired by Kate Braithwaite

11.15 Local Practice, Global Context: Alex Ruhunda (Uganda) and Harvinder Bedi (India) of the International Association of Community Development -Representing global members of IACD, who are engaged in a groundbreaking study of asset based approaches to rural development. www.iacdglobal.org

11.45 ClayFutures: Creative Community Planning: Tony Kendle and Juliet Rose of the Eden Project, Cornwall - The Carnegie team consider the local community planning in the clay country to be the most effective we've seen. www.clayfutures.org.uk

12.15 Working with Hill Farmers, Lessons from the North of England: Viv Lewis, RARP Consultant-Prince Charles thinks Hill Farming communities are an endangered species. Here we explore some practical survival strategies. <http://www.cumbriahillfarming.org.uk>

12.45 Lunch

THE LEADER APPROACH IN PRACTICE- Chaired by Rebecca Frost, UK National Rural Network

14.00 LEADER an international perspective: Maura Walsh (IRD Duhallow, Ireland and European Leader Association for Rural Development ELARD) - Maura Walsh is an experienced LEADER Manager and has inspired many recent EU Member States as they embark upon their Rural Development Programmes. An influential member of Carnegie's Rural Commission, she has played an important role in ELARD for many years.

She will then handover to experienced LEADER managers from throughout the UK who will give a brief review of their national picture and provide good practice examples from their past and present work

14.20 LEADER in England: Adrian Banford, Fells and Dales

14.30 LEADER in Wales: Cath John, Adventa

14.40 LEADER in Scotland: Ros McNay, Dumfries and Galloway

14.50 LEADER in Northern Ireland: Andrew McAlister, North East Northern Ireland

15.00 Small Group Discussions - Framing Key Questions for the Panel

15.30 Tea and Coffee

16.00 Talking About Local Action- small groups and panel discussion

17.00- WORKSHOPS

Alternative 1: LEADER Networking and Practice Sharing: Geoff Brown-An opportunity for Local Action Groups to get to know each other and share practice and ideas.

Alternative 2: How do we build resilience in Communities? Nick Wilding- What do we understand by 'resilience'? Practically, how are we building resilient communities? This workshop is one of several events this autumn hosted by Nick Wilding, facilitator of Carnegie's 'Fiery Spirits' community of practice. It will be lively, informative and challenge us to share ideas and practical ways to build resilience as we live through increasingly turbulent times.

Alternative 3: The European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD) Maura Walsh- Maura will talk about this Local Action Group based organisation which has members from most EU member states

18.00 Close

19.00 Dinner

Programme- Tuesday 24th November

09.00- WHERE ARE WE NOW? PLENARY SESSION- chaired by **Tony Kendle, Eden Foundation Director**

09.00 Zero Carbon Communities: Paul Allen, Centre for Alternative Technology -Paul has co-ordinated the influential ZeroCarbonBritain report and is developing practical strategies for power down- <http://www.zerocarbonbritain.com/>

09.20 One Planet Food- Think Global, Act Local: Pete Ritchie, Falkland Centre for Stewardship - Fife is a hot bed of local food initiatives, One Planet Food builds upon the experience of the Fife Diet and champions localised food production, processing and retailing - <http://fifediet.co.uk/>

09.40 Responding to the Challenges of the Downturn: Bridget Kirwan, Tipperary Institute- The Republic of Ireland has experienced serious consequences of the financial crash including savage cuts in public sector expenditure. What might we learn from their experiences?- www.tippinst.ie

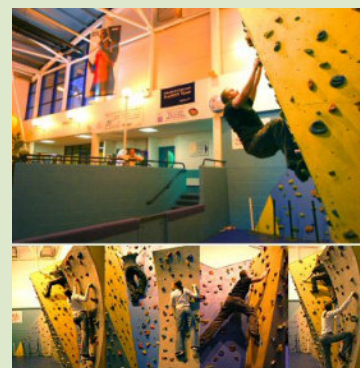
10.00 Tea and Coffee

10.15- WORKSHOPS

Alternative 1: Effective Rural Service Delivery through Community Websites: Daniel Heery (Manager, Cybermoor and Social Enterprise Ambassador)-www.cybermoor.org

Alternative 2: Community-led Service Provision in Rural Areas: Roy Clunie and Hugh McLean (Rural Action Research Programme and Atlantis Leisure Oban)- www.atlantisleisure.co.uk/

Alternative 3: Using the Carnegie Petal Model: Geoff Brown (Carnegie UK Trust)- <http://rural.carnegieuktrust.org.uk>



11.15 World Cafe session - a discussion forum

What innovative work have you been involved in or are planning that will really improve the quality of life and/or visibility of your rural community?

What investment in your rural community has yielded the most social/ environmental/ economic benefit?

What single change could most significantly enhance your rural area?

12.30 Next Steps- Kate Braithwaite and Nick Wilding, Carnegie UK Trust

13.00 Lunch



14.00- 15.30 Optional Site Visit to Growing Well, Low Sizergh Farm, Near Kendal- Growing Well (www.growingwell.co.uk) is a social enterprise which grows and sells organic vegetables and trains all kinds of people in horticulture. Growing Well is based at Low Sizergh Farm which has a renowned farm shop, with tea shop and craft galleries.

Minibuses will be available to take delegates to the visit and back to the venue or Oxenholme Station as required. Please book your place by contacting- kirsty@carnegieuk.org