



Brief April 2005

The second Wrexham Social Enterprise Network (WSEN) event was held on 12th April at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre and was well attended with almost 40 representatives from local organisations and Community Development Offices.

Nicola Millar, Social Economy Manager, welcomed everyone and advised of the next Social Enterprise Awareness Training Day due to take place at Bersham Enterprise Park on Wednesday 18th May 10am-4pm. The training is free and aimed purely at the voluntary sector, covering topics such as appropriate legal structures, business planning and cash flow forecasting and social audit & accounts. Bookings can be made by contacting Nicola Millar on 01978 366366.

The importance of organisations attending the networking events and completing the evaluation paperwork was stressed again, in order that the Social Economy Project can prove that there is a need in the area for specific social enterprise support. The team wants to ensure that organisations who are prepared to move away from total grant dependency and look at ways of generating a trading income to secure long term sustainability have the guidance and support to do so.

There were two speakers at this event:

Paul Tincello, Enterprise Centre Manager, Dee Valley Community Partnership

Paul spoke from a local perspective about the work being undertaken by his emerging Development Trust in Cefn Mawr and the opportunities and barriers to achieving success. Dee Valley Community Partnership are being held up as a Social Economy model of good practise that will act as a training and development conduit for communities in Wrexham.

John Bennett Managing Director, Pack-IT, Cardiff

John spoke with great passion about his social firm (25% of the workforce is disabled in some way) operating as a true social enterprise, which from humble beginnings in 1988 is now a 1.3m turnover company, with a workforce of 18 and clients from locally in Wales to as far away as Australia.

Both of these speakers were an inspiration to the organisations in attendance and over lunch there was an opportunity to speak to both Paul and John, as well as network with each other.

The next WSEN event will include a workshop on Social Audit & Accounts, and will be held in July 2005, details to follow. The second edition of the WSEN Newsletter will be sent out in late May.

