

Communities on the Edge?

Working together to sustain rural communities

SPEAKERS



Dame Barbara Kelly is a partner in a farming enterprise near Dumfries. She was the founder Chairperson of the Southern Uplands Partnership and is now President. She has had a diverse portfolio of work in the public and voluntary sectors specialising in consumer affairs, rural and environmental matters and has long campaigned for the viability of Scotland's rural communities. A Past Chairman of the Scottish Consumer Council, she was for several years Equal Opportunities Commissioner for Scotland and chaired the Architects Registration Board for the UK. The first woman Director of the Clydesdale Bank plc, she also served on the BPplc Scottish Board and the Scottish Post Office Board.



Michael Russell is a Member of the Scottish Parliament for the South of Scotland region. Educated at the Marr College, Troon and Edinburgh University he worked in television and the media prior to establishing his own media company, Eala Bhan Ltd. He was Chief Executive of the SNP from 1994 to 1999 and was elected to the Scottish Parliament as a regional MSP for the South of Scotland at the first Scottish Parliament Elections in 1999. He was re-elected in May 2007 and was appointed Minister for Environment in Scotland's first-ever SNP administration.



Chris Gregory is a Chartered (Rural Practice) Surveyor and has been employed as agent for the Duchy of Cornwall for the past 20 years, the last 5 of which have been based in Princetown, Devon, managing the Duchy's 70,000 acre upland estate. At the heart of the estate, the village of Princetown is well known because of its remote location and of course is home to Dartmoor Prison. The village is a designed settlement, built to meet the past needs of prison officers and staff and is now in the final phase of a twenty year programme of reinvestment into the fabric and social capabilities of the community.



Philippa Grant MBE found herself becoming a community development activist after 1975, when her husband Johnnie returned to manage Rothiemurchus Estate near Aviemore where he was born. Her training as a volunteer and helping to establish a diverse range of user, voluntary, community and business led organisations and networks throughout the Highlands taught her skills to start her own businesses. She has been involved in the reorganisation of several Scottish public sector bodies to enable user focused policies and services to be developed. Badenoch and Strathspey with Aviemore at its centre, has multi-layered public sector intervention and an evolving private sector hunger for change. Once known for conflict the area was recently found to be one of the happiest places to live in the U.K.



Kate Braithwaite MBE is the Director of the Carnegie Rural Community Development Programme, leading on Commission and the Rural Action Research Programme. Kate was previously Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Cumbria – the Rural Community Council for the County. She was responsible for the delivery of innovative rural development programmes including Rural Women's Network, Enterprising Communities (social enterprise support), hosting a LEADER+ programme and work with hill farming communities. Kate chaired Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership and the Voluntary Sector North West – the regional voluntary and community sector network.



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An event for the Landowning Sector

18th November 2008, Floors Castle, Kelso, Scottish Borders

This event will bring together landowners from across the UK to share ideas and best practice and to consider how to add value to rural assets and sustain communities. It will focus on the relationship between landowning estates and the local communities they are part of. It will examine how effective partnerships might lead the way to building a sustainable, resilient countryside, one that is fit to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future.



APPRECIATE

the potential of mutually beneficial relationships between local people and landowning estates.

CELEBRATE

the role of the local community in building a dynamic and resilient rural economy.

PARTICIPATE

in a unique learning experience at Floors Castle in the Scottish Borders.

SHARE

good practice and insights into the potential of people, skills, heritage and culture.

LEARN

about leading edge practice in community engagement and asset based development.

NETWORK

with colleagues and others involved in rural development.

DISCOVER

opportunity in a changing and challenging world.



THIS EVENT

This event will bring together landowners from across the UK to share ideas, best practice and to consider how to add value to rural assets and sustain communities. It will focus on the relationship between local people and the landowning estates which they border, examining how effective partnerships might lead the way to building a sustainable, resilient countryside fit to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the future.

This event is being organised by the Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP), an independent charity operating across the South of Scotland.

SUP develops projects that address the needs of the Southern Uplands and which demonstrate new approaches and ideas. This is achieved through working with existing organisations - national and local agencies, businesses and community groups. One such project, 'Communities on the Edge', provides the context for this event.

Operating for over four years now, this initiative aims to build the capacity of local communities to secure sustainable futures for themselves. The project has supported the development of innovative relationships. As part of the Carnegie UK Trust Rural Action Research Programme (RARP), the project enjoys a high national profile.

At a local level, the development of a resilient rural economy becomes increasingly vital in the face of the challenges presented by climate change, food and energy security, the need for affordable housing and changes to the administration of structural funds. This event will address these key areas, bringing together a powerful mix of speakers from government, private and voluntary sectors. The event will provide a unique experience of great value to all those working to achieve and maintain a vibrant and dynamic countryside.



PROGRAMME

Tuesday 18th November 2008

- 9.30am Registration/Tea/Coffee
- 10am Welcome
- 10.10am Introduction from the Chair
Dame Barbara Kelly,
SUP President
- 10.20am The Communities on the
Edge Approach
The COTE team and partners.
- 10.40am Key Note Address
Mike Russell MSP
- 11.10am Workshops with tea/coffee
- 12.20pm Stimulating Economic
Growth through Stewardship
Chris Gregory, Agent for Duchy
of Cornwall, Princetown, Devon
- 1pm Lunch
- 1.45pm Common cause, Better
rewards
Philippa Grant, MBE
- 2.15pm Workshops with Tea/Coffee
- 3.25pm Imagining New Possibilities
Dr Kate Braithwaite MBE: Director,
Rural Programme, Carnegie UK
Trust
- 3.45pm Summing Up
Dame Barbara Kelly,
SUP President
- 4pm Close



WORKSHOPS

There will be an opportunity to attend two workshops during the course of the day. Please indicate on the booking form your top three choices and we will do our best to allocate appropriately.

WORKSHOP 1 – Engaging With Our Communities

This workshop will explore the potential of mutually beneficial relationships between estate businesses and the people who live in and around them. We'll discuss the potential of regular and meaningful engagement with the wider community and the role of the estate in the development of a sustainable, resilient rural community.

WORKSHOP 2 – Embracing Energy Insecurity

Achieving energy security poses one of the biggest challenges and opportunities of the twenty first century. This workshop will explore new possibilities for local fuel and energy production and the role of the landowning sector in this field.

WORKSHOP 3 – Eating Our Way to a Vibrant Local Community

Increasing fuel costs and climate change pose threats to the global supply chain. This workshop will examine the opportunities which exist in the production of quality local produce. The need to grow robust local markets through engagement with the wider community will be discussed and the economic, social and environmental benefits of local food production explored.

WORKSHOP 4 – Imagining New Possibilities

This workshop will invite participants to look at the future of estate communities. The facilitators will use an approach that starts with identifying current issues and then, based on these, invites people to think forward twenty years. By the end of the workshop several scenarios will be developed and the group will be able to see actions that can be taken to lead to positive futures.

WORKSHOP 5 – Building Rural Viability

Provision of affordable rural housing is widely acknowledged as one of the key challenges in trying to maintain viable communities. This workshop will engage participants in identifying innovative estate – community solutions. The workshop will aim to draw on the collective experience of participants to propose and explore innovative models.

WORKSHOP 6 – Assets

The workshop facilitator will define the term 'assets' and then lead a discussion about the advantages of building on them for economic, social or environmental benefit rather than starting from a deficit model of what a community lacks. Participants will then pool their entrepreneurial experience and enthusiasm to list all the assets that an estate and its community might be able to harness. A 'random ideas generator' will then enable the workshop to produce examples of business plans for novel ideas.

BOOKING FORM

Communities On The Edge

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Tuesday 18th November 2008 at Floors Castle

Details: Please complete all fields and provide details as you would wish them to appear in delegate documentation.

Please complete one form per delegate (photocopy if required)

Name

Estate

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

Special Diets

Special Needs

Please mark your top three workshop choices in the boxes below.

WORKSHOP 1

WORKSHOP 2

WORKSHOP 3

WORKSHOP 4

WORKSHOP 5

WORKSHOP 6

There is no fee for this event, however, as a small charity the Southern Uplands Partnership welcomes donations. A minimum donation of £50 is suggested to cover a proportion of the costs. Please make cheques payable to "Southern Uplands Partnership".

Please return all completed booking forms to:

John Gold, COTE, Project Co-Ordinator, Douglas and Angus Estates, Newmains Home Farm, Douglas ML11 0RH.

Tel: 0774 744 7719

Email: johngold@sup.org.uk