

CRICHTON INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2013

Crichton Institute launched by Michael Russell MSP



The Crichton Institute was officially launched by Mr Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, on 11th March 2013.

Some ninety people, representing a broad spectrum of local businesses, the statutory, Arts, education and third sectors, attended the event at which the Cabinet Secretary said, "The Crichton Institute is a great example of building on what exists and I'm excited by what I see here. Bringing together a wider range of experiences, expertise and ideas in this way has incredible potential."

Speaking on behalf of the Crichton Institute Dr Carol Hill, Director of Research, explained that it will operate as a "one-stop shop for all aspects of research and development connected to Dumfries & Galloway and will help the region to be one step ahead of the game." This was echoed by Gavin Stevenson, Chief Executive of Dumfries & Galloway Council who said, "This is the beginning of a challenging journey; the hard work starts today. We can make a difference and we must make a difference for our region, and for Scotland."

Crichton Institute Website

www.crichtoninstitute.co.uk

The Crichton Institute website is a 'live' and accessible source of information about the aims and objectives of the Institute; its key staff; and where news about its events and activities is updated regularly.

You can also find us on  where you can participate in on line discussions.



Crichton Institute moves to its new location

Since its launch in March the Crichton Institute has moved into new premises, the Henry Duncan Building on the Crichton campus.

Crichton Institute Staff

In recent weeks several new members of staff have been recruited:

Dr Fiona Henderson	Research Assistant
Hayley McGowan	Project Administrator, CIRO
Katie Nairn	Administration Assistant



The Crichton Institute Regional Observatory (CIRO)

The first meeting of the Technical Group of the Crichton Institute Regional Observatory (CIRO) took place in April with representation from Dumfries and Galloway Council, the University of the West of Scotland, NHS Dumfries and Galloway and others. Following the meeting Tony Fitzpatrick, Director of CIRO, said "There is a real cross-agency enthusiasm for developing this regional resource. I know from work done across the UK and Europe that successful regions are those that best understand, investigate and position themselves when it comes to seeking resources to tackle regional issues. Rural areas in particular often struggle and lack the capacity to do this effectively and CIRO is all about supporting CI to build the capacity to assist local businesses, agencies and communities."

Research

Challenges in Europe: the quest for new competitiveness
Director of Research, Dr Carol Hill, was an invited speaker at an international conference hosted by the Faculty of Economics at the University of Split where the focus was

on cohesion in the EU, funding to regions and collaborative research programmes linked to regional regeneration.

Macmillan Cancer Information Libraries

In partnership with others, Crichton Institute has been commissioned to evaluate a Macmillan initiative to develop Cancer Information Libraries and as part of that, will explore issues around introducing third sector practice into the statutory sector.

Entrepreneurialism in the Farming Sector

This study is looking at current knowledge about the nature and spread of the 'other' businesses that farmers engage in, their rationale for doing so and at what works, and why. On completion it will be followed by a knowledge exchange event and further research to address identified issues.

Activities

Following its operational start in January 2013 the Crichton Institute has delivered or hosted a number of important events and been represented at others. These include:

Land Reform Review Group. CI hosted this public engagement event which was an integral part of the Scottish Government's review of the Land Reform Act.

Rural Policy Centre Road Show. This event was organised for and by Scotland's Rural College and provided the CI with an opportunity to showcase itself.

"Spreading the Benefits of Digital Participation." This public consultation event was organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and hosted by the CI.

"The Development of a Network of Learning Cities and a Learning City Index." Hosted by the CI this seminar, on the rationale, objectives, implications and possibilities for a 'Learning Town' initiative brought international experts to the region.

Scottish Consortium for Rural Research. The CI was represented at this conference in Perth on Researching Scotland's Ruralities: Social Science Perspectives on Current Issues in Rural Scotland.

"Can community social enterprise meet the needs of older people living in remote and rural areas?" Dr Hill and her colleague Dr Sandy Whitelaw delivered two seminars based on their experience of an international EU NPP funded project exploring the potential for older people to develop and deliver services for other older people in remote and rural areas.

Forthcoming Events

Rural Enterprise Conference, 20 /21 June 2013

The Crichton Institute will run an interactive session on Rural Policy during the afternoon of Friday, 21 June in association with the University of the West of Scotland's

two-day Rural Enterprise Conference. The Conference will highlight current research and policy practice in rural enterprise and bring together policymakers, researchers and rural community leaders concerned with the latest developments and issues in rural entrepreneurship. The afternoon session hosted by the CI offers an opportunity for local entrepreneurs, third sector representatives, council members and others with an interest in the rural economy to discuss how the research presented over the previous day can be applied, its consequences and the opportunities it may present. The session will be facilitated by Professor Mike Danson, Heriot Watt University and Dr Sarah Skerratt, Co-Director for Policy at the Crichton Institute.

For further information and to book a place at the conference or the workshop, please go to: www.uws.ac.uk

Horizon 2020 Scottish Support Framework 24 June 2013

The Crichton Institute will host the information session for Horizon 2020 for the South of Scotland in June.

The European Commission is currently preparing to roll out Horizon 2020; its new research and innovation programme from 2014. Horizon 2020 will tackle societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market by, for example, helping innovative enterprise to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach will include creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed – and will provide some exciting opportunities for the south of Scotland.

Scotland Europe is now running a number of events to provide information about the support available through the new EU framework programme for research and innovation - Horizon 2020. This Awareness Raising Session run by Scotland Europe will help interested individuals and organisations to develop understanding of the program and explain the opportunities that will be available. For more information and to book your place please follow the link to the Scotland Europa website:

<http://www.sdi.co.uk/scotland-europa/news-events/events/innovation-research/horizon-2020-scottish-support-framework-events.aspx>

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