



Community Business Scotland Network (CBSN)

A timeline of community enterprise support and development
1981–2015

COMMUNITY BUSINESS SCOTLAND

(provisional new name for Scottish Community Enterprise Forum)

266 Clyde Street
GLASGOW
G1 4JH

Our ref: WR/MH
18th May, 1981

TO: ALL ORGANISATIONS ON SCEF MAILING LIST

Dear Friends,

At the last meeting of the Forum a Steering Committee was elected to prepare the ground for setting up a new organisation to represent the interests of community enterprises and community businesses in Scotland. The Steering Committee has had 2 lengthy meetings and is making good progress in its work. We hope that the Steering Committee will have completed its work by mid June and it is therefore our intention to report back to the Forum at a meeting to be held at the end of June or the beginning of July. A date and venue will be notified to you shortly.

As you may have seen in the press and media the Steering Committee decided on the basis of discussions at the last Forum that there was an urgent need to lobby the Government about finance for community enterprises. In order to give this some thrust the Committee decided to use the name "Community Business Scotland" as the provisional trading name of the Forum. I hope you like it!

Community Business Scotland has written to the Secretary of State for Employment, Jim Prior, and the Secretary of State for Scotland George Younger. A copy of each of these letters is enclosed. We have also written to all Scottish MP's seeking their support (copy of letter enclosed). The attached list indicates those MP's who have replied and expressed interest and those who have simply acknowledged the letter. I think it would be useful for members of the Forum also to do some lobbying of their local MP's. If you decide to do this could you please send me a copy of your letter or a note of any meeting so that we can maximise the impact of the lobbying. A copy of the press release which was distributed last week is also enclosed for your information.

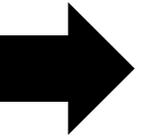
SECS-CBSN/1/2/2

April 1981

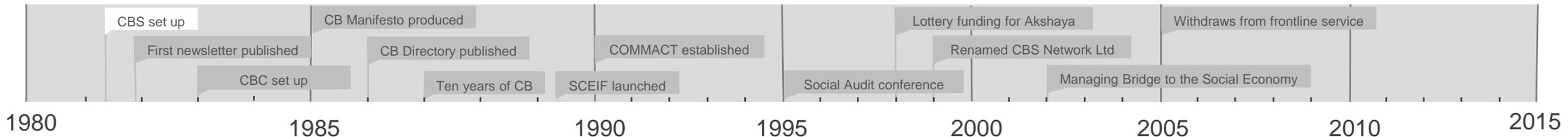
Community Business Scotland is set up

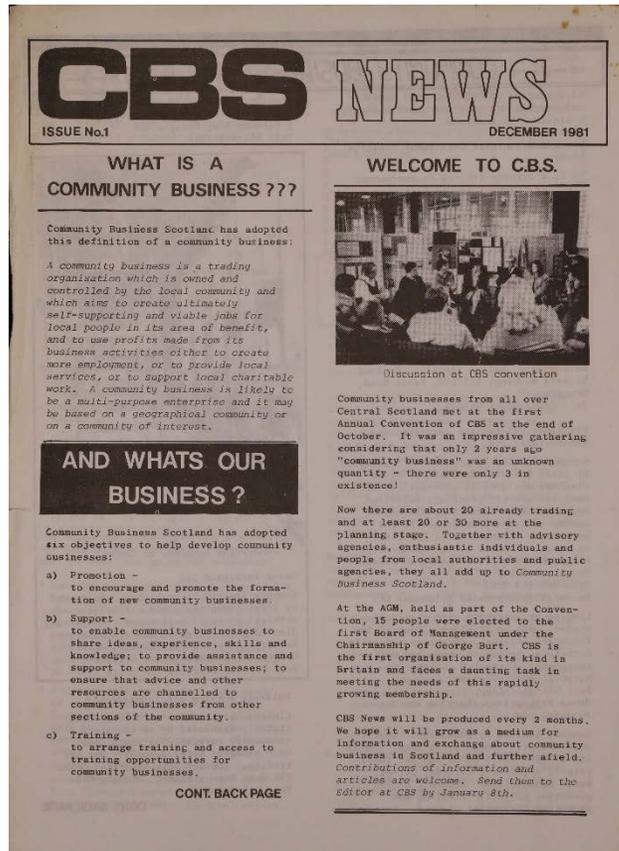
CBS was set up as a successor to the Scottish Community Enterprise Forum who had identified a need for an organisation to represent the community business sector in Scotland. Its inaugural meeting was held on 10 July 1981.

Up until January 1984 it operated from the Scottish Council of Social Services office in Glasgow with George Burt as Convenor.



Dec 1981
First newsletter





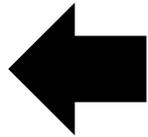
SECS-CBSN/2/1/1/21

December 1981

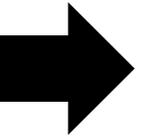
First newsletter published

The first issue of *CBS News* was 4 pages long, with articles on community business, CBS, a directory listing 10 community businesses in Scotland and list of available publications and videos.

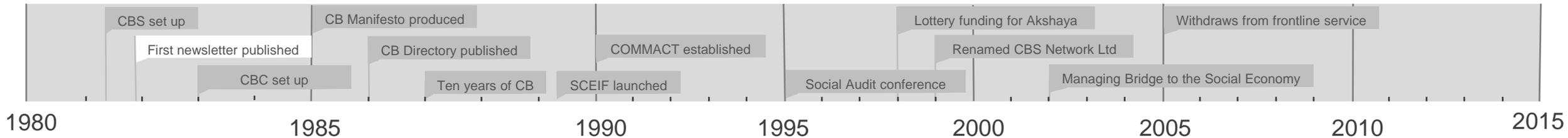
CBS News evolved over the years, changing its name to *Community Business News* and *CB News*. By 1984 it had expanded to 12 pages filled with articles about community business and almost 2000 copies were distributed across the UK. It was succeeded by the co-produced *New Sector* magazine in May 1992.



Apr 1981
CBS set up



1983
Community
Business
Central





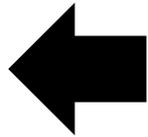
SECS-CBSN/2/1/2/11

1983

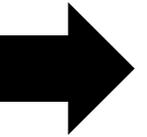
Community Business Central is set up

CBS worked with regional councils to establish independent regional development units to support community business.

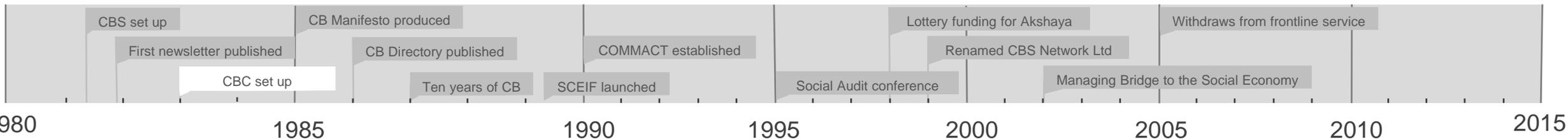
Opening in November 1983, Community Business Central, based in Falkirk, was the first development unit to be set up, followed closely by Strathclyde Community Business the following year. Development units in Lothian, Tayside and Grampian were all established by 1987. Eventually eight independent development units were set up.

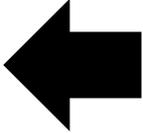


Dec 1981
First newsletter

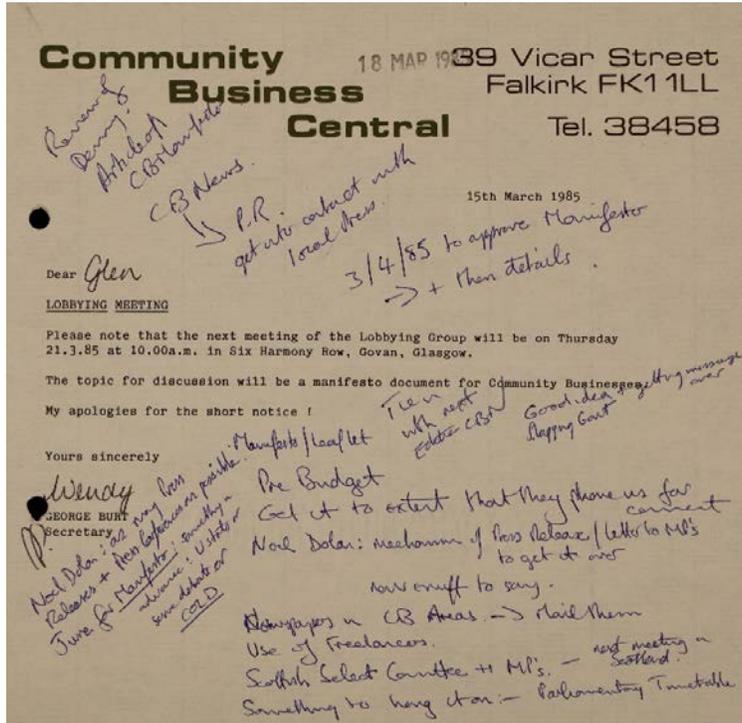


1985
Community business manifesto





1983
CB Central
set up



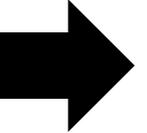
SECS-CBSN/2/1/6

1985

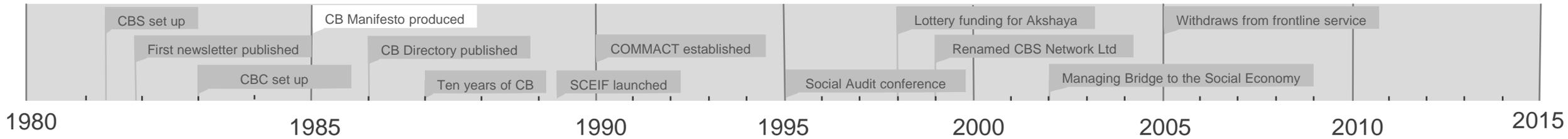
Community business manifesto produced

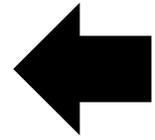
CBS set up a lobbying group to promote the interests of community business with government and funding agencies.

The group drew up Manifesto 85 as a lobbying campaign to raise the profile of the sector and set out requirements for policy and funding changes to support development of social enterprise in Scotland. The manifesto was launched on 5 June 1985.

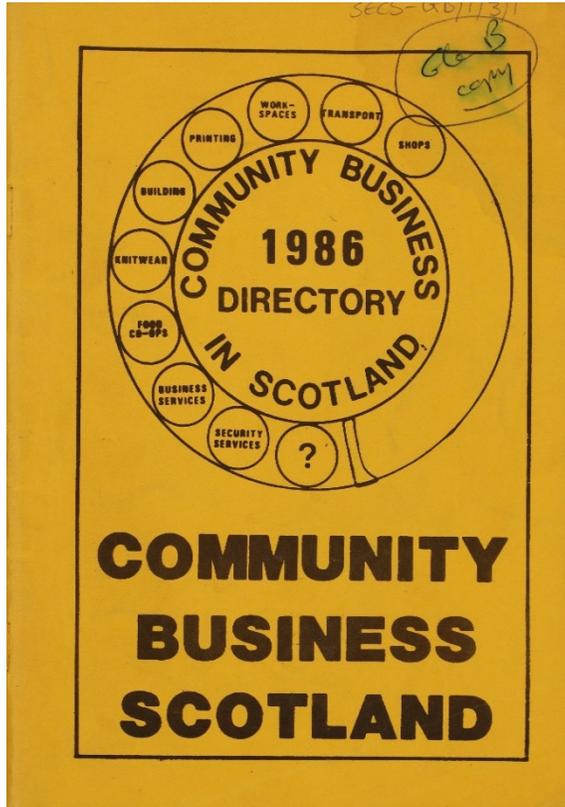


1986
CB Directory
published





1985
CB manifesto



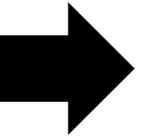
SECS-GB/1/3/1

1986

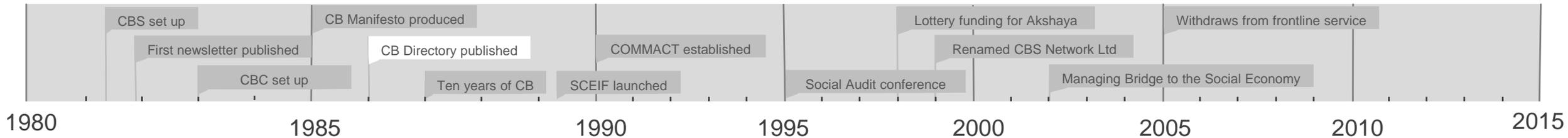
Community business directory published

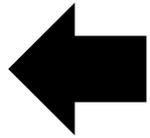
The 1986 was the second community business directory, updating the first one published in 1984. It included an introduction outlining the contribution to economic development and priorities for community business; A-Z guide by region listing over 80 trading community businesses in Scotland; a section on Community Co-operatives in the Highlands and Islands; and details of advisory agencies.

The 1986 Directory was launched following the 5th Community Business Scotland Convention in November 1985.



1987
Ten years of CB





1986
CB Directory



Uncatalogued SECS-CBSN

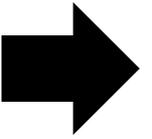
1987

Ten years of community business

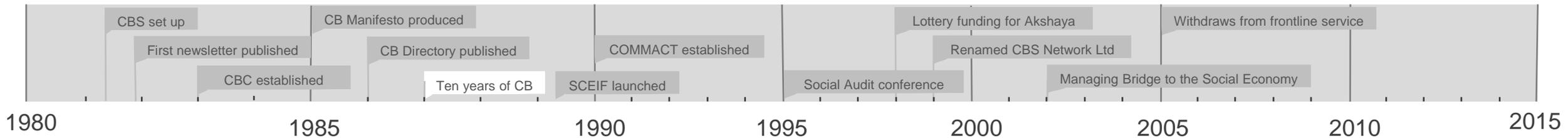
The 7th CBS Convention was held on 23-24 October 1987 and celebrated the first ten years of community enterprise development in Scotland.

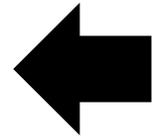
A booklet was published in association with ACEHI, *The first ten years: a decade of community enterprise in Scotland*, charting the developments from different people's perspectives.

That same year CBS was incorporated to become CBS Ltd and its first AGM was held during the convention.

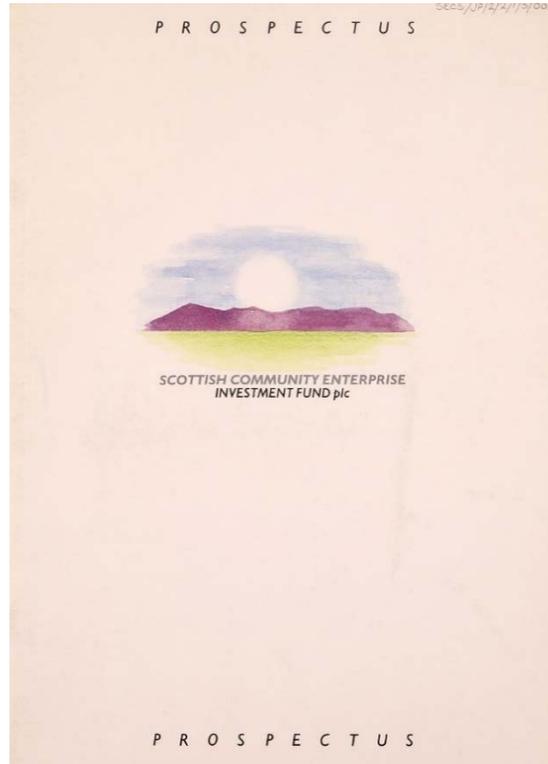


1989
SCEIF
launched





1987
Ten years of CB



SECS/JP/2/2/1/3/003

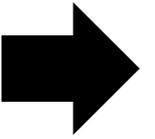
1989

SCEIF launched

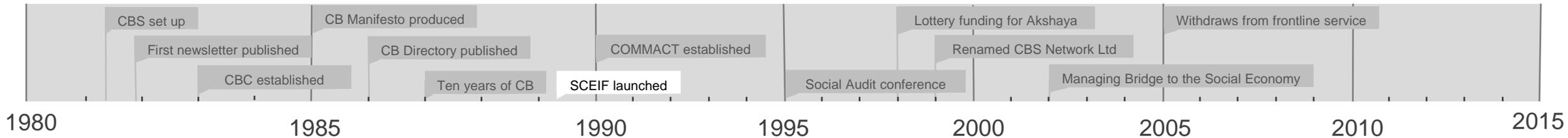
The Scottish Community Enterprise Investment Fund plc (SCEIF) was set up as a subsidiary of CBS to lend to Scottish community enterprises and members of the public and organisations were invited to purchase shares in the company.

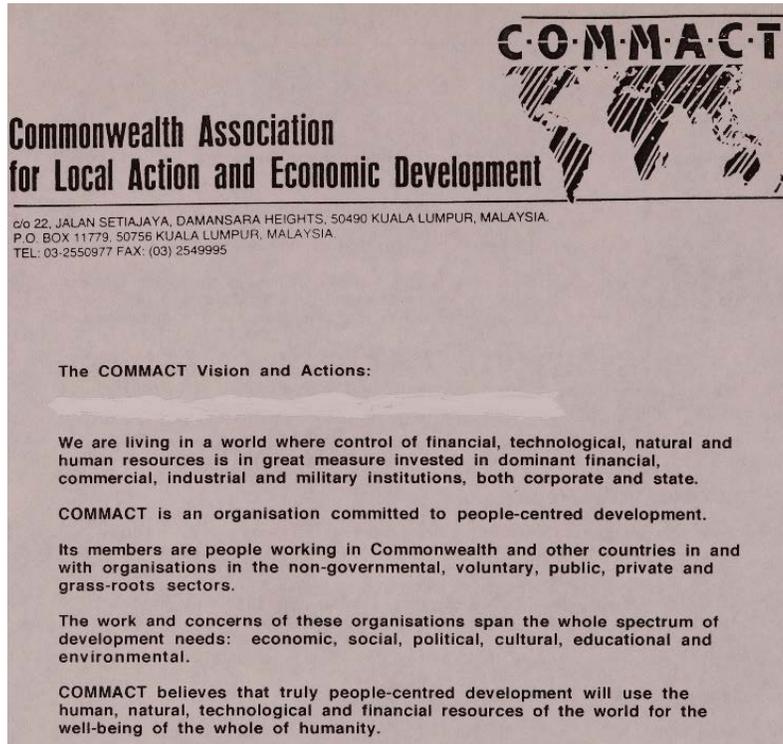
It was launched by its Chair, Sir Kenneth Alexander, on 26 September 1989 at an event in Glasgow, with regional events held in other locations across Scotland.

Needleworks Ltd, Glasgow, and Barra Community Co-operative were the first two loan recipients. In its ten years of operation £340,000 of loans were granted.



1990
COMMACT established



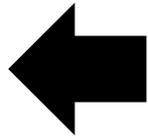


1990

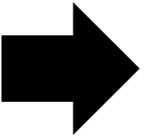
COMMACT established

The establishment of COMMACT (Commonwealth Association for Local Action and Economic Development) was as an outcome of the 1988 Commonwealth conference on local economic development in Goa, India.

It was set up in 1990 as a forum for sharing experience and promoting activities in social and economic development at local level. John Pearce of CBS, and Colin Ball set up COMMACT UK and led to CBS involvement in international projects.

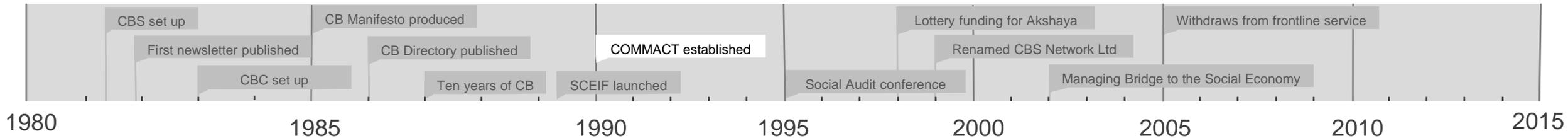


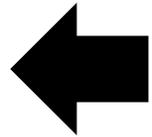
1989
SCEIF launched



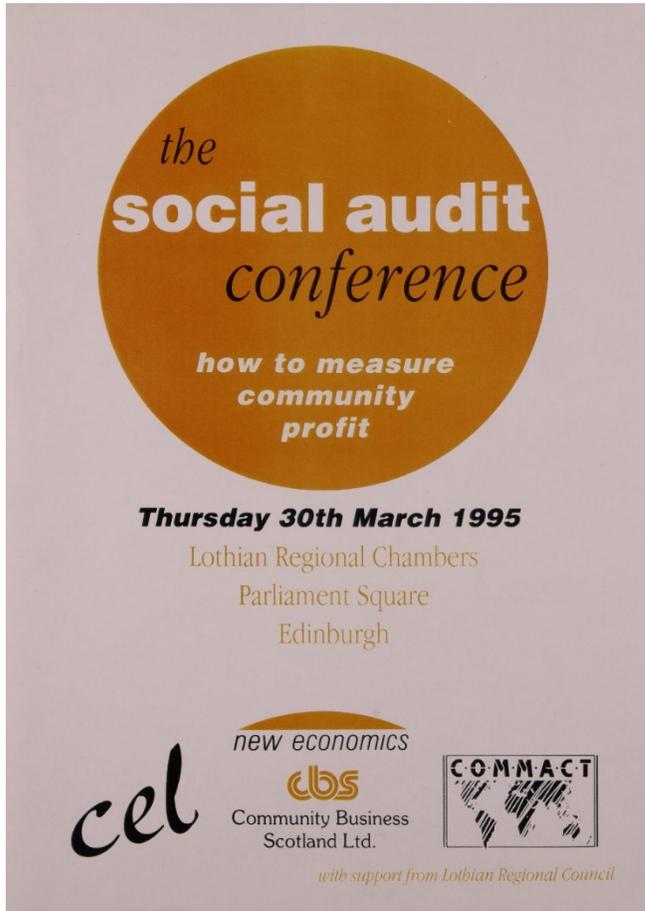
1983
Social audit conference

SECS-JP/1/2/1





1990
COMMACT
established



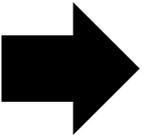
SECS-CBSN/3/2/2

1995

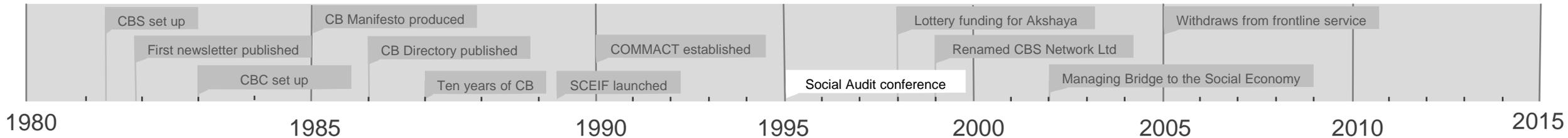
Social Audit conference

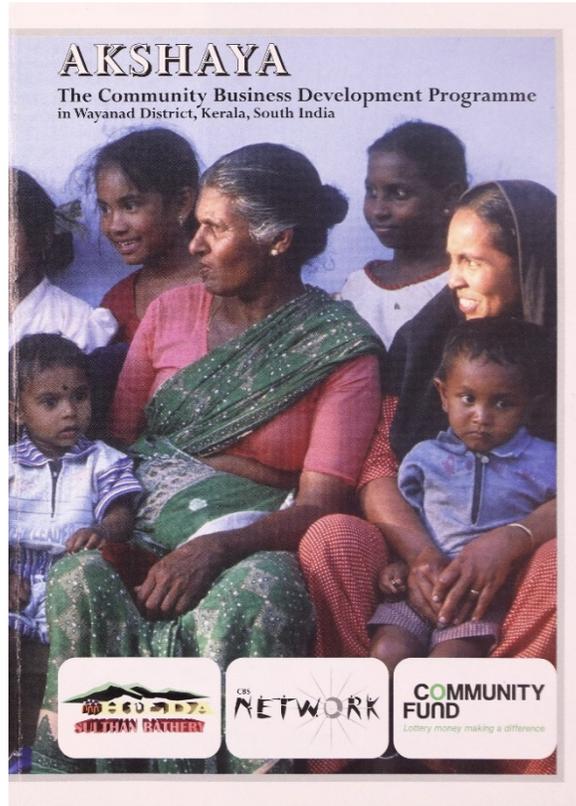
During the 1990s CBS researched and developed methods in social accounting and audit, working with partners across Europe. CBS offered consultation services and delivered training and events on the topic.

On 30 March 1995 the first social audit conference was held in Edinburgh. It was organised by CBS in collaboration with New Economics, Community Enterprise Lothian and COMMACT.



1998 Funding
for Akshaya





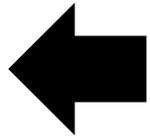
Uncatalogued SECS-CBSN

1998

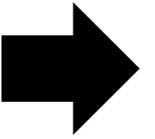
Lottery funding for Akshaya project

CBS received a National Lottery Charities Board international grant to fund the Akshaya Programme for three years to develop a community enterprise and micro-credit programme for disadvantaged groups.

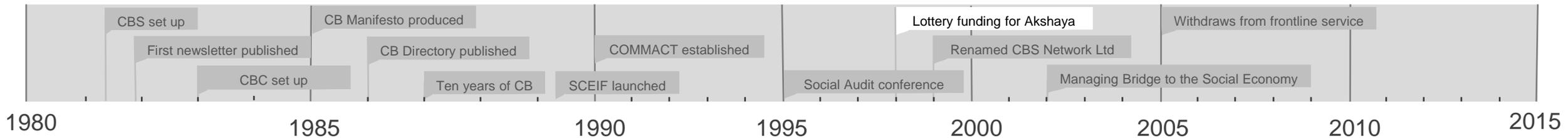
The programme was run by the HiLDA Trust, a partner organisation in Kerala, South India.

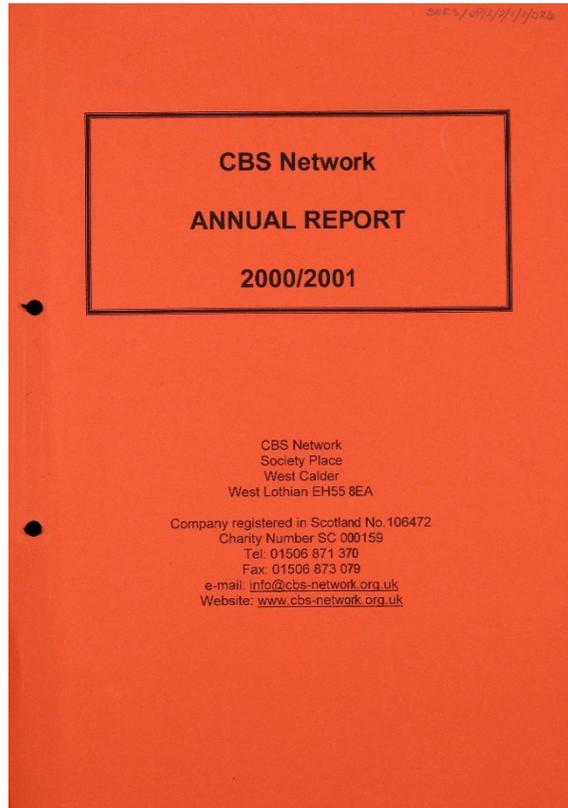


1995
Social Audit
conference



1999
Re-named CBS
Network Ltd





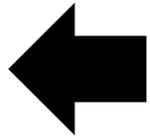
SECS/JP/2/2/1/1/024

1999

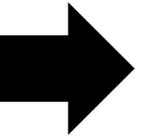
Renamed CBS Network Ltd

CBS changed its name to Community Business Scotland Network Ltd (CBS Network Ltd) to better reflect the work that it was carrying out.

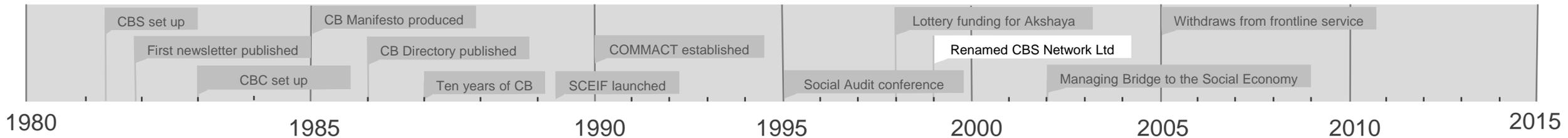
By this time it was operating as a national network for community enterprise, based in Scotland, but with members from all over the UK and abroad.

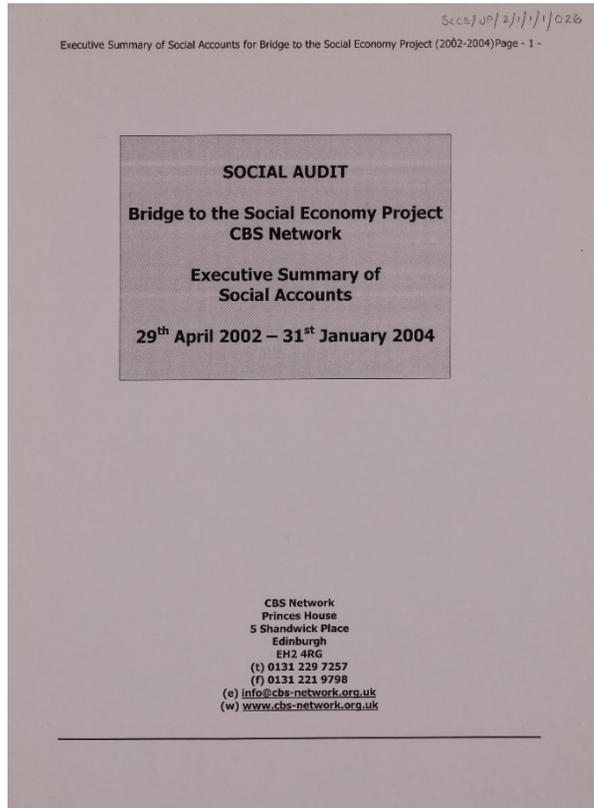


1998
Funding for
Akshaya



2002
Bridge project





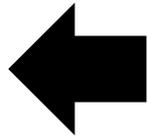
SECS/JP/2/1/1/1/026

2002

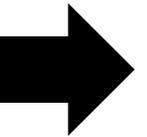
Managing Bridge to the Social Economy project

The Bridge to the Social Economy project was a 2 year lottery funded project to map the social economy sector in Scotland and support the development of community based groups and voluntary organisations to become social enterprises.

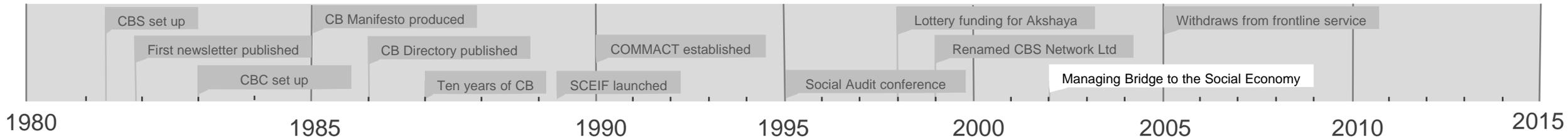
The project initiated the establishment of Social Enterprise Scotland.

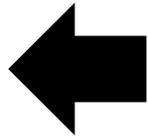


1999
Renamed CBS
Network Ltd



2005
Withdrawal from
frontline service





2002
Bridge project

Social Audit Network

CBSN continues to administer the Social Audit Network and, with SAN, is part of the Social Enterprise Partnership GB's Quality & Impact Project. The most recent SAN event was held in Sheffield on 14 October and the next is planned for 20 January in Cardiff. Over 600 people worldwide are members of the SAN e-mail network and receive regular updates about the practice of social accounting and audit in the social economy sector. If you wish to join the e-mail network please contact Victoria at info@cbs-network.org.uk

A revised version of the social audit manual (with CD and a website) is nearing completion and should be available in the first quarter of 2005.

Future Developments

CBS Network's support, advice and membership representation role is likely to change as a result of the establishment of the SSEC and as a consequence of the growth of other support agencies for social and community enterprise in Scotland. In 1981 when CBS was established it (and ACEHI in the Highlands and Islands) alone promoted and represented community enterprises at national level. Now, there are many other bodies such as SenScot, the Development Trusts Association, CEiS, CEL, Scotland Unlimited, Social Firms Scotland etc. – all members of the Coalition – and all providing support and assistance to social enterprises and, in some cases, with members whom they represent.

The Board of CBSN has decided to refocus the energies of the organization. We plan therefore to withdraw from "frontline" information, advice and membership services and to concentrate on supporting the Coalition, on specific action and research projects, on CBSN International and on helping establish the Social Audit Network in its own right. Our consultancy services (CBS Network Services) will continue to provide income for the other work.

These changes in focus will require changes in the membership clauses of our constitution as we shall no longer be aspiring to represent or service community enterprises in Scotland and elsewhere. Instead our membership will consist of those people who are committed to the growth of community and social enterprise – the social economy – as a significant force in society and support the work of CBSN which is directed to that end.

SECS-CBSN/1/4/20

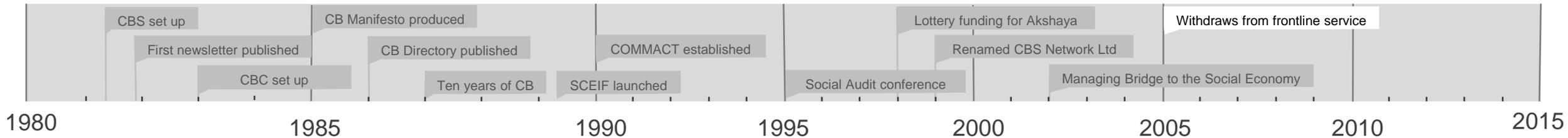
2005

Withdraws from frontline service

CBSN withdrew from frontline support and member services. The Scottish Social Enterprise Coalition (SSEC) had become the main vehicle for promotion of social enterprise in Scotland and there had been a growth of other social enterprise support agencies.

In its new form CBSN continued to support the SSEC; CBSN International; the Social Audit Network (SAN) and COMMACT UK; and carried out consultancy work through its sister company, CBSN Services Ltd.

CBSN closed in 2015.





Community Business Scotland Network (CBSN)

Find out more about its story from the administrative history in the catalogue for the [CBSN records](#)

