



The Melting Pot E-bulletin

August 2007

In this month's issue, you'll find:

- **Key concepts - social innovation**
- **Sign up for membership now - special offers for our 'Top 40' pioneer members including FREE workshop from Lesley Riddoch and a dinner for 2....**
- **Come and join the party - 1-9th Sept: Eco-Fit-out**
- **Shaping up the future - partnerships developing for Autumn/ Winter 07**
- **A transformational space...photo diaries and award winning art**

1. Introducing key concepts - what is and why support Social Innovation?



Social Innovation refers to new strategies, concepts, ideas and organisations which meet social needs of all kinds that extend and strengthen civil society. It is where the creative sparks ignite and 'good ideas for a better world' are born.

Social innovation can occur by individuals working by themselves and within companies, government and not-for-profit sectors. Increasingly it is seen to happen most effectively in the space between these three sectors.

The Melting Pot wishes to break down the sector silos that keep knowledge, connections and resources separate by bringing together people whose ambitions contribute to creating social, environmental and economic wellbeing. Releasing the potential in people and organisations to work, learn, play, connect and make good stuff happen - all within a multi-disciplinary community - creates value that is greater than the sum of our parts.

2. Top of the Pots: Top 40

Membership applications to the Melting Pot are in full swing. Our Pioneering Members work in and for the 'More than Profit sector', and include business support service providers, NGO's, freelancers etc. We will announce them in next month's bulletin...

Become a member now - special offer: We've created a range of tantalising teasers to help you prioritise returning your membership application. If you're quick and become one of our 'Top 40' Pioneer members before the end of August you will:

- Receive a 10% discount
- Attend a FREE 'Mistress Class in Promotion of Good Causes' by Lesley Riddoch at the end of September
- Enjoy enhanced promotion of your business through a special feature on our website and our e-bulletin
- A full dinner, pudding & a bottle of wine for 2 at John Lewis's new 'The place to Eat' posh restaurant
- More teasers and details listed on the website....



Join us & Lesley Riddoch in September

3. Party Party Party... 1-9th September: Eco-Fit-Out working-party



Never discuss politics with painters.

Would you like to offer your skills, enthusiasm and plain old muscle-power to help actually make The Melting Pot?

Thanks to 4 months building work, we have a blank canvas to make our **Ecofunky** mark on.

We're bringing in skilled pros and 'handy helpfults' to create the space - setting up the shelving, bar seating, fish tank, kitchen, bespoke desks, funkying up 2nd hand furniture, etc.

From a couple of hours to a few days - your help would be very welcome!

If you're interested, please fill in and return the form on our website (Events page) by **Tuesday 28th August** and we'll be in touch - we look forward to seeing you there!

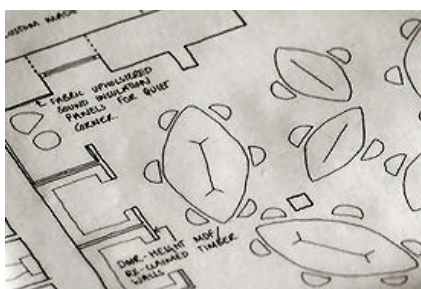
4. Adding value - personal and professional development opportunities for members

Because The Melting Pot is 'more than just an office', we've been exploring future partnerships with training experts that will enhance the quality of your work, direction and leadership skills. A programme of events is being created for the autumn and winter with providers such as: The Social Enterprise Academy, Scotland UnLtd, The Training Tree, and Junior Chamber International. Full details of these opportunities will follow later.

Watch out for The Training Tree's 'Flirting 4 Success' course, and 'Skills for Social Enterprises' by The Social Enterprise Academy.

In addition, we plan to continue our series of inspirational talks with Social Innovators; and stimulate informal gatherings that bring the community together.

5. A transformational space...



We know from the crowds that came to our viewing event last month that you really want to see the space. We've uploaded some great photos from over the past few months and the viewing day on our 'Events/See the Space' and 'What's it like?' pages of our website. You'll just have to help at the Eco-fit out party, or come in for another viewing after we open on **10th September** to see how we've applied the finishing touches...

Award winning photography displays

Award winning photographer Andy Phillipson will be displaying some of his work in our 'Non-bored Room' and Workshop space this year. We're interested in utilising our walls space for your delight and/or spreading stimulating information visually. If you've got or know artwork that makes such an impression, please get in touch to discuss use of our exhibition spaces.



Providing good food that doesn't cost the earth

Good food and drink are vital to our quality of life, energy and concentration levels. We're supplying Fair Trade/Organic catering to events held within The Melting Pot's 'Non-bored Room' and Workshop space. You're also welcome to bring in your own supplies or caterers and use our fully equipped kitchen. Call to check the availability of our spaces and we'll send you a booking form for confirmation.

Our aim is to inspire and support Social Innovators to realise their ideas for a better world
www.themeltingpotedinburgh.org.uk 0845 458 3211