

The Melting Pot E-bulletin

February 2008



The Melting Pot
inspiration at work

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

- **Key concepts- The Darkest Hour is before the Dawn**
- **Good News for us and Good News for Social Enterprise throughout Scotland**
- **Introducing our new Events Host**
- **New forms for hiring our meeting and events spaces hire**
- **Members' profiles: Working for Fairtrade Fortnight and The Green Guide Scotland**
- **A million reasons to go green - Hurry, the competition for a £million ends soon**
- **Public Events at The Melting Pot**

1. The Darkest Hour before the Dawn

Did you get the January blues? Perhaps the great excitement at the possibilities of a new year has been followed by the burden of responsibility or anxiety for making them all happen? Especially when working on your leading edge (or society's conventional edge), or when seemingly alone, the weight of it all can feel too much.

'[The Invitation](#)' is an inspiring poem reminding us of the quality of our intent during those dark moments where we feel worn down. It asks 'will we get up, work to the bone, and do what needs to be done for the children?'

For all our creations – actual children, businesses, hopes and dreams - we do find a way to cope. We are humans after all and possess great creativity, resilience and spirit. Eventually there is a shift; we move through the darkest hour that comes before the dawn. Remember the purpose and need you're fulfilling. Have hope. Keep breathing. You're alive and living in remarkable times...



2. Good News for us and Good News for Social Enterprise throughout Scotland

We'd like to celebrate with you 2 key things, which help The Melting Pot emerge from the January darkness into the light.

1. A small grant from the Third Sector Division at the Scottish Government has enabled us to increase our capacity and skills as a team over the next few months. We're focusing on essential business set up and development, marketing and responding to the needs of our members' and events spaces customers.

2. We are delighted that our campaign for non-domestic rates relief has been approved by Edinburgh City Council for 5 years (at 80%). This has also kicked-started a review proposed by the Scottish Green Party and Scottish Liberal Democrats into how Edinburgh City Council can support social enterprise in the city – and encourage an inspiring capital. For more information and to feed into this review, contact Cllr Maggie Chapman on maggie.chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk or the Director of City Development, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG.

If you're interested in the topic of rates relief and why this is a breakthrough, here's the background...

A "social enterprise" is a business with social /environmental objective that earns at least 50% of its income. It can take many organisational forms: not-for-profit Ltd Company, CIC [Community Interest Company], Community Development Trust, Co-operative...

A social enterprise does not necessarily have to be a charity – though being one has certain advantages such as being:

- a) Understood by grant funders who historically fund accepted Charities, and
- b) Eligible for non-domestic rates relief on buildings they occupy.

This is one of the reasons why so many high streets and small density shopping areas have a proliferation of charity shops which consistently do more about organisational profile raising (and recycling) than fundraising. Most charity shops provide under 10% of profits back to the core charity. Meanwhile small businesses, who are required to pay the business rates asked by local authorities, cannot compete, especially with the large multinational strategic take over of our town and city districts. See NEF's [Clone Town Britain](#) and [Ghost Town Britain](#) for more info.

The good news is that the Scottish National Party are proposing new legislation to help Small/Medium Enterprises compete in this now global market place through 100% rates relief to be introduced later this year.

So why are we dancing? Non-domestic rates relief in Edinburgh is based on conditions set out in 1965 – granting predominantly charities and supporters' clubs a local tax break, supported partly by the local authority, partly by government.

Back in 1965 the world was a simpler place and 'social enterprise' along with mobile phones, globalisation, climate change and Facebook did not exist! The Finance and Resources Committee has already seen one paper on rates relief this year. It looks like this will be an on-going issue for the rest of this year, at least until the guidelines are in place.

3. Introducing our new Events Host



We are extremely pleased to welcome Celia Philips as our new Events Host to the team. Celia will be looking after the bookings and guests for our events spaces.

Celia has experience of working with the public and fielding information as a volunteer for Friends of the Earth. She has a range of events and catering experience gathered by working as a volunteer with The [Ceilidh Collective](#) who put on organic catering and ceilidh events as fundraisers for voluntary sector and community organisations. *See more in our Cabaret808 later...*

"I'm excited about working at The Melting Pot and being part of a place of creative people who are passionate about what they do."

4. New info for Hiring Events Spaces

Since opening in October we have had 4,000 people using our work, meeting and events spaces. Through your feedback and our experience we've revised our information for hire of our Events Spaces.

Please use our new events enquiries contacts for your future bookings:

Tel: 0131 243 2623 **Email:** bookings@themeltingpotedinburgh.org.uk

Here's a link to the latest information on prices, terms and conditions, etc – also now found on our website.

[What we offer](#)
[Pricing](#)
[Terms and Conditions](#)
[Delegates Info](#)

Our NEW Booking Form is there too...

5. Members Profiles



Betsy Reed faces a heady work schedule as she approaches one of the busiest times

of year on the fair trade calendar. As **Fair Trade Nation Campaign Coordinator for the [Scottish Fair Trade Forum](#)**, she is involved in raising the profile of events.

Fairtrade Fortnight takes place through a series of events throughout the UK over 10 days: 25th – 9th March 2008 and has been running for 25 years. There will be dozens of events throughout Scotland.

It is hoped that Scotland will follow the lead of Wales, which is likely to become the first Fair Trade nation in May, and become the second Fair Trade nation sometime next year.

"Our vision for Scotland is larger than just achieving Fair Trade Nation status. We want to help create a society where consumers consider the impact of their choices and understand that the way they live has an impact on people they may never meet.

The strength of the Fair Trade movement lies in the grassroots, and much of my job involves highlighting what they're doing - and have been doing - in Scotland, often for decades!"



Kash Bhattacharya's journey to Advertising Manager for [The Green Guides](#) in Scotland has been an interesting one. Arriving from India to study economics at Abertay University, Dundee, he soon got involved and became student president running the local student magazine. During that time he recognised an opportunity for developing a student magazine for Scotland and ran the Student Focus Magazine as a pilot. This led him to do a MSC in entrepreneurship working from the business incubator, 'Embryonic' in Dundee.

For a time he and a business partner worked on a new magazine before Kash became advertising manager for [The New Consumer Magazine](#). "This was my route into fair trade and social enterprises and was a really exciting period".



The Green Guides have already established themselves as a major directory of green, ethical businesses – 12,500 of them in Scotland - and as it's free to get listed it's a great resource. Other exciting publications are following along with the magazine, 'Pure Living' such as 'Eco-scape' a publication about responsible travel and one on greener weddings.



It's a Fishy Business:

We know how's excited you'll be (?!) about the news of our first Melting Pot babies... We are honoured at the arrival of 3 swordtail fish last week. The mama first showed signs of being pregnant back in October, when she and her long-tailed mate were the first of our new watery habitat. Sword-tails are unusual as they produce live young not lay eggs... (ooh...)

The three wee ones are doing well, and growing daily – it's amazing, come and see...

6. A Million Reasons to go Green

A million pounds are up for grabs from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) for groups of people who can come up with new ways to reduce their CO2 emissions. [The Big Green Challenge](#) encourages groups to put their heads together to come up with carbon cutting ideas for a chance to win a share of the £1million pound prize fund on offer. Any group can enter as long as they are not-for-profit, from local charities to sports clubs, Scouts to PTA groups. The final deadline for application is 29th February 2008.



7. Public Events – Feb & March 08

Can you help promote these events? Please send by email, add to your own events section, or print the page and put up publicly. Thanks.



The Melting Pot
inspiration at work

Cabaret 808

The Melting Pot

5 Rose Street, EH2 (above Fopp)

Sat 8 March 08

doors: 8pm (2am)



Iskra Russian, Yiddish, Eastern European - **Voicebeat** acappella - **Rachel Amey** poet - **Sam Waylen** guitar-playing maverick - **Drums Aloud** live fusion drumbeats - **Constantina** bellydancing - **indie films** in the cinema room - **chill-out space** - 2-hour dance set by **DJ Debbie T** soul, funk, r&b and more tbc

LICENSED BAR and **RAFFLE**
TICKETS £10/£7 conc.

(advance: £9/£6)

Available from The Melting Pot or on the door. Call 0131 243 2623 or email events@TheMeltingPotEdinburgh.org.uk to reserve tickets.

this is a **ceilidh collective** event fundraising for **The Melting Pot**



The Melting Pot
inspiration at work

CEILIDH COLLECTIVE
~ real music ~ real live ~
www.ceilidhcollective.org.uk

Open Day @ TMP – Tue 18th March 9am-9pm

Are you or your friends interested in exploring what it'd be like to work in TMP?

Come and use our facilities and discover how being here will increase your productivity, potential, and enhance your wellbeing. Special discount rate of £10 for up to 3 hours.

Train the Trainers, 28th & 29th February

Do you have any managers or team leaders that need to deliver training or manage the development of teams? There are just 2 places left on this reduced price Institute of Training and Occupational Learning's (ITOL) Foundation Certificate in Staff Development.

Cost: £1750 with a discount of 15% for Social Enterprises, charities and voluntary sector organisations thanks to The Melting Pot. Price includes all course materials, lunches and associate membership of ITOL. This may be the only ITOL Foundation Course in Scotland this year.

Alternative train the trainer courses resulting in affiliation of a professional body cost around £2660 so this really is an opportunity!

To book or find out more go to:

<http://www.thetrainingtree.co.uk/opencourses.html>

or call Mel Harris on 07766828613

YOUR Natural Heritage, 13th March, 2-4pm A

FREE workshop event for people who might feel excluded from the natural heritage, particularly those who find that gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or poverty can be barriers to enjoying the natural environment.

This event will provide an opportunity for participants to contribute to thinking around these issues and to influence the actions of Scottish Natural Heritage, the government body with responsibility for caring for the natural environment.

Contact: Sue Sadler, sue@caledonia.org

Careershifters Event, 27th March, 6.30-9pm

Thinking about making a change in your career direction? Want to be more fulfilled at work? Following the very successful event in January and sell-out events in London, Careershifters are holding another career change workshop in Edinburgh. With inspirational speakers, practical advice and professional career coaches to support your decision-making process, the event is lively, invigorating and fun. 6.30 - 9pm. Tickets £25 for early booking, £30 for late booking. See: www.careershifters.org/node/429

