

NEWSLETTER Spring 2008

The Open Studios Network exists to promote the interests of open studio events across England. It is being developed, with funding from Arts Council England, to pursue the following key aims and objectives.

(For full details see the OSN website www.openstudiosnetwork.co.uk)

OSN seeks to:

- Promote and support the development and sustainability of multi-site open studios events
- Encourage and enable the active sharing of information, ideas and developments between events
- Encourage and support the events to create a wider public recognition and engagement with working artists
- Promote the importance of local artists to the economic, educational and social well-being of communities
- Lobby on behalf of event organisations with the relevant authorities

To launch the Network, OSN is pleased to invite all Open Studios and Art Weeks organisations to attend a conference on Thursday 10 April 2008 at The Warwick Arts Centre, at The University of Warwick near Coventry

This will be an opportunity to learn from the experiences and expertise of others, to hear about ideas for new projects and initiatives, and most importantly, to ensure that the Network responds to needs of its members.

While Open Studio organisations may share the same aim, they tend to have developed individually, varying in size and scope from those representing individual neighbourhoods to others that encompass whole counties. Not surprisingly, there can be no single template for either structure or operating patterns. However, taken together, there is a massive resource of knowledge and experience within the organisations that can be shared through the development of an effective network mechanism. This is the aim of this inaugural conference, to ensure that the network is tailored to meet the needs of the Open Studios themselves.

This newsletter is deliberately brief. At this stage, please note the date in your diaries. The conference day will be free, and accommodation available on campus at reasonable rates. Full details of speakers, workshop opportunities and booking forms will follow. Meantime, if you would like to make a preliminary booking, or contact us with any queries, please see the website for contact details.