

Portland Works
A home for traditional crafts, innovation and creative arts
in a unique historical building

www.portlandworks.co.uk



PORTLAND WORKS NEWSLETTER No 1

OCTOBER 2011

Welcome to our first Newsletter. We want to keep everyone informed about our progress and the events happening at Portland Works, so we are planning to produce a Newsletter every six weeks or so with up-to-date news.

Progress with Share Issue

Thanks to everyone for their enthusiasm and support, we have banked over £100,000 in the share issue so far, with a further £30,000 pledged and that is a very significant amount. We do have a loan arranged for up to £300,000 so we're well on the way to our goal – **but we're not there yet and we don't have much time**. Please keep spreading the word and a huge THANK YOU to all those who've signed up so far!

More good news is that the owners of the building have agreed to sell it to us, and have taken the building off the market. We are continuing to negotiate with the owners and the share sales are a major factor in strengthening our hand. However, there is a time limit on how long we have to raise the funds, so again, **please encourage friends to buy shares before the January 31st deadline**. Portland Works shares make an ideal Christmas present!

We've also been out talking to local groups and organisations to promote the campaign - if you or your own interest group would like a presentation - its around half an hour - please get in touch.

Summer Events at Portland Works

Several very successful events were held at the Works over the Summer, including a party for shareholders on a rare warm evening; two experimental sound and visual events by Vex and Hand of; and a Pecha Kucha gathering that brought 180 guests to see a unique art event and some spectacular Parkour around the buildings, AND a Thornbridge beer – Steelmakers – brewed especially for the Works.

We have also been seen at Nether Edge market and Sharrow Festival.

Many thanks also to local artist Wildago, for her witty 'photo ops' fund raising for the Works at the Cross Scythes pub and Art in the Botanical Gardens in September.

All of these activities have raised awareness of the building and money for the campaign. Many thanks to everyone whose hard work made them possible.

Ongoing Work

The buildings working group and tenants are currently working with Sheffield University Architecture, Sustainable Studies students and Conservation students to develop our vision for the future of the building. This involves looking at 'quick wins' and more medium and long term conservation and improvement of the building.

The Marketing Group is drawing up a programme of targeted publicity and awareness raising activities, with the aim of widening the range of possible shareholders and / or donors in order to meet our target and beyond.

A group of Architectural Masters students are assisting in the work of the Group with "Live Project" The students will be presenting their work at the open day- come on down to find out more and eat some Portland Works Cake - in the shape of the works!!

Welcome to Vicky Ryves, our history MA placement student, who will be spending 100 hours over the next few months developing the history and the way we share it with visitors- on site, at events and on the website. If you have a story of Portland Works, or know something about the place or the metal trades industry in the city, please email us and we will pass on your contribution to her.

Huge thanks are due to the Steering Group of around 20 selfless volunteers, for their tireless and exceptionally successful work in putting together a fundraising campaign, business plan, share issue, and in KEEPING THE WORKS GOING!

If you are interested in contributing to the work of these groups or the campaign more generally, more details can be found on our web site: www.portlandworks.co.uk . You don't have to put a lot of time in – many of our volunteers rightly limit their contribution to what they can manage.

Future Activities

We have full and exciting programme of happenings at Portland Works between now and Christmas. Make sure they're in your diary - all these are detailed and updated on the Events Page of our website.

October

Sunday 30th: Portland Works Open Day. Booking now open at colin@portlandworks.co.uk. Admission free, tours of workshops and studios, meet the tenants and hear about our work.

November

Saturday 12th: Portland Works stall at the Sheffield Peace and Craft Fair, Town Hall

Saturday 20 November – hosting a day's activities for the Welding and Joining Society (private event)

December

Sunday 4th: Portland Works display at Kelham Island Christmas market

Date tba – Campaign group AGM and Christmas Party – watch the website for details.

Finally it was lovely to receive a gift from Jenny Owen in Australia recently, of half a dozen Rusnorstain knives*– Stuart is doing some polishing / renovation work on them and they'll be on display at the open day along with some of Paul Bower's collection of early stainless steel from Portland Works.

****Yes – the original 1913 stainless steel as made at Portland Works by Mosley's!***



If you have any news you'd like included in the next Newsletter (due out before Christmas), contact: Margo Huxley margo@portlandworks.co.uk

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