



# Artsminds

[www.artsminds.org.uk](http://www.artsminds.org.uk)

## Artsminds Gathering Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Thank you to all of you who attended the gathering held at Bath University, Oakfield Campus on the 25<sup>th</sup> January.

Not only was it great to see so many new faces, but to hear the interesting discussions and debates that went on made this unique Artsminds 'Round Table Rumble', a great way to further establish Artsminds' voice in the local arts scene.

Taking questions from the floor and giving their view of the future of arts in Swindon were:

- Celia Carrington, Director Environment & Leisure, Swindon Borough Council;
- Phil Gibby - A&B regional director & Swindon Cultural Partnership;
- Dr Daniel Hinchcliffe - ICIA, Head of Visual Art and Academic Development;
- Peter James - Chief Executive, the New Swindon Company.

The topics discussed ranged from; a lack of cultural heart in Swindon, more visibility for local artists; discussions around the central library and the Mechanics Institute; partnerships with the voluntary sector; building on the strength of what is going on in Swindon; use of the Artsminds website to showcase members; use of empty shops in the town centre; and helping young people stay in Swindon.

The questions raised were taken on board by the panel, with discussions already having been held to ensure these issues are addressed where applicable.

If you have any questions or feedback as a result of the 'Round Table Rumble' please email them to [admin@artsminds.org.uk](mailto:admin@artsminds.org.uk).

The Artsminds logo competition winner was announced. Congratulations to John Bailey with his head and thought bubble work, titled 'therefore I am'. Congratulations to John who won £500. Watch out for the launch of the new logo and details of an exhibition of all the entries will be posted on the website shortly.

Artsminds is provided as a forum for creative arts practitioners to network, collaborate and share experiences, providing help, support and opportunities to develop, gain work, and be involved in what is going on locally.

The 'Round Table Rumble' is one of many activities that have been provided by Artsminds in the past year. Including, regular e-bulletins; a developing web area and quarterly gatherings presenting showcase and introduction opportunities. The activities that Artsminds provide are driven direct from members' wants and needs. To ensure that this focus continues members are invited to continually feedback, suggest activities or areas that they would like addressed, looked at or focused on.

Over the past year the membership of Artsminds has doubled which emphasises the valuable role it is playing, and with this support more activities that tackle the issues you want addressed can be arranged.

**News, debate, discuss, plan, share,  
collaborate, partnership,  
network....**

