

Operating an osteopathic regional society
some thoughts and suggestions from the South Wales Osteopathic Society
(SWOS)

Tips

- Get as many people involved as possible and use them – rotate CPD organisation, as this is by far the most time consuming element. Often new grads are good at this and this helps them integrate better. We can now afford to pay the person organising the event/s, but most refuse payment.
- Organise small events on a regular basis; use local talent where possible.
- Don't be afraid to make a profit – you will make on some events and lose on others. If you have a surplus after a few years, do something with it: donate to a charity, give it to students etc.
- Use the internet – it saves time and money.

Benefits

- From meeting regularly, we all got to know each other well and our colleagues' skills and strengths. So when new colleagues came to the area, we could point them in the right direction for assistance, ie. if you need advice about marketing, see ...if you need an associate job, see ...
- The Group becomes the 'touchstone' for all, especially new grads needing help and advice, and an informal support network emerges.
- Now local osteopaths will direct their patients to their local colleagues when they are on hols, confident we will take good care of the patients and send them back.
- We have a website and are linking this with the osteopathy course at Swansea University for larger events and to help the osteopathy students when they graduate (looking for jobs support etc). For these events, students go free, osteopaths pay. We have people from the local health board, Welsh Government and some chiro students coming too. This is all funded by SWOS, while the University supply the room and the food.
- We are also hoping to kick start the student society by giving them a bit of cash to get them going.
- We try to link with the North and Mid-Wales Society when we can and with local Chiropractor groups.
- Mutual support and life-long learning is what we do well. It would be nice to do more, but this is dependent on funds and getting more people involved.
- We would love all the regional societies band together where we can help each other – but the benefits of 'small and local' are also appealing. It would be good if the regional groups established means to communicate with each other. Linking things up, with multiple bodies/people working together with broadly the same aims – is more holistic!