

Place:

The Old Still Public House,
Westgate Arc, Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire

Type of Meanwhile project:

Cultural Engagement

Meanwhile funding: n/a

Stakeholders:

View5

Peterborough City Council
Museum and Art Gallery
Opportunity Peterborough
Queensgate Shopping Centre
Blok Collective
Keely Mills: Poet
The Greenbackyard

This partnership has been consolidated by the creation of PATH – Peterborough Arts Theatre and Heritage Hub, in February 2010.



Peterborough so far...



With high vacancy rates in the centre of Peterborough and few visible cultural attractions, the community is making a case for the temporary use of empty spaces as a solution to what a recent report has described as Peterborough's 'cultural gap'.

Project aims...

A group of artists, View 5, saw the potential of empty spaces and are now paving the way for Peterborough's cultural renaissance with the town's first ever Meanwhile project.

Located within Queensgate shopping centre in central Peterborough, The Old Still, a Grade II listed public house, had been vacant for the eighteen months until September 2009 when a group of local artists called View 5 proposed to bring it into use. View 5 decided to take on a temporary lease for the Old Still and transform it into an exhibition and studio space which would showcase local art and provide inspiration for the community as a whole.



*'Great to see the Old Still back
in use to such perfect effect.'*

Visitor

Project so far...

Once the artists moved in, they renovated the pub order to promote their first exhibition and work collaboratively inside it. The project was successful, but after three months spent funding the project themselves, it was no longer sustainable. Due to its immense popularity, a partnership was set up between the group, the local council, the Museum and the city's Regeneration Company. As a result PATH (Peterborough Arts, Theatre and Heritage Hub) was created so that the space could be used to make the case for having a permanent arts centre within the city.

The Old Still is now open to the public five days a week with a variety of people coming through the doors. A series of rooms that wrap around an external courtyard make it a very flexible space. As well as exhibition and studio space, it is used for regular cultural events such as poetry, story-telling, music and there are also art forums held to enable local artists to network. There is also space available for other groups to use for workshops and meetings as well as space for visiting artists. They also use the it to mentor local school children and students.



Anita Bruce, Artist View 5

'The Old Still has opened up a wider audience for the visual arts in Peterborough & raised our profile as individuals...It has also enabled us to network with local artists & has provided us & them with further exhibiting possibilities. I think we all feel more involved in the art scene in Peterborough & have a far more positive view of its future, & that we might actually have some influence.'

'View 5 at the Old Still is like a breath of fresh air, as something which has been needed for some time & has to be encouraged & developed to help enable our beautiful historic city thrive.'

Alice Kershaw Heritage Regeneration Officer Opportunity Peterborough