

Portland Inn Project: Raising The Roof Exhibition

Press Release/Exhibition Info

Venue: AirSpace Gallery, 4 Broad St. Stoke-on-Trent

Duration: Friday, 26th October – Saturday 10th November 2018. (Usual

Significant Dates:

Exhibition Opening: Friday, 26th October 6-8pm (ALL WELCOME)

Saturday, 27th October Portland St Community Lunch 12-2pm (Invited Guests) and Pigeon Factory Drop In Hands On workshop 2-4pm (ALL WELCOME)

Saturday 3rd November 12 -2 Artist Soup Kitchen

5-8pm Portland Social: Clay and Curry Night.

The Portland Inn Project is a creative arts project in partnership with The Portland Street Community Group, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Appetite, AirSpace Gallery and My Community Matters for a community in Stoke-on-Trent, where derelict properties were sold for £1 with the view of changing the fortunes of the area.

The Project has recently secured the asset transfer of a disused pub to the community, to be developed into a creative community building. Drawing on examples of successful, creative, artist and community led development projects from across the UK, the approach is to involve the area's existing and new community to design and deliver the future of this community asset, through an engaging public art programme.

While the project partners work in the background to secure the funds needed to renovate the building, there is also a regular programme to involve the community in this exciting project.

During the Summer 2018, The Portland Inn Project worked with Architects Baxendale, (who recently delivered the Scottish Pavilion at Venice Architecture Biennial - <http://baxendale-dco.com/>) to co-build a temporary space with the community, and then to deliver a summer-long programme of activity which reclaimed the land in front of the pub building for community use, animated the area with high quality events and activities and involved the community in the next stages of the development project.

This exhibition documents the development of the Portland Inn Project to date and showcases how this ground breaking project has:

- engaged local people in creative decision making about their area, and about the future of the pub, via creative participatory methods, with a focus around architecture and community development

- delivered a strong programme of artistic and cultural activity which activates the area, and can be accessed by local families and others
- engaged local stakeholders, and key potential investors/supporters of the project in shaping the future of the pub.
- Prototyped new products, to be developed alongside the building, for the social enterprise aspect of the project
- Secured the asset transfer of the Pub Building for the community.

Within the exhibition there will be hands-on workshops, a special 'Portland Social' Curry and Clay night and a chance to hear from artists Anna Francis and Rebecca Davies, as they deliver an artist talk session about the project. The exhibition includes the proposed architectural plans for the Portland Inn, developed by Architect Godson Egbo, in collaboration with the community of Portland Street.

The project is funded by Arts Council England and the Stoke City Council Community Investment Fund, with individual artist support funding from The Aziz Foundation.

Visit our project blog at: www.theportlandinnproject.tumblr.com/