



Hot Issues and New Issues for the Arts in Peterborough

**Peter Thornton, Director of
External Relations, Arts Council**

Peterborough

- A growing city
- Opportunity for an improved cultural offer
- Arts infrastructure needs strengthening
- Looking for opportunities to develop an arts offer that is high quality and right for Peterborough

Perception Peterborough

- Brought together agencies and international creatives and artists
- Considered Peterborough's challenges and opportunities
- Citizenship was a key emerging theme
- Arts Council East brokered a relationship with the RSA to help turn thinking into action



The RSA

- Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce
- Approach is multi-disciplinary, politically independent and combines cutting edge research with practical action
- An internationally known and respected brand
- RSA/Peterborough collaboration being scoped with Peterborough partners

RSA

Removing barriers to social progress



RSA/Peterborough

The City of Peterborough has established a strategic partnership with the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) and the Arts Council England, East to develop an ambitious and inclusive model of future citizenship. The partners will work with Peterborough citizens, local service providers and other key stakeholders in the city to develop innovative new ways of strengthening social and civic capacity.

The vision of future citizenship will be underpinned by a major commitment to advancing environmental sustainability, establishing Peterborough as an 'environmental capital'.

Uniquely, future citizenship and the notion of an environmental capital, will be driven by the arts' capacity to imaginatively engage local people, and to encourage new approaches to living sustainably.

Britten Sinfonia

- World-class, award-winning orchestra with residencies in Cambridge, Norwich, London and Krakow
- Diverse artistic collaborations with international artists
- Innovative education projects
- Successful 'Great Fen' concert at Peterborough Cathedral (May 2009) including world premiere and linked education work
- Potential to build long-term relationship



Photo: Greenpeace / Nick Cobbing

Theatre

New International Encounter

- Theatre company with international connections
- Residency in Peterborough to explore spaces and engage with communities in June 2008
- Performance at Gladstone Park recreational centre (Feb 2009)
- Aim to develop new piece of theatre, using an unusual space in the city
- Keen to link with youth theatre activity in the city



Eastern Angles

- Touring theatre company for East Anglia
- New play 'Getting Here' performed during Peterborough Festival – significant media interest
- Keen to work with Key Theatre and build long-term relationship with city



Clare Cottage

- A significant new resource for Peterborough
- A great opportunity for the inspirational figure of John Clare to encourage young people and promote literacy and creativity
- Links to Peterborough's environmental focus

John Newling

- Worked with design team for Cathedral Square and St John's Square development
- Peterborough Soil is a new project that will enable citizens of Peterborough to contribute to a major new artwork
- They will be asked to submit images of their favourite places in Peterborough
- Images will be published in a special newspaper and displayed as part of major installation at the Museum
- John will convert copies of the newspaper into a unique soil, this will be done in the gallery
- The 'Peterborough Soil' will be placed within the root system of trees within the new square development.



Future opportunities for GPP

- Input to the RSA scoping work commencing end July
- Support and champion the emerging arts offer for the city
- Support and champion the RSA Peterborough collaboration from end September