

Press Release

International Public Artist, Stephen Broadbent, to Visit Island

Renowned Public Artist Stephen Broadbent is making a visit to St. German's Cathedral, Peel on 29th/30th April. He has been invited by the Business Advisory Art Group with a view to appointing him as the lead public artist for the "Cathedral Quarter Project" which is planning the ambitious development of the Cathedral grounds.

The lead public artist's role will be to develop an overall strategy for public art in the 'Cathedral Quarter' contributing to regeneration in the West and encouraging artists on the Isle of Man to contribute to the project. The Vice-Dean, Canon Nigel Godfrey, also hopes to be able to commission work directly from Stephen.

In the past Stephen Broadbent has been commissioned to undertake some very important regeneration projects, which have included *The River of Life* (commissioned in the aftermath of the IRA bomb in 1993 in Warrington). This latter project was not solely offered as a response to the bombing, but also fitted in with one of Warrington's strategic objectives:

"to enhance the town centre's attractiveness through animation, Public art features, and play facilities which reflect community ownership and civic pride."

Stephen is currently working on a public art strategy associated with regeneration in the Fylde coastal area of the north-west of England: The Wyre Way.

A valued speaker at national and international events and creative consultant, Stephen still manages to balance his own artistic development and work as a sculptor with his larger project and design work.

On Thursday 29th April at 7.30 p.m., in St German's Cathedral, Stephen will deliver a lecture entitled "Art Place People" which will last about an hour, followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions. Refreshments will be served. This promises to be a very interesting event which is open to all.

On Friday 30th April at 10.00 a.m. in St German's Cathedral there will be an opportunity for invited local artists to meet with Stephen during a Coffee Morning/discussion style meeting and hear first hand about his experience of the importance of public art and regeneration.

Later, between 12.30 p.m. and to 2.00 p.m. there will be a meeting at St John's Mill with potential partners from Art and Regeneration groups together with local politicians. (By Invitation Only).

Further information can be obtained from Nigel Godfrey, Cathedral Office, 842 608.

Ends

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