

# rEvive 2014

## Art in an Empty Shop

A Cultural Arts Forum Erewash (CAFE) project, funded by Arts Council England and Erewash Borough Council.

- Bringing local artists into the heart of Long Eaton and Ilkeston to revitalise town centres.
- Filling empty shops with creative workshops, performances, and exhibitions.
- Engaging local residents and visitors in creative activities.

## The Challenge

- Identifying suitable premises
- Liaising with agents, landlords, the local authority
- Securing leases and getting the legal stuff right
- Bringing together artists, volunteers and the community

The Former Burton's shop on Bath Street Ilkeston was reopened in Summer 2012 as an Arts venue and continues to host a huge variety of workshops, exhibitions and events.

## QUOTES

" An ingenious way of bringing art to the people  
**Alan Yentob**  
(BBC programme 'Imagine')

" Helping local individuals and groups to work with councils in converting less glamorous spaces to good use  
**The Times**



## Life Story Writing

*your story begins here*



## ALL WRITE ILKESTON 2014

Life Story Writing facilitator Chrissie Hall led informal 'drop-in' sessions throughout summer 2014, building on the success of 2012, supporting members of the community to meet to talk about then write stories from their own lives. From aged 9 to almost 90 local people shared their life experiences, reading writing and capturing their real life stories.

As we met and shared our stories we became part of each other's life stories and at the end of the project we wondered how we could use our stories to create a lasting legacy for ourselves and for the wider community.

## The Inspiration

During the project we discovered how our life stories link us together. From the briefest encounter, to a friendship, or a lifelong partnership; however short, however long, our life stories are interwoven with the lives of others.



## The Collaboration

Speaking to other artists working in the rEvide shop gallery led to a happy collaboration with Derbyshire artist/maker Julie Genner [juliegenner@googlemail.com](mailto:juliegenner@googlemail.com) who worked with us designing, creating and supporting the making of our linked life story sculptures.

Each 'piece' is unique, formed of glazed white card, covered with random extracts of handwritten and word processed real life stories contributed by members of the community, replicating the way our lives and our stories link us together, overlapping... touching... weaving through... cutting across... underpinning and inspiring each other.



**Life Story Writing**

*your story begins here*

working with



**rEvide**



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