

Cheapside: Museum plans release building for conversion

# Homes on cards

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# after factory sale

**NEW town-centre flats are on the way now that an empty landmark Stroud property has been sold for around £195,000.**

The old six-storey Hill Paul clothing factory at Cheapside, formerly occupied by Parkes Clothing, has been sold to residential developers Harper Homes.

The tall old building, prominent on approaches to Stroud, has lain disused for some years even though at one time it was considered as the home for a new local museum.

But now the new Stroud Museum-in-the-Park has won lottery cash support to begin development in the old Mansion House at Stratford Park instead.

## Consent

So the building, which already has consent from local planners for conversion into 30 flats, looks set to be pressed into residential use in the near future, said estate agents' spokesman Ross Frowen.

"It was a timely purchase as Harper has recently finished a very large project elsewhere so this is convenient in terms of its operation," Mr Frowen added.

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by Jo Barber

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"I understood they hoped to start work as soon as possible, and to be on site this summer."

The former steam-raising building at the rear of Hill Paul, which overlooks both Stroud railway station and the bypass, is also included in the sale.

Mr Frowen said he believed Harper would respect Hill Paul's part in Stroud history.

"There is going to be a mixture of accommodation - some studios, some one and two-bed flats, and some penthouse apartments," he said.

Hill Paul took over at Cheapside after former wholesale clothiers Williamson, Tratt and Co., who built the property, went into liquidation in 1902.

Hill Paul went on to become a major local employer in the 1920s and 30s and employed a small army of machinists, cutters, packers and others who produced garments including mens' and ladies' suits and wartime service uniforms.

Its proprietors for many years were the Paul family. As recently as 1971 there were still more than 100 people employed at the site.

## Fans spoilt for choice

**MUSIC:** PROMOTERS have given folk music fans in Stroud a headache - by booking two of the nation's top acts on the same night.

Vocalist Christine Collister released five albums in partnership with Clive Gregson before going solo in 1992. She appears at Stroud's Trinity Rooms from 8pm tomorrow.

Popular Irish music band Afterhours split up in December after 10 years playing throughout Europe and the States. However they have reformed to play some dates during the week of St Patrick's Day including a date in Nailsworth Town Hall tomorrow night.

The line-up will be Alan Burke, Giles Lewin, Henry Sears and Frank McIllduff.