



HERITAGE LANDMARK

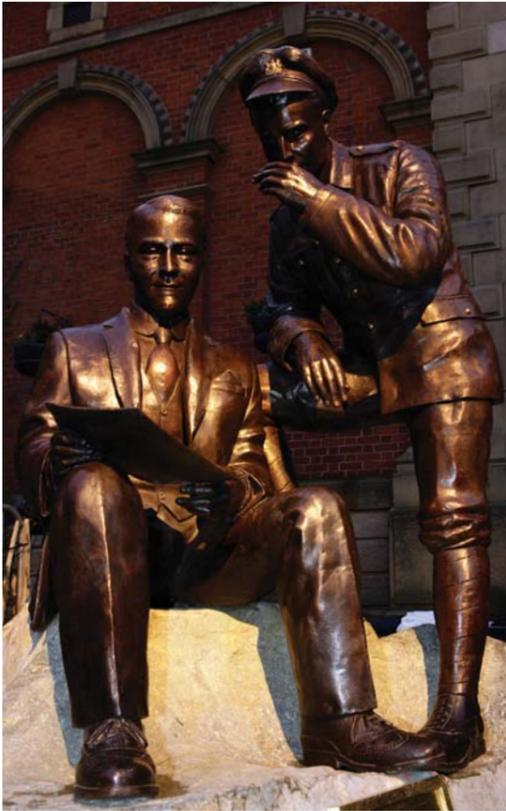
A New and unusual piece of public art in Stalybridge - reclaimed from one of the town's industrial landmarks - has been officially unveiled.

Armentieres Square is the new home of a 30ft-long, cast iron beam taken from Longlands Mill in Castle Street.

Spruced-up and freshly painted, the huge beam has been set among flowers and now bears the town's crest and that of its twin, Armentieres in France. Longlands Mill was originally a linen mill when it was established in 1805, but developers

Urban Splash are currently converting the building into apartments with retail and leisure space.

The beam was chosen so that Stalybridge could retain some of its unique heritage as it modernises; and its sturdiness represents the strong bond of friendship between Stalybridge and Armentieres. It has already become a popular part of the Stalybridge landscape.



JACK'S BACK

A bronze statue in honour of the Stalybridge composer Jack Judge and his wartime marching song, "It's a long way to Tipperary" was unveiled by Tameside Council this Friday.

What started out as a bet with a friend, the song he wrote and first performed at the town's old theatre went on to become one of the most famous tunes in the world.

As a tribute, the statue, which is 6ft 6inches high, is of Jack sitting on a granite rock holding his music score, with a soldier leaning over his shoulder. It was unveiled by a Judge family member and Tameside's former Head of Heritage Cllr Frank Robinson. Staff from the Irish World Heritage Centre in Cheetham Hill

were joined by members of the Judge family and civic dignitaries at the ceremony in Lord Pendry Square, just outside the Civic Building in Trinity Street.

The unveiling ceremony had a musical theme with Frank Judge playing the instantly recognisable song on the bagpipes, along with the Stalybridge Brass Band.

The statue is the sixth to be unveiled in a programme, which will see similar works in all the borough's eight towns.

■ NOW in its third year, the Andrew Peet Memorial Photography Competition is organised in memory of Stalybridge councillor Andrew Peet who died in December 2003.

■ All entries must be connected with Stalybridge and represent the town or its people in some way, and anyone can enter, as there are categories for both adults and children. The

closing date for entries was September 1. Check the local press for the results.

This year the prize money will be £200 for the winner, £150 second prize, £100 third prize and £50 for the winner of the junior category.

■ The assembly is hoping to build on the success of last year's competition, which attracted more than 150 entries.

LANDSCAPING IMPROVING

■ Landscaping work by the district assembly is improving Stalybridge's old Town Hall.

New paths, lighting and trees and flowerbeds will transform the appearance of a previously overgrown area at the old hall.



BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS

Tameside's looked bloomin' marvellous for the judging in the national final of Britain in Bloom. It's the first time the borough has been in the final stages of the Royal Horticultural Society competition since it started taking part three years ago.

This year Tameside was the only north west region in the final.

The long spell of hot weather has stretched everyone involved in the competition - instead of watering the 1600 hanging baskets two or three times a week, they needed watering daily, but staff were confident that everything was in place for the national judging in August. Check local press in September for the results.

Over the last year, more than half a million plants have been put in place, supplemented in the spring by 150,000 daffodils and narcissi. Council gardeners planted up all the hanging baskets and 525 planters which have been distributed throughout the borough. The nursery also produced an extra 500 hanging baskets for local business and community groups.

Britain in Bloom is also about getting community groups involved in making a difference to their environment. People like the volunteers at Willow Wood Hospice in Ashton, where teams of volunteers have given up their weekends to make the grounds pleasant for patients and visitors.

It stinks, it's dirty and it's dangerous...

.. and Tameside Council's district assemblies have launched a new campaign to stop it.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND... LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY!



Dog fouling affects everyone living in the borough, with feedback from residents indicating that dog mess left on streets and in parks is among people's biggest gripes.

In the past 12 months, the council received approximately 320 complaints from Tamesiders about incidents of dog fouling. Now with Tameside's Patrollers stepping up their patrols of problem areas for dog fouling, the message to people who don't act responsibly is clear - clean it up, or expect to pay up.

Anyone caught not cleaning up after their dog can be given a £50 fine by the council. But if this is not paid, and the dog owner is found guilty of

the offence at Magistrates Court, this could rise to £1,000.

The patrollers will carry out spot checks at the parks and their surrounds across the borough, and increase their presence at peak dog walking times such as early mornings and evenings.