



### FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday May 16 <sup>th</sup> <b>History of transport in the Peak District</b> Nick Wheat	Saturday June 3 <sup>rd</sup> <b>Family, Local History, Heritage &amp; Craft Fair</b> Proact Stadium 10am-4pm	Tuesday September 19 <sup>th</sup> <b>Chesterfield's Music Scene in the Sixties</b> David McPhie
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## Commemorating the Queen's Jubilees

Some weeks ago I took a photograph of the crown in the centre of Matlock. How many people are aware of the plaque associated with it that is just inside the entrance to Hall Leys Park?



### Celebrate 30 years of The Winding Wheel.

Visit the exhibition in the function room 15-26 May opens 10am (except 15 May when it opens at 2pm) closing time varies but at least until 5pm.

Guided tours 16-23 and 26 May at 11am each day and 2pm on 16, 18, 22 and 26 May. Pre-booking essential.



*Diamond Jubilee Sculpture, Queen's Park, Chesterfield*

I then remembered the diamond sculpture presented to Queen's Park to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and wondered if there was any connection.

In 2012/2013 John Lilley and I, as members of the Friends of Queen's Park, were involved in selecting the events to be highlighted for each year of the Queen's reign. The company making the sculpture was Sterling Machining Ltd. so I contacted the Managing Director, Andy White, to ask if he had been one of the apprentices involved in making the crown in Matlock and this was his reply.

*In 1977, the year of the Silver Jubilee, I was 14-years-old, and I saw on television a crown made from stainless steel tubing by a local company made to commemorate the Jubilee. It impressed me how simple tubes could be made to look so ornate and how somebody had thought of the concept.*

*Two years later I started an apprenticeship with that company, TI Chesterfield, at the time they employed over 2000 people and were the biggest employer in the town. The crown had pride of place for several years in their reception. Over the next 22 years the company got split into two and sold off to overseas owners, and I rose through the ranks until I become General Manager of the stainless steel tube company. Then in 2001 the company closed down and 100 years of tube making in Chesterfield came to an end.*

*Two colleagues and I invested our redundancy money and started our own engineering machining company called Sterling Machining Ltd. We started out with one employee and now 12 years on we have 20 employees and turnover £2 million a year.*

*At the start of 2012, The Diamond Jubilee year, I was thinking back to the crown made for the Silver Jubilee which now sits in the middle of Crown Square in the town of Matlock; I still admire it whenever I drive past. I thought how sad it is that the company that made it no longer exists and how the town along with the rest of the UK has lost so much of its manufacturing industry. I wanted to make something to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and show that there are still companies manufacturing in the area. We might be smaller but we are still here.*



*I came up with the idea of a diamond made from stainless steel. It would be one metre across and have exactly 60 facets, one for all the previous year of Her Majesty's reign, and have the year and something significant that happened in that year engraved on each facet.*

*I mentioned the idea to my business partners and a few employees and they all thought it was a good idea but wanted to know what we would do with it. So we contacted Chesterfield Borough Council and*

*they gave it a prestigious location in Queen's Park in Chesterfield Town Centre.*



*They also involved the local community in the selection of the memorable events to go on each year; hence it has some international, national, and local items. It also holds a time capsule containing a record of life in Chesterfield during 2012 showing events for the Jubilee and Olympics among others.*

*Making it has been a big, but enjoyable, challenge. We are a machining company and this is more of a fabrication with machining on it. People who have experience of working with metal will fully appreciate the challenge of making a one metre diamond to a standard that will get closely inspected when people read the inscribed events.*



*My business partner was involved in making the crown for the Silver Jubilee, as an apprentice, and his two sons have been involved in making the diamond for the Diamond Jubilee. One of them completed his apprenticeship with us four years ago and the other is half way through his apprenticeship.*

*I, my two business partners, and our employees are proud to have created and donated to our local community this Diamond Jubilee sculpture. We feel it's a very fitting commemorative piece of art to mark the tremendous achievement of 60 years of reign of Her Majesty the Queen.*

*I also hope it may inspire another young person to want to be creative with metal in the way that the crown inspired me so that we can continue the tradition of manufacturing in Chesterfield.*



Andy also said that a copy of the story was sent to the Queen after the Diamond was unveiled: 'We did get a nice reply which I have on my office wall.

The Diamond is something we are very proud of. In fact the guys that made it go down to the park every Christmas on the day we finish and give it a clean and polish.'

The unveiling of the sculpture 27 October 2013 by HM Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire.

## Have a go at Well Dressing

Learn about the ancient art of Well Dressing and have a go at making your own Well Dressing.

Revolution House Old Whittington 27-29 May 11am – 4pm



The employees of Sterling Machining Ltd

It can come as no surprise that the event chosen for 1997 was Chesterfield FC reaching the FA Cup Semi-final.

In May 1998 a play *The Theatre of Dreams*, was performed at the Pomegranate Theatre which told in the story of one family of fans as they followed the fortunes of Chesterfield.



A few hundred other supporters, to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cup run. A video of the play was shown interspersed with clips from the matches and interviews with the guests of honour including John Duncan and Sean Dyche. What do I remember about that day? Strangely, it was the journey home that sticks in my mind – looking back as we came over the tops of the hills as far as the eye could see were headlights of the cars and coaches in one long line and I knew that we had all been at the match. As we got nearer to Chesterfield more and more people were out to watch us go by until we reached Chatsworth Road where everyone was out in the street – and we were only the supporters! And yes, one of the guests of honour said the same thing. A very emotional experience that I will never forget.

Janet Murphy

## NATIONAL AND AUXILIARY FIRE SERVICES

Trevor Armstrong of Tupton Local History Society is asking if anyone has any information about someone, possibly a relative, who served with either the National or Auxiliary Fire Service during WW II. Men from this area apparently travelled to Coventry and Manchester to help fight fires. He may be contacted at [trechibranis@gmail.com](mailto:trechibranis@gmail.com)