

February 2010



100 Years of The City of Stoke-on-Trent

One of the few cities in Britain to have been formed as a 'Federation', Stoke-on-Trent is set to celebrate a major 100th anniversary in 2010.

Known affectionately world-wide as "The Potteries", The City of Stoke-on-Trent is equally famous for actually being comprised of six towns: Stoke, Hanley, Longton, Fenton, Burslem and Tunstall.

They finally came together in 1910 as a "Federated County Borough" and after 15 years of being a single-managed authority, King George V made it all official by conferring upon them the official status of a "City of the Realm".

Timing-wise The Potteries industry was in its prime at the turn of the century; and the City of Stoke-on-Trent subsequently became one of the most important manufacturing centres in the world. The city's motto reflects the mood of the time: *Vis Unita Fortior* (United Strength is Stronger).

Like many other parts of Britain Stoke-on-Trent really only started to take shape during the Industrial Revolution, and the six towns were able to pool their mineral assets, manual resources, and local pottery manufacturing skills to become the world capital of ceramics which – to this very day – still attracts millions of visitors.

Local author Arnold Bennett, who was writing his novels of "The Potteries" at the time of The Federation, created some lasting confusion by leaving out Fenton and dubbing his Potteries the *Five Towns*. But much of the history and heritage which he captured in his novels is still visible to this day – and 2010 also happens to mark the centenary of one of his best known books: *Clayhanger*.

The city's centenary will be celebrated in style throughout 2010, with a series of exhibitions, walks, and talks.

Highlight events taking place in The City of Stoke-on-Trent – now known as The World Capital of Ceramics - during the year will include:

*The Staffordshire Hoard - ongoing exhibitions of the UK's largest-ever Anglo-Saxon "find" (check www.visitstoke.co.uk for details);

*Portmeirion's 50th birthday celebrations (check www.portmeirion.co.uk for full details).

*The 25th anniversary of Emma Bridgewater, with a special Emma Bridgewater Exhibition at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery (29 May until 26 September).

*Study Day: *Stoke-on-Trent: Becoming a City*. The 12th Annual Archive Day School, at Staffordshire University, on Saturday 6 March (10am to 4pm). Tickets : £20.00 to include lunch, coffee and tea.

*Walks in each of the six towns during the year (check www.visitstoke.co.uk for details).

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Further information about the centenary celebrations, and Stoke-on-Trent as a whole, can be seen at www.visitstoke.co.uk.

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city of

stoke-on-trent



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