

May 2010

City set to celebrate 25th, 50th and 100th anniversaries this year

Formed as a 'Federation' in 1910, the City of Stoke-on-Trent is celebrating its centenary in the same year that locally based pottery manufacturers Emma Bridgewater and Portmeirion are celebrating their own 25th, and 50th, anniversaries respectively.

Known affectionately world-wide as "The Potteries", The City of Stoke-on-Trent is actually comprised of six towns: Stoke, Hanley, Longton, Fenton, Burslem and Tunstall – all of which came together in 1910 as a "Federated County Borough". After 15 years of being a single-managed authority, King George V finally 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.

And today, it is officially known as The World Capital of Ceramics.

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

The City of Stoke-on-Trent received the prefect 100th birthday present earlier this year, with the announcement that enough funds have now been secured to keep The Staffordshire Hoard in The Midlands.

Already proving to be one of the most popular FREE exhibitions of the winter months, the display at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery is now set to be on display until June 26th, during the city's centenary year.

Featuring 59 of the £3.285m-worth of artefacts known as 'The Staffordshire Hoard', the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery's display will now introduce countless thousands of visitors to the largest and most valuable ever find of Anglo-Saxon gold treasure, Entry is free of charge. Opening hours are 10.00 to 17.00 Monday to Saturday, and 14.00 to 17.00 on Sundays.

The 25th anniversary of Emma Bridgewater (www.emmabridgewater.co.uk), meanwhile, will feature a special Emma Bridgewater Exhibition at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery between May 29th and September 26th. It is also a prelude to some eye-popping developments planned for the Emma Bridgewater Visitor Centre in The Potteries.

Portmeirion then completes the line-up of anniversaries for 2010, with its own 50th birthday celebrations (www.portmeirion.co.uk).

For further details, visit www.visitstoke.co.uk.

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