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HAT WORKS SCOOPS TOURISM AWARD

Staff at Stockport's Hat Works museum are celebrating after winning the Best Small Visitor Attraction category at the prestigious Manchester Tourism Awards.

Hat Works beat off some stiff competition from other visitor attractions in the region to scoop the award last Thursday 2nd February. The museum also won the award in 2004.

The Awards were organised by Marketing Manchester, the Tourist Board for Greater Manchester, and were hosted at Manchester's International Convention Centre by television and radio presenter Vernon Kay.

The award judges described Hat Works as an exceptionally run business and were impressed with the commitment to bring new visitors to the area. The mystery shoppers also found enough to keep both children and adults entertained.

Councillor Pam King, Executive Member for Leisure, said: "This award recognises the museum's success since it opened six years ago in bringing to life the history of the areas once thriving hatting industry. Hat Works has attracted wide audiences through its specialised subject matter and through offering a variety of events, exhibitions and more recently by removing the admission charges to make the attraction accessible for all. I would encourage all Stockport residents to visit the museum and see for themselves exactly what it has to offer."

Hat Works Manager, Samantha Tavernor, said: "It is such an honour for us to win this prestigious award again and it is a welcome acknowledgement of the work of the Hat Works team. The staff continually work hard on every level, to ensure the services we provide are enjoyable, refreshing, innovative and accessible to all the community and beyond."

Hat Works will now go through to the regional Tourism Awards, organised by the North West Development Agency. The museum will represent Manchester in the Best Small Visitor Attraction category and will be judged against others in the same category from Merseyside, Cumbria, Lancashire and Cheshire. **ENDS**

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