

Hat Works Press Release

FRED'S CAP COMES TO HAT WORKS

Stockport's Hat Works museum has proudly unveiled its latest exhibit that features one of world famous steeplejack, engineer and steam engine enthusiast Fred Dibnah's trademark caps!

The well-know figure of Fred Dibnah's is one of Bolton's best loved sons, who sadly passed away in November 2004. However, his family have kindly donated one of his most cherished caps to Hat Works on long term loan.

The cap actually belongs to his step son, Nathan Yates, and had quite a history with Fred. It was one of three caps he bought in early 1998 in Bolton. However, this was the one he chose to wear for his wedding on the 26th September of the same year.

His wife, Sheila Dibnah said: "I had no problem with him wearing a cap for our wedding but I did insist he bought a nice clean, new one!"

This cap became a favourite for Fred and he went on to wear it whenever he was booked for after dinner speaking. He also wore it at steam rallies, but as the cap deteriorated, and the wear and tear really began to show, it was relegated to only being worn in his workshop at home.

The caps six good years with Fred are clearly evident from its condition and it makes for a fascinating exhibit, one in which you get a strong sense and feeling for its owner.

The cap went on exhibit at Hat Works on the Tuesday 3rd October and is displayed with a signed photograph of Fred and a script of "Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam", kindly donated by his wife.

For more information call Hat Works on 0845 833 0975 or email debbie.smith@stockport.gov.uk

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Jpeg captions:

Sheila Dibnah and her mother with one of Fred's favourite caps.

6th October