

### **WORKS GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH**

Stockport's Hat Works, the UK's only museum dedicated to the hatting industry, is going from strength to strength after passing a recent assessment with flying colours.

For the fourth consecutive year Hat Works has been assessed under the Visit Britain's, Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme (VAQAS), passing various mystery shops.

VAQAS aims to assess the quality of the visitor experience and any aspect of an attraction's operation that may impact on that overall quality.

The assessor, Chris Vere was very impressed with the museum. His report stated that "Hat Works is great fun – with an appeal to adults and children. Displays are imaginative and there is plenty of hands-on, the breadth of the offering is quite exceptional."

The report added that "Hat Works provides an excellent standard of visitor experience and comfortably merits the continued Visit Britain accreditation."

Employees at Hat Works are delighted to have gained the VAQAS award, which is another achievement in a long line of awards the museum has picked up over the last few years. Including the prestigious `Best Small Visitor Attraction` in the Marketing Manchester Tourism Awards.

Councillor Shan Alexander, Executive Member for Leisure, said: "I would like to congratulate all the staff at Hat Works for their hard work resulting in this award. Hat Works is a first class visitor attraction and I would encourage members of the public to come along and have a look."

If you have not been a visitor to the museum, why not see for yourself what Hat Works has to offer. There are daily guided tours of working Victorian Machinery from the Industry to an extensive collection of hats from all around the World, from the historic to the latest couture millinery by leading designers for celebrities. Admission is free, with a £2.50 charge for guided tours.