

Pennine Heritage and the University of Huddersfield

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition Launch: *The North Celebrates: The History and Legacy of Standard Fireworks*

Venue: Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8DG

Public Exhibition: On show from Thursday 17th May, 11am-3pm weekdays.

Exhibition Launch Event: Tuesday 9th May, 5-7:30pm. Invitation only, press passes available.

The North Celebrates: The History and Legacy of Standard Fireworks is the culmination of a year-long project in which twelve undergraduate students have researched and curated a brand-new exhibition. This project is part of a Knowledge Transfer Partnership between Pennine Heritage and the University of Huddersfield. This partnership allows Pennine Heritage to take advantage of the latest academic research, while offering researchers and students the opportunity to engage the public with their work through exhibitions and events.

Founded in 1891, Standard Fireworks has provided employment to many generations of Huddersfield residents until the closure of the Crosland Hill site this year. For this exhibition, students were given unique access to a never-before-seen archive of historic adverts, dummy fireworks, and firework-making tools saved from the site. They researched this archive, as well as the wider history of Standard Fireworks, to produce this exhibition. Through this project, the students have gained valuable skills in research and exhibition planning.

Visitors to the exhibition can explore the history of the company and the role of fireworks in local celebrations past and present. The exhibition will feature historic advertisements from Standard, photographs of workers at the Huddersfield site over the decades, and firework-making tools spanning the past century.

The twelve students were mentored by Dr Francesca Elliott, Heritage Manager at Pennine Heritage, and the course was developed and led by Dr Rob Ellis, Senior Lecturer at the University of Huddersfield. We are grateful to the team at Standard Fireworks for providing access to their archive, and to the Crosland Hill site before its closure.

About Pennine Heritage

Pennine Heritage is a charity based in Hebden Bridge, dedicated to preserving and sharing the unique history, culture, and environment of this fantastic region. We own and operate the historic Birchcliffe Centre, and are home to the South Pennine Archives. We are currently part of an exciting Knowledge Transfer Partnership with the University of Huddersfield, which allows us to take advantage of the latest academic research, while providing opportunities for researchers and students to learn public engagement skills. Funded by Innovate UK, this is one of the first heritage-sector Knowledge Transfer Partnerships in the country.



The Birchcliffe Centre in Hebden Bridge, owned and operated by Pennine Heritage, where the exhibition will be held. © Pennine Heritage, 2022



A selection of vintage fireworks at Standard's Crosland Hill site before its closure. © Pennine Heritage 2022.



Display team staff at Standard Fireworks, with some of their display fireworks, c.1980s. © Standard Fireworks, kindly shared by Chris Pearce at Jubilee Fireworks.



Kath Lenihan holding "air bombs" while working at Standard Fireworks. © Kath Lenihan.