

Mural tribute to city's industrial past is unveiled at train station

AILSA CRANNA

A MURAL reflecting Salford's rich industrial heritage has been unveiled at one of the city's train stations.

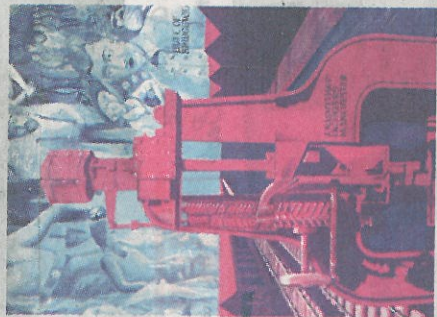
The four metre-high piece of art will sit at the end of Patricroft station's subway and includes images of Queen Victoria, Francis Egerton, the third duke of Bridgewater, and local engineer and inventor James Nasmyth.

The station, on Green Lane, is located at the point where the world's first inter-city passenger railway crossed the world's first commercial canal – in 1830.

It is also claimed that it hosted the first railway public house, The Queen's Arms, which opened in 1828 anticipating trade from the new rail line. The mural design was created by Year 7 and 8 art students from St Patrick's High

School in Winton, many of whom attended the ceremony.

It was unveiled by the Ceremonial Mayor of Salford, Coun Bernard Lea and Barbara Keeley,



COLOURFUL The mural at Patricroft Station



SPECIAL GUESTS From left: Steve Lawton, chairman of the Friends of Patricroft Railway Station, his wife Brenda, Ceremonial Mayoress Ann Cox, Ceremonial Mayor, Coun Bernard Lea and Charles McGee, deputy head of St Patrick's RC High School, Eccles, at the unveiling the mural

MP for Worsley and Eccles South. Coun Lea said: "This is a fantastic way to celebrate Salford's rich contribution to British transport history. The students have done a superb job and their handwork will be admired by rail travellers and passers-by for many years to come."

The project was led by Friends of Patricroft Station (FrOPS) with support and funding from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), Northern Rail, the Association of Community Rail Partnerships and Salford council. FrOPS is one of four friends of station groups in Salford.

The groups, which are managed by TfGM, offer voluntary services to enhance day-to-day work already carried out by train companies such as adding public art, gardening, litter picking and vegetation clearance.