



# New £1.1m square opens



**ALL SQUARE:** Chair of Castleford's Town Centre Partnership, Councillor Mark Burns-Williamson, Council leader Peter Box and Pontefract and Castleford MP Yvette Cooper officially open the new square. Above: A talented group of maypole dancers help celebrate the launch.

People from across Castleford have celebrated the opening of a new town square named after famous local artist Henry Moore.

As part of the town's ongoing regeneration plan, local dignitaries officially opened the £1.1m Henry Moore Square during a celebration event.

Wakefield Council, Yorkshire Forward and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund have paid for the project which includes new granite paving and unique new seating designed specifically for Castleford.

The square forms the second phase of the major regeneration scheme which began with the successful relocation of the town's outdoor market from behind Carlton Lanes shopping centre.

Town crier Reg Lavine officially opened the event before a commemorative floor plaque was unveiled by council leader Peter Box and Pontefract and Castleford MP Yvette Cooper.

The celebration then continued with maypole dancing by local schoolchildren and a reception for

those involved in the scheme.

Designed by Anthony Hudson, the new square is just one of 11 improvement schemes forming the ambitious Castleford Project.

Chair of Castleford's Town Centre Partnership, Councillor Mark Burns-Williamson, attended the event and said: "This is an important step in the plan to regenerate Castleford."

"It creates a welcoming and vibrant public space for everyone to enjoy and provides a unique area for celebratory events such as maypole dancing and themed markets."

"We started planning this back in 1999 so to see it finally come to fruition is wonderful."

"However, things are happening all the time as far as the regeneration scheme is concerned and we'll be quickly moving on to the next stage."

"The public have been involved at every stage and we hope the new bridge and the Castleford Forum project will be as much of a success."

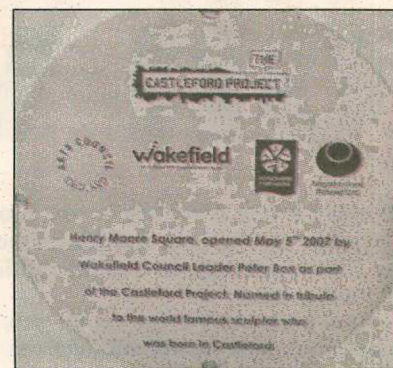
The Castleford project is supported by a number of agencies and is also being closely followed and assisted by Channel 4.

Progress throughout the initiative is

being filmed for Channel 4 by independent TV company Talkback for a major TV series and the cameras were there again this weekend for the square's opening.

Cllr Burns-Williamson added: "Thanks must go to Channel 4 who have come in and backed the strategy."

"They have brought fresh impetus to the scheme and without their help it probably wouldn't have happened as quickly as it has."



**LEGEND:** The commemorative floor plaque marking the opening of Henry Moore Square.

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**OYEZI OYEZI:** Castleford Town Crier Reg Lavine made sure everybody was aware of the square's launch by officially opening proceedings. Right: The square opening is marked with a traditional maypole dance.