

'TIME' – TO MOVE ON!

The opening of a Resident Civil Engineers Office on the former REDLER works manufacturing site at Dudbridge should auger well for the long awaited start on renovation of those empty and vandalised buildings.

Central to the site is the familiar Tower Clock pictured above.

This landmark Clock, made in 1892 by the same clock maker, Thwaites and Reed, that made Big Ben, is held to be a quarter replica of that historic and famous time piece. It was installed to the order of Sir Alfred Apperly when the tower was built during the development and construction of the Apperly Curtis cloth mill famous for it's West of England worsteds.

When cloth manufacture ceased on the site in 1932, Arnold Redler, with his world wide patents for en-masse chain conveyors and elevators, purchased the factory and moved his growing business up from Sharpness to Dudbridge, there employing within a few years some 500 skilled engineers and tradesmen, who went on to win the Queen's award for export.

Whilst manufacturing has moved away from the site the REDLER Company still operates strongly in world markets, providing solutions and designs for bulk material handling projects and problems.

The REDLER Tower Clock shows the time on four faces each 4 feet in diameter and chimes the Westminster Quarters on four bells which on the hour ring out one of Handel's compositions and telling the listener :

All through this Hour
Lord be my Guide
And by thy Power
No foot shall Slide.

The clock mechanism, a fine example of Victorian engineering, is weight driven and manually wound once a week. When industry was active on the site the clock was always well and lovingly maintained. Regularly wound, often by apprentices, it kept exceptionally good time due to it's inbuilt precision and design featuring a compensated pendulum and unique gravity escapement mechanism.

Since manufacturing ceased on site a few years ago it has fallen to a few independent enthusiasts to keep the clock working and repaired in spite of periodic damage from mindless vandals.

However once the expected renovations and conversions get under way security will return to the site and the Clock should once again, with it's former accuracy, ring out to the world the moving **Time of Day !.**