

# A TOUCH OF FOREST ELEGANCE ON THE THAMES

**A**N old established Forest firm of ironfounders has recently completed some outstanding work of quality in the manufacture of replica ornamental iron castings, and which now gives elegance to an Edwardian footbridge, claimed to be the prettiest on the Thames.

Hehbert and Young Limited, of over 100 years standing, undertook the work for Maidenhead and District Civic Society, which over the past two years has been working on a jubilee project to restore the bridge and give new life to an adjoining area of derelict wasteland.

The site of Guards Club Park, Maidenhead, had been deserted since 1965 when, after the closure of the Brigade of Guards Boat Club, lawns and flower beds reverted to their natural state, and the footbridge and boat house rotted away.

## THRILLED

When this new riverside project was complete it was handed over to the community, and at the official opening at the beginning of this month, 28 staff members from the Company attended a civic reception and were thrilled to see their skills incorporated in this 100-year-old footbridge.

One of the proudest members of the firm was Mr Ewart Herbert, a consultant now retired, who has had 60 years' experience in the foundry. His father Mr Tom Herbert, first became associated with the Company in the 1870s.

Members of the firm who attended were presented to the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire including Mr D. Ferns (chairman), Mrs J. M. Matthews (secretary) and Mr Fred Smith and Mr Ivor Cullis who were responsible for making the castings.

## QUALITY

"Such is the quality of the elegant copy castings", the Maidenhead Advertiser writes "that even Society members who had worked on the footbridge could not give the answer to a 'spot the difference' competition at the opening".

Mr Herbert was introduced

to the mayor, Mr Neville Whiteley and the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, Col. the Hon. Gordon Palmer. He had a lot to tell them about casting, and said he hoped to go back in 50 years to see how the work had lasted.

A fast progressing and expanding Company which exports to all parts of the world, Herbert and Young are specially thrilled at this achievement which adds to its prestige. Few ironfounders in the country could undertake such an assignment.

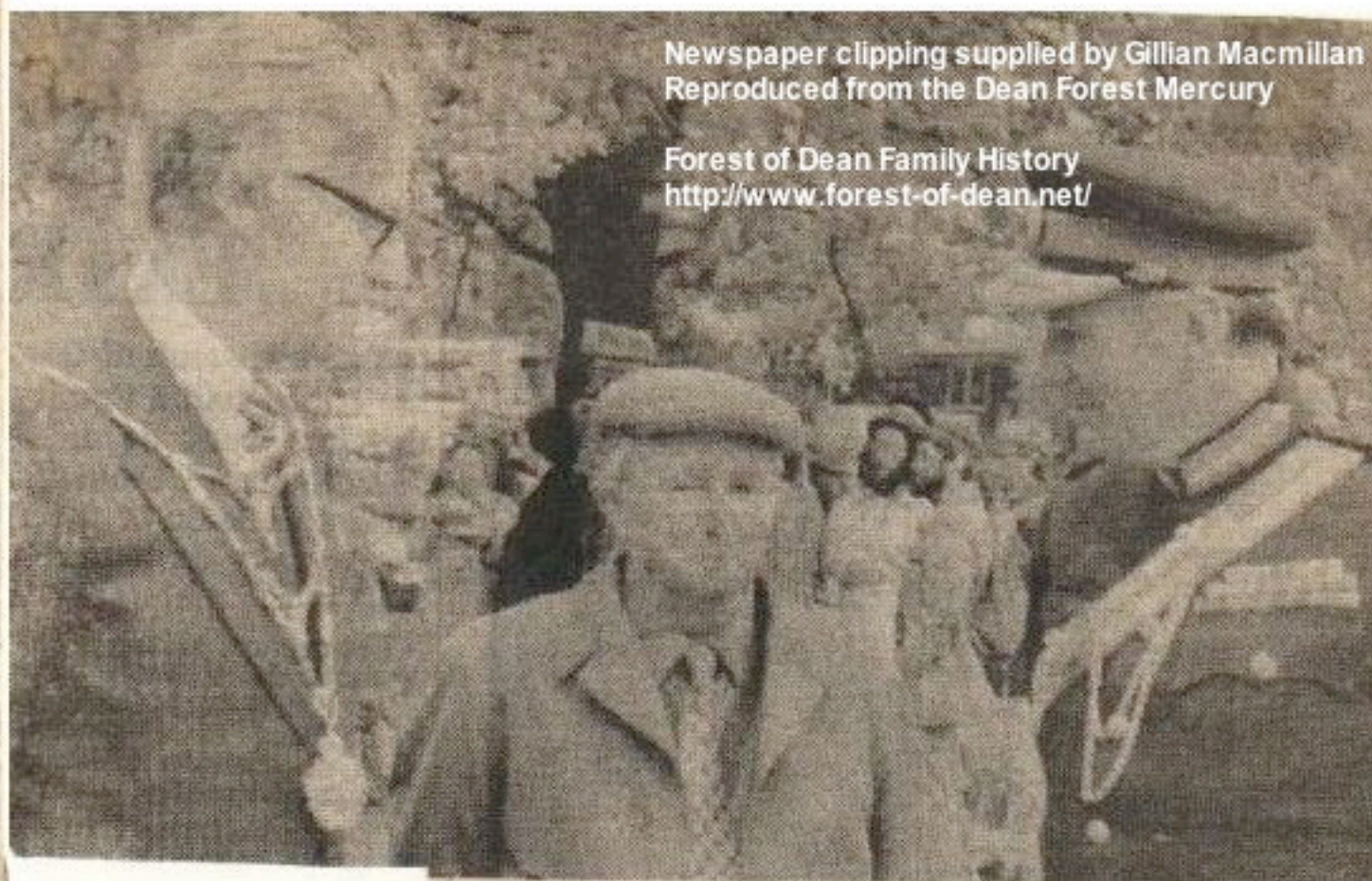
## ESTABLISHED

The firm was established in 1874 and has been on the present site at Valley Road, Cinderford, for 25 years. It was formerly based at Cannop. They employ 37 people. Just over a year ago the Company merged with Selfcock Limited manufacturers of manhole and access covers.

Both the managing director, Mr Robert M. Hall and Mr L. E. Brain (director) said they are anxious to retain the skills inherent in the Company, which it was hoped, in future years when the foundry expands, would become more widely known.

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Forest of Dean Family History  
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Mr Ewart Herbert (centre) with the Mayor Mr N. Whiteley and the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire Col. the Hon. Gordon Palmer



Part of the footbridge showing some of the elegant copy castings made at Herbert & Young's Foundry in Cinderford.