



Turning back time

Sculpture pays homage to Pierces

AN 18FT SCULPTURE, depicting the influence Pierces Foundry had on Wexford town, was erected on Monday outside of Tesco's new superstore.

The sculpture, built by London-based artist John Atkin, sits on the corner of Mill Road and was commissioned by the super-market giants, in conjunction with Wexford Borough Council.

'Tesco are the client, but Wexford Borough Council were very involved in the initial stages,' said Mr. Atkin, who was in Wexford on Monday to oversee the placing of his latest work of art.

Atkin spent over a year researching and building the piece, which he hopes reflects the socio-economic influence that Pierces had in Wexford town.

He acknowledges the help of Austin O'Sullivan from Johnstown Castle who assisted him in his research, and gave him a detailed background into the Pierces legacy.

Titled 'By Hook or By Crook' - which he says is also a reference to the Cromwellian history in Wexford - the sculpture is made of Corten Steel, Stainless Steel and Oak.

'The Oak reference also has a heritage factor, as it shows the evolution from olden times to the industrial revolution which was part of the Pierces legacy,' he said.

The sculpture can be seen 'from every angle' from Mill Road, Distillery Road, King Street and Joseph's Street. 'I spent half an hour today (Monday) inching it around so it can be best viewed from every angle,' he said.

Mr. Atkin also designed the public seating out-

side of 'Tesco's which he based on an old Pierces tractor seat.

He added that he is 'very pleased' with his latest artwork. 'It really is very interesting and it works very well. When you design these things, and put them into 3D impressions you think they are going to work. But it's only when you see them in front of you that you know it has worked,' he said.

He adds that there is some 'very fine architecture' in the locality, and feels that his sculpture 'looks like it erupted through the ground'.

Mr. Atkin adds that he hopes he can work in Wexford again. 'I would hope that Wexford Borough Council would get in touch with me again. I have spent a lot of time in Wexford on this project and spent a lot of time down by the harbour. It would be wonderful to design something for that space,' he said.



■ Artist John Atkin sizes up his sculpture outside Tesco on Monday.