

PRESS RELEASE

From : Saltash Brunel 200 Group

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SALTASH BRIDGE RESTORED TO FORMER GLORY

The Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash has always carried the name of its designer ' I.K.BRUNEL' But for many years the full detail of the text has been covered by an ugly platform that was added many years ago to allow maintenance access to the two massive tubes that hold the towers in place.

As part of the Brunel 200 celebrations and after a number of years of lobbying, Network Rail has finally repositioned the access ladders and platforms. The result is that at last the Royal Albert Bridge or Saltash Bridge as Brunel first named it shows in full glory the details of its maker.

I.K.BRUNEL ENGINEER 1859 looms clearly for the first time in decades over the town of Saltash which has already shown its appreciation of Brunel's magnificent bridge. Throughout the year celebrations are taking place at Saltash and the surrounding area. Full details can be found at www.royalalbertbridge.co.uk.

On May the 16th Network Rail will reveal both ends of the bridge, the Devon side during the afternoon and the Saltash side shortly before a special lecture takes place at Ashtorre Rock which lies directly under the Cornish tower. Main speakers at the lecture are Andrew Clayton (Network Rail's Major Structures Manager) and Ian Frostick (Territory Civil Engineer). The lecture entitled 'The Royal Albert Bridge – Past, Present and Future' will outline some of maintenance issues involved with this structure.

Further celebrations are planned at Saltash and the town's museum has a Brunel Exhibition that runs throughout the year. The Saltash Brunel Group also continues its plans to light the bridge permanently to celebrate this link between Devon and Cornwall recently voted the 'Greatest Wonder of the Southwest'.

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