

PRESS RELEASE

From : Saltash Brunel 200 Group

Date : 27th March 2006

BRUNEL CELEBRATIONS CENTRED ON SALTASH !

Saltash is the only town in Devon and Cornwall to properly acknowledge the legacy of the great Victorian engineer, I K Brunel on the 200th anniversary year of his birth (April 9th 1806). We live in the shadow of his masterpiece, the Royal Albert Bridge, completed in 1859, and one of the engineering wonders of the world. Among activities planned for April :

- **The official opening of the restored bust of Brunel**, hidden for many years in undergrowth at the top of the slip road from the Road Bridge. Aided by a grant of £4,750 from Awards for All, the area will be turfed, the impressive statue will be floodlit, and an information board installed to show how the bridge was built.
The opening ceremony will be on Brunel's birthday at midday on April 9th
- **The opening party for Huntley Gardens on April 8th**. This hidden gem of a pocket park (beneath the Bridge piers on Silver St) has been lovingly created by Saltash Waterfront Residents Assocn SWRA, with the aid of Saltash & Caradon Councils and a £9.800 grant from Peoples Places.
It will be home to the original 1959 plaque (unveiled for the 100th anniversary of the Bridge) and "lost" for many years at the wrong side of the Tamar. We also aim to get funding for a life size statue of Isambard Kingdom Brunel as a feature.
- Saltash is the smallest town to become a venue for a major **National Stamp Exhibition** by the Post Office – the first class stamp this year features the Royal Albert Bridge. See the exhibition at Ashtorre and Saltash Library late in April.
- **Ashtorre Rock Brunel Festival** (throughout April on the Waterside). There is an ambitious programme of events for everyone, at modest prices, promoted by a superb full colour programme – to be distributed at stations through Devon & Cornwall.
Attractions include quilting and model railway exhibitions, varied musical events including Victorian Music Hall, a black tie dinner/dance, sea shanties and local choirs, lectures on Brunel & the Newlyn artists, and rare film of steam trains and the Bridge.

And on **Easter Sunday April 16th**, the Waterside will see a **Victorian Fun Day**, with steam engines, ferret racing, a sail past, dog show, Punch & Judy and much more.
- And we have not given up on our major campaign to achieve an ambition of **Floodlighting the Royal Albert Bridge** for future generations. It was done in 1959, why not now ? to bring due recognition to this iconic structure ?

Further information from : Saltash Brunel 200 Group

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