

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**From : Saltash Brunel 200 Group**

**Date : 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006**

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### **SALTASH BRUNEL FEST KICKS OFF THIS WEEKEND**

An extensive programme of celebrations and festivities begins in Saltash, to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of I K Brunel, Victorian engineer extraordinaire, and voted second in a recent poll of Greatest Britons.

- **On Saturday at 11.00, the Mayor of Saltash, David Carter, will unveil the recovered 1959 Brunel Plaque in a brand new sub-tropical garden beneath the piers of Brunel's masterpiece, the Royal Albert Bridge. The Plaque, set in a 3 ton granite block was lost for years on the wrong side of the Tamar, and came home only a fortnight ago.**

A giant St Piran's flag will be the veil, and the disabled access to the garden will be opened by Kelly Pritchard, daughter of the popular landlord of the nearby Union Inn. It is also rumoured that Mr Brunel will attend in person.

The event is supported by Ginsters Pasties of Callington and the Saltash Waitrose store.

**Visitors to Saltash can also visit a new exhibition at the Heritage Museum, also opening on the 8<sup>th</sup>, entitled "On the Right Track – Brunel and the GWR"**

- **Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> is the actual 200<sup>th</sup> bicentenary of Brunel's birth. It will be marked by the official opening of the restored Brunel statue, which will be visible to all travellers coming over the Tamar Bridge into Cornwall just above the Saltash Slip Road.**

**The work has been carried out with the aid of Awards for All funding, and the statue will be unveiled (using the same St Piran's flag), by Viscount Boyd of Ince Castle, who originally donated it to the Town in the 1970s.**

SE Cornwall MP Colin Breed will also be in attendance, and it is unlikely that Isambard Kingdom Brunel will be able to resist putting in an appearance.

**Later that day, at 2.00pm, visitors to Saltash can enjoy "Brunel Remembered", an outdoor recreation of scenes from Brunel's life on Waterside Green, presented by CB Productions in association with Loopy Looks costumes. Entry is free, although a collection will be taken**

**The big day concludes with Brunel's Birthday Tea Party at Ashtorre Rock Centre, though it is understood that tickets are in very short supply.**

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**Further information from : Saltash Brunel 200 Group**

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