

# BRUNEL'S OTHER BRIDGE NEWS

## APRIL 2024

### Volunteer's Viewpoint



We welcomed another new volunteer in March. This is her story:

I have found my history “home” with Isambard Kingdom Brunel and Saturday with BOB brought me closer to him than ever.

During a previous visit to Bristol in July last year from home in Suffolk, a coffee shop barista in the city centre mentioned Brunel's Other Bridge, when I stopped to

refuel after a trek up to and across the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

On a return visit in September, I joined Mr Brunel on his Harbourside walking tour and we stopped at the swivel bridge.

The sense of history at Cumberland Basin was not lost on me and I was keen to find out more about how the bridge was being looked after, and who was doing it.

The website listed the working days and the stars aligned in my favour as the March date coincided with an already planned trip to Bristol for a theatre trip.

My own geographical description for BOB is “spaciously sandwiched” between the SS Great Britain and the Clifton Suspension Bridge – younger than one and older than the other.

So I donned my waterproof boots, overalls and gloves and headed off to meet Geoff, Chris, Charlie and Rupert for a morning's work.

The warmest welcome greeted me along with introductions all round.

A priority was identified on the water facing side of BOB – to clear algae and general muck to prep it for painting.

I joined Rupert for this task and once we were harnessed up and popped on our life jackets we attached ourselves to the safety line on the bridge and set to work with scrubbing brushes and sponges.

Two and a half hours later, I felt an incredible sense of achievement as I saw BOB's pale grey patch I had cleaned while Rupert tackled some grime further along.

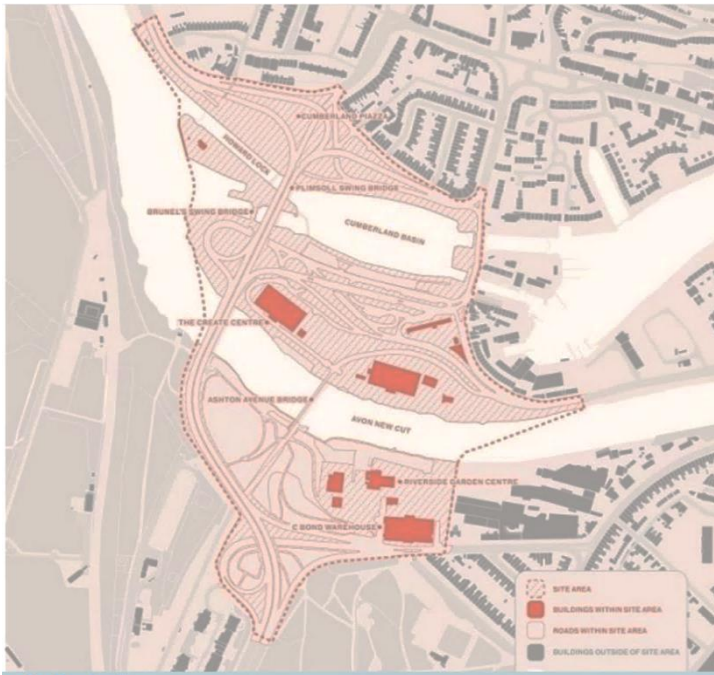
I stood back and thought “I did that”. I literally had my hands on history, hands on Brunel's first wrought iron bridge. If that isn't motivation to carry on, I don't know what is.

Anyone thinking about joining the team on the third Saturday each month – do it! You'll get the warmest of welcomes, a full run down of health and safety measures, equipment and a cuppa!

I'm already looking forward to joining the team again – as the Clifton Suspension Bridge looks over us all working to preserve Brunel's Other Bridge.

Nicki Dixon - BOB Volunteer

## Western Harbour Master-planners appointed



Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands have been appointed to carry out the next stage of planning the Western Harbour development. Established in 1968, LDS is a team of 70 architects, design consultants and urban planners based in West London.

In the 1990's they became well known for work on London's South Bank with the Coin Street Community Builders, including the OXO Tower and Broadwall social housing. See: <https://lds-uk.com/>

LDS's work is part of a WECA-funded £2.56m project to deliver RIBA Stage 2 Masterplan which will include defining the strategic requirements of

the Cumberland Basin Road network, looking at flood defence, housing and public amenity options.

For a helpful overview of the Western Harbour development see: <https://harbourhopes.co.uk/>

## Western Harbour Advisory Group

There were 60 applications for 16 places so most applicants, including our Group were unsuccessful. Nevertheless, we are in touch with the Regeneration Team and will continue to support the master-planning process, and press for the restoration and re-use of all the heritage assets in the area.

## Heritage Harbours

The Maritime Heritage Trust, based in London, has set up the 'Heritage Harbours' network to help connect vessels and harbour facilities with local communities, archaeology, buildings and environment, and to strengthen support for, and improve, conservation of this heritage.

Working with local partners and projects, National Historic Ships and Historic England, the Trust aims to make more people aware of, care for, and share our rich maritime heritage – physical, cultural, social and environmental.

See <https://www.maritimeheritage.org.uk/> This website shows the twelve heritage harbours in the UK, of which Bristol is one.



## Famous Fish and Chips



Copyright: Noah's & Bristol 24/7

Daniel and Joie Rosser named Noah's after their young son - photo: Noah's

Bristol 24/7 reports that a restaurant overlooking Bristol’s docks has been named the third best fish and chip restaurant in the UK. The team from Noah’s was given their trophy at the National Fish & Chip Awards 2024 in London last month.

The awards celebrating excellence throughout the fish and chip industry were hosted by comedian Rob Beckett. Noah’s was opened in 2023 by Daniel and Joie Rosser in the former Lockside on Brunel Lock Road next to the Cumberland Basin, with the couple promising they are “passionate about showcasing the best of British seafood”. Congratulations folks, you are doing a great job!

## Underfall Yard Update

We are pleased to hear that the first stage of the Recovery and Reinstatement project has been completed, as the Wring Group Ltd has cleared the damaged buildings taking care to recover business possessions. They then made a significant donation to the recovery project.

Sarah Murray has joined the Trust as a job-share Director, and expects to take over from Julie Sienesi towards the end of this year.

## VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS in 2024

Nominally we meet on the third Saturday each month, but this sometimes changes according to activities in the Docks, so please check our website [www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk](http://www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk).

<b>April</b>	<b>20th</b>				
May	19 <sup>th</sup>	June	15 <sup>th</sup>	July	13 <sup>th</sup>
August	17 <sup>th</sup>	September	21 <sup>st</sup>	October	26 <sup>th</sup>

As well as continuing to paint the Swivel Bridge and maintain the landscape, this year we have three new challenges: restoring the manual capstan next to Brunel Lock, renewing the mineral-felt on the roof, and recording the hydraulic equipment in the pits on the Tongue.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR WORKDAYS**

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