

BRUNEL's OTHER BRIDGE NEWS

JUNE 2025

ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR WESTERN HARBOUR

By 3D artist and designer Jem Grimshaw. For details, [CLICK HERE](#)



Courtesy of Bristol 24/7

Jem Grimshaw's vision is to replace the Plimsoll Bridge with a low-level bascule Bridge and restore Brunel's Swing Bridge for use. Ashton Avenue Bridge would be restored as a double-decker crossing with the upper level dedicated to road traffic.

Housing would be of more traditional design, and there would be a small amphitheatre with a maritime-themed tower which could host performances. Two circular landmark buildings could become a swimming pool and community centre.

Many will consider this a great concept, but would the City be able to afford it?

A NEW 'BRUNEL' BOOK

Eugene Byrne, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the engineering visionary.

'Isambard Kingdom Brunel was voted the second-greatest Briton of all time in a BBC competition, only eclipsed by Winston Churchill,' says the publisher's notes.

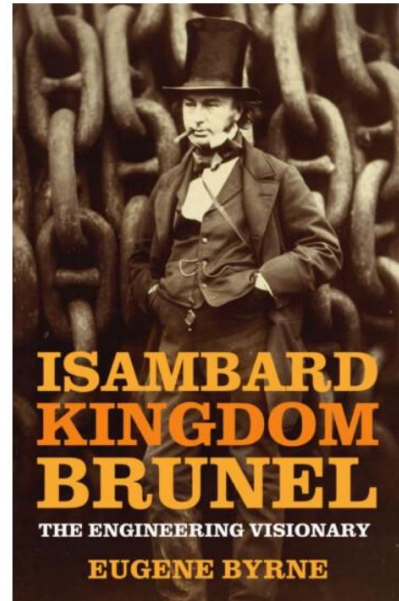
'In the soaring ambitions of the Victorian age, nobody thought bigger than Brunel; indeed, it's often claimed that that, through his ships, bridges, tunnels and railways, he played a critical role in creating the modern world.

Never tied to a dusty office, he crammed enough work, adventure and danger into a single year to last a lesser person a lifetime.

He was also a brilliant showman, a flamboyant personality and a charmer. Brunel's influence is seen all over the landscape of England and in the practices of modern civil engineering.

He may have made plenty of mistakes, but he also designed and built several structures which are still with us to this day.

In this concise yet informative biography, learn about the man famously described to be 'in love with the impossible'. The History Press 2025, ISBN: 9781803999050; RRP: £9.99.



BRUNEL LOCK CAPSTAN

Last year we were given Turkey Oak logs by the National Trust at Tyntesfield. for the capstan's new strakes. Dorothea Restorations and Peter Dunn have kindly sawn them to shape and have started fitting them. But we are currently at a standstill, as we need 24 No. forged 6 inch long nails. The original Victorian forged wrought iron nail illustrated was found holding on the a remnant of a timber strake. **If you know a supplier of a friendly blacksmith PLEASE LET US KNOW URGENTLY on jandgwallis@gmail.com**



HARBOUR FESTIVAL and BOB VOLS WORK-DAY

These both take place on 19th July so why not come and join us in the morning and walk up to the Festival in the afternoon ?

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Billed as 'England's largest festival of Heritage and Culture' this year's Heritage Open Days run from 12th to 21st September 2025. This year's theme is 'Architecture,' see

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/get-involved/theme-architecture.html> .

PADDLE STEAMER WAVERLEY SAILS FROM CLEVEDON



It is not too late to book an evening cruise with some of you BOB friends on the Paddle Steamer 'Waverley' on Friday 20th June. She will be sailing from Clevedon at 7.30p, cruising around steep Holm and Flat Holm, and returning to Clevedon at 10.00pm., all for just £40. Come and join us for

a lovely sea breeze, the smell of steam and hot oil, watching the magnificent steam engines, and enjoying the onboard restaurant or bar in good company, whilst also supporting a good cause. **Hurry, last year this trip was a sell-out!**

ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY

With agreement from Historic England, Bristol City Council accepted Mann Williams report in March this year, constrained by budgetary deadlines, although the design of structural repairs has not yet been 'bottomed out'. We understand Historic England and Bristol City's Bridges and Structures Team will be carrying this forward, which is very good news as both organizations ultimately have to approve the repairs.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT

There is a report of each workday on www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk and on Facebook. Please share, comment & support us on social media.

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