

BRUNEL'S OTHER BRIDGE NEWS

MAY 2024



MASTER-PLANNERS WORK WITH 'WONDERFUL ASSETS'

This architects' impression is of Hengrove Park now built on the old Whitchurch Airfield. It was planned by consultants Lifschutz Davidson Sandiland who have now been appointed to carry out master-planning for the Western Harbour Scheme over the coming year.

According to their website they are '*a multi-talented team of 70 architects, design consultants and urban planners based at the inspiring Island Studios in West London. We bring fresh thinking to every project and achieve success with architecture that is designed for people and built for change. We are defined by a sense of curiosity and a capacity to solve problems with good humour and consistently brilliant ideas, more than a single brand or style.*'

[The vision for the Western Harbour](#) assures us that the area is to "be a distinctive gateway to Bristol", "support a thriving community", "build on its tradition of innovation", and "embrace freedom and nature".

Lifschutz said: "*We're delighted our team has been selected to masterplan Western Harbour, working with Bristol City Council and local communities to map out the future of one of the most extraordinary places in the UK to suffer from under investment.*"

"The site is framed by three Brunel masterpieces, the Clifton Suspension Bridge, his abandoned Grade II swivel bridge and the SS Great Britain to the east.*

"And it's studded with other wonderful assets including the Floating Harbour locks and Cumberland Basin, Silvia Crowe's landscape, parkland and mudflats.

“As a student in Bristol living on the Hotwells Road (sic), I remember seeing the hulk of the SS Great Britain being towed into the Cumberland Basin over 50 years ago before being restored in its original dry dock.

<https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/western-harbour-masterplanners-map-out-future-one-uk-most-extraordinary-places/>

BOB Project Manager Geoff Wallis commented, ‘It’s good to see that the Swivel Bridge is recognized, and the Locks, Cumberland Basin, Silvia Crowe landscape and mudflats are described as **‘wonderful assets’**. We trust they will be treated as such and restored fully’.

VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS –PRIORITIES for 2024



Over its 175 year life the central wrought iron structure which supports the Swivel Bridge’s weight has corroded badly. A decade ago English Heritage (now Historic England) funded materials for volunteers to build a protective roof. Known affectionately as the ‘Chicken Shed’ or ‘Brunel’s Bothy’ the timber structure remains sound, but its felt roof covering has aged.

We are half way through renewing the felt, and painting the Bridge itself to further reduce the rate of corrosion. Do come and help us on the following days:

May	18 th	June	15 th	July	13 th
August	17 th	September	21 st	October	26 th

PLEASE NOTE: There is a report of each workday on www.brunelsotherbrifge.org.uk and on Facebook. Do check it out, share and comment.

SOME BRISTOL DOCKS EVENTS in 2024

May 11-12 Bus Rally
May 18-19th Great Bristol Run

June 22-23rd Pyronaut Birthday Weekend. The ship is on the National Historic Ships register, see photo.

July 1-5th Have a Go Loco/Crane, Princes Wharf.
July 19-21st Harbour Festival
August 10-11th Balloon Fiesta
Sept 14th Bus Rally
Sept 21st Dragon Boat Race
Oct 14-18th Have a Go Loco/Crane



HERITAGE & WELL-BEING

Historic England has published new research on the relationship between heritage density and life satisfaction. *"It demonstrates that the very presence of nearby historic places benefits residents' quality of life, whether or not they participate in heritage activities."* The report makes interesting reading so [CLICK HERE](#) .

CITIZENS' URBAN FORUM?

Bristol Urban Forum: a citizens' assembly for Bristol ?

Is it time for Bristol to lead the way with a permanent layer of citizen-led decision-making, to support the city council's processes? For a series of ten themed discussions see <https://www.bristolurbanforum.org/event-details/is-it-time-for-a-permanent-citizens-assembly-in-bristol>

MV BALMORAL

This historic ship, built as a car ferry in 1947 is being restored to sea-going, passenger-carrying condition by volunteers. You think we have a difficult task on BOB, but at least our Bridge can't sink! The Ship has secured £174K funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for essential hull inspection and repairs, so she went into Albion Dry Dock on 17th April for about 4 weeks to carry out water-jetting of the hull, inspection of propellers and rudders, repairs to plates, and general repainting of the hull.



CONSERVATION POLICY

We are preparing a Conservation Policy statement to support Regeneration Team & their consultants, and make them aware of the aspirations of local people on heritage assets. Support has been good, and we shall be circulating it shortly.

CUMBERLAND ROAD BUS GATE

You can drive westwards but not eastwards towards the City along Cumberland Road, but motorists have been driving through the bus gate in the wrong direction, partly because of poor signs. 22,000 penalty notices have been issued, £500,000 of fines incurred, and a petition against the Gate has 1,500 signatures. [CLICK HERE](#) for Bristol 24/7 report. For discussion on this see Bristol Civic Society website: [BCS website](#).

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT OUR WORKDAYS

www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk
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