

BRUNEL'S OTHER BRIDGE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023



This wonderful image was posted on Facebook. The Golden Hind replica was taken into the Docks in 1986. Is this the occasion? Who was the photographer? Can anyone help?

DON'T MOVE BRUNEL'S SWIVEL BRIDGE !

Our Petition on Bristol City's Democratic Services website received over 200 signatures in its first six weeks and by the third month was the best supported of all Bristol City's petitions with over 340 signatories. It has been publicised by the Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association, The Bristol Industrial Archaeological Society and the national Association for Industrial Archaeology. Supporters have posted the Petition on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Linked-in, and it has been reported in the Bristol Evening Post and 24/7.

Thank you all for signing. You have shown just how strong the feeling is against relocating the Swivel Bridge to Albion Dockyard and in favour of Bristol City Council restoring heritage structures as central features of the Western Harbour scheme.

If you haven't signed, Google *Bristol City e-petitions*, and go to *Current Petitions* to sign. If you live outside Bristol still sign as your vote will be counted.

APPLICATION FOR A PRESTIGIOUS HERITAGE AWARD

We have nominated the Swivel Bridge for an Engineering Heritage Award run by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Past awards have gone to Concorde and the SS Great Britain. Many thanks to the Bristol City officers who supported the application. We should learn the outcome next month, so 'watch this space'.

CHANGE OF CEO AT SS GREAT BRITAIN

After 23 years service it was reported on 1st September that Dr. Matthew Tanner MBE, the SS Great Britain's Chief Executive Officer is leaving to take on 'new challenges', effective at the end of the month. Dr. Tanner has brought vision and energy to the enterprise, displaying the Ship in the Great Western Dockyard where she was built, establishing the Brunel Institute, and the amazing 'Being Brunel' exhibition. His visionary plans to create a replica of the Great Western in Albion Dockyard include relocating the Brunel Swivel Bridge. We shall watch with interest whether the scheme is submitted for planning consent in its current form by the new CEO.

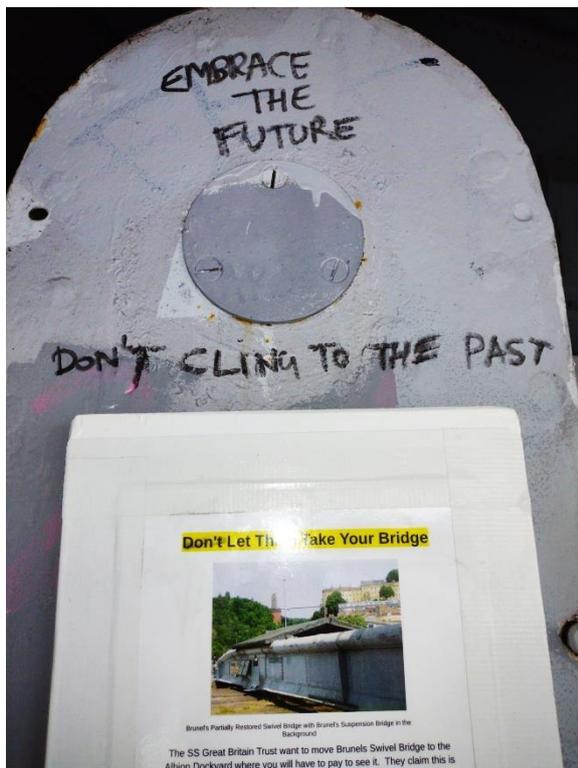
We have written to the Chair of the Trustees of SSGB Trust paying tribute to Dr. Tanner's work, and inviting them to consider developing a new 'Brunel Campus' on the 'Tongue' where two Grade 2* Listed Brunel structures survive.

BOB ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY

After long delays, Bristol City has invited tenders for the structural engineering design consultancy for which our Group wrote the brief and secured funding from Historic England and the Communities Partnerships Fund. The tender-return date was 18th September.

LAST VOL'S WORKDAY THIS YEAR

We are making good progress painting the Bridge's ironwork and would like to complete the southern elevation this year if we can. Our final work-day is on Saturday, October 14th, so do come along and help. By the way, a report and photos are posted on our website after each workday. See: www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk



'EMBRACE THE FUTURE'

We were amused to find this graffiti over our petition sign. It exhorts us to embrace the future and not cling to the past.

We are, of course, looking forward to the Bridge's future as the focus of the new Western Harbour Development.

We don't cling to the past, but we do care passionately about it!

ANIMATION of BOB

If you have not viewed the amazing laser-scanned animation of the Bridge go to: www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk. There is even a buggy driving over the Bridge and a surprise at the end. Thanks again Paco Lluna and the Hinckley Point C team from Balfour Beatty.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT

www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk
www.facebook.com/brunelsotherbridge