

19 May 2008

MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2007-8

Membership: Mrs Fay Fyfe
Professor Paul Jowitt
Dr David McGuigan, Secretary
Professor Roland Paxton, Chairman
Mr James Dignan
Mr Ted Ruddock
Professor John Swaffield
Ex officio Mr Richard Williams (Local Association Secretary)

A duplicate of the Telford plaque erected at Edinburgh's Telford College and unveiled by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh on 2 July 2007 is now in the possession of the Museum Committee. We have in mind to erect the plaque in the main entrance to the university at an unveiling ceremony to be combined with an evening event similar to those we have organised previously.

The Museum helped initiate and support the Telford Exhibition which was held in the National Portrait Gallery, Queen Street, Edinburgh during October and November 2007 which attracted over 7,000 visitors over a six week period. The museum loaned its model of Telford's Broomielaw Bridge together with a replica anchorage link from Telford's Menai Bridge.

During the year we added six interesting items to our collection all of which were recovered by Graham Douglas during works in the Falkirk area for the Forth & Clyde Canal Millennium project. They comprise examples of building materials used in the construction of the canal in the 1770s and bridge construction in the 1840s, including:

- a sample of sandstone from the demolished Lock 3 in Falkirk
- fragments of iron and two rivets from a bridge counter weight pit
- samples of lime mortar
- a piece of freestone from the centre of the arch of the Camelon under road bridge.

The museum already holds a number of similar artefacts relating to building materials and these items have significantly enhanced and complemented our collection.

Some three years ago each item was photographed in anticipation of setting up a website for the collection. However, this project had to be postponed following the resignation of the member of staff concerned. It is hoped over the next few months to revitalise this project to allow wider access over the internet to our collection.

Members will also be interested to note that the Museum's activities are reported to biannual meetings of the Scottish Industrial Archaeology Panel.



David McGuigan
Secretary to the Museum Committee

■ Chairman
Professor Roland Paxton, MBE PhD DEng CEng FICE FRSE
School of the Built Environment
Heriot-Watt University
EDINBURGH EH14 4AS
Tel: 0131 451 4422/3310 Fax: 0131 451 4617
E-mail: r.a.paxton@sbe.hw.ac.uk

■ Secretary
David McGuigan, PhD CEng MICE MIHT DipTE
64 Greenbank Crescent
EDINBURGH EH10 5SW
Tel: 0131 447 3747
E-mail: davidmcguigan@btopenworld.com