

Institution of Civil Engineers Scotland Museum

11 September 2020

MUSEUM COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

Committee Membership:

Professor David McGuigan, Chairman & Secretary	Professor Malcolm Crisp, HWU, EGIS
Professor Roland Paxton, Curator Emeritus	Anne Ormston, HWU, EGIS
Professor Paul Jowitt, HWU, EGIS	Derek Chambers, Curator
Iain Young, HWU, Research Support & Resource Services	John Andrew, Curator
Helen Taylor, HWU, Research Support & Resource Services	<i>Ex officio</i> (Chairman ICE Scotland Committee)

Like many other institutions this year, the museum has been badly affected by the lockdown imposed to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The museum has been unable to open and there has been no access to the store and paper records. Unfortunately, this has meant that some presentational aspects of items in the museum have not been progressed including plans for the Queensferry Crossing model reported last year. Also reported last year were the model of James Watt's flexible water main and a *Demag* joint from the Forth Road Bridge: progress on these has also succumbed to the lockdown.

The curators, however, have not been inactive and have regularly taken part in video conferences to progress a number of issues.

The new website was launched earlier this year (<https://ice-museum-scotland.hw.ac.uk/>). It provides a full catalogue of the collection and much more. It offers greater functionality with an enhanced search routine for improved browsing. Also included is access to a guided tour of the museum (see below).

The committee is in the process of applying for accreditation with Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS). It is an organisation which supports more than 400 museums and galleries in Scotland providing strategic investment, advice, advocacy, skills development or other assistance. If successful, the museum would be eligible to benefit from MGS's expertise and have access to grants.

There have been few donations/purchases this year; these include an original (cancelled) share certificate for the Forth Bridge Railway Company (acquisition 2020/001).

Unfortunately this year's Edinburgh Doors Open Day has had to be cancelled by the organiser (The Cockburn Association). A virtual event is being promoted by the organiser and our contribution to this is a virtual guided tour. This tour is available to view on the website and lasts just over 14 minutes.

When the lockdown is relaxed, members and indeed the general public are, as ever, very welcome to visit the museum at any time on weekdays between 9am and 6pm. If anyone would wish a guided tour or indeed has a donation please contact me at the email address below.



Professor David McGuigan
Chairman and Secretary of the Museum Committee

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