

BUSINESS

Honour for maritime masterpiece

The 202-year old Bell Rock Lighthouse, still in service 17.6km out to sea off the coast of Arbroath, Angus, is regarded as one of the seven wonders of the industrial world.

Built by Robert Stevenson on a submerged, sea-washed rock, the lighthouse was considered an extraordinary feat of engineering, using the limited technology of its time.

To promote knowledge of the building of this masterpiece, which has aided maritime safety and served as a model for rock lighthouse construction, the ICE in Scotland has organised a commemorative plaque.

This was presented to Helen Oswald, provost of Angus, for the Arbroath Signal Tower museum in September last year. It has recently been installed.

The plaque designates the lighthouse and shore station as a historic civil engineering landmark.

The plaque wording is based on original research at Heriot-Watt University by Professor Roland Paxton, a member of the ICE



Ground breaking: Roland Paxton with David Taylor, great-great-great-grandson of the master of the *Smeaton* tender, which was used during the building of the lighthouse, viewing the newly installed plaque

Panel for Historical Engineering Works, and which was set out in his recent book *Dynasty of Engineers: The Stevensons and the Bell Rock* (published by the Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust).

While the plaque acknowledges Stevenson's key role in the lighthouse's creation, it also recognises for the first time the roles of others including John Rennie, David and Peter Logan, Francis Watt and

Captain David Taylor, and charts the innovative methods used and other details.

■ **The newly refurbished museum is open daily (except Sundays), admission is free.**