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## Jack Knight

by Paul Dunkerley

The Panel was saddened to learn of the sudden death, on Monday 21 May 2007, of Jack Knight. His association with the Panel resulted from an email from Jack to the ICE North West Administrator during late 2003 offering to give a lecture on Victorian Railway Tunnels. It was passed to the two Development Officers, resulting in an invitation to Jack to become Convenor of a new PHEW Tunnels Sub-Panel in January 2004, from one and an invitation give a talk in Preston in April 2004 from the other. Word of Jack's excellent talk soon spread throughout the North West, and he found himself in great demand due to his knowledge of, and great enthusiasm for, his subject.

Jack was a warm and friendly person who will be missed by those who were lucky enough to know him, however briefly.

## Retirement of Dr Jim Shipway

by Roland Paxton

My friend of many years and co-author of *Civil Engineering Heritage: Scotland* has retired from the Panel following a health downturn early this year. He had served the ICE Glasgow & West of Scotland Region for 9 years – a post now filled by Sandra Purves with his support.

Jim's interest in civil engineering history goes back at least 40 years. In 1987 his authoritative monograph on the Tay Bridge was published.

Jim has also written on other subjects including the West Highland Railway Extension and Glasgow Underground, for which his great grandfather was the consulting engineer. He has always taken an interest in the work of Sir William Arrol and Company by whom he was employed

early in his career. In 2003 readers may recall our congratulations to him on his PhD for a thesis on the development of the girder bridge.

I have particularly enjoyed knowing and working with Jim. His wholehearted and significant contribution to engineering history and PHEW is widely appreciated. The Panel wishes him all the very best in his retirement as an octogenarian and hopes that for many years he will enjoy tuning in to the digital radio presented to him as a token of our appreciation.

## ICE Annual Award for Roger Cragg



Roger Cragg

Roger Cragg was honoured to be informed in June by the Acting Director General of the Institution that he had been jointly awarded the 2002 Certificate for Contribution to Institution Activities, an award first made in 1995.

Roger has been Area Panel member for the Midlands area of the Panel for Historical Engineering Works since 1977 when he took over from his predecessor, Peter Baldwin and during the last 25 years Roger has made many contributions to the work of the Panel. The number of recorded HEWs in the Midlands area has increased from about 30 in 1977 to today's total of 225. Although Roger has produced most of these Records he is appreciative of the assistance of many 'helpers' over the years; in particular the contributions of Tony Daniell in Shropshire and Philip Shaw in Hereford and Worcester are gratefully acknowledged.

In February 1975 the Panel started the production of a 'News Bulletin' which appeared at irregular intervals until June 1978 when it was replaced by the present Newsletter with Roger as its first Editor, a job which he continued to do until 1984.

Having contributed to the production of the *Civil Engineering Heritage* books for Eastern England and Wales and Western England, Roger took on the task of editing the second edition of the latter book, now more accurately entitled *Wales and West Central England*, which was published in 1997.

The subject of the assessment of historical value of HEWs is one which has engaged the attention of the Panel from its earliest days. In March 1993 the Panel set up a Working Party under Roger's chairmanship to look afresh at this subject. From the discussions of the Working Party emerged the Panel's present policy on assessment which included the creation of Sub-Panels to tackle the job of developing databases of information and assessment methods for particular types of structures. In 1998 the Panel agreed to the formation of an additional Sub-Panel for Inland Waterways under Roger's leadership.

As the local Panel Member, Roger has been an ex-officio member of the ICE Midlands Committee for many years and was surprised and delighted to receive a mention in the Chairman's address at the recent Annual Dinner.

## Thomas Telford 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations in Scotland

by Roland Paxton

**Paisley Canal Station Plaque** Four Scottish PHEW – initiated events began on 29 June with a joint ICE / First ScotRail / Network Rail plaquing at Paisley Canal Station. Hugh Henry MSP did the unveiling on behalf of Douglas Alexander MP, then Secretary of State for Transport and for Scotland who was unable to be present.



Blackhall Aqueduct Paisley © R Paxton

The plaque informs that the Paisley Canal engineered by Telford, including nearby Blackhall Bridge (1809) which carried it over the White Cart on the longest masonry aqueduct span of the 'canal age' (27m), was converted to railway use in 1883 and today, after nearly 200 years, now serves as the Paisley Canal line from Glasgow Central.

Steve Montgomery, First ScotRail's Deputy Managing Director, Ron McAulay, Network Rail's Director Scotland and transport historians Dr Ann Glen and Stuart Rankin were among those present. Afterwards there were commendatory speeches and a lunch reception in 'Platform One', at the original station.



Paisley Canal Station – Hugh Henry MSP unveiling Telford plaque © First ScotRail

**A Telford International Conference** was held by the Royal Society of Edinburgh on 2 July, attendance 180, for which on behalf of PHEW and the Society I directed the technical programme of 12 papers by key speakers from as far as Sweden, Canada, the USA and Japan, with emphasis on research and present-day relevance. Claes-Göran Osterlund cut a dash in the blue and gold uniform of Count von Platen! Copies of the papers ISBN 978 0 902198 40 1 are obtainable from the RSE or myself.



Professors Muscatelli and Paxton, Sir Michael Atiyah, The Duke of Edinburgh, Dr Harris, and Professor Leiper at Edinburgh's Telford College © Gary Doak, courtesy RSE

Afterwards, a plaque in Telford's honour was presented to Edinburgh's Telford College by Heriot-Watt University, the ICE and RSE.

It was unveiled by the Duke of Edinburgh who took a keen interest in its wording and the hand struck proof marks on the Menai Bridge link edge recording its having taken a 35-ton strain. This and the Paisley plaque were made by Alexander Pollock Precision Engravers, Haddington.



The Duke of Edinburgh leaving the Menai Bridge link display © Gary Doak, courtesy RSE



6mm dia, proof marks © R Paxton