

# Panel for Historical Engineering Works Newsletter

Number 116 December 2007

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## Kenneth Campbell McCrae 4 June 1915 – 8 September 2007 by Professor Roland Paxton



Ken McCrae cutting Telford 250<sup>th</sup> birthday cake on 9 August 2007 © Roland Paxton

Kenneth McCrae FICE passed away suddenly but peacefully, in a chair with a book on his knee, on 8 September. I have been privileged to know Ken, a former Depute County Engineer for Water and Drainage in Dumfriesshire, since he retired from this post more than 25 years ago.

During this time Ken has given invaluable help in recording and promoting historical engineering works in Dumfries and Galloway for the Institution of Civil Engineers as a member of the Scottish Group of its Historical Engineering Works Panel and of its national Panel in 1997–1998.

Ken played a key role in promoting engineering history locally through visits, lectures and leaflets, in siting and resiting the Telford Memorial at Bentpath and, in serving on the committee which tastefully refurbished the Westerkirk Parish Library, originally funded by a Telford bequest.

I was fortunate to be present at the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Telford's birth at Langholm on 9 August when 92-year-old Ken did the honours in great style by cutting the cake and proposing the toast to Telford. It could not have been a more fitting tribute.

## 'Spirit of Telford' Award for Brian George

by David Greenfield



Quentin Leiper (l), Brian George (r) © ICE South West

Brian George joined PHEW in 1979, as the member for Devon and Cornwall. Although he has now officially 'retired' as a PHEW member, he continues to play an active role in PHEW matters as a corresponding member and as my invaluable 'helper' and comrade in ICE SW. Readers of the *Newsletter* will of course be familiar with his long-running 'HEWs in the News' column. For a number of years he has also regularly contributed articles on historical engineering topics to the ICE SW quarterly magazine, *Fulcrum*. His article in the autumn 2007 issue of *Fulcrum* is appropriately titled 'Thomas Telford in the South West'; appropriate not just in view of the Telford 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations, but also because Brian himself is pictured on another page receiving a well-earned 'Spirit of Telford' Award from Quentin Leiper.