

Panel for Historical Engineering Works Newsletter

Number 145 March 2015

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Union Chain Bridge by Roland Paxton

In furtherance of the ICE's PHEW aim of encouraging refurbishment of Union Chain Bridge near Berwick-upon-Tweed, the world's oldest suspension bridge still carrying vehicular traffic and the longest such suspension bridge span in 1820, Professor Paxton recently took Professor Isohata of Nihon University, Tokyo, to inspect the bridge which is deteriorating from lack of adequate maintenance. More than £4m is required for its refurbishment which it is hoped will be achieved by the bridge's bicentenary and marked by ASCE / ICE with an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark plaquing by both Presidents similar to that for the Titan Crane at Clydebank in 2013.



Professor Isohata at the Union Chain Bridge
© Roland Paxton

Professor Isohata who on the visit became a 'Friend of Union Chain Bridge', an organisation launched at Professor Paxton's PHEW keynote lecture to a large local audience at Paxton House on 25 June, intends to promote the cause of refurbishing the bridge through the Japan Society of Civil Engineers.

Heritage Highlights Guide to North East Historical Works by ICE

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) North East has launched a new guide to help enthusiasts to explore the region's Historical Engineering Works (HEWs).

These feature on a database compiled by the ICE, dating as far back as Hadrian's Wall and beyond.

In the North East, there is a rich selection of historical engineering, from the Twizel Bridge on the Anglo-Scottish border, to the Stockton & Darlington Railway in the South.

Other HEWs in the region include Catcleugh Reservoir, Durham Cathedral, the world's first locomotive factory, in the Stephenson Quarter, close to Newcastle Central Station, and a range of bridges.

The leaflet has been prepared by the North East representative on the ICE's Panel for Historical Engineering Works, J Michael Taylor, supported by the ICE North East Heritage Panel, The Robert Stephenson Trust and the North Eastern branch of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation.

Michael said: "Our previous leaflets, showcasing the Robert Stephenson Trail, and the bridges of the Tees, Border and Wear have all been very popular, but this brings together the Historical Engineering Works of the whole region in a way which has not previously been done.

There is something for every enthusiast here, and I am sure that most will find both what they are looking for and some new places to visit and explore, with the help of this leaflet."

Leaflets are available from the Newcastle Tourist Information Centre, Transporter Bridge Visitor Centre or ICE North East on +44 (0)191 261 1850, or via email: icene@ice.org.uk.

Three Bridges in Angus and their Builders by Peter Cross-Rudkin

Earlier this year the Scottish PHEW group held its annual tour of sites of interest to engineering historians, based this time at Dundee. Remarkably, it was the fortieth tour in an