



The trust's first aim is to halt deterioration of the Neidpath viaduct.

Talk helps save bridge

A CAPACITY audience heard Roland Paxton's talk on the historic bridges of Peebles.

Paxton chairs the ICE's Panel for Historic Engineering Works and, as he gave the talk at a joint meeting of ICE and the Peebles Civic Society, there were many non-engineers in the audience. Paxton began by describing the basic engineering principles of the three main types of bridge to be found near the town centre – the arch, the beam and the suspension bridge.

He concentrated on the fine Neidpath viaduct, locally known as the Queen's bridge, now no longer in use. It is built both on the curve and on the skew. Paxton used slides to

take the audience through the method by which designers George Cunningham and Robert Murray calculated the stresses in the structure and produced working drawings.

The audience was intrigued by the ability of the Victorian engineers to set out intricate structures with only the help of logarithm tables.

A brief look at other bridges, including a delicate suspension bridge known as the wire bridge, was followed by lively discussion on the future of the Neidpath viaduct. The society is determined to help preserve this outstanding viaduct and is looking to set up a trust, with the first aim to halt further deterioration of the structure.