

As readers of *CivilScotland* will know, 2007 will be the 250th Anniversary of the Birth of our first President, Thomas Telford. ICE is planning a UK-wide programme of events to celebrate the enduring legacy of Telford, the greatest of Scottish civil engineers.

Thomas Telford



Thomas Telford was a key figure in the foundation of ICE in 1818 and accepted the role of President of the Institution in 1820. Telford was instrumental in obtaining the Institution's Royal Charter in 1828.

A true visionary, Telford had the practical skills to turn then unimaginable feats of engineering into awe-inspiring realities. Telford made a very significant contribution to our profession, and enhanced the lives of a great many people in Scotland and internationally. Parliament Engineer, bridge builder extraordinaire and dubbed 'Colossus

of Roads', Telford's output was prolific. His work in Scotland included more than 1,100 bridges; 1,200 miles of road; the Caledonian and other canals; water supply to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Wick; 43 highland churches; and Aberdeen, Ardrossan, Dundee and Highland harbours.

Written during the winter months while at Portsmouth Dock, Telford's own account of his approach to time-management and pursuit of knowledge may to some extent account for the scale of his achievements:

"My business requires a great deal of writing and drawing and this work I always take care to keep under by reserving my time for it and being in advance of my work rather than behind it. Then as knowledge is my most ardent pursuit a thousand things occur which call for investigation which would pass unnoticed by those who are content to trudge only in the beaten path. I am not contented unless I can give a reason for every particular method or practice which is pursued."

Telford was a Fellow of both The Royal Society and The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE). In recognition of Telford's enormous contribution, the RSE, as Scotland's National Academy, is holding a prestigious international conference on July 2 2007 The 250th Anniversary of the Birth of Thomas Telford. Bringing together experts from around the world, this major event will explore the breadth of Telford's contribution and offer a thought-provoking showcase of its relevance today. Open to all on a first-come-first-served basis, readers of *CivilScotland* are encouraged to register early, to receive further details, for what is set to be a very popular part of the year's celebrations. Following immediately, but independently of the conference, the Telford tour outlined below has been arranged by the Panel for Historical Engineering Works Scottish Group.

Roland Paxton, PHEW

For further information on the conference, please contact
The Royal Society of Edinburgh's Events Department:
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The
Royal Society
of Edinburgh

ice
Institution of Civil Engineers

The 250th Anniversary of the Birth of Thomas Telford Conference

2nd July 2007

- 08.45 Registration / Morning Coffee
- 09.05 Opening remarks and introduction of the President
Professor John Mavor FRSE, Vice-President, RSE
- 09.10 RSE Welcome
RSE President, Sir Michael Atiyah FRS PRSE

Morning Session: Theme One: Canals

- 09.20 Refurbishing Telford's legacy on the Caledonian and Crinan Canals
- 09.45 Preservation of Pont Cysyllte Aqueduct - 'supreme structural achievement of the canal age'
- 10.10 Von Platen and Telford's Gotha Canal, Sweden, 175 years on
- 10.35 Telford's Canadian Work - Welland Canal, Nova Scotia Mines
- 11.00 Tea & Coffee

Morning Session: Theme Two: General and harbours

- 11.20 Recording Telford's work for the National Monument Record of Scotland
- 11.45 Telford's Harbours from Northern Scotland to St Katharine's Dock, London
- 12.10 Telford's Highland Churches and Manses
- 12.35 Lunch

Afternoon Session: Theme Three: General and roads

- 13.40 An American Perspective on Telford
- 14.05 Telford's London to Holyhead Road
- 14.30 Dunkeld Bridge and Telford's Highland Road-Making
- 14.55 Tea & Coffee

Afternoon Session: Theme Four: Bridges

- 15.20 Telford's Iron Bridge Mastery - Buildwas to Menai Strait
- 15.45 Keynote address - The World's Longest Span Suspension Bridge at Akashi Straits, Japan
- 16.20 Panel Discussion
- 16.45 Close

250th Anniversary Celebrations

Panel for Historical Engineering Works Scottish Group

Telford in Scotland Tour 3rd - 6th July 2007

This year's visit will be a four-day tour visiting various works of Thomas Telford in Scotland and will include members of the American and Canadian Societies of Civil Engineers. The tour will leave from Edinburgh on Tuesday 3rd at 8.45 am. Travel will be by coach. The programme is provisionally:

Tuesday 3 July

- Travel via Forth & Tay Bridges to Dundee, visit 'Discovery' Polar ship & Telford lighthouse
- Travel to Aberdeen Harbour - lunch - visit to old and modern harbour and archives
- Travel to Elgin via Bridge of Don, dinner & overnight stay at Elgin.

Wednesday 3 July

- Visit to McAllan Distillery, Craigellachie. Buffet lunch at Craigellachie Park. Landmark plaque presentation to Convener of the Moray Council by PASCE & PICE at Craigellachie Bridge.
- Tour of Moray (Fochabers Bridge, Cullen Harbour, Burghead Granary & Spynie Canal.
- Travel to Loch Ness Hotel Drumadrochit. Boat trip & Buffet Supper on Caledonian Canal from the head of Muirtown locks. Landmark plaque presentation for Caledonian Canal (Fort William) to British Waterways by PASCE & PICE on board boat.



< Muirtown Locks, 1892. Roland Paxton

* Arrive Edinburgh Airport 17.00-18.00.

Overnight accommodation will be available at hotels in Elgin on Tuesday night and Loch Ness Lodge Hotel, Drumadrochit on Wednesday & Thursday nights. Final costs are expected to be a maximum of £300 per person for 3 nights bed & breakfast, coach travel, dinners, lunches, teas, coffees,

boat trip and administration costs.

Accommodation can be arranged on Monday & Friday nights at Heriot Watt University Campus in en-suite rooms for £38.50 per person per night booked with the tour.

A deposit of £10 per person (non returnable), payable to Institution of Civil Engineers, must be sent with the booking form to Mrs Sandra Purves, 4 Scotland Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6PS. Attendance will be limited to not more than 80 on a first come first served basis.

This tour will follow the landmark one-day conference organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh which all on the tour are encouraged to attend.

Confirmation of costs, joining instructions etc. will be sent out as soon as possible. **For further information please contact Sandra Purves, 0131-556-4503, email sandrapurves@postmaster.co.uk**

Thursday 5 July

- Travel to Telford sites at Dingwall, Easterfearn & Bonar bridges, Fleet Mound, Fortrose harbour & cathedral.
- Lunch at Beaully Bridge.
- Mid-afternoon travel to Fort Augustus Caledonian Canal. Visit to Canal Visitor Centre.
- Informal buffet supper in evening.
- Return to Drumadrochit hotel.

Friday 6 July

- Leave for Fort William via Laggan Cutting, Lochs Oich & Lochy, Corpach.
- Visit Neptune's Staircase and Telford Houses at Banavie. Lunch.
- Leave for Telford Church at Duroc and Dunkeld Bridge.
- Leave Dunkeld for Edinburgh Airport, Waverley, and Heriot Watt University.

Telford in Scotland Tour, July 2007 Booking Form

Places required

Name(s)

Address

Post Code

Tel No

E-mail

I enclose a cheque for £

Please tick this box if you are also attending the Telford Conference on 2nd July.
Please note that delegate places for the Conference must be booked separately.