



Year of the Light

Celebrating 200 Years of the Bell Rock Lighthouse

Photo Call Notice: March 9, 2011

Bell Rock Cake Marks Bicentenary of Bell Rock Lighthouse

PHOTOCALL

6.30pm

Thursday, March 10, 2011

**Conference Centre, Angus College, Keptie Road,
Arbroath DD11 3EA**

On Thursday, March 10, one of the UK's most highly respected civil engineers, Professor Roland Paxton MBE FRSE, will provide a fascinating insight into the construction of the Bell Rock Lighthouse at the Year of the Light Lecture, which is being held at Angus College, Arbroath.

"In my opinion, the Bell Rock Lighthouse is one of the modern world's greatest engineering achievements," said Professor Paxton. "It will be an honour to explain how the pioneering engineers of the early 19th century constructed a 115-foot tower on a wave-lashed, highly-dangerous reef eleven miles from dry land."

As well as being an honorary professor and lecturer at Heriot-Watt University, Professor Paxton is an author and signed copies of his latest book, 'Dynasty of Engineers - The Stevensons and the Bell Rock', will be available to purchase at the Year of the Light Lecture.

Just before Professor Paxton delivers the Year of the Light Lecture, he will meet the catering students from Angus College who have created The Bell Rock Cake – a delicious 40" replica of the Bell Rock Lighthouse made from vanilla sponge, raspberry jam and icing!

"The students were keen to be involved in Arbroath's Year of the Light celebrations marking the bicentenary of the Bell Rock Lighthouse so they decided to bake a giant cake showing the lighthouse when it was completed in 1811," explained Angus College Lecturer Doreen Culley of Strathview Designs.

"As well as a light at the top of the lighthouse, there's a boat arriving to take the builders back to Arbroath, waves lapping against sea-weed strewn rocks – and even a seal watching the proceedings. The Bell Rock Lighthouse is one of the seven wonders of the industrial world but we may well have created the eighth!

"The Bell Rock Cake is a fabulous testament to the skill, dedication and hard work of all the students involved," continued Doreen, who added that Academy Street Motors in Forfar paid for the ingredients while Hillhead Joiners provided the custom-made cake board. "The cake is being raffled to raise funds for Angus College Charitable Trust and the RNLI, with raffle tickets available at Angus College, from myself and students at Angus College, as well as at the Year of the Light Lecture."

Lord Southesk, Patron of the Year of the Light Steering Committee, which is supported by Angus Council's Local Community Planning Team, revealed that committee members had been astonished by just how quickly all the seats for Professor Paxton's lecture were reserved.

"We expected there to be a lot of interest but the speed with which the seats were snapped up shows just how interested people are in the history of the Bell Rock Lighthouse," said Lord Southesk. "And the Bell Rock Cake, which fortunately is made of lighter ingredients than the real thing, is further proof of how the Year of the Light has captured the attention of the local community."

Photo and film opportunities of Professor Paxton, Angus College catering students and members of the Year of the Light Steering Committee with The Bell Rock Cake will be available at a photocall in the foyer of the Conference Centre, Angus College at 6.30pm on Thursday, March 10. For specific photography, film or interview requests, contact Wendy Glass at wendy.glass@btinternet.com or call 01575 573210 / 0789 001 7046.

For more information about the Year of the Light and the celebrations surrounding the 200th anniversary of the completion of the Bell Rock Lighthouse, visit www.angusahead.com/bellrocklighthouse. Media enquiries regarding the Year of the Light should be directed to Wendy Glass, PR Consultant, Year of the Light (wendy.glass@btinternet.com or call 01575 573210 / 0789 001 7046).

Editor's Notes

1. The Year of the Light is being organised by Arbroath and Area Partnership's Year of the Light Steering Committee, which is supported by Angus Council's Local Community Planning Team. Further information from Janet Russell, Arbroath and Area Local Community Planning Team on 01241 433250 or at RussellJ@angus.gov.uk.
2. Funding for the Year of the Light has been provided by a variety of sources, including the Angus and Dundee Tourism Partnership's Innovation and Development Fund.
3. Year of the Light is supported by Angus Ahead. Angus Ahead is the area marketing campaign set up to raise the profile of the county locally, nationally and internationally. Further information from Ellen Langdon on 01307 473200.