



brunel
200

Your invitation to the
Brunel 200 launch weekend
8-9th April 2006

www.brunel200.com

Bond Pearce

Discovery
CHANNEL

First  **Great Western**

South West
England

BRUNEL 200



1. Isambard Kingdom Brunel (ICE).
2. Fireworks over the Clifton Suspension Bridge, 1997.
3. Adam Hart-Davis.

The time will come when, as that gentleman walks along the streets or as he passes from city to city, the cry would be raised, 'There goes the man who reared that stupendous work, the ornament of Bristol and the wonder of the age'.

Sir Abraham Elton, proclaiming Brunel at the laying of the foundation stone at the Clifton Suspension Bridge, 1831.

The Brunel birthday weekend is the start of the largest ever celebrations of an engineer in this country. Centred on Bristol, but embracing the whole of the South West, 2006 will be remembered for Brunel 200. Our celebrations include exhibitions and publications, conferences and seminars, walks and trails. We are distributing 130,000 copies of a special Brunel comic.

The centrepiece of the weekend will be the switching on of the new lights on the Clifton Suspension Bridge. In addition there will be fireworks and performances, including the world premiere of Andy Sheppard's new music for Brunel, accompanied by 200 saxophonists. There's also the chance to see Brunel exhibitions and arts projects.

And that's not all. Forthcoming events include the exhibition *Brunel and the Art of Invention* at Bristol's City Museum and Art Gallery from 15 April, and the annual Festival of Ideas and the 200 Ideas for Bristol Exhibition (both May 2006).

Andrew Kelly *Director, Brunel 200*

Clifton Suspension Bridge Lights and Fireworks

On the evening of Saturday 8 April, the eve of Brunel's birthday, there will be a free stage show and spectacular firework display in Bristol linked to the switching on of the new lighting system at the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

See the Brunel 200 website home page at www.brunel200.com for the latest news on locations and timing.

See 'Travel information' page for road closure details and further travel information.



Exhibitions

The Nine Lives of I K Brunel: ss Great Britain (to 31 October)

Major exhibition exploring the highs and lows of Brunel's private and professional life. Exhibits on show will include many loaned from museums and collections across the UK. The biggest will be a 50-tonne replica broad gauge locomotive, the *Iron Duke*. Exhibition only: adults £4.90, children free. Free with general admission to Brunel's ss *Great Britain*. Call 0117 926 0680 for further information and bookings. Also on view is Glen Eastman's Brunel-inspired soft-sculpture created with local children.

The Forces That Made Brunel: Explore At-Bristol (to mid-December)

Re-creation of the dangers and challenges that Brunel faced in his ambitious projects, graphically illustrating the forces he harnessed through a series of large-scale interactive exhibits. Free with entrance fee to Explore At-Bristol. Advance bookings 0117 915 5000.

Bridge! Royal West of England Academy (to 29 April)

Collaborative exhibition between Bristol School of Art, Media and Design and Bristol's Design Agencies exploring the value of art and design in people's everyday lives. Entrance £3.00/£2.00. Under 16's free. Special event for 8 April: join the exhibitors for a late night viewing 5.00-7.00pm – free entry. Tel. 0117 973 5129 or email info@rwa.org.uk.

Launch weekend offer:

Bristol *Evening Post* is running a special offer with free entry to your choice of one of the exhibitions above plus the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum. Collect the coupons and send to the *Evening Post* for voucher. Limited availability.

Deserving of Wonder – the triumphs of Brunel: Bristol Central Library (to end April)

Free exhibition of photographs by David White of Brunel's greatest engineering triumphs across the British Isles, using the same nineteenth-century camera and lens combination as Robert Howlett used for the classic chains shot of Brunel. Tel: 0117 903 7250.

Brunel (Bristol) Limited on Park Row (to end April)

Disused toilet block, junction of Park Row and Woodland Road. Free exhibition of photographs and interviews by Nick Hand of company directors and workers from companies in Bristol that have taken Brunel's name. Tel: 0117 330 1109.

Hats off to Brunel (to 27 April) and British Postal Museum and Archives Brunel Stamps (to 14 April)

Exhibitions at CREATE Centre. Normally Monday-Friday only but will be open Saturday 8 April. Tel: 0117 925 0505.

1. Artist impression of the exhibition at the ss Great Britain.

2. Artist impression of the exhibition at At-Bristol.

3. Joe Allen of Brunel Bodycraft photographed as part of Brunel (Bristol) Limited (photograph by Nick Hand).

4. David White with his recreation of Robert Howlett's camera used in Deserving of Wonder (photograph by David White).

1. Clifton Suspension Bridge (britainview/Pawel Libera).



2. Matilda, operated by the Bristol Ferry Boat Company (Destination Bristol, photograph by Graham Flack).



3. British Empire and Commonwealth Museum (photograph by Ian Blanter).



Tours

Balmoral sailing: 8 April

Sail aboard *Balmoral* through Bristol's Historic docks – past the *ss Great Britain* – under the Clifton Suspension Bridge, down the River Avon and through the Avon Gorge and view Avonmouth Docks. Return to Cumberland Basin and soak up the atmosphere of this event and listen to a talk on Brunel before enjoying a Victorian supper onboard. Get guaranteed grandstand views of the illuminations and fireworks. Only £35 – limited availability. Call 0845 130 4647 or book online at www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk.

Kingfisher Rail Tours: 8 and 9 April, Brunel Anniversary Ltd

Circular day-trips by steam locomotive from Temple Meads over routes at the heart of the old Great Western Railway. Carriages painted in the traditional livery of umber and cream and restored to a very high standard both inside and out, offering panoramic windows, comfortable seats and plenty of room. Duration approx 10.00am-5.30pm. Prices start from £49 standard up to £145 for dining in the Pullman car. Call 0870 747 2983/0870 814 7734. Book online at www.kingfisherrailtours.co.uk.

British Empire and Commonwealth Museum: 8 and 9 April

Guided tours of Brunel's original Bristol rail terminus including the passenger shed, cavernous vaults and GWR boardroom. Start at 10am and noon. Pre-booking essential. Adults: £6.95. Concessions: £5.95. Children: £3.95. Book: 0117 925 4980/bookings@empiremuseum.co.uk. Also free photographic exhibition of Brunel sites by Ashlee Taylor in the café.

City Sightseeing: 50-minute guided day-time open-top bus tours

Hop-on, hop-off service. Tickets valid for 24 hours. Route includes Clifton Suspension Bridge, *ss Great Britain*, Brunel's lock and British Empire and Commonwealth Museum. Adult fare £8.00. Concessions available. See www.citysightseeing.co.uk for details.

Ferries

Bristol Ferry Boat Company services Hotwells - City Centre and Temple Meads - City Centre both stop at *ss Great Britain*. Single, return and round-trip fares (with commentary) available as well as special Brunel cruise. Contact 0117 927 3416 or enquiries@bristolferryboat.co.uk. Details of Bristol Packet Avon Gorge afternoon cruises at www.bristolpacket.co.uk.

Trail guides

Pick up free Brunel 200 illustrated trail guides at tourist information centres, libraries, hotels and other information points for self-directed walks around *Brunel's Clifton*, *Victorian Bristol* and *The Brunel Mile and Dockside Walk*.

BCT Aviation Aerial Tours

Book a 60-minute Brunel tour for up to three people. Tel: 01285 771015. Website www.bctaviation.com/more.html.

Bristol Zoo

Brunel to Biodiversity tour. Available 8 April only. Starts promptly at 12.30pm. Booking essential. Free with zoo admission. Tel: 0117 974 7369 for more details.

Other events and further afield



1. Holburne Museum, Bath.

2. Entrance to STEAM
(photograph by Josephine Williams, courtesy of
The Commonweal School, A Performing Arts College).

Bristol Industrial Museum

Special Brunel-themed activity in the Print & Pack gallery. Contact 0117 925 1470 for details.

Triangulation

Free arts project based around Brunel's swing bridge from 7.30pm, Sunday 9 April 2006 – main performance at 8.00pm. See www.artic.org.uk for details.

Bell ringing

Celebratory peels marking Brunel's birthday in Bristol including at Clifton Cathedral (starts 9.00am, 8 April), the Church of St Phillip and Jacob Narrow Plain (from 1.00pm, 8 April) and St Stephen's (9 April). Bells will also be rung in Swindon.

Brunel in Bath

Holburne Museum of Art, Bath (to 2 July). Exhibition exploring the story of the arrival of the Great Western Railway in Bath. Special lecture on Brunel at 3.00pm, 9 April. Contact 01225 466669/ holburne@bath.ac.uk. See www.bath.ac.uk/holburne/exhibit.

STEAM, Swindon

New exhibition on the Battle of the Gauges plus enhanced Brunel display based around a re-creation of his Duke Street office. To 30 September. Contact 01793 466646. www.swindon.gov.uk/steam.

Bicentenary Birthday Steaming

Didcot Railway Centre, 9 April. Contact Jeanette Howse 01235 817200.

First Great Western

Fares Promotion

Why not explore some of Britain's grandest, loveliest and most enjoyable places which lie along Brunel's train routes? Travel from as little as £2.50 with a standard one way ticket with First Great Western. Offer is for off-peak travel, subject to availability, 2 April to 31 May 2006. Tickets must be booked at least a day before travel. See www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/greatfares from 1 April for details.

Travel information: Saturday 8 April

Roads closed to traffic: The Portway (from Cumberland Basin to Sylvan Way) and Bridge Valley Road: 4.30pm-11.59pm; Brunel Way: 7.00pm-10.30pm; Suspension Bridge Road: noon-11.59pm; Sion Hill: 7.30pm-10.30pm. See map over page. For information on closures and alternative routes, contact 0117 903 1212 (Monday-Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm).

There is very limited car parking close to the event. Drivers are advised to use the Park and Ride services at Brislington and Long Ashton. Contact 0117 922 2910 during office hours, email pride@bristol-city.gov.uk or visit www.bristol-city.gov.uk/parkandride. Last bus from Maritime Heritage Centre (for Brislington) and from Clift House Road (for Long Ashton) depart 11.00pm. A Park and Ride service will also run to and from the Mall at Cribbs Causeway. Alternatively the following car parks will be open: Trenchard Street, West End, Millennium Square, Wapping Wharf, Jury's Hotel, *ss Great Britain*, Bristol City Football Club, Bristol Zoo.

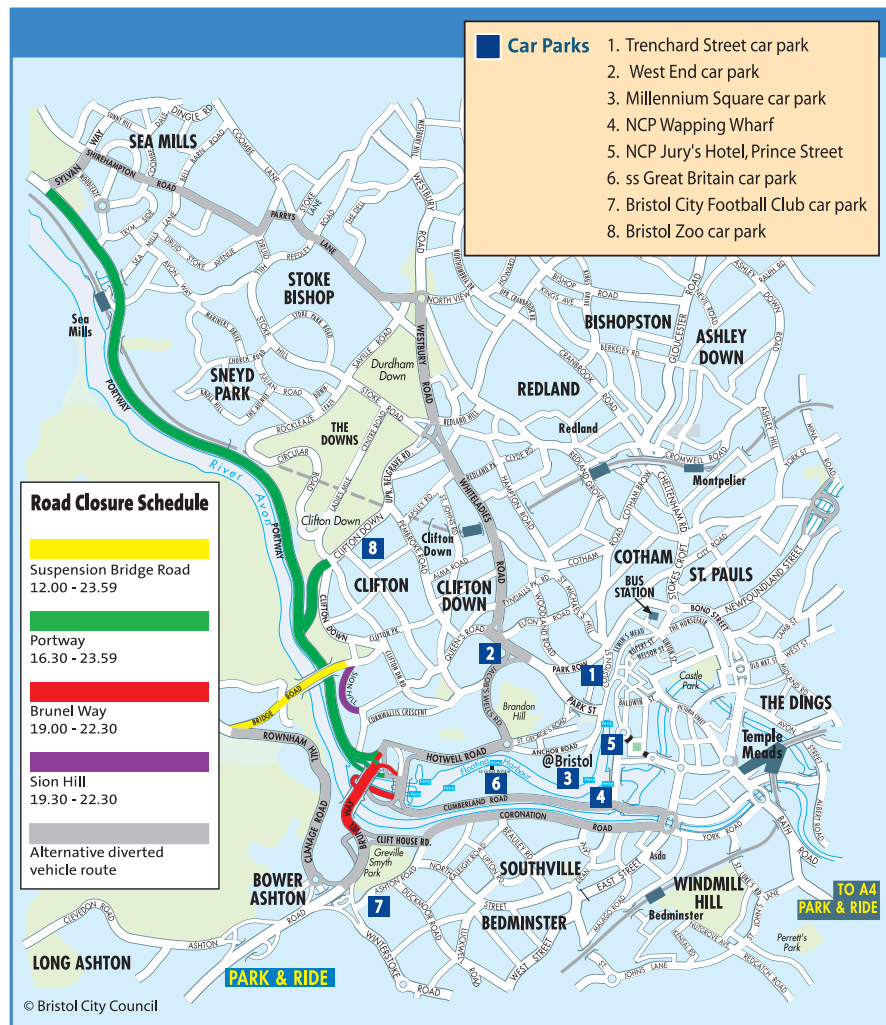
Ferry service to Cumberland Basin: every 15 minutes between 6.30pm and 10.30pm to and from city centre. £1 flat fare. Contact 0117 927 3416/enquiries@bristolferryboat.co.uk.

There are many bus services to the city centre, a 20-minute walk from the Cumberland Basin, one of the viewing points for the lights and fireworks. Visit www.traveline.org.uk for details.

There is provision for coach parking at the Maritime Heritage Centre for 8-9 coaches and on street coach parking at Cumberland Road for 15-20 coaches.

For information on railway engineering works between Paddington and the West Country on 8-9 April contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950, www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk. Anticipate reduced service from 10.15pm on 8 April to 2.15pm on 9 April between Swindon and Bath.

Road closures: Saturday 8 April



For details of the Brunel 200 programme and updates on the birthday weekend activity visit www.brunel200.com, listen to BBC Radio Bristol (95.5FM/94.9FM/ www.bbc.co.uk/bristol/local_radio) and B200fm (87.7fm/www.b200fm.com), and see the Bristol Evening Post special supplement.

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Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust, Institution of Civil Engineers, Institution of Highways Incorporated Engineers, Institution of Highways and Transport, Newcomen Society, ss Great Britain Trust, University of the West of England and Visit Britain.

Coming in May 2006



200 IDEAS FOR BRISTOL

www.brunel200.com



Festival of Ideas, 9-25 May 2006
www.ideasfestival.co.uk

200 Ideas for Bristol Exhibition
The Architecture Centre, May 2006



Brunel 200 is supported by:

