

Robert Stephenson Trust



Achievements of the Robert Stephenson Trust

Saved from demolition the late Georgian style offices c.1850 at 20 South Street and the associated plate and boiler shop, all developed consecutively from the west.

Raised funds of around £500,000 from several sources, including English Heritage (matching funding required), Sir William McAlpine & Co, Newcastle City Council, Newcastle & Gateshead Initiative. In Phase 1 of the work these funds enabled the buildings to be made wind and watertight under the terms of the English Heritage grant. In Phase 2 of the work the interior of the Offices was refurbished to restore the building to as near a condition it was in when the last tenants left the premises.

See *restoration and refurbishment* for more info

Through a continuous programme of research into Robert Stephenson's life, his work, his companies and his achievements, several books were published, numerous lectures given, conferences attended, displays organised.

A *Friends* organisation was formed in 1996 and members of this group are encouraged to volunteer with the running of the Trust, on Open Days and behind the scenes on administrative tasks.

The Offices and Works have always been opened to the public at regular intervals. Guided tours of the building, given by Trustees and Friends, have been well received.

The facilities we now have are available in part for hire and have already been used for exhibitions, meetings, conferences, book launches and can include refreshments and buffets lunches.

The building functions as a museum and as a reading room where researchers can access a variety of books, drawings and photographs for reference purposes.

Groups of school children have attended the Works for study purposes. They have taken part in a wide range of activities and have each received a Robert Stephenson Study Pack produced by the Trust with financial assistance from The Heritage Lottery Fund.

The *Gazette* has been published since 1996 as a means whereby a wide range of authors could publish original articles relevant to the aims of the Trust in the education of the public. *Gazette* is free to Friends and can be purchased by the public at Stephenson's Works. Selected articles will be published on the Website

A free newsletter, *The Rocket*, is published as a means of keeping Friends informed of matters of topical interest. It is also published on the website for a wider audience.