



# THE ROCKET

## FRIENDS OF THE ROBERT STEPHENSON TRUST

Friends of the Trust are reminded that the 2008 subscription of £15 was due on 1st Jan 2008. Payment should be sent to :- The Treasurer, 31 The Green, Hurworth, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL2 2AA, United Kingdom

Those Friends who are taxpayers and have not yet signed a Gift Aid Declaration, are asked to consider doing so, to enable the Trust to reclaim tax.

A form is reproduced below or can be printed by visiting :

<http://www.robertstephensontrust.com/giftaid.htm>  
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### GIFT AID DECLARATION

Charity name:- **The Robert Stephenson Trust Ltd.**,  
Charity Number 700647

#### Details of Donor:-

Title: Forenames:  
Surname:  
Address:-

#### Postcode:

I want the charity to treat all subscriptions and donations made by me to the Robert Stephenson Trust Ltd after 6th April 2002 and until further notice as Gift Aid. I have read the notes below and agree to notify you of any material change in my circumstances.

#### Signed:

#### Date:

**Notes:** You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the charity.

You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donation/subscription in the tax year

If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital equal to the tax the charity reclaims, you should cancel your declaration.

If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief on your Self Assessment tax return.



*Heritage Open Days will be from Thursday 11 until Sunday 14 September 2008. The RST has been involved with this event for the past 10 years. As usual Stephenson's Works will be open every day from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. This year the focus is on sustainability and made in Britain. On both counts the heritage offered via the RST is extremely credible. Our aims and objectives are to promote the achievements of Robert Stephenson and the structures associated with him. He created the locomotive prototype for both sides of the Atlantic between 1828-33 enabling the mass transport of people at a low cost and the railway network is still environmentally friendly within a 21st century context.*

### Fathers Day



*Last year the RST held a Railway Father's Day on 9 June in order to celebrate the contribution of George Stephenson 1781-1848 as the leading founder of the railway industry.*

*Last year George's birthday fell on Saturday and the events held at Stephenson's Works were well attended and according to our visitors book, enjoyed by all. This year schoolchildren will visit Stephenson's Works in the afternoon. Friends wishing to view new exhibits and the boiler shop are welcome between 10am and 1pm.*



# THE ROCKET

The Newsletter of the Robert Stephenson Trust - May 2008

## From the Trust Chairman

Spring's surge of growth has an impact on human attitudes, usually for the better. If I feel more positive than I did 4 months ago it is because we are still in Stephenson's Works and have a year's deferment of the rent review. We requested this because so many issues were clouding a judgement about the best course to follow. The Tyne & Wear Museum's Report had to be digested; Silverlink's planning application for the Stephenson Quarter had not been made available to the public; our landlord's ideas about the future of 20 South Street were awaited; and the Boiler Shop tenant (CENAMPS) was undecided whether to take up its option for another 3 years.

The Museum's report was helpful in recommending a continued presence for the Trust in Stephenson's Works as well as some possible themes for the boiler shop, all of which necessitated large sums of money.

CENAMPS eventually chose to leave at the end of March because of the likelihood of access problems in the next 3-4 years due to the redevelopment of the Patterson Ford, Doves & Post Office sites which it was assumed would go ahead. They have very generously donated the Pods and some equipment to the Trust though there are strings attached on which we are currently seeking legal advice.

The planning application is now out for public comment. We hope Friends will make their views known even if the published dead-line for comments has passed. It contains a wealth of information which is not easy to assimilate. The principal concerns of the RSTrustees are: the proposed removal of the brick wall on the west side of the boiler shop; the size and position of a new building (called Block 'H') opposite the southern corner of the boiler shop; and the absence of a Conservation Plan for the whole

site. There are other issues about various listed structures but we are concentrating on 20 South Street.

In the last few weeks David Clouston, MD of Silverlink, has decided to create a not-for-profit company Stephenson (Special Projects) Ltd to bring together all public art proposals and heritage strands for the whole site. Our understanding is that this would incorporate some activities in 20 South Street. The boiler shop is described in the planning papers as 'Exhibition and office Space'. Whether the Trust can have a physical presence in the building is in our landlord's hands. We will not be able to pay rent without a secure source of income. We are also faced with a demand from Silverlink to carry out further work to the fabric of the building at an estimated cost of £67k.

In the coming months the Trust has to concentrate on generating income from lettings. Our overheads are daunting. A decision on whether we can continue to occupy Stephenson's Works may have to be taken at our next meeting on 27th May.

It is also crucial to start preparing for the 150th anniversary of RS's death (2009). So there is much to do and too few hands on board if the weather changes to stormy. But whatever the difficulties we will press on with raising awareness of RS's achievements.

One other snippet of interest: our solicitor Andrew Jones of John O'Neill & Co. came across some old Stephenson documents from the 1890's in his firm's basement (from the days of Stanton, who had been Robert's solicitor). To our amazement, they contain some copy 1849 leases which we had never seen before. This will shed light on aspects of the company's development after George's death (in 1848) and we hope on the date of 20 South Street's construction.

Bob Longridge



## Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

I would be please to have any information that you have of William Weallens. Since I found out about him via my family tree research I have been fascinated by him and also the Weallen family.

All the details that I have I got are from public and parish records as well as newspapers, monumental inscriptions and the like. I do not have any family papers. However, I do have some old photographs of which we (my sisters and I) can only indentify our grandparents. I have looked for a photo of Willliam Weallens but have never found one. I would just like to identify one person in these photos and it would be an achievement. From everything I have looked at over the years I have found very little about hime apart from his funeral reports.

Thank you for any help you can give.

yours sincerely  
Pat

Dear Pat,

William Weallens was appointed Head Draughtsman at Stephenson Works on 1st February 1846 having been apprenticed to his Father in Law and stepfather, William Hutchinson who at that time was Works Manager.

Hutchinson died in 1853, and the mechanical department of the works was entrusted to William Weallens, and eventually, in January 1855, he became a partner.

Williams's life was to be cut short when he died in 1862 and is burried in Ponteland churchyard.

yours sincerely  
Editor



## Boilershop Gossip

What was Dott 07?

Dott 07 (Designs of the time 2007), a year of community projects, events and exhibitions based in North East England, explored what life in a sustainable region could be like – and how design could help us get there.

A national initiative of the Design Council and the regional development agency One NorthEast, Dott 07 is the first in a 10-year programme of biennial events developed by the Design Council that will take place across the UK. The projects were small but important real-life examples of sustainable living, which will evolve and multiply in the years ahead.

Several projects were delivered in partnership with Culture10, based at NewcastleGateshead Initiative. Culture10 manages North East England's world-class festival and events programme.

Dott 07 projects aim to improve five aspects of daily life: movement, health, food, school and energy.

The focus of the initiative was on grass-roots community projects; but there were also projects involving more than 70 schools, plus exhibitions and events in museums, galleries and rural sites. All events explore how design can improve our lives in meaningful ways.

The year culminated in a free 12-day Dott 07 Festival in Baltic Square on the banks of the River Tyne. It brought together the results of the projects and enabled all those involved to share experiences and plan what to do next. Outstanding achievements were celebrated in the Creative Community Awards.



## EUROPA NOSTRA



Stephenson's Works is to be used on June 11th - 12th as a venue for the prestigious Europa Nostra 2008 Annual Congress which will take place in Newcastle and Gateshead from Wednesday 11 June until Sunday 15 June 2008. This event came about because Newcastle was not represented at a Europa Nostra forum on Industrial Archectectural heritage held in Manchester in September 1995. consequently the committee, chaired by Cyril Winskell, was established in 2006 to make a bid for the Congress to be held at Newcastle & Gateshead in 2008. Vicky Haworth has served on the committee from the onset, often holding meetings at Stephenson's Works. Cyril is largely responsible for this major coup. Many of the events will also take place at numerous prestigious heritage sites in the North East.

Europa Nostra, the Pan-European Federation for Cultural Heritage, is an umbrella network of heritage organisations and is considered today the voice of Europe's organised civil society committed to cultural heritage. The network is composed of 250 member organisations, 210 associative members including the Robert Stephenson Trust and 1500 individual members from 53 countries, of which 45 are in Europe. The power of the network comes from a shared passion for cultural heritage, and the readiness of its members to invest their time, expertise, connections and often money.  
[www.europanostra.org](http://www.europanostra.org)

The president of Europa Nostra, HRH the INFANTA DOÑA PILAR DE BORBÓN, President of Europa Nostra will probably visit Stephenson's Works.

The theme of the Congress will be Tyneside's 'Industrial Heritage' and as well as Stephenson's Works, venues in both Newcastle and Gateshead will be the focus of the event, with the main congress and Awards ceremony being held in Sage Gateshead. The Congress includes the opportunity for the interpretation and enjoyment of the area's wider cultural heritage and delegates will have the opportunity to study and enjoy the Roman and Christian heritage of Northumberland and Durham, as well as the industrial heritage upon which the Conference is based.

The Grainger Town Project, Newcastle won the Europa Nostra Prize for Cultural Landscapes in 2003.

*"The Grainger Town Project successfully applied a conservation planning approach designed to complement the historical character of the area. Owners were encouraged to invest in their decaying buildings, resulting in 121 buildings being brought back into use, whilst retaining their historic and architectural interest. The area's main landmark, Grey's Monument, a 40m high statue of Earl Grey (1838), was cleaned and restored.*



*The regeneration programme has transformed a depressing quarter with an uncertain future into a thriving, mixed-use central area. It is a testament to the role that a high quality historic environment can play in the life of a city."*