

# BRUNEL'S OTHER BRIDGE NEWS

## DECEMBER 2025



This photograph is believed to have been published in the Bristol Evening Post. It shows the terrace of houses to the north of the Swivel Bridge before demolition to make way for the construction of the new road scheme completed in the late 1960's. The Bridge is believed to have been one-way traffic at this time, and its pedestrian walkway is still intact, suggesting that the ship damage now visible had not occurred. If anyone finds the original photograph please send it to Geoff Wallis at: [secretary@brunelswivelbridge.org.uk](mailto:secretary@brunelswivelbridge.org.uk)

**OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE !**

See: <https://www.brunelswivelbridge.org.uk/>

It explains our aims in restoring the Bridge, why urgent action is needed, and how you can help. The history and significance of the Swivel Bridge are outlined, and the backgrounds of the five trustees of the Brunel Swivel Bridge Group Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) are on the back page.

There is also a link across to our original site: <https://www.brunelsotherbridge.org.uk/>

Many thanks to our expert volunteer Dominic Hewitt who has worked hard one to solve the inevitable glitches. See Needle Vision Photography <https://www.needlevision.co.uk/>

It went live on 26<sup>th</sup> October and has a new Donate facility. It is hosted by Swiftaid and Zeffy who make no deductions, and is registered with HMRC, so we can claim gift aid on your donations. **Please try it out and help fund the project.**

## PRESS RELEASE

We 'went public' on the news of the very generous pledge of funding we have received by issuing a press-release. This was drafted and distributed by our volunteer Rob Stokes, former Managing Editor of the Bristol Evening Post. Thanks Rob.

Rob circulated it to contacts local and national media, resulting in many reports, including:

**BBC online** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gwg51jd8vo.amp>

**Bristol Live** 30<sup>th</sup> October, including early photo of the Swivel Bridge  
<https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/mystery-donor-promises-1m-rescue-10607010>

**Bristol World**

<https://www.bristolworld.com/news/mystery-donor-promises-ps1m-to-rescue-unique-bridge-in-bristol-docks-5380196>

**Bristol 24/7** 22<sup>nd</sup> October under the heading **Brunel's 'other bridge' could swivel again.**

<https://www.bristol247.com/news-and-features/news/brunels-other-bridge-swivel-again/>

Martin Booth described the Bridge as '..... the "missing link" in a chain of four Brunel-designed works that comprise the SS Great Britain, the Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Underfall sluices.'

Geoff was quoted as saying: "Imagine this 75 tonnes iron and timber bridge swinging slowly towards you, sliding silently over the harbour, just as intended by Isambard Kingdom Brunel nearly two centuries ago. "The bridge will be the much-needed focus and 'wow factor' for the Western Harbour, and will become a celebrated Brunel icon alongside the others in the city."

--**BBC Radio Bristol** featured the project with a five-minute report and a subsequent live interview on the Joe Sims breakfast programme, broadcast on 29<sup>th</sup> October. You can catch up with the report on [https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live/bbc\\_radio\\_bristol](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live/bbc_radio_bristol) The reports were at around 7.40 and 8.40am, so scroll to 1.45 and 2.42 on the podcast's time-bar.

--**ITV News.** Two minute interview by Ellie Barker live at the Bridge on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November in the dark, under flood-lights.

## THE BRUNEL NETWORK

We are a member of the Brunel Network, hosted by the SS Great Britain. The most recent Network Meeting was on 5<sup>th</sup> November (Bonfire Day!), and was followed by a conducted tour of the Knuckle and Swivel Bridge.



## HOTWELLS & CLIFTONWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

We are invited to join our friends at the Association's Festive Drinks at the **Rose of Denmark** pub Dowry Place BS8 4QL **on Monday 15 December at 6.30pm**. The pub is only 200m from the Swivel Bridge.

Its name probably refers to Alexandra of Denmark, who was the Princess of Wales and later Queen consort of the United Kingdom. She was the wife of King Edward VII and known for her beauty and charitable work.

We are invited to *'raise a glass to 2025 and look forward to 2026'*. The Association says that they *'will be celebrating the people and organisations that make Hotwells and Cliftonwood great places to live and work'*. So, let's support them !

Please let me know on [jandgwallis@gmail.com](mailto:jandgwallis@gmail.com) if you would like to attend as they need to know numbers.



## THANK YOU

2025 has been an extraordinary year. We have continued to raise the profile of the heritage of the area, established the Brunel Swivel Bridge Group as a charity, received a very generous promise of funding, developed detailed plans, and made progress in obtaining a license from Bristol City to restore the Bridge.

Our wonderful volunteers have worked tirelessly to research the site's history, survey, record and maintain the area, investigate the underground features, paint the Bridge, clear graffiti, re-timber the Brunel Lock capstan, and more.

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated towards the restoration project. Our treasurer or secretary like to thank you personally and have done so if we can. However on-line payments often don't give contact details, so to you a particular THANK YOU !

**WE WISH ALL OUR SUPPORTERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS and HEALTHY 2026**

Please follow us on Facebook and donate via our website.

[www.BrunelSwivelBridge.org.uk](http://www.BrunelSwivelBridge.org.uk)  
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