

BRUNEL SWIVEL BRIDGE NEWS

MAY 2026

OUR PATRON



**The Brunel Swivel Bridge Group Trustees are delighted to welcome
Julia Elton DL, FSA, PhD as our patron.**

Julia Elton is a leading specialist in the history of engineering and technology and has a wide overall knowledge of the subject. She catalogued the Noble Collection, a substantial archive of material in the possession of a descendent of I.K. Brunel, and was instrumental in its acquisition by Bristol University. It is now held at the Brunel Institute.

Julia Elton played a prominent role in the campaign to save the Thames Tunnel, designed and built by Marc Isambard Brunel on which I.K Brunel received his training as a civil engineer. In recent years she has been working to untangle the complex history of the Clifton Suspension Bridge.

Julia Elton is a Past President of the Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering & Technology and a Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset (now retired).

She has written many entries for the Institution of Civil Engineers Biographical Dictionary, particularly on lighthouse and gas engineers, and has recently achieved a PhD on the history of lighthouse illumination.

Julia Elton is a long-term supporter of the project to restore the Swivel Bridge,

Dr. JONATHAN FOYLE PRESENTS



TV presenter Dr. Jonathan Foyle has recorded a fund-raising video for the Swivel Bridge. Since 2002, he has presented films for Channel 4, the BBC, the History Channel, ITN, Lion and Discovery Channels. In 2009 he presented a series on Henry VIII as art patron, and in 2010 he presented BBC 2 television series *Climbing Great Buildings*. In 2007 Foyle accepted the position of Chief Executive of World Monuments Fund Britain. The video is the work of Riley Tysoe and Oliver Preston, students at Screenology in Bristol, see <https://www.screenology.com/>

AVON RIVERSIDES 2100



Avon Riversides 2100 (formerly Bristol Avon Flood Strategy) is a long-term initiative by Bristol City Council, the Environment Agency and the West of England Combined Authority to better protect Bristol and neighbouring communities from flooding along the River Avon up to the year 2100 and beyond. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

If you have questions, feedback or ideas, or wish to subscribe to the newsletter email: avonriversides@bristol.gov.uk

PS WAVERLEY



A summer cruise on Britain's only sea-going paddle-steamer has become something of a tradition for Swivel Bridge volunteers.

Join us on Friday 12th June at 19.15 on Clevedon Pier, sail around Flat Holm and Steep Holm, and return to the Pier at 22.15. Enjoy a beer or wine and hot meal or snack. Very popular each year, so book early. £43 www.waverlyexcursions.co.uk

After covering the costs of the voyage, Waverley Cruises generously donates all proceeds to the MV Balmoral, 1947 passenger ship under restoration in Bristol Docks. Let's support this worthy cause !

AVON VALLEY RAILWAY

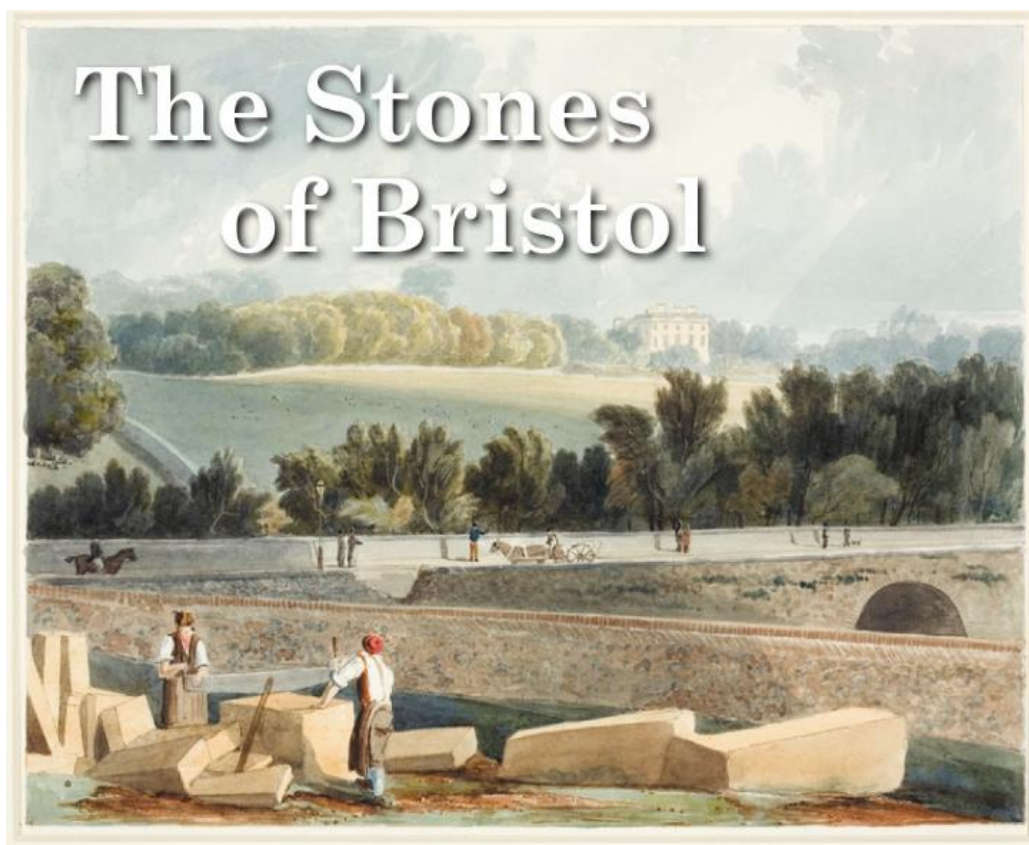


The Avon Valley Railway has relaunched its dining train, offering a range of experiences from cooked breakfasts through to afternoon tea and Sunday lunch. Dining carriages are attached to the regular service train for a trip or two through the scenic Avon valley whilst food is served. For more details click here on: <https://www.avonvalleyrailway.org/events-experiences/dining-trains/>

The Avon Valley Railway is fundraising to return its Avonside steam locomotive to service. The engine spent its working career at the Avonmouth Smelting Works, and author Paul Stanford will give an illustrated talk about the Smelting Works railway system.

The talk will be on Wednesday 10th June, 7.30pm in the buffet carriage at Bitton Station, where the bar will be open. Tickets are £6, and can be reserved by emailing simon.hickman@avonvalleyrailway.org

STONES OF BRISTOL



Bristol Civic Society invites you to join Pete and Allan Insole on a fascinating 90-minute walk tracing the evolution of mid-19th century Cotham through its building materials on Thursday, 28 May, at 7.15pm. Pete Insole is the City historic environment officer, and Dr Allan Insole is a local geologist.

This short walk around Cotham will explore the evolution of the city's built fabric, the sources of the stonework we see in our walls and paving and how this mid-19th century neighbourhood is connected to the origins of our modern planning system.

The walk starts at St Matthew's Church, Clare Road, off Cotham Side A, and finishes at St Michael on the Mount B. Tickets cost £5. [CLICK HERE](#) to book a place (Limited numbers).

WE NEED YOUR HELP TOWARDS THE COST, SO PLEASE DONATE ONLINE TO:

Metrobank Sort: 23-05-80, Account name: Brunel Swivel Bridge Group. No: 56433724

THANK YOU, WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT ! Geof Wallis, Secretary.

Brunel Swivel Bridge Group is a CIO, Charity No: 1214276

www.BrunelSwivelBridge.org.uk
www.BrunelsOtherBridge.org.uk
www.facebook.com/brunelsotherbridge
<https://bwhha.wordpress.com/>