



View from the Bridge

Friends' Newsletter – Easter 2017

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Bridge Laser Survey

Specialist contractors working for Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council, have undertaken a full laser survey of the Bridge in connection with the Heritage Lottery Fund bid – due to be submitted very shortly – and the repair and restoration works. A team of surveyors from Greenhatch Group, who completed the 3D laser survey of Stonehenge in 2011, spent four days at the Bridge at the end of March.



Conservation architects, Spence and Dower of Newcastle are also undertaking an architectural survey of the Bridge for the two Councils, in response to a request from Historic England, to assist them in their input into the Heritage Lottery bid.

Photo: Friends

Antiques Road Trip



The BBC's *Antiques Road Trip* team filmed at the Bridge on March 10th in preparation for a show to be screened later this year.

Photo: Kirsti Potter, thanks

See the Bridge from the air....



Photo: Jim Gibson; thanks

On Bank Holiday Sunday, May 28th, there's an unique opportunity to **take a helicopter flight** over the Bridge, downriver to the mouth of the Tweed and upstream to Norham and its castle; the 12 minute flights cost £90; a few seats remain and can be booked through Tommy Cockburn on 01289 382890

... and from the River

Paxton House's popular river **boat trips**, which pass under the Bridge and head upriver to St Thomas's Island at Horncliffe, have begun their 2017 season. There are trips, from the landing ramp at Paxton, throughout the Easter holiday and the summer months; at £8 for adults and £5 for children; check the Paxton House website for times; and also for details of the Paxton **salmon netting**, to learn about the heritage and traditions

of Tweed netting and modern conservation methods. *Paxton House, Grounds and Tea Room are open daily 10am to 5pm (Grounds until sunset)*

Tweed's Salmon Heritage

.....the **heritage and traditions** of the River's salmon netting are also recorded in a wonderful exhibition of photographs, paintings and other memorabilia of the Tweed salmon netting industry which thrived for centuries until the mid-80s; at the **Watchtower Gallery, West End, Tweedmouth**. The exhibition, (free entry) runs on Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun from noon until 4pm and closes on Fri 21st April. Amongst scores of exhibits are several evocative studies by Berwick photographer and author, **Jim Walker**, of the last days of netting at *Scotch New Water* shiel, just under the Bridge, which had netted salmon from at least the 13th century when the monks of Coldingham Abbey were granted a licence to fish by a Knight of Huntingdon.



Photo: Scotch New Water; from a postcard; late 19thC

Honey Farm Bridge Exhibition

Chain Bridge Honey Farm's visitor centre (*free entry daily – café closed Mondays*) which includes a Union Chain Bridge exhibition, is now open for the season. A fascinating leaflet on *Historic Border Bridges* produced by the Institute of Civil Engineers, is also available – why not use it as a guide for a **Tweed Bridges Discovery Trail?!?**

Samuel Brown and the Union Bridge

In the Christmas Newsletter, when we mentioned that Gordon Miller's book on the Union Bridge and its designer, engineer and builder, Capt Sir Samuel Brown RN was well on its way to publication, we omitted to say that a final chapter, on Brown's iron works at Pontypridd, Brown, Lenox & Co, would be contributed by Stephen Jones, a long-time friend of the Bridge. The book, which will be published by the Friends, is making steady progress and should shortly go to the typesetters and printers.

Stop Press – "Two Nations Run"

A diary date. This year's TWO NATIONS RUN and family fun run, which attracted 160 runners last year, will be on **WED JULY 26th at Paxton**. Further details will be published as soon as possible.