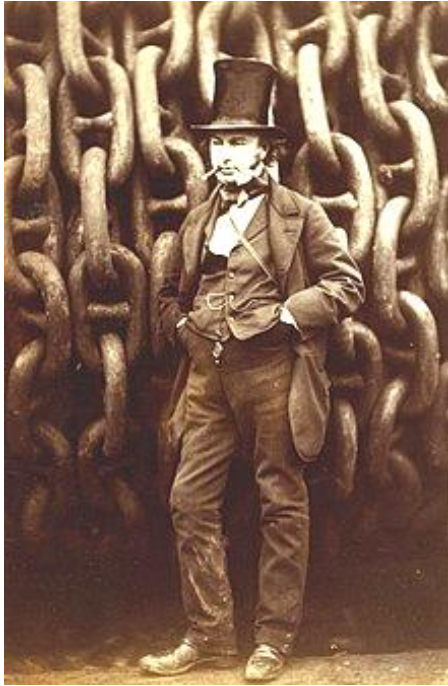


## TASC Talk 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2019

### Isambard Kingdom Brunel - Britain's Greatest Engineer by Tony Bates



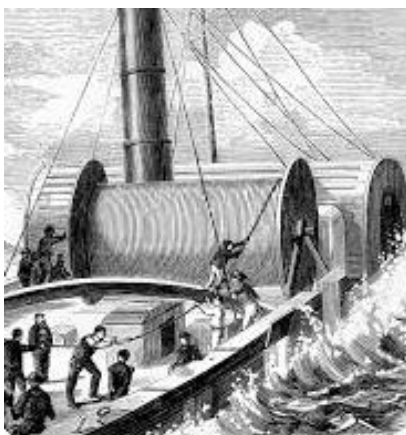
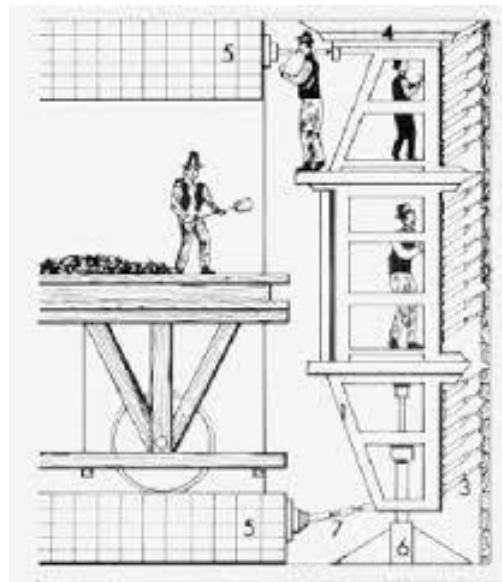
In April our talk was given by one of our own, Mr Tony Bates who has always had a lifetime fascination about, arguably one of Britain's greatest engineers, Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel FRS (Fellowship of the Royal Society) was born in Portsea, Portsmouth on 9th April 1806 and died on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1859. He was considered possibly the most ingenious and prolific figures in engineering history; He was one of the 19th century's engineering giants, and also one of the greatest figures of the Industrial Revolution. He changed the face of the English landscape with his ground-breaking designs and ingenious constructions.

In his talk Mr Tony Bates covered much of Brunel's amazing life and work including;

tunnels, bridges, railways, and ships. He began by talking about the Rotherhithe Tunnel which runs under the Thames where construction started in 1825 and completed in 1843. He explained the method by which the tunnel was constructed using a specially designed "Tunnelling Shield" to protect the workers at the tunnelling face.

Tony talked about the Clifton Suspension Bridge and also went into further detail of how the Royal Albert Bridge was constructed.



Amongst the railways discussed were the Bristol Railway which was later extended to cover Devon and Cornwall and was then renamed "The Great Western Railway", and a short lived experiment in using atmospheric pressure to pull railway carriages along utilising a specially constructed vacuum system in 1845. Part of this Atmospheric Railway still can be seen at the Didcot Rail Museum.

Lastly Tony covered three famous ships built by Brunel, the Great Western, The Great Britain and the Great Eastern. The last was used to lay the first telegraph cable between Dover and Calais.