

Ray Sturdy – ‘Brunel, A Victorian Genius’.

Ray introduced himself by stating that he gave talks and slideshows in aid of Cancer Research UK and had raised a considerable amount of money for the charity over the years.



Ray Sturdy

He then began his slideshow presentation on Isambard Kingdom Brunel (1806 – 1859), an English mechanical and civil engineer who is considered "one of the most ingenious and prolific figures in engineering of the C19th". Ray began by giving a biography of Isambard's father, Marc Isambard Brunel, a Frenchman, who had an agricultural background but became a renowned engineer and inventor in England. Among his achievements was the first thoroughfare under a navigable river, anywhere in the world – the Rotherhithe to Wapping Tunnel under the River Thames.



Sir Marc Isambard Brunel FRS FRSE

Ray then continued to give the History Group a comprehensive biography of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, illustrating his extremely thorough and well researched talk with slides of archive photos, diagrams and engineering details and telling the group of domestic information too.



Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Among the significant achievements I K Brunel completed in his relatively short life were: Box Tunnel, Wiltshire; the Thames Tunnel; Old Hungerford Bridge over River Thames; Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol; Tamar Bridge; SS Great Eastern; SS Great Western; SS Great Britain; Temple Meads Station, Bristol; Paddington Station, London; Royal Albert Bridge, London; Great Western Railway.

The talk preceded a visit to the SS Great Britain in Bristol by the History Group the following week.

Heidy Hague