



Iron Bridge Restoration Project

Support for the Iron Bridge Restoration Project

Support from within the local community for the aims of the Iron Bridge Restoration Project have been clearly demonstrated by the collection of signatures on a petition urging the Council to take action over the bridge's restoration.

The petition is underpinned by many letters of support received from local organisations, community groups and also from individual members of the public.

Support has been conclusively demonstrated by the donation of funds from a variety of local sources and offers of help in the supply of materials and professional services during the bridge's restoration. Practical assistance has also been received from many local organisations and individuals, enabling a number of fund-raising events to be held.

This document summarises the support and funding received by the project at the time of writing, in March 2003. All correspondence and documentation listed here is available for inspection, should this be required.

Petition

- ❖ A petition, supported by Marple Local History Society and Marple Community Council, with over 2,000 signatures stating their support for the Marple Website's campaign to restore the Iron Bridge in Brabyns Park, and urging Stockport MBC to take action before it is too late.

Letters of support

- ❖ Letters of Support from Community Groups and Local Organisations:
 - A letter from Pen Reed's Iyengar Yoga Group, which meets weekly at the Recreation Centre in Brabyns Park – includes 26 signatures.
 - A letter from other users of the Recreation Centre – includes 95 signatures.
 - A letter from Residents of the Windlehurst Road area – includes 19 signatures.
 - A letter from Marple Community Council to the Marple Area Committee, stating their support for the campaign.
 - A letter from Councillor Martin Candler stating that local councillors are fully supportive of the campaign's aims.
 - A letter from Marple Carnival Charities Committee advising that the campaign has been nominated for a donation from the 2002 carnival.
 - A letter of support from Marple Local History Society.
 - A letter from The Rotary Club of New Mills, Marple & District to the Mayor of Stockport, stating their support for the campaign.
 - A letter of support from the Marple Centre Regeneration Partnership.



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- A letter of support from the Marple Civic Society.
- A Letter on behalf of the Marple Area Committee to the HLF stating their support for the campaign.

- ❖ 114 individual letters of support from local residents and members of the public sent to Ged Lucas, Director of Community Services, and Councillor Ingrid Shaw, Executive Member for Heritage, and copied to the Marple Website.

Donations

- ❖ Donation have been made towards the cost of restoring the bridge by a number of local organisations and individuals:
 - Marple Area Committee
 - The McNair Trust
 - Marple Carnival Charities Committee
 - The Rotary Club of New Mills, Marple & District
 - An anonymous benefactor
 - Helen Winterson Ladieswear Shop
 - Linda Goldman, a local resident
 - Ring o' Bells Public House Darts Team

Fund raising

- ❖ Other organisations, businesses and individuals have given help and support to the Marple Website's fund-raising efforts by variety of different means:
 - Malcolm Melia, a member of the Marple Society of Artists persuaded his fellow members to donate 38 works of art to be auctioned to raise funds for the Iron Bridge Restoration.
 - Marple Conservative Club provided the premises, free of charge, to hold the auction of paintings and their band organiser, Ray Noble, set up the sound system and helped organise the hall.
 - Mellor Art Society provided display panels to exhibit the paintings to be auctioned.
 - All Saints' Parish Church provided a lectern for use during the auction.
 - Local actor and celebrity Keith Clifford (Billy from Last of the Summer Wine) arranged publicity of the auction via Manchester GMR Radio and also provided entertainment during the interval.
 - The Ring o' Bells Public House provides the facilities and prizes for a regular monthly Fun Quiz to raise funds for the Iron Bridge Restoration.



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Current status of funding

- ❖ The following table details the funds that have been raised towards the Iron Bridge Restoration as of March 2003:

Source	Amount
Marple Area Committee	£1,500.00
Auction of Paintings (including sale of remaining items)	£926.00
Ring o' Bells Fun Quizzes (From July '02 to March '03)	£732.80
McNair Trust	£500.00
Marple Carnival Charities Committee (incl. Quiz prize)	£270.00
Rotary Club of New Mills, Marple & District	£200.00
Anonymous donation	£200.00
Helen Winterson Ladieswear Shop	£100.00
Linda Goldman	£28.45
Ring o' Bells Dart Team	£10.00
Total	£4467.25

Professional Services and offers of materials

- ❖ Local businesses have offered their practical help and support in the following ways:
 - Local Tree Surgeon David Myers, of Myers Treecare, has offered his professional services free of charge. It is likely that a number of trees will need attention during the restoration phase. Mr Myers has estimated the value of work needed to be in the region of £800.
 - Lee Battersby of Romiley, technical sales manager for E Wood Ltd - a company that supplies paint for rail bridges - has offered to provide paint free of charge.

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M.Whittaker 8 March 2003