



# SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

## Announcement

### Saltash Brunel Bench

320 KG.

This the weight of the Brunel Bench that has been installed half way up Fore Street and took six men to lift into place.

Created by Thrussells, father and son metal sculptors based in the dramatic scenery of Bodmin Moor, the bench is made of galvanised steel and copper with all materials sourced in Cornwall. Thrussells' sculptures are designed to create impact, inspire storytelling, and leave lasting impressions for generations to come.

The bench was commissioned by the Town Team, a forum that brings both Town and Cornwall Councillors together with members of Saltash Chamber of Commerce and Community Enterprises PL12 to look at ways to improve the town centre. It has been funded through 'Section 106 funding', which is money provided by developers as a condition for permission to build retail units outside the town centre, and is earmarked for projects that will boost footfall to the town centre. Installation and ongoing maintenance are being delivered by Saltash Town Council.

The Town Team recognised early on that the lack of seating was a deterrent to shoppers in Fore Street. Measuring over 360m in length and with an incline of 1:15 many shoppers, particularly the elderly and parents with prams, struggle getting from the bottom to the top. A bench half way up gives the chance to sit and regain energy.

The Brunel Bench takes its design from the iconic Royal Albert Bridge, designed by world-famous engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The Bridge is unique in its construction method, with a structure that is admired all over the world. Originally called the Saltash Bridge during the design phase, it was officially named the Royal Albert Bridge by Prince Albert in 1859, and continues to carry mainline rail services some 164 years on. The bench represents a single span of the bridge, showing the upper tube acting in equal opposition to the chains of a more familiar suspension bridge construction.

Feedback from shoppers on the new bench has been overwhelmingly positive, with many people commenting that it has given them a renewed appreciation of the engineering genius behind the Royal Albert Bridge. As Saltash Mayor Richard Bickford commented: "A visit to Saltash is not complete without having your photo taken on the bench and viewing the magnificent bridge structure."

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