

Bridging the Border



Pupils test their paper bridges to destruction

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of Robert Stephenson's death, ICE North East and ICE Scotland joined forces for three days of activities in June with around 300 pupils in Berwick-Upon-Tweed as part of the town's 'Season of Stephenson' activities.

The celebration of Stephenson's life and work brought together youngsters from North and South of the Border. Pupils from P6 and P7 in Scotland and Year 6 in England constructed ICE Scotland's Bridges to Schools model. They also built model 'truss' bridges using nuts, bolts and paper tubes before loading them with weights and observing their behaviour under this load.

The activities took place at Longridge Towers School in Berwick-upon-Tweed, with pupils from Berwick Middle School, Tweedmouth Middle School, Ayton

Primary, Reston Primary, Chirnside Primary, Coldingham Primary and Eyemouth Primary all taking part. The cable stayed bridge kit was transported by BEAR Scotland, who also provided volunteers along with Borders Council to supervise the activities.

David Lloyd Roach, ICE's Director of Membership, said: "It's a great way to encourage team work and raise the profile of careers in civil engineering while also having fun. It's very exciting that this collaboration between ICE North East and ICE Scotland has allowed pupils in the North East of England to participate in this activity for the first time especially during this significant anniversary year."

Kickstart 2009 (23rd July)

The Kickstart summer programme provided a range of engineering and science activities for S5 pupils from the Edinburgh area to experience



studying and working at University. Dr Mark Taylor of Edinburgh Napier University provided a two hour workshop on bridge construction and modelling. Professor Charles Fairfield assisted the students with their testing and discussion regarding the failure mechanisms, and gave a motivation talk at the closing ceremony.

Above: Pupils with Prof. Fairfield in the heavy structures laboratory undertaking testing.

Inspiring Edinburgh Napier

A week long event offering workshops and activities in a range of subjects to high school and primary pupils from the 19-24th October 2009 at Pentland Community Centre, Edinburgh. The civil engineering workshop activity will include a paper bridge building competition running over three days with a final testing day prior to a mock graduation ceremony at Edinburgh Napier University Craiglockhart campus. Volunteers are required for this event and if anyone is interested please contact Dr Mark Taylor (m.taylor@napier.ac.uk).

