

BRUNEL'S TUNNEL WAS LEAKING RAW SEWAGE, FULL OF POISONOUS METHANE AND WAY OVER BUDGET.

IT WAS TIME TO HAVE A PARTY.

THE BRUNEL MUSEUM

Brunel Engine House
Railway Avenue
Rotherhithe
London SE16 4LF

020 7231 3840

www.brunel-museum.org.uk
Open 10:00 to 17:00, 7 days a week

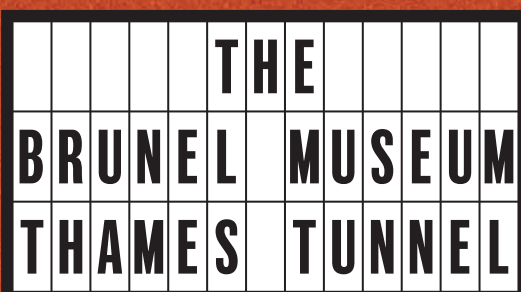


Flooding and fumes made excavating The Thames Tunnel a risky business. So much so, that investment was drying up.

It was then that Isambard Kingdom Brunel showed himself to be a great spin doctor as well as a great engineer.

Recognising that public confidence needed shoring up as much as the tunnel itself, he organized a banquet.

Fifty influential people dined off silver and crystal, to the music of the Coldstream Guards. (To Brunel's



credit, he invited his workmen as well.)

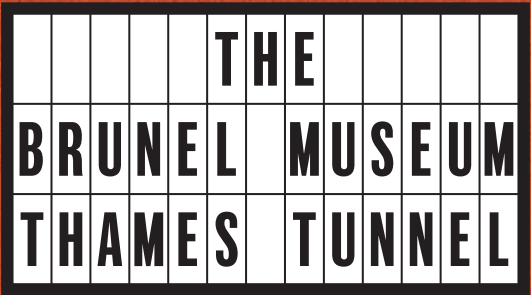
The party did its work and more funding began to flow in (followed shortly by several million gallons of untreated sewage, but that's another story).

You can learn more about the science, stench and social life of the Thames Tunnel if you visit the Brunel Museum. You'll find us just beside the river at

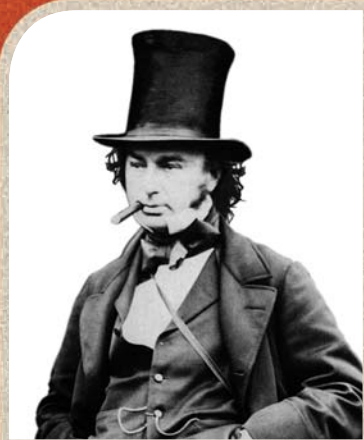
Rotherhithe. And the journey through the tunnel is a lot more pleasant than it used to be.

Today's work experience kids may think they have it tough, but nothing like Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The Thames Tunnel began as the brainchild of his father Marc. Months into the project, the engineer in charge resigned, his health destroyed. Lesser men might have seen this as a warning sign, but the younger Brunel wasn't built that way. When his father appointed him as Chief Engineer, he threw himself into

his work in conditions which would leave today's Health and Safety regulators reeling. Isambard endured poison methane gas, floods, explosions and collapses, working alongside the hard bitten miners and earning their respect. To learn more about the making of Isambard Kingdom Brunel the man, visit the museum that bears his name. We're near Rotherhithe station, just a few feet away from where it all began.



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**WHEN ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL
WAS TWENTY, HIS FATHER
THREW HIM IN AT THE DEEP END.**

The Thames Tunnel was the enterprise that made Isambard Kingdom Brunel, but on January 12th 1828 it very nearly broke him.

On that day, Brunel was at the tunnel face leading the excavating gang. The Thames burst in through the tunnel roof and within minutes the tunnel was swamped. Brunel was trapped under a fallen beam, but tore himself free.

Running for his life, he was caught by the surging waters. They carried him

up the tunnel shaft and spat him out, broken and battered, but alive. Six of his fellow workers were less fortunate.

Was this destiny at work? Or was it simply the result of a large volume of water obeying the laws of physics, which Brunel was trying so hard to defy?

You can discover more about Brunel's struggle and his ultimate triumph at The Brunel Museum.

It's just a few feet from where he was washed up.

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**BRUNEL'S FIRST GREAT SUCCESS.
AND VERY NEARLY, HIS LAST.**

Do crowned heads, wax celebs and mythologised serial killers leave you cold? Do you prefer your history with grit, guts, nuts and bolts, underpinned by hard science?

Good. There's a chance you might be attracted to The Brunel Museum.

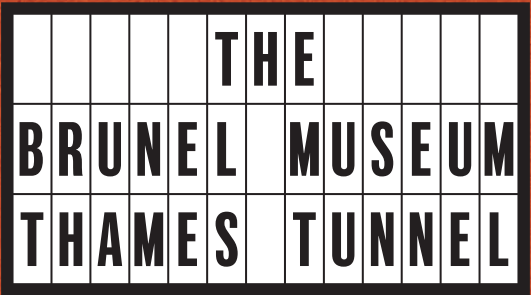
Here you can discover, in as much detail as you like, how a tunnel under the Thames launched the career of Britain's greatest engineer. How the tunnel itself owes its existence to a

creature that gnaws through ships' timbers. And how Brunel's unconquerable will drove his tunnel through mud, gravel, fire, flood, poison gas and public derision.

You'll find us close to Rotherhithe station, a few feet from the tunnel shaft.

Our story needs no embellishing with balloons, popcorn and other tourist fripperies, so you won't find any.

Though our coffee and cake are rather good.

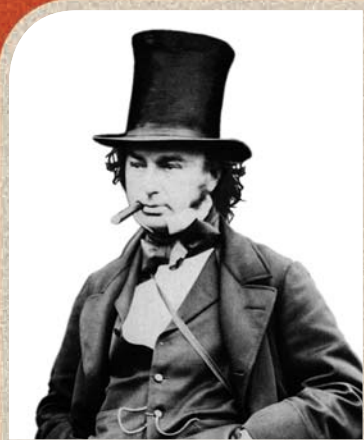
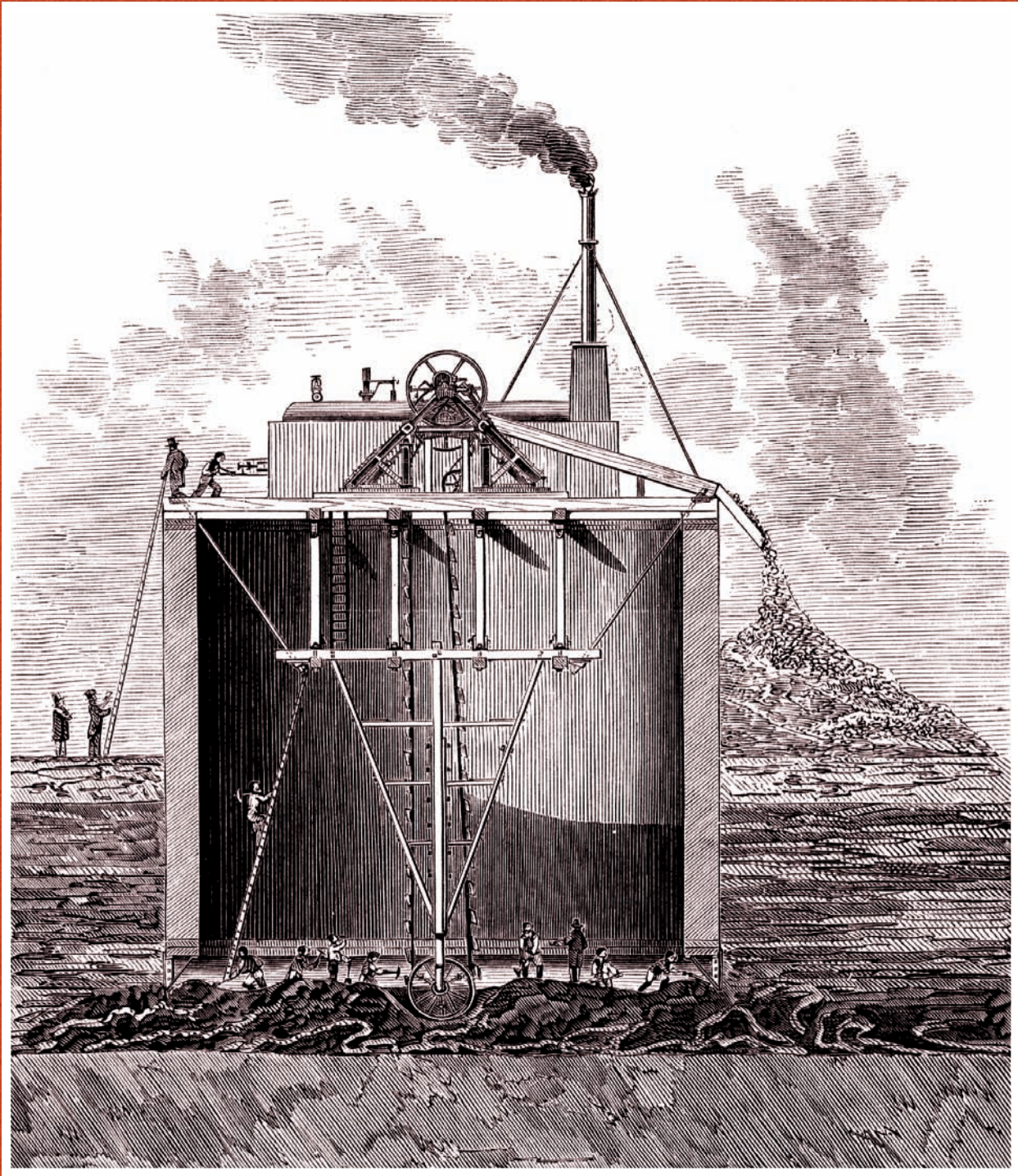


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THE BRUNEL MUSEUM IS NOT A

TOURIST ATTRACTION.

IT GOES DEEPER THAN THAT.

The shipworm is a marine mollusc which eats boats. (It doesn't do much else, but it does that very well.)

It chews its way through the timbers, excreting the digested wood to line the tunnel it leaves behind.

Marc Brunel (father of The Thames Tunnel and of Isambard Kingdom) was so profoundly impressed by the shipworm that he copied its act.

The result was the tunnelling shield, which enabled a team of men to excavate

and shore up a tunnel at the same time, solving the problem of digging through the collapse-prone soft soil beneath the Thames.

You can discover more about the genius of the Brunels père et fils (and indeed their shipworm-like persistence and tunnel vision) at the museum that bears their name.

You will acquire many new insights, some momentous, some unashamedly nerdy, some both.

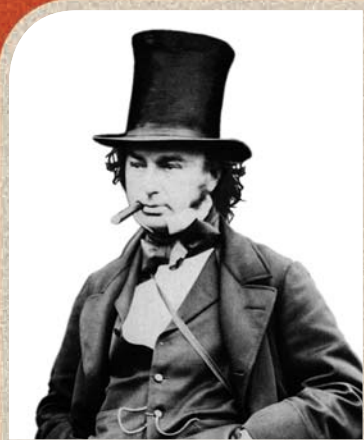
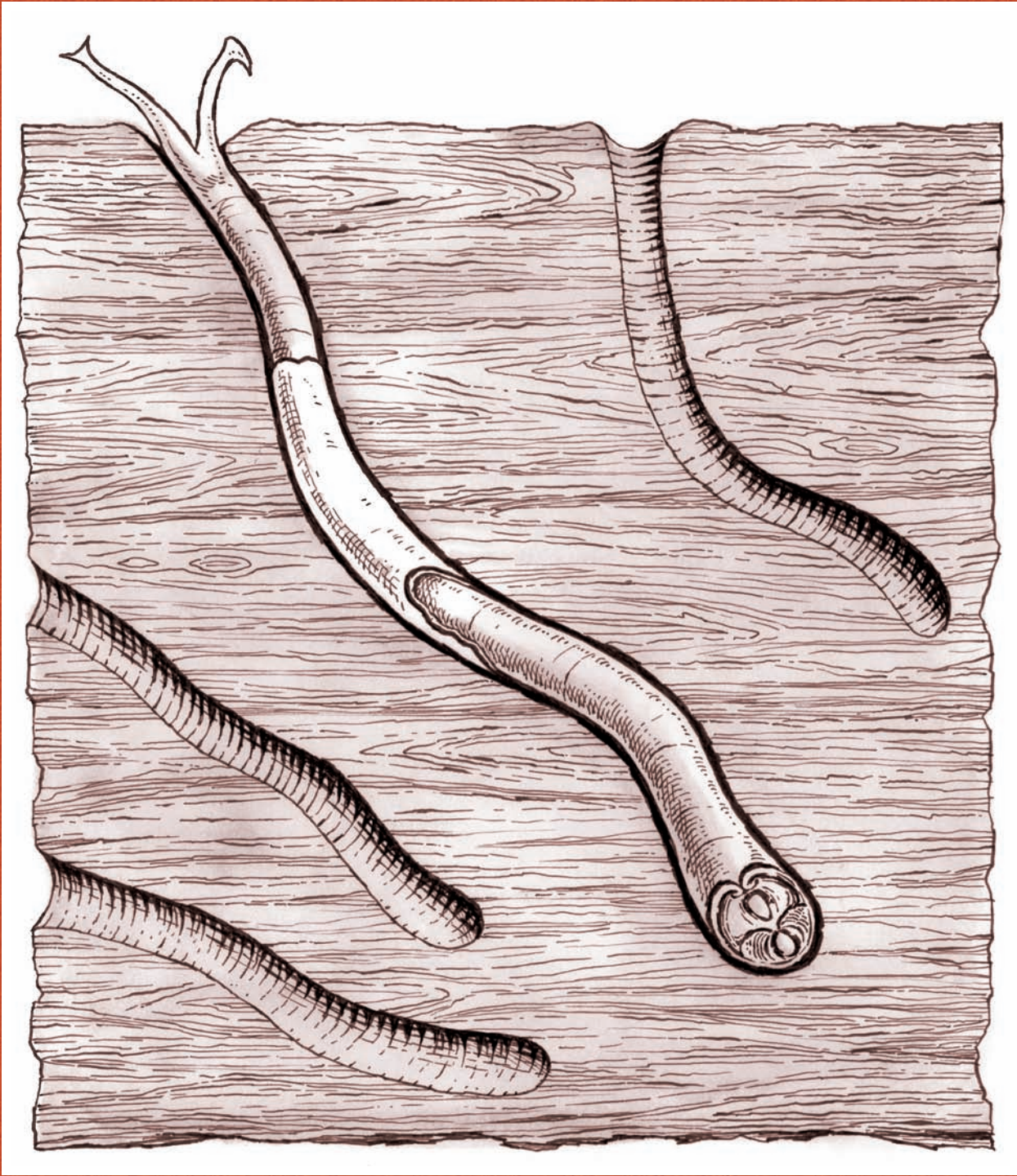
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**BRUNEL'S VAST, AWE-INSPIRING
TUNNEL OWES ITS EXISTENCE TO A
SMALL BORING MOLLUSC.**