

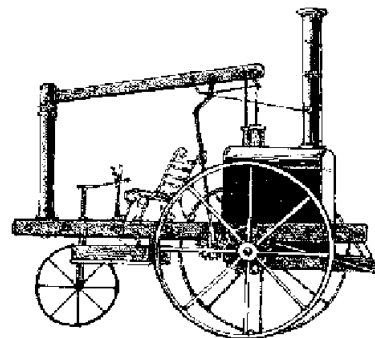
The Murdoch Flyer Project

NEWSLETTER

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www.murdochflyer.org



THE MURDOCH FLYER SEATS TWO

The appearance of our full size replica steam carriage has changed over recent months. The single person seat on the locomotive has been replaced by a new one designed for two people. Although William Murdoch's original carriage was not designed to carry passengers, we have fitted a double seat so that team members can learn to drive the carriage under the supervision of Nigel Eden, currently our only experienced driver. The locomotive was displayed for the first time in this form on Murdoch Day 2009. It had been removed from public display in Market Way and prepared for its annual boiler inspection and steam test. It passed with flying colours and maintenance work was then carried out to get it ready for a steam display on 13th June.

The weather on Murdoch day was ideal and crowds flocked into the town to see the children's dance at 10.00am. Thereafter they remained to visit the stalls in the street market and see the displays mounted in Murdoch House and elsewhere. There were music events at many venues throughout the town and the old time fair was sited in the upper Fore Street car park as usual.

The Murdoch Flyer display took place in the Penryn Street car park with the kind permission of the Royal British Legion, Redruth. Our large display area was marked out using crowd barrier fencing hired from Rent-a-Fence (SW) and we mounted a display in our gazebo.

(left) Nigel Eden demonstrates the steam carriage



Sallie Dinham joins Nigel for a ride on the carriage (right)

The locomotive team arrived at around 9.30am and soon had the boiler filled with water and the fire lit. With steam raised, demonstrations of the steam carriage commenced around 10.30am and continued until after 4.00pm. Crowds visited our display all through the day and we talked to many of the visitors.



Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Flyer project was held on Wednesday 8th April. The officers for 2009 -10 are unchanged: John Baughan (Chairman), Keith Dinham (Vice-chairman), Daniel Green (Secretary) and Viv Burt (Treasurer). The members of the committee are the same as last year with one addition, John Chapman, whom we are pleased to welcome to our team.

Display Venue – Market Way

There is nothing new to report. Apart from the period when the locomotive has been removed for its annual boiler inspection and preparation for Murdoch Day and the Boconnoc Steam Fair, it has been on public display in Market Way. The locomotive is now back on display, with the wagon and touch screen, for the information and interest of local residents and visitors to the town. The public can pick up copies of our project leaflet and newsletters from the display.

The Royal Cornwall Show 2009

A display about the Murdoch Flyer project was mounted in a marquee jointly sponsored by Camborne, Pool and Redruth at this year's show. Although the replica steam carriage was not there, our laminated display was included and copies of our postcards, newsletters and project information leaflets were available. Redruth Town Council commissioned a dvd video entitled "Redruth Revealed" to promote the town. It features the Flyer project and shows the full size replica locomotive in steam. Produced by Heartland Productions for Redruth Town Council, the free dvd's were available at the show and a copy can be obtained from the tourist information office in the Cornish Studies Centre, Redruth (while stocks last).

The Boconnoc Steam Fair

Nigel Eden and Ivan Sedgman transported the Flyer locomotive to the Boconnoc Steam Fair, near Liskeard, which took place from Friday 24th – Sunday 26th July. Keith and Sallie Dinham, John Chapman and Chris Atkinson also helped with our display sited in the tractor area. The locomotive was in steam and proved capable of being driven without problems on the sloping grass surfaces. On Saturday afternoon, Nigel undertook a successful extended "road run" in front of Boconnoc house watched by many onlookers. At the end of the run, his return route was up a long grass slope and the Flyer still managed to get part way to the top before the steam ran out. Despite some rain, the rally was very enjoyable and thanks are due to the project members who arranged our attendance, prepared the locomotive for display, attended the event and made it such a success. Our thanks also to Ivan's son for the use of his caravan again.

Purchase of electric winch

We have previously highlighted the problems we encounter when loading and unloading the full size replica on and off the trailer for transportation to events and public displays. Weighing nearly two tonnes, it is a struggle and hazardous for our older project members (and that means most of us!) The job has been made much easier and safer with the purchase of a 12,000 lb capacity, 12-volt electric winch (similar to those used on breakdown vehicles) at a cost of £300.

William Murdoch's Christening Gown

We have recently received the following information from a member of a family related to William Murdoch. In their possession is a christening gown made of Ayrshire lace believed to have been worn by William Murdoch at his christening. Born on 21st August 1754, William's baptism is recorded in the register for Auchinleck for 22nd September that year (reference: "The Third Man" - p5). The gown has been passed down through succeeding generations of the Murdoch family and was given to her father-in-law due to him being the eldest child of his generation. The gown has been worn by her daughters at their christenings.

The Murdoch Flyer Project – 10th Anniversary

In March 2010 we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the start of this project. Our spring 2010 newsletter – issue No 20 - will be a special commemorative edition. Don't miss it!

William Murdoch`s Rumford Medal Bi-centenary

The invention of practical gas lighting finally earned William Murdoch recognition in history. After much experimentation, in 1792 he built a gas retort in the yard outside his Redruth home, installed a pipe from it into his house and illuminated his home with gas light. After leaving the services of Boulton and Watt and returning to Ayrshire, he was offered the position of Superintendent of their Soho Foundry in Birmingham where he continued the development and installation of gas lighting. In recognition of this achievement, he was awarded the Rumford Gold Medal by The Royal Society in 1809. To mark the bi-centenary of this distinguished award, Redruth Story Group welcomed John Taylor, a well-known retired Gas Engineer and a Friend of the Flyer, to give an illustrated talk at the Royal British Legion Club in Redruth on 11th June 2009. John is an experienced and interesting speaker and the event was well attended.

Murdoch`s inventions and innovations – Worm Wheel

The worm wheel, a part of Murdoch`s patent of 1799, was an endless screw working in conjunction with a toothed wheel which produced a steady motion for driving machine tools and similar applications. Because the worm wheel is a non-reversing drive mechanism, it also found use in crane drives where it formed a safer means of operation since the load could not wind the engine back if the drive stopped.

Some Other Flyers

With departures every 20 minutes, the **Bristol International Flyer** makes light work of travelling to and from Bristol International Airport. With features such as the latest on-board satellite technology and signal priority equipment, passengers are ensured a rapid and stress-free connection to the rail and bus networks in the city centre.

In the horse racing world, the **Hurricane Flyer** is a former Irish Derby winner.

Enthusiasts of the Chipmonk aircraft know that the type dates back to Canadian origin and the prototype first flew on 22nd May 1946. The de Havilland Canada DHC-1 was known as the **Chipmonk Flyer**. The Chipmonk was retired in March 1997 after 47 years military service.

Project Team Profile – Ed Hamilton

Ed Hamilton, a long time friend of our vice-chairman Keith Dinham, first heard about the Murdoch Flyer Project when visiting Keith in Redruth. A professional musician, Ed was so intrigued by the “goings on” in Keith`s barn that after speaking to the “Murdoch Boys” and finding out about the project, he offered to write a song, recorded it and produced copies of a CD to help us raise funds to build the full size steam carriage. “The Ballad of William Murdoch” was launched on BBC Radio Cornwall in November 2002 and all proceeds from the sale of the CD have been donated to the project. Ed was elected an Honorary Member of the Flyer Project in March 2003 to show our appreciation. Ed is the holder of an Oscar nomination, has several gold and silver discs to his credit and runs his own record label and publishing company in Middlesex.

William Murdoch – new dvd video

A new dvd video entitled “The Story of William Murdoch, The Scot Who Lit The World” has been produced by Janet Thomson. Janet is the author of the book “The Scot Who Lit The World”. From his childhood in rural Ayrshire, through his years in Cornwall and Birmingham, this dvd follows the life of a remarkable engineer and inventor – a giant of the industrial revolution. The dvd includes the world`s first steam carriage as the Murdoch Flyer Project proudly launches its handsome replica locomotive. In the words of Lord Kelvin, with his greatest invention – gas lighting – Murdoch did “great things for the whole world”. Due to a very generous offer from Janet, for which we thank her most sincerely, we have copies of this dvd for sale to raise funds for the Flyer project. The dvd`s will make excellent Christmas presents and cost £10.00 each (plus £1.00 to cover packing and postage if applicable).

Please send your name, address and cheque made payable to “The Murdoch Flyer Project” to John Baughan, 94 Albany Road, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2HZ.

The Ballad of William Murdoch – our compact disc.

Whilst mentioning Christmas presents, our compact disc written, performed and produced by Ed Hamilton is now available at £3.00 each (plus postage if applicable). To order please contact Keith Dinham, telephone 01209 215498.

Murdoch Flyer talks

We have been asked on several occasions recently to give a talk about the Flyer project and in the past have been unable to do so. However, giving talks to interested groups fits well with our current project aims to inform people about William Murdoch's life and achievements. John Baughan and Keith Dinham have prepared a PowerPoint presentation and have accepted an invitation to present this to an Old Cornwall society during November. We hope to be able to accept more invitations to give talks in the future to benefit this project.

Project Website www.murdochflyer.org



We are very grateful for the help we have received from Mrs Pat Parry, of Cornish Computing, to update and improve our project website. With her valuable help the website has a more professional appearance. It contains a lot more information about the project and is very user friendly. There is biographical information about William Murdoch, photos of the Flyer locomotives and other items and also video clips of our locomotives operating under steam. Members of the public can also contact us via our website.

Friends of the Flyer

Friends' subscriptions run until the end of December 2009 but a reminder form for your 2010 subscription is enclosed with this newsletter and it can be sent to us now if you wish.

Currently the aim of this project is to display the replica steam locomotive and wagon to the public and inform people about Murdoch's many achievements. We have to pay display and transportation costs, fees for annual boiler examinations, insurance, maintenance, sundry workshop costs, electricity bills etc and so we must continue to raise funds. Our target is still £3,000 per year through donations, subscriptions, funding and sponsorship.

We hope that our existing Friends will continue to support us with their subscriptions and donations and help us to enrol new Friends. We endeavour to keep our costs as low as possible but like many things, printing and postage for our two annual newsletters continues to rise. The Friends of the Flyer subscription for 2010 remains at £5.00. We are very grateful to all our Friends who have sent us a donation to our funds in addition to their subscription. Since we launched our Flyer Fund to build and display the full size locomotive we have raised over £42,000.

We need more working members, male and female, people with engineering or other skills to come and help us.

We also need to train more people to drive the locomotive!

Our project members are very keen and want to continue doing the work they have been doing for the past ten years but we are all getting older. We have achieved a considerable amount. First we designed, built and displayed the static replica which is on the roundabout by Tesco and which has become a landmark of Redruth. We then designed, built and demonstrated one-third full size replicas of Murdoch's locomotive under steam before embarking on building the full size steam driven Flyer locomotive. We all have physical limitations and younger people could probably assist us with some of the heavier manual work that is necessary from time to time. Displaying the replica will become more demanding for our existing members in the future. We are always looking for new ideas and will appreciate help with fund raising activities. Anyone wishing to become involved with this project, join our project team or support us by way of sponsorship or donation is asked to please contact:

The Murdoch Flyer Project, 94 Albany Road, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2HZ. Tel. 01209 212971.