

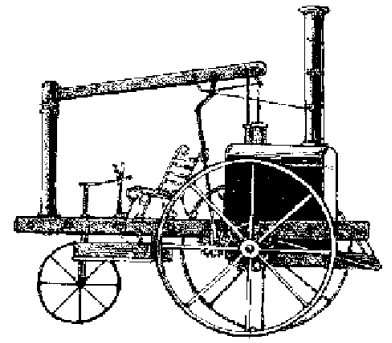
The Murdoch Flyer Project

NEWSLETTER

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www.murdochflyer.org



**The Murdoch Flyer
new DVD and CD available
See page 2**

**William Murdoch
visits the Flyer
See page 3**

New Display for the Flyer at Redruth Market

The Murdoch Flyer replica locomotive and wagon have been on static display inside Market Way, Redruth, since early in 2007. We have recently been offered a new under cover position in the courtyard of Redruth Butter Market where we will have more space to display the locomotive, wagon and other items. The locomotive will be demonstrated under steam at the market and we will only have to move it a few feet into the open part of the courtyard. This will enable us to demonstrate the locomotive in steam more frequently and it will bring people into the market, particularly on "steaming" days, to the advantage of both the Flyer project and the market stall holders. We have the support of Redruth Town Council and it is intended that we will have the locomotive in



steam on special occasions such as St. Piran's Day, Murdoch Day, Miners Day and during the Christmas markets. Work to establish the new display has already started and the photo above shows the Flyer in its new position. The photo on the right shows recent steam trials in the open courtyard of the Butter Market. Miners Day 2011 was celebrated on Friday 16th September and visitors to the town were able to see the Murdoch Flyer in full steam. Redruth town development manager Lee Dunkley said "It is important for the Redruth community to work together to celebrate all the different aspects of our World Heritage Site status. A mining festival including Miners` Day and the Murdoch Flyer play an important part in this." From the town centre, our new display is still approached through Market Way. We will give you an updated report with more pictures in our spring 2012 newsletter.



Annual General Meeting

At our 2011 AGM the following officers were re-elected: Chairman – John Baughan, Vice-Chairman - Keith Dinham, Secretary - Sallie Dinham and Treasurer - Viv Burt.

Flyer Displays 2011

Murdoch Day was held on Saturday 18th June. We were given permission to display the full size replica in steam in the car park in Penryn Street, previously the Redruth Royal British Legion but now called St. Rumon`s Social Club. Heavy rain in the early morning made the surface of the car park very slippery. The steam carriage has three steel wheels and our relatively small display arena required very tight turns. Concerned about skidding and instability of the carriage in these conditions, we reluctantly decided to display the locomotive under steam but without it being driven around our display arena. By mid-morning the weather conditions had improved and thereafter we had a succession of visitors to our display. A good day was eventually had by all. We thank the management of St Rumon`s Club for their co-operation.

We booked to attend the **Boconnoc Steam Fair**, held on 22nd to 24th July and the **West of England Steam Engine Society Rally** held at Stithians, near Redruth from 19th - 21st August. However, we were forced to cancel these plans a few weeks before the events took place due to several of our members being hospitalized, unwell or otherwise incapacitated. At other times the locomotive and wagon, together with our laminated information display, have been on public display in Market Way, Redruth.

New film “The Murdoch Flyer” now available on DVD.

Early this year, our touch screen display in Market Way was damaged. We consulted John Cocksedge of Snook Technology, who has premises in the market, for his advice on its repair. Replacement of the damaged touch screen would have been expensive. John said he could produce a new computer program so that the display would operate as a continuous film instead of a touch screen. He then offered to make, without charge, a new film about the Murdoch Flyer on DVD and we gratefully accepted. John`s speciality is computer animation and this new film shows the Flyer as you have never seen it before. The film explains how the locomotive is constructed and how it works. John approached professional film music writers who agreed to compose original music for the film. The DVD is about 40 minutes long and features some of our project members involved in the building of the locomotive who explain the design, construction and operation of the full size replica. Using both live footage and computer 3D animation viewers will learn how this fantastic machine works. There is also a music CD available to accompany the DVD which contains all the excellent music tracks used in the film. John has produced this DVD and CD to help us promote the Murdoch Flyer project and to raise further funds. We wish to thank everybody who has contributed to the making of this film. The DVD costs £9.99, the CD £7.99 or both the DVD and CD can be purchased for £14.99. Postage and packing is £2.00 (uk) and £4.00 (elsewhere). Please order from Keith Dinham, Tolgus Farmhouse, Tolgus Mount, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 3SS, tel (01209) 215498.

New “Major Sponsor” Plaques

Two new “Major Sponsor” plaques have been fitted to the Flyer support wagon. They bear the names “Heather, Lois and Denis Glass” and “M. H. Sowden” and join sixteen other plaques.

Whistle for the Flyer

On crowded rally sites our steam carriage driver needs to be able to warn the public of the approach of the vehicle. Our committee members agreed to the fitting of a steam whistle although William Murdoch`s original carriage is unlikely to have carried one. A superb polished brass steam whistle, see photo (right), has been made for us and donated to the project by Mr Alan Whysall who lives in Nottinghamshire. The whistle was fitted to the steam carriage for our live steam display on Murdoch Day and the locomotive driver operates it by pulling a cord attached to a steam valve.



Locomotive annual steam test



The Flyer locomotive passed its annual steam examination on 15th August. The picture on the left shows our boiler inspector carrying out a static examination before steam was raised. On the right he is witnessing the operation of the controls and safety features under steam. The examination was carried out at Market Way. Our thanks are due to the market management, to Nigel Eden who arranged for the examination to be carried out and to members of our project team who assisted him on the day.



James Watt`s Workshop

When James Watt died in 1819, his workshop at his home, Heathfield House, Handsworth, Birmingham was sealed undisturbed and not reopened until 1901. In 1924 the workshop was moved, complete with some 8430 objects belonging to Watt, to the Science Museum in London prior to the house being demolished in 1928. The attic workshop has now been carefully recreated in the Science Museum for a permanent exhibition "James Watt and our World" which opened in March 2011. Visitors are able to enter Watt`s workshop and see the vast majority of these items, including a previously unknown bust of James Watt.

William Murdoch Visits the Flyer



At the end of June, we were delighted to welcome William Murdoch to Redruth and show him the Flyer replica steam carriage on display in Market Way. William is aged 6 and is probably the youngest descendant of the great inventor also bearing his name (unless anyone can advise us otherwise). He came with his father, David, and other members of his family whilst visiting Cornwall on holiday. He sat proudly in the driver`s seat of the steam carriage and looked at the controls. He then sat on the support wagon. We arranged for the family to visit Murdoch House where they were shown the display in the meeting room and William had a photograph taken with the bust of his famous ancestor.

New Show About William Murdoch

Adrian Johnson is research writer in residence at Matthew Boulton`s home Soho House in Birmingham. He is Birmingham`s recent poet laureate and has written a new show about William Murdoch called "The man who played with fire". Performed with international storyteller Anna Cosomos and with cello, harp and flute musical accompaniment by Becca Hetherington, Adrian first presented the one hour long show to young people in Birmingham during May. The show is available to book and tour from autumn 2011. Adrian is a Friend of the Flyer.

Roads c1800 hampered Murdoch`s Steam Carriage

Murdoch`s large steam carriage was built c1792.

"In 1800 travelling was far from easy since the roads were often unsuitable for vehicular traffic. The pack horse was the recognized means of transport and Boulton estimated that 1500 mules and horses were employed solely for transport for the mining industry. The movement of large items such as engine cylinders and engine beams involved low loading wagons pulled by large teams of horses – not an easy operation on deeply rutted "roads". The only way an individual could travel was on horse-back, or as the roads improved, in a carriage or trap of his own. There was very little public transport and the only means available between Truro and the Land`s End, around the turn of the eighteenth century, was the Post-chaise kept at Camborne, excluding the coach. With a base at Redruth an engineer was well placed to cover the intensive mining area in the parish of Gwennap and North Downs as well as those to the west."

Extract: " Michell - A Family of Cornish Engineers 1740-1910" by F. Bice Michell published by The Trevithick Society

Murdoch`s inventions and innovations – Pneumatic Lifting Gear (1813)

It was necessary to save displaced water as vessels passed through canals and docks. William Murdoch invented a pneumatic lifting gear using compressed air which operated an air-tight vault at the bottom of the lock. William`s pneumatic lifts were also installed to transport materials from the adjacent canal to various manufacturing departments in the Soho foundry and they worked very successfully. In 1828, Murdoch and his son, William, endeavoured to persuade the Boulton and Watt company, by this time controlled by Boulton and Watt`s sons, to install this equipment in St. Catherine`s dry dock but without success. There were many different applications based on William`s principle and the equipment became common place running lathes and sewing machines.

Some Other Flyers:

Australia`s Class C38 Pacifics, including their most famous preserved steam locomotive the streamlined 1943-built Pacific No. 3801, carried the “**Newcastle Flyer**” headboard when running between Newcastle and Sydney.

Pickfords Volvo removals van, registration no. R544 AVU, is named “**The Silverstone Flyer**”. A special heritage train to mark the seaside town of Saltburn`s 150 years celebrations in October 2011 is being named the “**Saltburn Flyer**”.

Project Team Profile – Bryan Llewellyn

Bryan was born in Suez, Egypt, where his father was in the RAF. He came to England and was educated at Newhaven Secondary School. After leaving school, he was employed in purchasing for a national Catering Manufacturer. Bryan set up his own business in Redruth making and selling sandwiches to the local companies. When required, Bryan has supported the Flyer project`s fundraising on Murdoch Day by making cakes which have been sold on our stand. Bryan has also helped us in our workshop with the construction of the steam driven locomotive and in recent years he has been a member of our team, helping us to set up and run our display arena on Murdoch Day.

Project Website: www.murdochflyer.org



Our website still receives many favourable comments and we thank Mrs Pat Parry, of Cornish Computing, for her help in keeping it updated. It contains lots of information, photographs and video clips. In the archive

section are copies of all the Murdoch Flyer newsletters issued since the start of this project in 2000. We invite your comments and suggestions for any further improvements.

Friends of the Flyer

We are very grateful to our Friends who have paid their subscriptions for 2011 and to all who have sent us donations in addition. We are enclosing a reminder for your 2012 subscriptions with this newsletter and we will be pleased to receive them now if you would like to send them to us. We have to maintain both the full size working replica locomotive and the large static replica on the roundabout in Redruth. Our annual costs for boiler inspections, insurance, our display venue, workshop facilities, maintenance materials, transport etc., are in the region of £1,000 so we must continue our fundraising. We thank all our Friends who have agreed to receive their newsletters by email as this reduces our postage costs.

We need more people to come and help us. However willing our older members are, we all have limitations and younger people can assist us with some of the heavier work that is necessary from time to time. Our recent efforts to recruit younger members appear to be successful but we still welcome more joining our team. We want to train more locomotive drivers and need help with fund raising and other activities. Anyone wishing to become involved with this project, to join our project team or support us by sponsorship or donation please contact:

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