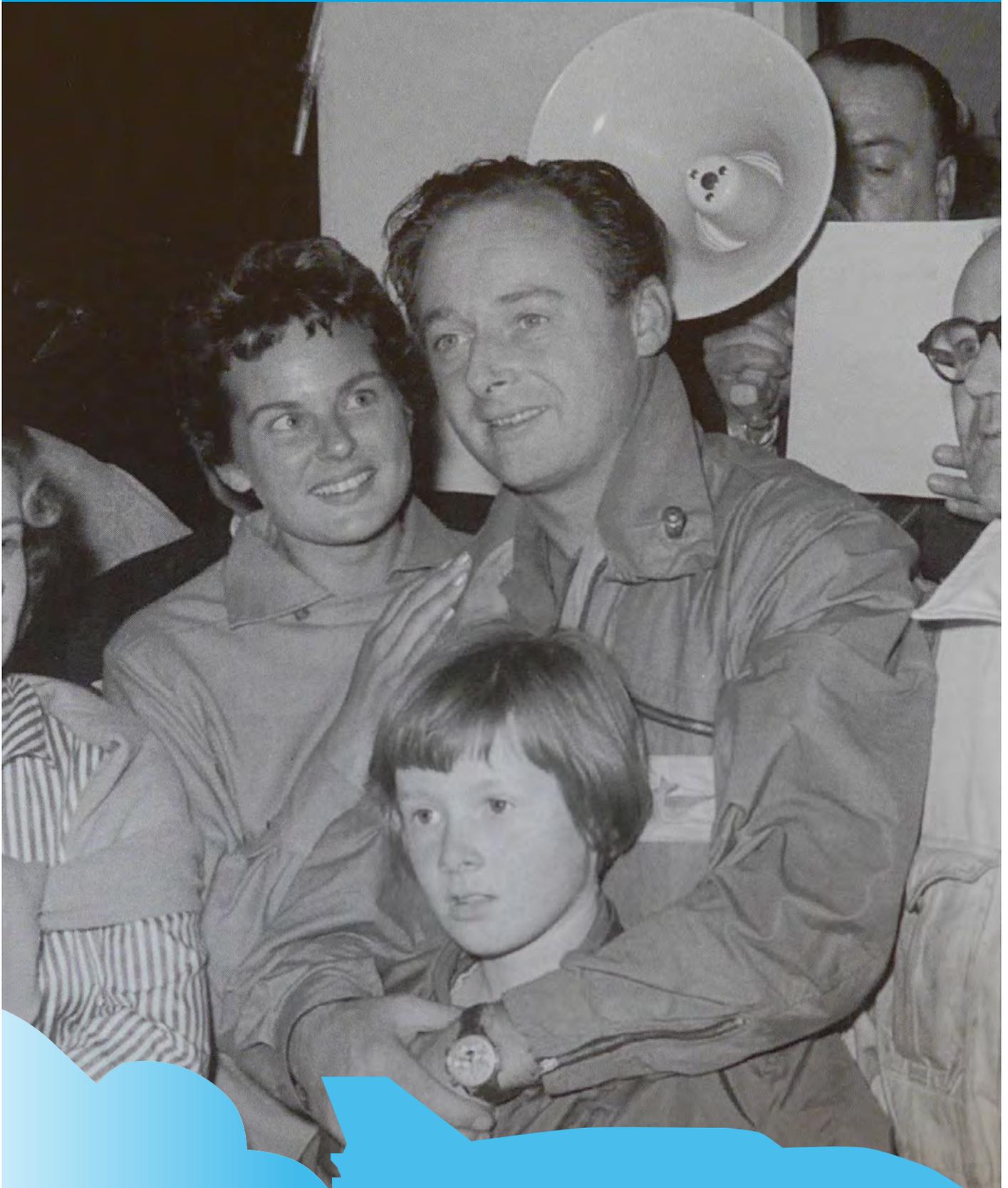


# Donald Campbell

## A Coniston Hero



# Introduction to this Resource

Produced by Minerva Heritage Ltd [www.minervaheritage.com](http://www.minervaheritage.com)  
in association with the Ruskin Museum

## Purpose

The resource concentrates on the story of Coniston local hero Donald Campbell.

Donald Campbell broke four world water speed records on Coniston Water.

Donald Campbell died on Coniston Water, just before completing his attempt to raise the world water speed record to 300mph.

The Ruskin Museum, Coniston, contains a strong collection relating to Donald Campbell the man and the story of his life.

## Curriculum links

At KS1/2 and through to Key Stages 3/4 this resource links primarily into the history curriculum. The Donald Campbell story provides opportunities to:

- Understand methods of historical enquiry
- Interpret the past
- Gain historical perspective
- Study the life of this significant individual
- Undertake a local history study, focussing on Coniston

The resource also provides opportunities to:

- Develop English-language reading and writing
- Produce and reflect on learners' own creative work and the works of others
- Explore elements of design and technology and science through Donald Campbell's world speed record-breaking attempts

# Donald Campbell Biography

## Summary

Donald Campbell was one of Coniston's heroes. He broke four world speed records on Coniston Water. Donald Campbell died just before completing his attempt to raise the world water speed record to 300mph. His Bluebird K7 hydroplane flipped and crashed at speed on Coniston Water.

## Donald's Early Years

Donald Campbell was born 23 March 1921, in 'Canbury', Kingston Hill, Surrey. He was educated at Uppingham School in Rutland.

## Sir Malcolm Campbell

Donald's father was Sir Malcolm Campbell. As a record-breaker himself he was an inspiration to Donald.

Sir Malcolm Campbell broke 14 world speed records during the 1920s and 1930s. These included 9 official world speed records on Land (plus 1 unofficial) and 4 official world speed records on Water.

It was Donald's father Sir Malcolm Campbell who first attempted speed records on Coniston Water in August 1939. Donald continued the family's tradition of speed record-breaking attempts.

## Donald the young man

In 1939 Donald Campbell volunteered for the Royal Air Force. He was rejected due to ill health and instead he found work as a maintenance engineer for a company called Briggs Motor Bodies Ltd, in West Thurrock, Essex.

Donald Campbell's father, Sir Malcolm Campbell, died on the stroke of midnight on 31 December 1948.

# Donald Campbell Biography

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## Donald the Record-Breaker

Donald Campbell began to use Sir Malcolm's old boat Blue Bird K4 soon after his death.

His team improved the existing boat over three seasons on Coniston Water in 1949, 1950 and 1951, when it crashed at over 180mph and was wrecked beyond repair.

## A new Bluebird

A new Bluebird hydroplane was needed to keep up with rival speed record attempts.

The new all-metal Bluebird K7 got faster and faster with progressive improvements, and between 1955 and 1964 Donald Campbell set seven world water speed records, four of which were reached on Coniston Water.

In that time he raised the world record from 202mph to 276mph.

## Bluebird and Coniston

In the second half of the 1950s, Campbell and the Bluebird K7 became an annual attraction on Coniston Water. Bluebird K7 toured on exhibition across the UK, USA, Canada and Europe. Bluebird K7 also went to Australia in 1963-64 while Campbell was attempting the land speed record.

In January 1957 Campbell was awarded 'Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire' (CBE) for his water-speed record breaking exploits.

# Donald Campbell Biography

## Summary

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## Donald's Land Speed Records

During the 1960s Donald Campbell attempted to break the World Land Speed Record, once dominated by his father, Sir Malcolm Campbell.

### Bluebird CN7

Brothers Ken and Lew Norris designed Bluebird-Proteus CN7 hoping that it would reach 500 mph (800 km/h). Donald Campbell wanted Bluebird CN7 to be the best; a demonstration of British engineering.

### The Bluebird CN7 crash

In 1960 he had a terrible crash in Bluebird CN7 on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, the location of his father's last successful land speed record over 300mph. Donald escaped with a fractured skull, a burst eardrum, and a badly damaged but unbroken back, and some cuts and bruises. Bluebird CN7 was destroyed.

## Bluebird Down Under

Bluebird CN7's manufacturer offered to build a new vehicle. Donald Campbell eventually chose Lake Eyre, South Australia, for his next attempt.

On 17 July 1964 Donald Campbell set a new record of 403.10 mph (648.73 km/h). Campbell was very disappointed as Bluebird CN7 had not reached the high speeds it had been designed for. Breaking this land speed record had been very tough for Campbell - 'We've made it - we got the bastard at last,' was his reaction.

Bluebird CN7 is on display at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire.

# Donald Campbell Biography

## Summary

Donald Campbell was one of Coniston's heroes. He broke four world speed records on Coniston Water. Donald Campbell died just before completing his attempt to raise the world water speed record to 300mph. His Bluebird K7 hydroplane flipped and crashed at speed on Coniston Water.

## Records On Land and Water

Donald Campbell immediately returned to Bluebird K7. The plan with Bluebird CN7 had always been to break both the land and water speed records in a single year.

Despite more delays he broke the water speed record again at Lake Dumbleyung, near Perth, Western Australia, on 31 December 1964. He set the record speed at 276.33 mph (444.71 km/h) and became the first person to set both land and water speed records in the same year - 1964.

## The Unbeaten Double

He is still the only person to have done this, although this unique success was never really embraced by the British public.

Man's adventures in space made the world records on land and water look rather old-fashioned. Faster vehicles used by the Americans had been ineligible for the land speed record as they were not wheel-driven, but the rules were changed from October 1964.

# Donald Campbell Biography

## Summary

Donald Campbell was one of Coniston's heroes. He broke four world speed records on Coniston Water. Donald Campbell died just before completing his attempt to raise the world water speed record to 300mph. His Bluebird K7 hydroplane flipped and crashed at speed on Coniston Water.

## A Supersonic Bluebird

Donald Campbell decided that he would need to develop a supersonic, rocket-powered car, the Bluebird Mach 1.1. This would ramp up the World Land Speed Record to a new level while demonstrating the superiority of British technology and expertise.

“The Americans are already making plans for such a vehicle and it would be tragic for the world image of British technology if we did not compete in this great contest and win. The nation whose technologies are first to seize the ‘faster-than-sound’ record on land will be the nation whose industry will be seen to leapfrog into the 70s or 80s. We can have the car on the track within three years”

*Donald Campbell (attributed via Wikipedia pages, citation needed: there was a Press Conference when he unveiled his plans for this new vehicle)*

## The Old Faithful Bluebird K7

He decided to use his well-known Bluebird K7 one last time to take the World Water Speed Record past 300 mph on Coniston Water, to raise sponsorship and the money to pay for this new project.

300mph was the benchmark speed record that his father was the first to exceed on Land. Donald Campbell gave his old Bluebird K7 machine a new engine, believed to be capable of reaching his target of 300 mph on water.

# Donald Campbell Biography

## Summary

Donald Campbell was one of Coniston's heroes. He broke four world speed records on Coniston Water. Donald Campbell died just before completing his attempt to raise the world water speed record to 300mph. His Bluebird K7 hydroplane flipped and crashed at speed on Coniston Water.

## Coniston Water 1965-67

On 4 January 1967, Donald Campbell took his Bluebird K7 onto Coniston Water in what the official monitor described as 'perfect conditions'. Donald Campbell averaged 297mph over the first south-bound kilometre, and was travelling at 328mph on entering the return north-bound kilometre. He was 183m from the finish line and only a split-second before breaking his own water-speed record when the nose of Bluebird K7 lifted, the hydroplane flipped over into a somersault and then it disintegrated as it hit the water at 300mph.

Donald Campbell was killed instantly.

## Donald Comes to Rest

Royal Navy divers were unable to find Donald's body, so his family requested that the crash site be respected as a grave. His remains were eventually recovered 34 years later in 2001.

In 1967 Mr Whoppit, Campbell's lucky teddy bear mascot, was found among the floating debris and Donald Campbell's pilot's helmet was recovered.

Campbell was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct posthumously 'for courage and determination in attacking the world water speed record' on 28 January 1967.

# Preparing for your visit

If you can, it's best to make a preliminary planning visit to the Ruskin Museum, especially if you have not visited before. Teachers can make planning visits free of charge by contacting the Ruskin Museum site on 01539 441164 or email [information@ruskinmuseum.com](mailto:information@ruskinmuseum.com)

Learners will get the most out of their visit if they have done some preparatory work beforehand. Depending on the age and prior knowledge of your group, you could:

- Learn about world records
- Find out about how vehicles (cars, but also boats and planes) have changed and been designed to make them quicker
- Watch some of the YouTube videos available on historic speed record attempts
- Find out about Sir Malcolm Campbell (Donald's father)

## Pre-visit video suggestions

Sir Malcolm Campbell breaking a land-speed record at Daytona, FL, USA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK5QUcNFSJA>

Full BBC / BBC4 documentary (59 min) on Donald Campbell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNewUIoS3wk>

Pathe Newsreel: Donald Campbell at Lake Eyre - note Mr Whoppit (links to Activity 2) at 0m38s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqvpcX4HoCg>

# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 1 – DONALD CAMPBELL ESSENTIAL FACTS

### For teachers

This fact-finding activity helps learners to engage with the collection while establishing some of the principal milestones in Donald Campbell's story. The world land and water speed records that Donald Campbell set are provided as tables in **Resources 1**.

#### Q: What was Donald Campbell's father famous for?

A: Malcolm Campbell set 14 world speed records. 10 of these were set on land, and 4 were set on water.

#### Q: How many world records did Donald Campbell achieve?

A: Donald Campbell set eight world speed records. 7 of these were set on water, 1 of these was set on land.

#### Q: What world record breaking feat did Donald Campbell achieve that no-one else has ever managed to do?

A: Donald Campbell set the world land and water-speed records in the same year, in 1964.

#### Q: What happened to Bluebird K7 and Donald Campbell at Coniston Water in 1967?

A: The hydroplane somersaulted and killed Donald Campbell. The boat was wrecked and sank.

# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 1 – DONALD CAMPBELL ESSENTIAL FACTS

### For learners

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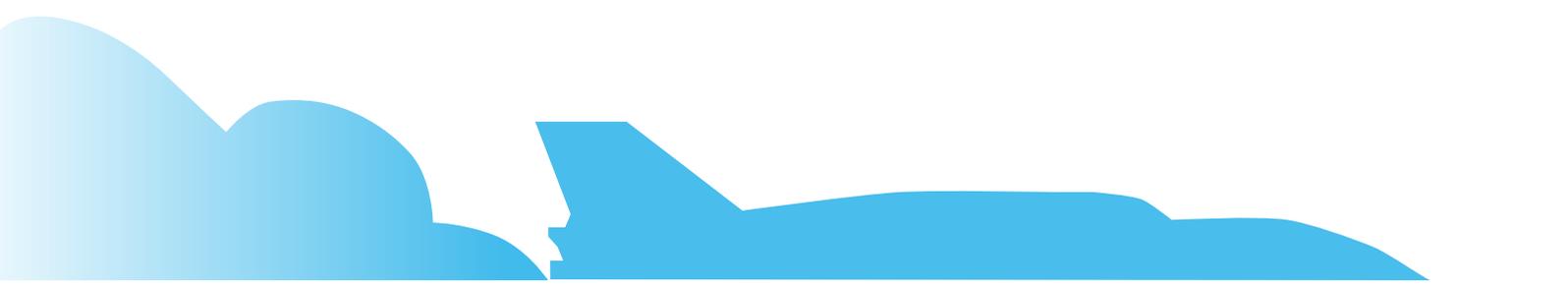
Find the answers to these questions in the museum.

Q: What was Donald Campbell's father famous for?

Q: How many world records did Donald Campbell achieve?

Q: What world record breaking feat did Donald Campbell achieve that no-one else has ever managed to do?

Q: What happened to Bluebird K7 and Donald Campbell at Coniston Water in 1967?



# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 2 – WHO IS MR WHOPPIT?

### For teachers

#### What is Mr Whoppit?

'The Story of Woppit' was a popular 1950s cartoon strip in the Hulton children's comic, Robin. It featured the adventures of a bear. In 1956, Merrythought made a 9-inch tall 'Woppit' teddy-bear in a red felt jacket.

#### Who did Mr Whoppit belong to?

Donald Campbell's business manager thought that Donald should have a mascot. He gave him a 'Woppit', added an 'h' to the name and a full title as 'Mr Whoppit'.

#### Mr Whoppit the lucky mascot

The lucky mascot wore the Bluebird logo on his coat. Mr Whoppit was carried in each of Donald Campbell's Record attempts. Mr Whoppit was recovered from the Bluebird K7 crash site along with Donald Campbell's pilot's helmet.

#### Mr Whoppit after the crash

Mr Whoppit later accompanied Donald Campbell's daughter Gina Campbell on her record attempts in power-boats. In the 1990s Merrythought produced a second edition of 5,000 teddy-bears, re-branded as 'Mr Whoppit' with a Bluebird badge.

# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 2 – WHO IS MR WHOPPIT?

For learners

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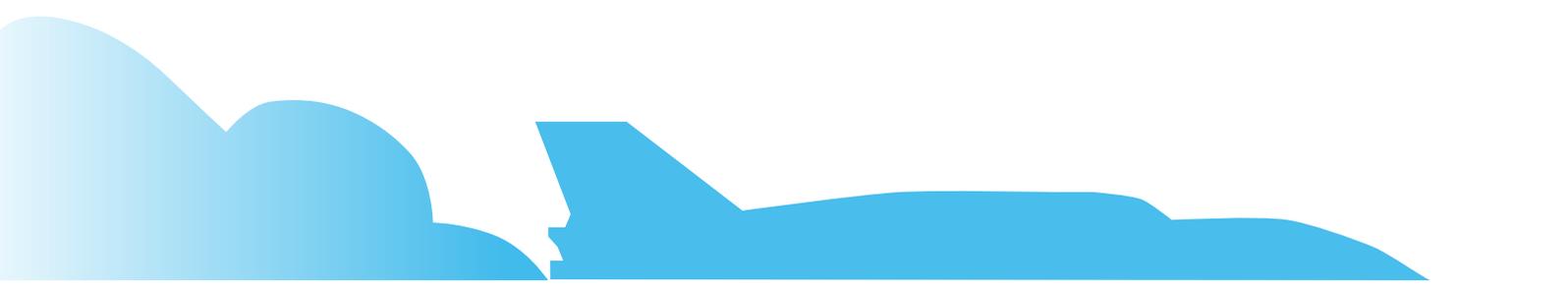
Find Mr Whoppit in the museum.

Q: What is Mr Whoppit?

Q: Who did Mr Whoppit belong to?

Q: Do you have a lucky mascot or special toy?

Q: Why is your mascot or toy special to you?



# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 3 – SPEED IS MY LIFE

### For teachers

Ask learners to find and read 'Speed is my life', adapted from Donald Campbell's words in an unpublished biography. The transcript is also provided in **Resource 2**.

'In my life, the top at the moment is 300mph.

'Life is an eternal challenge, a variant on  
Maeterlinck's theme that the Bluebird of happiness  
is by the side of each and every one of us,  
always within reach, yet, if pursued to catch and possess,  
is beyond our grasp.

'Each can only go so far since the mountain  
has no summit for it leads to the stars.  
It has to be climbed, for mankind cannot regress;  
he may pause momentarily, but there is no going back  
on the path of life.

'Life is a succession of mountains.  
All of us are struggling up and, oh God, isn't it a swine?  
You get there and you look around and it's great.  
And you just have time to breathe before you start  
getting everything into perspective.  
Then you realise it wasn't a mountain after all.  
It was a molehill.  
You look over there and you see another mountain.  
The real mountain and you are going for it, boy.

'And what hurts, what really hurts,  
is when you come to the last one  
And you go down the other side.'



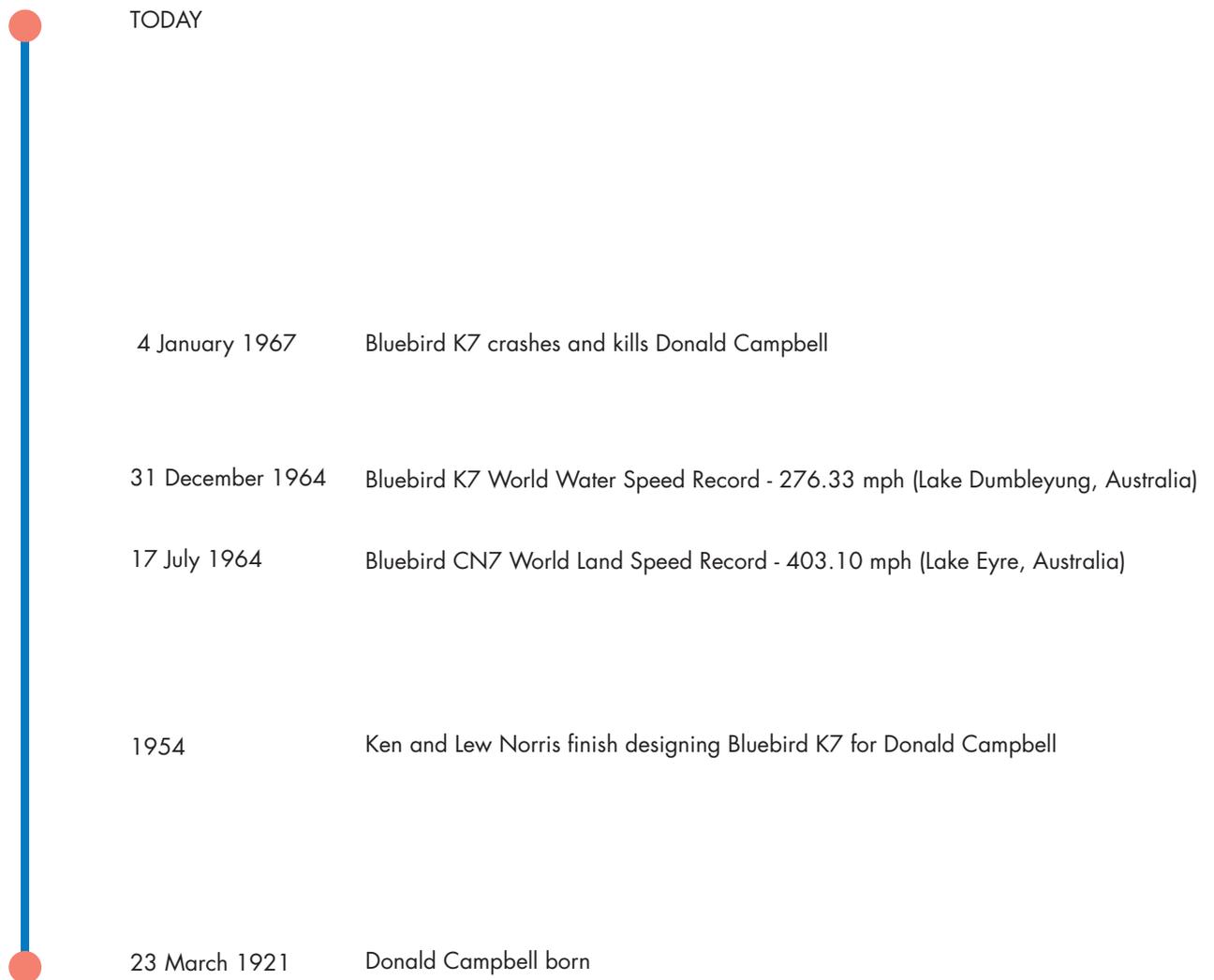
# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 4 – SEQUENCING ACTIVITY

### For teachers

Ask learners to find out what happened on the dates on the timeline.

A complete timeline of the Donald Campbell story is provided for teachers in **Resource 3**.



# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 4 – SEQUENCING ACTIVITY

### For learners

Use the timeline to fill in major milestones in Donald Campbell's life.  
You will find the answers in the museum.



# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 5 – DONALD CAMPBELL THE HERO

For teachers

Ask learners to find a picture of Donald Campbell as he is about to set off in K7.



Ask them to look at the picture and to reflect on the questions.

# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 5 – DONALD CAMPBELL THE HERO

For learners

Find the pictures of Donald Campbell as he is about to set off on his fateful journey in K7 on Coniston Water.



- What do you think was going through his mind?
- How do you think that he felt?

# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 6 - EXPLORING OBJECTS AS EVIDENCE

### For teachers

Ask the learners to find an object on display that they like – note, not related to those objects explored in Activities 2 or 5.

What does the object tell them about Donald Campbell and his life story?

Ask them to draw the object and label it.

# On site Activities

## ACTIVITY 6 - EXPLORING OBJECTS AS EVIDENCE

### For learners

Find an object in the Donald Campbell collection that catches your interest.

- What is the object?
- What does it tell you about Donald Campbell?
- Why did you choose it?
- Draw the object.

# Post-visit activity suggestions

Following your visit to the museum you may want to consider some of these activities

- Before you leave Coniston, go to Coniston Cemetery to find Donald Campbell's grave. What does his gravestone say about him?
- Using the 'Speed is my life' panel text as a starting point, ask the learners to write a poem about Donald's fateful day.
- Sir Malcolm Campbell was Donald Campbell's father and his hero. Ask the learners to think about their heroes. Who inspires them? What makes a hero? Are there any heroes from your local area?
- Ask learners to research people who are attempting land and water speed record attempts today.

# Resources

## Resource 1: Frequently-Asked Questions

### Why Blue Bird, later Bluebird ?

Sir Malcolm Campbell first named his racing cars Blue Bird after an opera, The Blue Bird, a huge London West End 'hit' in 1912. The themes of the opera seemed to chime with his own pursuit of ever-faster speeds. He appropriated the name, colour, and logo to build his own 'brand' and legend. All his cars, hydroplanes, and personal yachts were afterwards named Blue Bird. Following his father's death Donald changed the name to Bluebird to differentiate his cars and hydroplanes from those of his father.

### Why 'K' and Why the figure 8 on its side ?

'K' = the symbol used by Lloyds for an insurance class of boats with 'unlimited' engine power. The rotation of the figure 8 is the mathematical symbol for infinity.

Two other hydroplanes had been registered in the 'K' class before Donald Campbell's iconic Bluebird K7 began her legendary career. Malcolm's first hydroplane was registered Blue Bird K3. Its faster successor was Blue Bird K4.

### Why Coniston Water ?

War ruled out continental Europe for further record attempts. The mechanic Leo Villa scouted out possible alternatives in the UK. Coniston Water was like a Norwegian fjord - deep, straight, with no inconvenient islands, and five miles long. Pier Cottage on Coniston Water already had a slipway and proved an ideal base.

The Campbells used Pier Cottage regularly between 1939 and 1967. It was only during 1947 when larger premises were needed for the jet-engined K4 ('The Coniston Slipper') that Pier Cottage was not used.

# Resources

## Resource 1: Frequently-Asked Questions

### Why did Bluebird K7 crash on 4 January 1967?

In 1954, the Norris Brothers designed Bluebird K7 for Donald Campbell. The hydroplane was designed to achieve a maximum speed of 250mph. K7 achieved seven World Water Speed Records between 1955 and 1964.

In 1966 Donald Campbell announced a new record attempt. The Norris Brothers agreed to modify Bluebird K7 to reach 325mph. This speed would affect the hydroplane's stability, so Ken Norris moved its centre of gravity forward to compensate.

In November 1966 the new Bluebird K7 started trials at Coniston. Early problems meant that the centre of gravity had to move rearwards again, losing stability. Bad weather limited the test-runs and there were appalling working conditions for the Bluebird Team.

On 27 December 1966, problems with aerodynamic lift were aggravated by a collision with a duck. Severe damage impaired the airflow, reduced lift and increased drag on the left hand side of the hydroplane. This caused the right-hand side to lift more than the left, making K7 more unstable.

# Resources

## Resource 1: Frequently-Asked Questions

### Why did Bluebird K7 crash on 4 January 1967? (continued)

Digitally-enhanced film footage of the final attempt reveals that the hydroplane was 'hovering' at times. Heading from choppy water – caused by the deployment of the water brake on the first run – into smooth water, Bluebird K7 was 'hovering' at 270-280mph. Several increasingly-intense 'bouncing' spells are seen as Bluebird accelerated rapidly to its peak speed at 328mph.

Following the third bounce the boat decelerated dramatically by almost 35mph. The engine failed and K7 took off from the water. It hovered for 2 seconds before rising and somersaulting backwards, hitting the water at 183mph.

Donald Campbell died instantly.

After the accident the Campbell family requested that the crash site be permanently respected as a grave. For over 30 years villagers kept the site a closely-guarded secret.

Gina Campbell gave a professional diving team permission to bring Donald's body ashore, saying '... Find my Dad so I can put him somewhere warm ...'

On 12 September 2001, Donald Campbell's funeral was held in Coniston. He is buried in Coniston Cemetery.

# Resources

## Resource 1: Frequently-Asked Questions

### Donald Campbell's speed records

Donald Campbell's world speed records on water

Speed	Record	Vehicle	Location	Date
202.32 mph (325.60 km/h)	Water	Bluebird K7	Ullswater	23 July 1955
216.20 mph (347.94 km/h)	Water	Bluebird K7	Lake Mead	16 November 1955
225.63 mph (363.12 km/h)	Water	Bluebird K7	Coniston Water	19 September 1956
239.07 mph (384.75 km/h)	Water	Bluebird K7	Coniston Water	7 November 1957
248.62 mph (400.12 km/h)	Water	Bluebird K7	Coniston Water	10 November 1958
260.35 mph (418.99 km/h)	Water	Bluebird K7	Coniston Water	14 May 1959
276.33 mph (444.71 km/h)	Water	Bluebird K7	Lake Dumbleyung	31 December 1964

Donald Campbell's world speed records on land

Speed	Record	Vehicle	Location	Date
403.10 mph (648.73 km/h)	Land	Bluebird CN7	Lake Eyre	17 July 1964

# Resources

## Resource 2: 'Speed is my life' by Donald Campbell

'In my life, the top at the moment is 300mph.

'Life is an eternal challenge, a variant on  
Maeterlinck's theme that the Bluebird of happiness  
is by the side of each and every one of us,  
always within reach, yet, if pursued to catch and possess,  
is beyond our grasp.

'Each can only go so far since the mountain  
has no summit for it leads to the stars.  
It has to be climbed, for mankind cannot regress;  
he may pause momentarily, but there is no going back  
on the path of life.

'Life is a succession of mountains.  
All of us are struggling up and, oh God, isn't it a swine?  
You get there and you look around and it's great.  
And you just have time to breathe before you start  
getting everything into perspective.  
Then you realise it wasn't a mountain after all.  
It was a molehill.  
You look over there and you see another mountain.  
The real mountain and you are going for it, boy.

'And what hurts, what really hurts,  
is when you come to the last one  
And you go down the other side.'

# Resources

## Resource 3: Complete Donald Campbell timeline

TODAY	
2001	In Spring two thirds of Bluebird K7 and Donald Campbell's remains recovered from lake bed. Later that year Donald Campbell is buried in Coniston Cemetery.
1990	Late 1990s Bill Smith begins search for wreck of Bluebird K7 and Donald Campbell's remains
28 Jan 1967	Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct
4 Jan 1967	Bluebird K7 crashes and kills Donald Campbell
Nov 1966	Rebuilt Bluebird K7 arrives in Coniston to raise money and sponsorship
Jul 1965	Donald Campbell announces plans for Bluebird Mach 1.1
31 Dec 1964	Bluebird K7 World Water Speed Record - 276.33 mph (Lake Dumbleyung, Australia)
Oct 1964	Jet cars become eligible to set land speed records
17 Jul 1964	Bluebird CN7 World Land Speed Record - 403.10 mph (Lake Eyre, Australia)
July 1963	American Craig Breedlove becomes the fastest man on earth in his jet car
1962	Bluebird CN7 arrives in Australia but weather prevents record attempt
1960	Bluebird CN7 built; crashes 16 September, Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah; Donald Campbell survives
14 May 1959	Bluebird K7 World Water Speed Record - 260.35 mph (Coniston)
10 Nov 1958	Bluebird K7 World Water Speed Record - 248.62 mph (Coniston)
7 Nov 1957	Bluebird K7 World Water Speed Record - 239.07 mph (Coniston)
Summer 1957	failed attempt at Canandaigua, New York State
Jan 1957	Awarded CBE
19 Sep 1956	Bluebird K7 World Water Speed Record - 225.63 mph (Coniston)
16 Nov 1955	Bluebird K7 World Water Speed Record - 216.20 mph (Lake Mead, Arizona/Nevada)
23 Jul 1955	Bluebird K7 World Water Speed Record - 202.32 mph (Ullswater)
1953	Donald Campbell begins developing <i>Bluebird K7</i> hydroplane, designed by Ken and Lew Norris
29 Sep 1952	John Cobb killed on Loch Ness using the first purpose-built jet hydroplane <i>Crusader</i>
1951	Bluebird K4 destroyed travelling at speed on Coniston Water
1950	Donald Campbell's team returns to Coniston Water for more trials using <i>Bluebird K4</i>
1949	Donald Campbell renames his father's boat <i>Bluebird K4</i> and spend summer on Coniston Water
1948	Sir Malcolm Campbell dies
1947	John Cobb sets World Land Speed Record at 394 mph
1939	Donald Campbell joins RAF as engineer
1939	Outbreak of Second World War
1939	Sir Malcolm Campbell's final Water Speed Record on Coniston, in <i>Blue Bird K4</i>
1924	Sir Malcolm Campbell's first World Land Speed Record
23 Mar 1921	Donald Campbell born
1885	Sir Malcolm Campbell born

# Images

## Image 1

Donald Campbell celebrating breaking the record at 225.63 mph in September 1956 with friends and family.

© North West Evening Mail



# Images

## Image 2

Donald Campbell signalling his readiness to leave Pier Cottage to make his first southbound run on 4 January 1967.

© The Ruskin Museum, the Audrey Grisedale collection

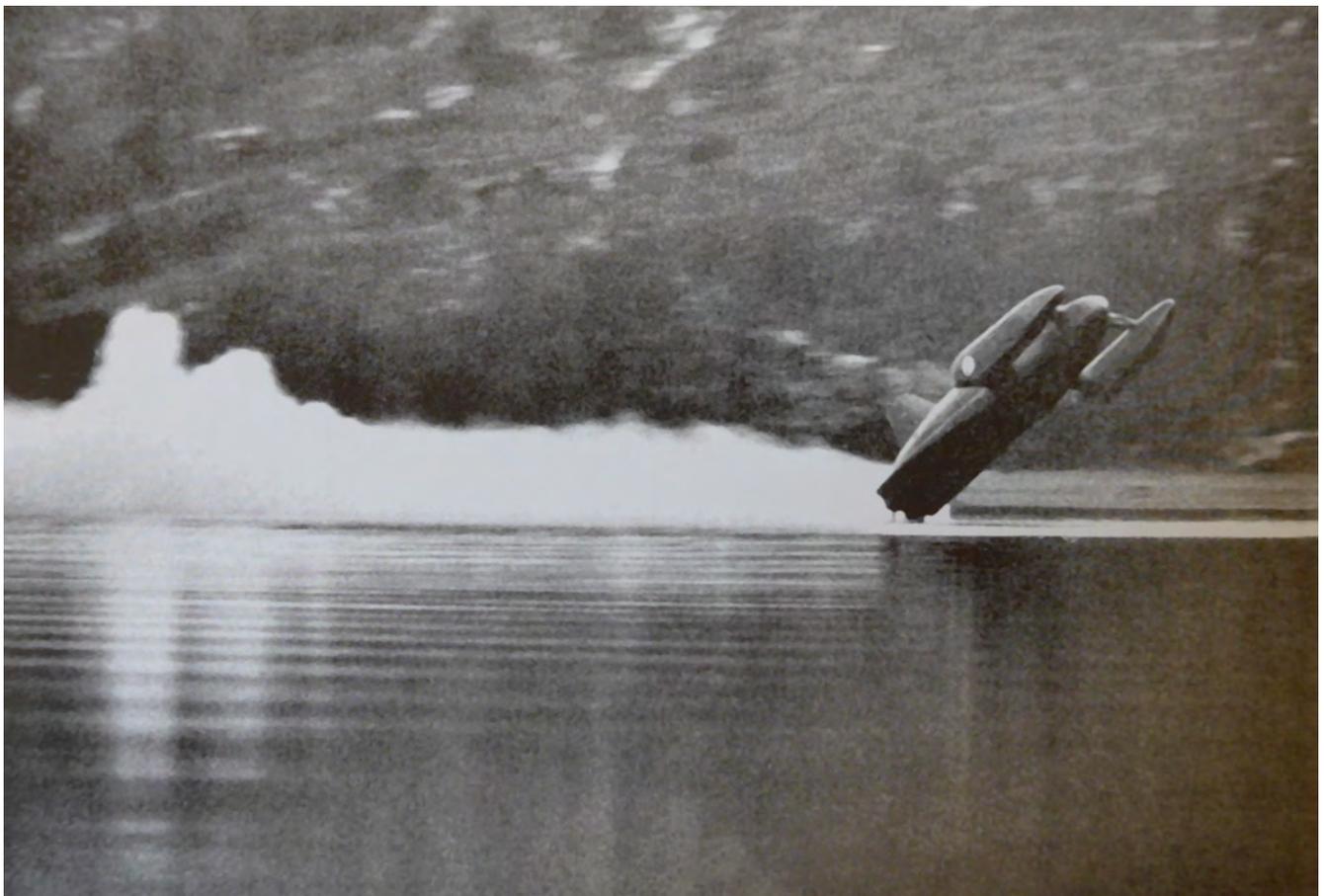


# Images

## Image 3

Bluebird K7 lifts into the air as tragedy strikes on the morning of 4 January 1967. It crashes within a whisker of a new World Water Speed Record.

© The Ruskin Museum archives, unprovenanced.



# Information for your visit

## Contact

Ruskin Museum  
01539 441164  
information@ruskinmuseum.com

## Location

Ruskin Museum, Coniston, Cumbria, England, LA21 8DU

Located in the centre of Coniston, off A593 (Yewdale Road)

OS Map 97, Ref SD 302 975

### How to get here

Check GoLakes Travel pages for most up-to-date information

**Bus** (from Kendal, Westmorland Shopping Centre) Stagecoach service X6, change at Greenodd Island onto Blueworks service X12 (X12 Coniston - Spark Bridge - Ulverston - Spark Bridge - Coniston)

Coniston Rambler 505 Ambleside - Hawkshead - Coniston

Cross Lakes Experience 525 Bowness - Ferry House - Hawkshead - Coniston (seasonal)

**Other** Coniston ferry has three circuits, taking 45min, 60min, or 90min. Amongst the seven (7) calling points are Torver, Lake Bank, Sunny Bank, Brantwood, and Waterhead. A half-mile or 10min walk will take you from the Coniston jetty (LA21 8AN) to the Ruskin Museum (LA21 8DU).

## Facilities

**Parking** No parking available on site. Pay-per-use car parking in centre of Coniston village (LA21 8EH), 0.2 miles, 2 minute walk

**Shop** In reception area, large numbers and variety of books on sale

**Refreshments** Nearby tourist cafes and shopping mostly under 0.2 miles, 2 minute walk

**Toilets** Available on site. There are (public) ladies, gents and disabled toilets with baby-changing facilities (pay per use) adjacent to Coniston TIC, 0.2 miles, 2 minute walk

## Education Visits Information

School Pupils: £2.00 - Students with NUS Card: £5.00

Group Rates Available

**Limit on party number:** The site can accommodate a group size of 25 learners. The maximum group size allowed on the tour is 30 (including adult leaders). There are activities available on site for those not on a tour.

**Required teacher/adult helper to pupil ratio:** 1:6 for school years 1-3 and 1:15 for all other groups aged under 18. Learners must be supervised at all times.

Please remember you are responsible for your own risk assessment.

# Information for your visit

## Contact

Ruskin Museum  
01539 441164  
information@ruskinmuseum.com

## Nearby Related Sites

### Coniston Water, Coniston

Coniston Water is five miles long and a half-mile wide. The 'Old Man of Coniston' overlooks the lake and the village from the west. Coniston Water is about a half-mile to the south-east of the village. Here you can hire boats and bikes from the Boating Centre operated by the Lake District National Park. Coniston Launch runs special Campbell/Bluebird-themed cruises.

### Lakeland Motor Museum, Backbarrow

The Campbell Gallery has a replica Bluebird V (the original Bluebird V is located at Daytona Speedway Circuit Museum)

## Other Related Sites

### National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire

Sunbeam (Blue Bird I) is here.

Bluebird CN7 is housed here. It was displayed with the original Bluebird V for a short while in 2013.

### Filching Manor Motor Museum, Polegate, Sussex

Blue Bird K3 is here

## Other Related Resources

**Bluebirds over Coniston.** Illustrated booklet available from the Ruskin Museum.

£5.00 plus postage and packing

**Campbells' Coniston.** Self-guided walk pack available from the Ruskin Museum.

£4.50 plus postage and packing

**Bluebird Project.** [www.bluebirdproject.com](http://www.bluebirdproject.com)