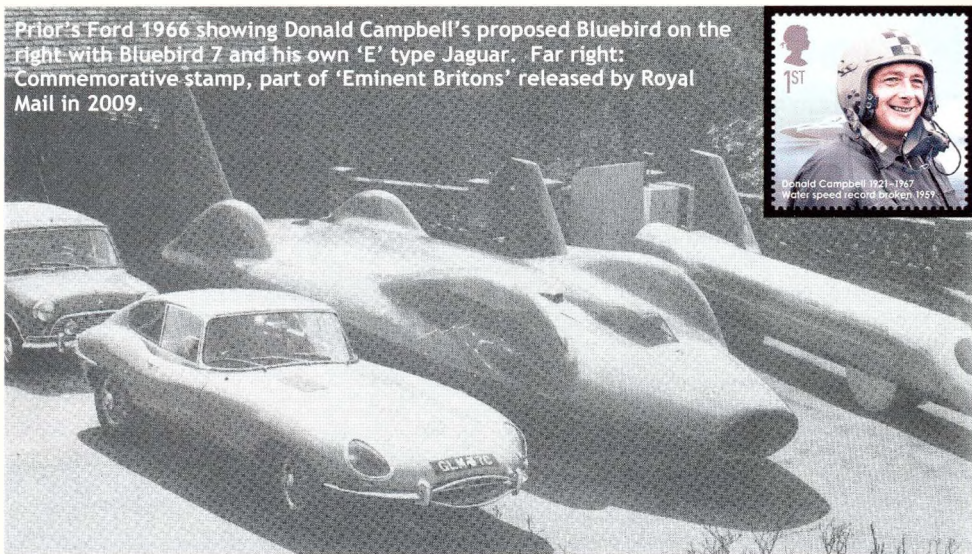


Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 50

Donald Campbell - Prior's Ford - Campbell Court

Prior's Ford 1966 showing Donald Campbell's proposed Bluebird on the right with Bluebird 7 and his own 'E' type Jaguar. Far right: Commemorative stamp, part of 'Eminent Britons' released by Royal Mail in 2009.



Campbell Court, Dorking Road is a modern block of flats built on the site of an early 20th century house called Prior's Ford. During the last years of his life, it was the home of Donald Campbell, CBE.

By beating his father Sir Malcolm Campbell's records of the 1930s, Donald Campbell on the 17th July 1964 became the fastest man on land 403.10 mph at Lake Eyre, Australia, and in the same year 31st December on Lake Dumbleyung, Western Australia he achieved the fastest water speed record 276.33 mph.

He was born on the 23rd March 1921 at Kingston-upon-Thames.

His untimely death was on Coniston Water in January 1967 when his craft *Bluebird* disintegrated while achieving a speed of over 300 mph.

His daughter Gina carried on the family tradition. In 1984 she gained the ladies' world water-speed record of 122.85 mph off shore power boat racing in yet another *Bluebird*.

In 1985 she presented the Leatherhead Museum with the wheel of her father's car.

Goff Powell Extracted from Edwina Vardey's - History of Leatherhead - A Town at the Crossroads - L&DLHS 1988 and other sources

For information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours

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