

# Bluebird on Bute

## Press Release

**28 July 2018 – Jet-powered Bluebird arriving on Bute!**

Donald Campbell's *Bluebird K7* is about to take to the water once again, right here in Scotland.

It's been over half a century since Donald Campbell became the only person to hold both the world land and water speed records simultaneously, the latter set in his jet-engined hydroplane, *Bluebird K7*, which crashed tragically on Coniston Water on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 1967.

It has taken 17 painstaking years and a small army of dedicated volunteers to restore *Bluebird* to her former glory and from 4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August, this iconic craft will be undertaking crew training at Loch Fad on the Isle of Bute.

The Loch, usually better known for its outstanding trout and pike fishing waters, will see *Bluebird's* team work out how best to handle a craft which can reach speeds of up to 276 miles per hour.

Bill Smith, the project leader, has had a love of Bute since his fishing trips here as a teenager and then as a diver. He says: "Loch Fad is perfect for this crew-training exercise. It's just long enough for *Bluebird* to get moving and just deep enough that it won't be too difficult for divers to retrieve any dropped tools!"

"It's pretty exciting for us right now because we've just ground-tested *Bluebird* and all her systems are running beautifully. When she's put in the water at Loch Fad next week, it will be the first time in 50 years that *Bluebird's* engine will be started while afloat."

Bute has a proud history of innovative engineering design, well-fitting with the *Bluebird* project:

- Andrew Baird, the blacksmith who built a plane, undertook Scotland's first heavier than air flight on the island.
- Thomas Lipton, freeman of the Burgh of Rothesay regularly raced his famous Americas Cup *Shamrock* yachts in the waters around the island – and boat building still continues today in the highly successful Ardmaleish Yard on the island.

A proud part of Scotland's Adventure Coast, Bute looks forward to welcoming the *Bluebird* team for what promises to be a once in a lifetime experience.

### Information

Background – everything you need to know about the *Bluebird* Project background can be found on the *Bluebird* Website [www.bluebirdproject.com](http://www.bluebirdproject.com). Donations to support the work of the project can also be made via the website.

The key tourism website for Bute is <http://www.visitbute.com> and visit [www.lochfad.co.uk](http://www.lochfad.co.uk) for more on the loch itself. For the wider region <http://www.exploreargyll.co.uk/index.php>

There will be no fixed day to day itinerary because the team have to approach and solve problems in

a methodical way but there will be regular day to day updates @bluebirdk7 and @visit\_bute. You can also follow the action via hashtag #bluebirdonbute.

## Key Dates

3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Arrive on island at 6.20pm (5.45pm ferry from Wemyss Bay)   Arrival ceremony to include Rothesay Pipe Band and local children.
4 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> August	Training days on Loch Fad
11 <sup>th</sup> August	At Bute Highland Games   Bluebird will attend as a static display with some of the team on hand to answer questions.
12 <sup>th</sup> August	At Mount Stuart House   Bluebird will be displayed on the lawn in front of Mount Stuart with some of the team on hand to answer questions (12pm - 4pm)
13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> August	Training Days on Loch Fad
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Leave Island

## Other Events on Island during this time

3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Bute Noir Crime Writing Book Festival <a href="http://www.butenoir.co.uk">www.butenoir.co.uk</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> August	Bute Bikers Weekend
8 <sup>th</sup> August	Bute Agricultural Show   includes 'Field to Fork' local producers   <a href="http://www.visitbute.com/2018-vb/event/agricultural-show/">http://www.visitbute.com/2018-vb/event/agricultural-show/</a>
11 <sup>th</sup> August	Bute Highland Games <a href="http://www.visitbute.com/2018-vb/directory-butebusiness/listing/bute-highland-games/">http://www.visitbute.com/2018-vb/directory-butebusiness/listing/bute-highland-games/</a>
12 <sup>th</sup> August	Isle of Bute Sailing Club Raft Race   Fun raft race in Rothesay Bay with members of the Bluebird team presenting prizes.

## Parking and taxi drop off for Bluebird:

From 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August use Rothesay Joint Campus car park. From car park, exit campus on foot and take immediate right turns (past Bute Produce) and walk uneven track for just over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. Track not suitable for vehicles.

## Key Contacts

For *Bluebird* related information and media enquiries/opportunities: 0191 296 4295

For Isle of Bute related information and media enquiries/opportunities:

Visit Bute: Alison Cross - [Marketing@visitBute.com](mailto:Marketing@visitBute.com)

Mount Stuart Trust: Ricky Harrison – [ricky@mountstuart.com](mailto:ricky@mountstuart.com)

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