



'A Dream of Flight' – DVD

Countrywide Productions, the Faversham based production company, is announcing the release of their film 'A Dream of Flight', a 48 minute documentary celebrating the centenary of the first flight by a British aviator over British soil, JTC Moore-Brabazon, on The Isle of Sheppey in 1909.

The film chronicles, through interviews and archive film, the development of aviation, and the extraordinary events that took place on Sheppey in the years leading up to the 1st World War.

The film trailer can be viewed from <http://www.cwideprods.co.uk/html/dreamofflight.html>

2009 is the 100th anniversary of what is generally recognised as the first powered flight by a Briton in Britain. It was accomplished by J.T.C. Moore-Brabazon, later Lord Brabazon of Tara, from the airfield of the Royal Aero Club at Leysdown on the Isle of Sheppey, during the weekend of 30th April - 2nd May 1909.

'A Dream of Flight' takes us through the ten years leading up to that historic flight, from the first experiments of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, through the work of Santos-Dumont, Voisin, Bleriot in France, and Samuel Cody in England, culminating in the establishment of the Short Brothers factories on Sheppey, and the exploits of the Royal Aero Club members who gathered around them.

The exploits of Moore-Brabazon, Charles Rolls (co-founder of Rolls Royce), and many others, centred initially on the airplane factory at Leysdown establishing Sheppey at the very heart of aviation in Britain.

The presence of the Wright Brothers confirmed Sheppey's significance, and in February, 1910, Aero Magazine wrote " Sheppey is the undisputed home of the aeroplane at present, and really great progress is being made there, and it seems permissible to say that Shellbeach is the birthplace to a new industry" This status was confirmed by Sheppey's selection as the site of both the 1911 Gordon Bennett International Air Race, and of the first naval flying school.

A monument now stands outside the church in Eastchurch, dedicated to these early pioneer aviators. Sheppey's central role in the development of aviation has been neglected in the past, and this film is intended to celebrate these achievements, and bring this aspect of the Isle of Sheppey's rich heritage to the attention of a wider audience. The extraordinary events that took place on Sheppey in the years leading up to the 1st World War will become and remain an inspiration and a source of pride to those who live there.

The film is designed to put the events in Sheppey between 1909 and 1914 into a historical context, but in an entertaining way, so that school children and members of the local community will be able to understand the special significance of the landscape they live in.

'A Dream of Flight' was directed and produced by Michael Maloney, written and edited by John Kerry.

Michael Maloney has been directing and producing documentaries for many years, both for television and corporate programming. Credits include broadcasters such as the BBC, Channel 4 and Channel 5, and organisations like the National Trust and VisitBritain.

John Kerry is an editor of many years experience and has worked extensively in broadcast television, working mainly on documentaries. Credits include BBC Panorama and C4 Dispatches.

Both Michael and John have a great interest and passion in local history. Their most recent collaboration was on the production of "A Sideways Launch" which tells the story of the Pollock Shipyard in Faversham; they will be collaborating on other similar projects in the future.

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