



PRESS RELEASE: The work of Sir George Cayley Bt celebrated with a National Transport Trust Red Wheel

Sir William Worsley Bt., Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, kindly unveiled the National Transport Trust's latest Red Wheel plaque at Brompton by Sawdon, celebrating the work of Sir George Cayley Bt.



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Sir George is regarded by many as the father of flight. He developed the theories of flight that underpinned the work of later experimenters and was credited by the Wright Brothers. An early glider took an unknown child aloft whilst his “governable parachute”, a steerable glider, took his coachman aloft over the dale opposite Brompton Hall in the mid-19th century – the exact date is not clear. In addition he invented what became known as the caterpillar track, the spoked bicycle wheel and did work on early prosthetics. He invented the self-righting lifeboat, developed railway signalling and an internal combustion engine, powered by gunpowder (petrol had not then been identified as a fuel).

In 1838 the first “Polytechnic Institution” – opened to the public at Regent Street, London, under his chairmanship. Its aim was to demonstrate new technologies and inventions to the public.

Sir William Worsley is a descendant of Sir George. Many other members of the family attended the unveiling at the former family seat. It was through the generous gift from a family bequest that we were able to fund this Red Wheel.

The present day Brompton Hall School, operated by Venn Academy Trust which generously supported the unveiling, is undertaking significant investment at this historic site and it is hoped that at the completion of the work it may be possible to open Sir George's workshop as a refreshed museum on more days in the year.

Photographs

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The National Transport Trust

Founded in 1965, (as the Transport Trust), the National Transport Trust is the UK's only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage in all its forms – by air, land (road and rail) and water (sea and inland). The Trust is managed within a very streamlined structure, with the Board of Trustees representing the wider interests of the nation, for whose benefit the Trust exists.

Help us to help them

In order to help the UK's the preservation movement the Trust depends on its members and therefore encourages all those who share our aims to join us. Membership of the Trust is open to private individuals and affiliated organisations. You can help us to help others too; become a member, donate to the trust or you might even consider leaving the trust something in your will. This last part is vital to our work, see here for more: [National Transport Trust legacies](#)

National Transport Trust

Old Bank House, 26 Station Approach, Hinckley Wood, Surrey, KT10 0SR, London
United Kingdom

Email: info@nationaltransporttrust.org.uk

Web: www.nationaltransporttrust.org.uk

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