

Alan Shrimpton Btech MBCS CIP – Airlander STEM Ambassador (Gloucestershire Area)



Since a young age I have been fascinated by all sorts of new technologies including ships, rockets, computing and, as a younger man, military technologies. The main focus of that interest was not the technology itself but how it would be used and, more importantly, how it would make a difference to our world. I've been a lifelong fan of Science Fiction for the same reasons. But of all those different technologies, the one that has held most fascination for me over the years has been aviation and I've followed the development of vertical take-off vehicles, advanced helicopters and tilt-rotors with particular interest.

With that background, an attraction to Airlander was inevitable and I am both an Airlander Club member and a shareholder. A conversation with Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV) established that I was already a STEM Ambassador so it was a short step to become an Ambassador for Airlander. I now combine my professional role as an interim IT manager with my voluntary role for HAV, going into schools, colleges and other groups where I can hopefully use Airlander's innovative engineering and amazing capabilities to inspire students to explore STEM subjects and seek STEM careers.

When I'm not working, I enjoy walking with friends, writing, and cruising the inland waterways on an altogether older form of transportation - the narrow boat. I am currently working on a project to see how much new technology we can fit into a standard narrowboat whose outside dimensions (and speed limitations) haven't changed noticeably for 200 years.

I am happily married, have three grown-up daughters all pursuing their own careers in different parts of the country, and live in Gloucestershire. The rest, as Anne McCaffrey used to say, is subject to change without notice.

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Robin Evans – Airlander STEM Ambassador (Bedfordshire Area)



I first became aware of something mysterious going on in Cardington several years ago. I had an Airlander Club tour in January 2016 and joined the HAV STEM team a year later. To a pilot, to participate in something as rare as this, unfolding in your backyard is pretty special.

My own school days were very happy and played a major role in steering me into a science degree and career as a commercial airline Captain. Having a pilot, albeit of a much more conventional aircraft, being able to assist in pushing the principles of aviation science is important to me.

My two small children were also a major catalyst in my interest in volunteering. When trailing an experiment I've since run with classes, I knew I was onto something when my three year old exclaimed, "Wow, how does it work?"

We're slowly opening our minds to novel forms of transport: personal spaceflight, delivery drones and driverless cars. My early inspiration was Concorde but nowadays we have something equally futuristic, but slower, greener and quieter...Airlander.