

To Do List – Simon Armitage

From The Unaccompanied

- Sharpen all pencils.
- Check off-side rear tire pressure.
- Defrag hard drive.
- Consider life and times of Donald Campbell, CBE.
- Shampoo billiard-room carpet.
- Learn one new word per day.
- Make circumnavigation of Coniston Water by foot, visit Coniston Cemetery to pay respects.
- Achieve Grade 5 Piano by Easter.
- Go to fancy-dress party as Donald Campbell complete with crash helmet and life jacket.
- Draft pro-forma apology letter during meditation session.
- Check world ranking.
- Skim duckweed from ornamental pond.
- Make fewer “apples to apples” comparisons.
- Consider father’s achievements only as barriers to be broken.
- Dredge Coniston Water for sections of wreckage/macabre souvenirs.
- Lobby service provider to unbundle local loop network.
- Remove all invasive species from British countryside.
- Build 1/25 scale model of Bluebird K7 from toothpicks and spent matches.
- Compare own personality with traits of those less successful but more popular.
- Eat (optional).
- Breathe (optional).
- Petition for high-speed fibre-optic broadband to this postcode.

- Order by express delivery DVD copy of “Across the Lake” starring Anthony Hopkins as “speed king Donald Campbell.”
 - Gain a pecuniary advantage.
 - Initiate painstaking reconstruction of Donald Campbell’s final seconds using archive film footage and forensic material not previously released into public domain.
 - Polyfilla all surface cracking to Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah.
 - Levitate.
 - Develop up to four thousand five hundred pounds/force of thrust.
 - Carry on regardless despite suspected skull fracture.
 - Attempt return run before allowing backwash ripples to completely subside.
 - Open her up.
 - Subscribe to convenient one-a-day formulation of omega-oil capsules for a balanced and healthy diet.
 - Reserve full throttle for performance over “measured mile.”
 - Relocate to dynamic urban hub.
 - Eat standing up to avoid time-consuming table manners and other nonessential mealtime rituals.
 - Remain mindful of engine cutout caused by fuel starvation.
 - Exceed upper limits.
 - Make extensive observations during timeless moments of somersaulting prior to impact.
 - Disintegrate.

Faber 2017