

23rd August 2012

Wartime nostalgia at Cosford's Battle of Britain Weekend

15th-16th September 2012

Spitfire Flypast on Saturday (weather permitting)

The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford will be commemorating the Battle of Britain, considered the most important event in Royal Air Force history, with a nostalgic family weekend of events and activities for the whole family to enjoy. A main highlight over the weekend will be a flypast on Saturday 15th August from a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire (weather permitting).

Activities taking place over the weekend include real life working Griffon engine demonstrations lasting approximately 30 minutes and a chance to see how a WW2 RAF Ops Room operated during the Battle of Britain era, brought to life by re-enactors. A land army re-enactment group will be digging for victory in the wartime garden with Hoo Farm bringing along sheep, chickens, goats and a sheep dog as part of the land army experience.

Over this weekend children and adults can find out what it was like to be a 1940's RAF pilot by sitting inside a full size replica Spitfire, complete with flying jacket and goggles. One of the more unusual exhibits on display this year will be a collection of 1940's caravans. Caravans were used extensively throughout the war as accommodation for people whose homes had been destroyed and by military personnel, industrial and farm workers, including the Women's Land Army. The caravans will be opened up for visitors to take a peek inside and see how the average family would have holidayed during the war years.

Also on display over the weekend will be a range of 1940's military vehicles and in Hangar 1 a display of aviation paintings by the Guild of Aviation Artists, themed around the Battle of Britain. Plus, screenings of outtakes from the 1969 epic film Battle of Britain will be shown over the weekend in the Conference Room located in the Visitor Centre.

And to keep the children entertained the Museum will be running its popular 'Step Back In Time' workshop where children and adults alike, will write with a dip pen using old fashioned inkwells and have a go at pounds, shilling and pence arithmetic, fill in a replica evacuee label and identity card. But, be prepared to evacuate the class quickly at any time in order to make it down to the Anderson Shelter to escape a day time bombing raid. Other children's activities including colouring in Spitfires and Union Jack flags, will be taking place throughout the site over both days.

The Museum Restaurant will be offering some culinary delights with their wartime menu and visitors will be able to dine in true street party style. Visitors are also welcome to dress up for the occasion in their 1940's clothing. For more information about the Battle of Britain Weekend event please contact the Museum on 01902 376200 or visit www.rafmuseum.org.

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Notes to Editors:

- Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Shifnal Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- FREE admission
- Open daily 10am – 6pm
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376 212 or michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at:
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>