

24<sup>th</sup> September 2009

# New Permanent Exhibition Honours Boy Entrants

FREE

**A newly refurbished and extended exhibition dedicated to the RAF Boy Entrant Scheme has been unveiled at the RAF Museum Cosford. Produced in collaboration with the Boy Entrants Association, the new display highlights the role played in the RAF by boys aged between 15 and 17 ½.**

Beginning in 1934 with 150 boys the scheme ran until 1965, with a break from 1940-1947, during which time over 38,000 boys had been trained. Entrants underwent 18 months of trade training in a myriad of roles ranging from wireless operators and armourers to nursing attendants and stewards, as well as continuing their education and participating in unrivalled social and leisure time pursuits. Many of these boys went on to adult careers in the RAF; a significant number were commissioned and earned promotion to senior rank and an equally significant number were regularly included in the annual New Year's Honours List.

Boy Entrant training took place at various RAF stations including Hereford, St. Athan in South Wales, and Yatesbury in Wiltshire, and RAF Cosford itself was one of the principal centres, accommodating up to 1000 Boy Entrants at a time.

The Boy Entrants Association was formed in 1994 in order to provide a means for ex-Boy Entrants to remain in touch and to foster an interest in the Scheme itself. It has raised funds for a number of projects and its members were able to provide much of the information and memorabilia on display in the exhibition. The Museum has been able to supply an example of the Boy Entrant uniform, with its distinctive chequered coloured cap band and small rank stripes.

The exhibition is now on display in the Museum's Hangar 1. Clare Carr, Assistant Curator, says:

*"We are delighted to have worked in collaboration with the Boy Entrants Association to bring this new and evolving display to life in order to better present to the public the role of Boy Entrants within the RAF".*

The Museum is open daily from 10am – 6pm. Entry to the Museum and the exhibition is FREE. For further information, please call the Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford on 01902 376 200 or visit the museum website, [www.rafmuseum.org/cosford](http://www.rafmuseum.org/cosford). Further information on the Boy Entrants Association can be found on their website, [www.rafbea.org](http://www.rafbea.org).

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**Notes To Editors:**

- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily between 10am – 6pm (Last admission 5.00pm)
- FREE admission
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Karen Crick on 01902 376 200 or email [karen.crick@rafmuseum.org](mailto:karen.crick@rafmuseum.org)