

8 May 2015

Last few tickets available for Pilots view at Cosford

Date: 15-16 May

Time: 6.00pm to 9.00pm

Cost: £12.50 per person

The Royal Air Force Museum Cosford will be participating in the annual Museums at Night event next week, as they open up the doors to some of the historic aircraft in their collection. Visitors attending the 'Open Cockpits Evening' will have exclusive after-hours access on board the aircraft for a Pilots view of the cockpit.

Organisers have doubled the number of evenings for this popular event giving twice as many aviation fans the chance to sit inside some of the world's most iconic aircraft. The event, which is held twice a year in May and September, now runs on both a Friday and Saturday evening. Just 300 tickets per evening are available for this exclusive event and tickets for the event on 15-16 May are almost sold out, with just a few tickets remaining for each evening.

A total of 14 aircraft will be available for close viewing on the night: including transport aircraft, jet fighters and unique research airframes. Highlights on the night will include the British Aerospace **Experimental Aircraft Programme (EAP)**. This experimental jet helped pave the way for the renowned Eurofighter Typhoon which has many of the same characteristics and capabilities and is in operation with the RAF and five other Air Forces, today. Visitors will also have access on board the **de Havilland Chipmunk**, one of the RAF's longest serving aircraft types. It entered RAF service in the 1950s as an initial pilot trainer, offering relatively modern features such as flaps, brakes, radio and an enclosed cockpit. The Duke of Edinburgh learned to fly in Chipmunks and made his first solo flight on 20 December 1952 in the aircraft displayed at Cosford.

Museums at Night is the annual after-hours festival of arts, culture and heritage when hundreds of museums, galleries, libraries, archives and heritage sites open their doors for special evening events. It takes place from Wednesday May 13 – Saturday May 16. More details can be found at www.museumsatnight.org.uk

Rosie Clarke, Campaigns Officer, Culture24 Said:

"The Museums at Night festival is all about encouraging new visitors to discover the amazing culture and heritage on their doorstep, and what could be more exciting for fans of aviation history than to get up close and personal with the amazing aeroplane collection at RAF Museum Cosford? Their popular Open Cockpit nights always sell out quickly and get excellent feedback from everyone who comes along: we're delighted that they're part of Museums at Night again this year."

The exclusive after hour's event will commence at 6.00pm and finish at 9.00pm, with numbers onto the Museum site strictly limited to 300 people. Admission is by advance ticket only and the last few remaining tickets are available to purchase through the Museum's website www.rafmuseum.org/cosford for just £12.50

per person. Lightning Members price £10.00 per ticket (please note membership cards will need to be shown on entry to the event). Parking charges are included in the ticket price. Minimum height restrictions of 1.07 metres will apply.

The Museum will close at 5.00pm on each 'Open Cockpit Evening' in order to set up for the event. A detailed list of aircraft open on the September evenings (18-19 September) will be issued nearer the time.

Keep up to date with the latest news and event information by following us on:

- Facebook – Royal Air Force Museum Cosford
- Twitter @RAFMUSEUM
- Instagram – rafmuseum

Ends...

Notes to Editors:

- Aircraft available for close viewing on 15-16 May 2015 (subject to change) include:
 - Lockheed Hercules C130K Mk3
 - de Havilland Chipmunk
 - Junkers Ju52/3M (CASA 352L)
 - Hawker Siddeley Andover E3A
 - Scottish Aviation Bulldog
 - Gloster Meteor F8 Prone Position
 - British Aerospace Experimental Aircraft Programme (EAP)
 - SEPECAT Jaguar ACT Demonstrator
 - Avro York C1
 - General Dynamics F-111F-CF
 - McDonnell Douglas Phantom FG1 (Nose section only)
 - Blackburn Buccaneer S1 (Nose section only)
 - Short Brothers Belfast
 - Scottish Aviation Twin Pioneer CCII
- **Culture24**
Culture24 is an independent non-profit company which exists to support the cultural sector to reach and connect with audiences. It is best known for publishing great websites about culture; producing the successful **Museums at Night** festival of after-hours openings and leading Let's Get Real, the collaborative action research project involving cultural organisations across the UK and Europe.
www.WeAreCulture24.org.uk
- **Arts Council England**
Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, we will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.
www.artscouncil.org.uk
- Follow us on Facebook – The Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford
- Follow us on Twitter – @RAFMUSEUM
- Follow us on Instagram - rafmuseum
- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- Admission to the Royal Air Force Museum is free of charge.
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at:

<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>

- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376212 or email michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org
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