

30 April 2015

LET THE MEMORY LIVE ON

Date: 7-10 May 2015

Time: 11.30am to 2.30pm

Cost: FREE

Friday 8th May 2015 will mark 70 years since the end of World War Two. This momentous day in British history was celebrated by a nation who had suffered the loss of civilians and service personnel in their thousands to the war. People proudly decorated their homes in red, white and blue and street parties in every town brought communities together as they rejoiced in Victory in Europe.

Next week, events across the country will commemorate VE Day and the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford will be getting into the spirit of things by opening up their World War Two hut to visitors. Usually only available to school groups, the wartime hut will be opened up to all visitors for the VE Day celebrations. Wartime music and bunting will set the scene and visitors will be transported back to a nostalgic era and experience a 1940s kitchen and classroom setting.

The kitchen is complete with Morrison shelter, dolly tub, mangle and household items including a radio, china tea set and even an authentic bike and child's scooter. Families are invited to try on clothing and RAF uniforms of the era and explore artefacts from the Museum's handling collection which includes gas masks, air raid warden equipment, ration books and food.

Grandparents can reminisce about their school days inside the wartime classroom, complete with old fashioned wooden desks and propaganda posters. Throughout the day the air raid siren will sound and families are encouraged to head to the back of the class and take cover in the mock Anderson Shelter to get a feel for what it was like during a bombing raid.

The wartime hut will be open to the public from 7-10 May between 11.30am and 2.30pm. On Friday 8 May, 60 students from Gladstone Primary School, Stoke will take part in a VE Day workshop. The Year 4 students aged 8-9 will learn about the events that led up to VE Day and the national celebrations that followed before taking part in craft activities, making paper chains and flags.

At 3pm on Friday 8 May, the Museum will join the rest of the country in a two minutes silence, marking the moment Winston Churchill broadcast his historic speech formally announcing the end of the war.

Visitors dining at the Museum over the VE Day weekend can enjoy cream tea in the Refuel Restaurant, consisting of tea with scones, clotted cream and jam available to purchase for just £4.50.

RAF Museum Cosford Learning Assistant, Lisa Fawcett said:

“This will be a unique opportunity for our visitors to celebrate VE Day 70 and to honour and remember those who lived and served during World War Two. We are privileged to be able to open our oldest building to the public on this historic occasion.”

For further information about the Museum, please visit the Museum website www.rafmuseum.org or call 01902 376200. The Museum is open daily from 10am and entry to the Museum is FREE of charge.

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:

- More information on VE Day can be found at:
 - <http://www.veday.org.uk>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/victory-in-europe-ve-day-celebrations>
- 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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