

10th May 2013

Women in aviation brought to life for half term

27th – 31st May 2013

This May half term the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford will be celebrating the achievements made by women in aviation. From Monday 27th to Friday 31st May the Museum will be running sessions for families to enjoy, based on some of aviation's most inspirational women.

Children will learn about pioneering English aviator Amy Johnson who set numerous long-distance records during the 1930's and flew in the Second World War as part of the Air Transport Auxiliary. Taking place in the Museum's Hangar 1 at 11am and 2pm each day, listen as a news reporter interviews Amy about her childhood, gaining her pilots licence and attempting to break the World record flying to Australia, all played by actors.

Pioneering American aviator Amelia Earhart was the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean and received the U.S. Distinguished Cross for this record breaking flight. Brought to life by actors during the week, learn about the other flying records set by Amelia before her mysterious disappearance in 1937, as she attempted to fly around the World. Visitors will find Amelia in the Warplanes Hangar throughout the half term week.

It's not just female pilots who have made their mark in history, families can learn more about the first female in space, Valentina Tereshkova. Join this 50th Anniversary story time session for children taking place near the Space Race Hotspot in the National Cold War Exhibition and hear fascinating stories about Valentina's experiences in space. Take a look at a real space suit, or try on our space costume and have your photograph taken; whilst viewing photographs and other space related items.

As you wander around the Museum during half term week, stop and speak with members of our staff who are dressed as some of aviation's most significant women and who will be answering questions from visitors about the character they are playing. And if that's not enough to entertain the children, pick up your free 'Women in Aviation Trail' from the Admissions Desk on arrival and complete it as you tour the Museum.

The future of women in aviation will be represented by three female Museum Apprentices stationed in the Test Flight hangar all week. The Apprentices will be working on panels from the Handley Page Hampden currently being restored in the Museum's Conservation Centre. Beth, Ella and Laura will be demonstrating their skills and the future roles woman have to play within the aviation industry.

'Women in Aviation half term' is FREE of charge and sessions will run throughout the week (sessions each day may vary). These are drop in sessions and you do not need to book in advance. The Museum is open daily from 10am and entry to the Museum is FREE. For more information, please call 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
- 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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