NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

EDITION: SUMMER 2013



thrive as a must visit airfield and among the attractions is the variety of aircraft that are based there. The latest variation to the

Hangar 11 fleet is a new skull paint scheme worn by the Peter Teichman Curtiss P-40M Kittyhawk

GREAT WAR PLA

Next year - 2014 - is the Centenary of the start of the Great War [1914-18] and the 98th year of the existence of North Weald as an active military airfield. In the upcoming commemoration of the 'War to end all wars' there will be a period when the museum and local populace will have the opportunity to mark the 100th Year of the airfield. These events require planning and now is not too soon to be considering just how this line in the sand might be tackled - is it just to be marking North Weald in the Great War or flying from the field throughout its existence? I do not know the answer but now is when we should be deciding.

Others are already considering how we might bring together the history of the Great War on a National Scale and record all the details for future generations. This type of task has been undertaken before for the Second World War and at one time such as the BBC created useful and popular websites that allowed the general public to put down their memories on-line. That Second World War sites project ran for seven years up to 2002 and amassed 21,000 locations. It is suggested that there could be a similar number of sites for the Great War.



New man at the door

As a result of recent moves at Epping Forest District Museum North Weald has acquired a new figure to greet visitors at the door. The figure became surplus to requirements at the Waltham Abbey based museum site and their loss is our gain!

Great War Plans....

The Essex Yeomanry used North Weald as a base long before aeroplanes came along.

Their camps were located near the present day Squadron facilities.

Dr Nicholas Saunders, from the University of Bristol's archaeology and anthropology department, said: "People will be amazed at the amount of things that are all around them from the First World War. It enriches individuals, as well as communities and the nation."



This time of course new and fresh personal memories are out of the question but there are other lines of information that can be drawn in together.

The Great War is a conflict associated with foreign battlefields and, above all, the muddy trenches of the Western Front but the major new project aims to identify and record thousands of remaining traces of the First World War on the landscape of the British Isles. North Weald Airfield is of course one of those sites and work has already started on the project locally.

The research is expected to run for the four years of the centenary of the conflict, 2014-2018, and will cover sites such as factories, camps, fortifications, airstrips and dockyards, as well as locations that were bombarded by German ships and aircraft.



The project, the Home Front and its Legacies, is being run by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), along with English Heritage (EH), and the universities of Bristol and York.

Local groups, councils and volunteers will be recruited to research particular areas and the Lower Lea Valley was one of two areas selected to run a pilot project funded by English Heritage at a cost of around £40,000. This project started last October and led to local groups being directly involved this spring,

the material from these was submitted in May.

Once identified and researched, the locations will be recorded on an online database that will be available to the public. Some locations could also be given special "listed" or "scheduled" status. All this depends upon the granting of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) money [at least £15M] and the finding of enough volunteers to do the work.

As one who became involved in the Lower Lea Valley project I am aware that there are other pitfalls in the scheme besides funding and volunteers. The professionals who put together the scheme devised their own 'How to do it' instruction proforma and its own unique dictionary of terms and that clashed in a big way with existing information sources. Why would a volunteer researcher with masses of existing information rewrite it to fit in with the new proforma system?

So, regardless of the potential problems, do you know of any Great War sites in and around West Essex? The project expects to want to record such as transport locations, military camps, munitions factories, hospitals, internment camps and requisitioned country estates and even event sites: places where notable incidents took place, such as air-crashes, bombings, naval raids and strikes or protests.

Among the local sites currently included is the Royal Gunpowder Mills, near Waltham Abbey and Stow Maries aerodrome, near Maldon, Essex but you can add to that a number of reported PoW camps and of course St.Margarets Hospital, Epping. The latter was originally a workhouse before it became a hospital where a number of North Weald aviators were interned with flight injuries. Already large sections of the original buildings have been summarily demolished – does anyone know of an individual or group that recorded the old buildings before they went?



COMING UP

Sunday 8 September 2013 An earlier edition of The Hurricane wrote about the planning for the North Weald Airfield Fun Day and Resilience Roadshow to be held on North Weald in a matter of weeks.

The organisers are now promising to bring to the event a Spitfire and Hurricane flypast, static displays by a range of warbirds and Cold War jets and a general flyin of mainly civil aircraft.

For the children there will be and Adventure Corner with FREE rides and bouncy castles, animals and birds on show, for everyone there will be a range of stalls and displays, vehicles and food.

At the core of the other events will be the Resiliance Roadshow.

Epping Forest District Council launched a Community Emergency Response Volunteer Initiative (CERV) scheme earlier this year and the Resiliance section of the day is primarily to promote CERV and identify volunteers to work with the council, Fire & Rescue and Harlow Council.

Entry will be £5 a head with car parking free. Set your SatNavs to CM16 6HR. You can find out more by following Twitter @NWAirfield @eppingforestdc and http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/



To coincide with the major Community Day event on the airfield, on Sunday September 8 EOR is having its own railway event that makes use of the increased aerial activity on the runways. EOR are calling this "Trains & Planes Sunday." As planned there should be a connecting bus service (which proved so popular last year).





NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD MUSEUM

Ad Astra House
Hurricane Way
North Weald
Epping

Essex CM16 6AA

Telephone: 01992 523010 [24/7 answering] office@northwealdairfieldmuseum.com Www.northwealdairfieldmuseum.com Registered charity: 1081157

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS—HOW TO JOIN

We accept all currencies in welcoming you to museum membership.

Become a Friend of North Weald Airfield Museum for £12.50p!

You can join through the museum website.

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

Free to members.

Except on Special Event Days visitors will be charged standard rates for entry:

Adults £2 Concessions £1.50 Children [5-15] 50p

Group rates vary but generally there is a minimum charge of £50 per group.

Required for upcoming Museum Displays

Full body Mannequins and/or Tailors dummies
Air raid siren [wind up type]

Long term loan accepted [Minimum return date December 2014]

YOU CAN ADVERTISE HERE

MUSEUM SEASON

The museum is open from May until November each year but groups can usually be catered for throughout the year subject to weather conditions and display rooms being available.

TALKS

The museum can offer talks about the history of museum and local aviation to groups, prices vary according to time of day and distance from North Weald.

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The Hurricane includes artwork produced for it by Ian J Commin of Insight Design of North Burnham, Slough SL1 6DS. In some cases it may not be possible to indicate the source of this material directly associated with the images used.

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2013

A week later than the 'on airfield' paid entry showpiece North Weald Airfield Museum will be having its own event right outside of the museum building between 12 Noon and 5pm.

Although nominally a 'Reunion' of members and those who used to serve at the airfield this event is open to all-comers and is free to enter.

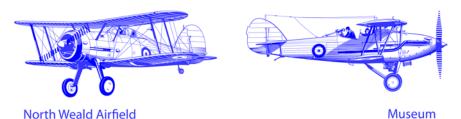
There will be a free bus service running guided tours around the airfield to supplement the items being held in and around the museum building. Another bus route will take those that wish to attend the Battle of Britain Memorial Service at St. Andrews Church, North Weald [time awaits].

Various displays and stalls from local organisations are lined up, and there will be refreshments and ice creams, classic cars, military vehicles and re-enactors.

We hope that you will find time to join us and perhaps to buy some of our surplus books or leave us a donation towards our funds.

On the day you will encounter the new tri-fold museum leaflet.... please take some home with you and distribute them to family, friends and colleagues.

Another new innovation that you should notice is the New large format 'we are open' signage on the museum frontage. This is designed to attract the attention of the thousands of people passing by the museum on the vintage buses run by the EOR and families just out for the day. Let us know what you think of it!





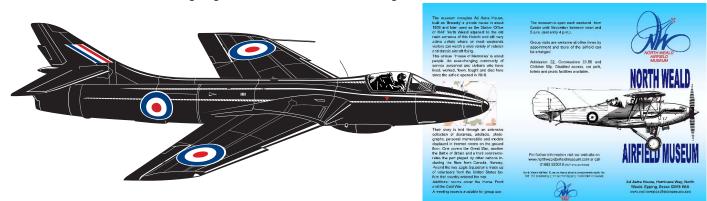
ANNUAL

MUSEUM

REUNION & OPEN



The Hurricane and the museum have started using images commissioned from Ian J Commin of Insight Design of North Burnham, Slough SL1 6DS and those new banners and elements of the leaflet are just a sample of them. In some cases for practical purposes it may not be possible to indicate the source of this material directly in association with the images. Both the new leaflet and the front of museum signage include the Commin images.



At the centre of the Great War Centenary celebrations will be the Imperial war Museum [IWM] and in aviation circles that means Duxford even though the location is primarily a Second World War site.

IWM Duxford is considered Britain's best-preserved Second World War airfield, but it does have a fascinating history that dates back to the First World War.

The displays of aircraft and the powerful stories of the men and women involved tell the story of the impact of aviation on the nature of war, on people's lives and on the social and economic history of the region.

IWM London was closed until July and even now is only partially reopened, it will be June 2014 before the redisplay will fully reopen. Meanwhile the parts of the IWM that are open have been carrying the promotion burden.

Among the events operated out of Duxford recently was a commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the role of the US Army's Eighth Air Force and in that its association with North Weald. The date chosen was more USAAF than RAF and the main event was the spring air show at the Imperial War Museum's Duxford aerodrome in late May.

Eagle Squadrons were formed by American volunteers who signed up to fight alongside Royal Air Force's pilots battling Nazi tyranny, before the US entered the war after the Pearl Harbor attack.

Representing the aircraft they flew during the war in Europe was a rare P-51C Mustang that was shipped to England from the U.S. to take part in the show, alongside a Hawker Hurricane, Supermarine Spitfire and Republic P-47 Thunderbolt.

The aircraft were piloted by Dan Friedkin, Ed Shipley, Steve Hinton and Paul Bonhomme. The Americans are best known as the Bremont Horsemen Flight Team and have performed spectacular P-51 Mustang displays at Duxford before.

The public air show took place on the 70th anniversary of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visiting RAF Duxford to welcome the 78th Fighter Group of the US Army Air Force to Great Britain in 1943. The 78th was based at Duxford from where it flew P-47s on bomber escort missions, before later switching to P-51s.

The following day all the debris of the air show had been swept aside and a commemorative flight was undertaken by a mixed formation of fighters and the Duxford based Boeing B-17 Fortress 'Sally B' to take in many of the former Eagle bases. North Weald included.

On the day the weather was fine but there was a relatively high wind so in the event it was fortuitous that NWAMA had cameras at both Duxford for the take-off and landing and North Weald for the proposed flypast.

The head winds delayed the fighter formation significantly and by the time they arrived at the last point on the map — North Weald - low fuel was becoming an issue. In the event though there was a quick single formation flight past the tower but it was a straight dash up the runway and head for Duxford giving little chance of a decent photographic record. [BE]

EAGLE DAY



A CELEBRATION OF EAGLES



Above: Part of the five ship formation over Duxford included two types that represented North Weald's Eagle squadron's—the Spitfire top and Hurricane bottom—with a P-51 Mustang.

Below: The event was all about TV footage and this camera equipped Agusta 109 accompanied the formation.

The Spitfire XR*D made a 'dead-stick' landing for effect in the middle of the field as a finale.



Ghostly Goings On

On the night of Saturday 15-16 June the museum hosted a group intent on finding ghosts in the museum although there is no record of a death in the building either in its military days or during its shorter civil existence [roughly 1908-1916].

The airfield has had some manifestations —it is claimed — one of which was a WAAF member supposed killed at North Weald in the 1940s but not found to be haunting until the 1950s. This unnamed lady was said to have been killed during a bombing raid, was a member of the Woman's Auxiliary Air Force and was heard walking around the area where the bomb hit for a dozen years after her death. Finding her in the Memorial list is the first difficulty with that one... according to that no-one fits the bill. Another ghost was blamed for removing the handset off the telephones on the base - a heavily wounded airman died during the war as he picked



up the receiver of a phone, and it was thought he continued to try to make the call for many years later. Finally, the base is also thought to be haunted by a man who was pinned to a tree after being caught in an explosion.

Awards

North Weald Airfield has received an award from The National Air Traffic Service (NATS) for raising awareness amongst its flying community to keep within the correct flight zone.

NATS representatives Jonathan Smith and Jonathan Bolton presented the NATS Infringement Prevention Award to Epping Forest District Council chairman Mary Sartin and airfield operations officer Trevor Jago.

The award was introduced in recognition of flying clubs, groups and airfields that have made special efforts to prevent and mitigate against airspace infringements.

North Weald is only the second airfield to receive the award.

As part of the campaign, a special TMZ leaflet has been produced to increase awareness amongst home-based and visiting pilots to the airfield. TMZ - Transponder Mandatory Zone - is the controlled airspace around Stansted Airport. Aerial photographs of local landmarks to help improve situational awareness have been included.

Mrs Sartin said: "I am delighted to receive this award on behalf of North Weald Airfield.

"Air traffic safety is very important and I know our operational staff at the airfield have put a lot of effort in to producing as much detailed information as possible for the pilots who use it."

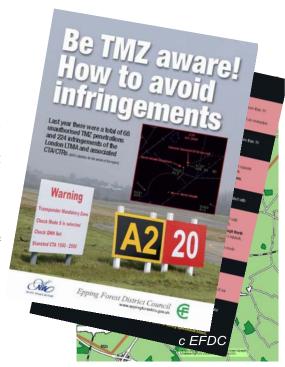
Many older members of North Weald hark back to the heady days when North Weald hosted the

fighter squadrons of the RAF, and even a younger generation recall some really spectacular air displays gracing the skies over the airfield. Over the years the usable airspace above the airfield became increasingly reduced as the air fleets of Ryanair and Easy-Jet flying out of our near neighbour at London [Stansted] grew in strength.

Even the later air shows – the Fighter Meets – had to set up special arrangements to allow RAF and civil aerobatic display teams to perform through what had become civil airliner airspace. The demise of the Fighter Meet genre through insolvency only brought an early end to the inevitable.

As the new document clearly demonstrates the airspace available to flyers operating in and out of North Weald is extremely tight and the number of pilots getting themselves in the wrong bit of airspace has become a real problem to the safety of hundreds of passengers winging their way to Europe and beyond.







Shades of 1972

Recently the EADS Group has been celebrating 60 years of Patrouille de France the French display team that for a few days at the start of their career graced the skies of North Weald at the first International Air Tattoo events that were born at North Weald in 1972 [see top three images].

The legendary French flight demonstration team celebrated its 60th anniversary at its base in Salon-de-Provence. EADS played a part in the squadron's legacy celebrations, by participating in the APPAF display with the Fouga CM 170 Magister F-AZZP, the team's main display aircraft for 16 years. The twinjet aircraft was used by the French Air Force and others for regular pilot training and in some instances is still serving in that role for formations across the world.

The Patrouille de France the Fouga Magister was replaced by the Alpha Jet as the main flight display aircraft in 1980. It made its final appearance in a Patrouille de France display on 16 September 1980 at Salon-de-Provence, France.









In the money

Our mentor museum the Epping Forest District Museum based in Waltham Abbey is to close this winter after receiving £1.65M in Heritage Lottery Funding grants for a major development project. The 2.5M overall scheme will add space to the museum when it opens again in the early part of 2015.





Another image illustrating members manning the NWAMA stand - this time Keith Davies at the helm for a recent stint promoting the museum at an Epping Ongar Railway [EOR] event. [by Steve Wagstaffe]

Give with confidence

As part of the continuous drive to further improve standards in the operation of air ambulances, the majority of air ambulance charities and ambulance services in the UK, including the North Weald based Herts AA [right] have signed up to a new Code of Conduct.

The Code, which harnesses already established standards not consistently used across the sector, now makes them mandatory, ensuring a consistent and focused level of activity. These rules govern standards of medical care, civil aviation practices and fundraising activity, requiring air ambulances to meet the standards set by UK regulators, the Care Quality Commission, Civil Aviation Authority and Fundraising Standards Board (FRSB).

As part of this agreement, air ambulance charities will now be obliged to meet best practice standards for fundraising and to display the distinctive "FRSB Give With Confidence" tick logo on donation materials and appeals.







LISTEN UP

You may or may not be aware the museum is struggling to fulfil its opening times. We are in dire need of volunteers to help out the Trustees with the manning.

For some years now the manning has fallen to a small band of trustees that have recently diminished through the retirement and stepping down of a couple of their number. As a result we are finding the situation critical. It is increasingly difficult to open the museum doors both days every weekend in the summer period from April to November as well as undertake a myriad of other tasks like discuss the running of the building and set up the exhibits.

If the current trend continues we are faced with the prospect of only being open one day a week. So we need helpers! Would you be prepared to give a few hours of your time on a couple of days in the summer months to help out manning the museum?

It is not an all day commitment and those hours would greatly increase our chances of maintaining opening times – full training and assistance will be offered

Do not forget - September 15

Battle of Britain Weekend and North Weald Museum Open Day

MORE AIRFIELD NEWS

Harley Davidson is celebrating its 110th anniversary this year. The local dealership at Lakeside sponsored a special rock concert to raise money for the Little Havens Children's Hospice in association with Weald Aviation. On 20th July a music concert was held at Hangar 6 on the Airfield.

There was a comprehensive display of the latest motorbike models by the classic marquee and branded merchandise was also on sale.

The concert included Midnight Messiah, a band which uses one of the rooms alongside Hangar 6 for rehearsals. Its singer, Paul Taylor, has long been a Squadron member at the Airfield. They were followed by singer Stewart Mac, who was performing at his first gig.

The next group on stage was Governor's Luck – a local Essex band formed in 2011, whose EP *The Rumour Mill* is on current release, followed by the main act – the Rick and Buckers.

The backdrop to the stage was formed by our Hunter T7 Fox 1 and two Jet Provosts. The stage was flanked by two Goblin jet engines. TV celebrity Jodie Marsh also attended to assist with the fundraising, which included a charity auction.

Over 500 people attended the gig. Many had arrived in suitable style on Harley Davidsons! [EFDC]

The Beagle Pup & Bulldog Club (BP&BC) held its second major celebration at North Weald Airfield with its 30th Anniversary *Beagle Birthday Bash* at The Squadron over the weekend of 20-21 July. Previously it had organised its 21st *Birthday Garden Party* at the Airfield in August 2004, which included eighteen aircraft in a record flypast.

On the first evening there was a 40s-style dinner dance featuring the close-harmony singing group the Marjorie Belles, Lindy Hopper dancers and a Cold War cabaret.

The event attracted a Bulldog from France, F-AZTF on the Saturday and more long distance aircraft arrived for the Club's fly-in from as far away as Thirsk in North Yorkshire. A total of ten Pup 150s and six Bulldogs attended, in addition to the home-based aircraft. The Metropolitan Police EC145 helicopter *Police 251* flew in to take part in the event, and Club members were able to have a guided tour of the helicopter and sit in it.



The highlight of the day was an eleven-ship flypast organised by the *SkyHawk*s Formation Team and led by Derek Long from Gamston, Nottinghamshire.

The Club's Commodore, Roger Hayes, was delighted with how the Birthday Bash had gone. A huge amount of work had been done behind the scenes by many people to bring the event to fruition. [EFDC]

In mid-July Harlow Fire Station organised a complex scenario at the Airfield to simulate a multiple collision on a dummy motorway carriageway, which was blocked by overturned vehicles.

At the front of the multi-vehicle pile-up was a Mercedes A Class car on its side, it had been struck by a tanker, with a motorbike and rider sandwiched on the ground between the two vehicles.

Seven fire appliances responded to the scene: two from Harlow and one each from Ongar, Loughton, Great Dunmow, Wickford and Stansted. There were also support vehicles and a control centre on site. The East of England Ambulance Service participated with paramedics, doctors and ambulances. The two local air ambulances [Essex and Hertfordshire] also landed on the adjacent grass. The Herts Air Ambulance was later called away on a real emergency.

The fire fighters stabilised the vehicles to stop them moving. They then used cutting gear was to release the occupants. Heavy recovery vehicles righted the articulated lorry and trailer and winched up the front wheels of the tanker so that the medical crews could deal with the injured motorcyclist. [EFDC]





NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD MUSEUM







Reunion & Fun Day

Sunday September 15 12:00 - 17:00

FOLLOWING OUR SUCCESSFUL REUNION LAST YEAR NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD MUSEUM IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 2013 REUNION AND MUSEUM FUN DAY.

THE REUNION IS FOR ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY.

OPEN TO ALL.

ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM IS FREE.

THERE WILL BE A FREE BUS RUNNING GUIDED TOURS AROUND THE AIRFIELD, VARIOUS DISPLAYS AND STALLS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AND REFRESHMENT STALLS.

WE WILL ALSO BE RUNNING A BUS TO THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN
MEMORIAL SERVICE, HELD AT ST ANDREWS CHURCH, NORTH WEALD.
(TIME TO BE CONFIRMED ON THE DAY)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, STALLS OR EXHIBITION PLACES AT THE EVENT PLEASE CALL 07783 566 767.

North Weald Airfield Museum, Ad Astra House, Hurricane Way, North Weald, Essex, CM16 6AA

07783 566 767 (Reunion Event), 01992 523 010 (24hr answer phone), www.northwealdairfieldmuseum.com

NWAMA IS A REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1081157, AND IS GRANT AID FUNDED BY EFDC.

And.... Do not forget that the first eight editions of the Spirit of North Weald booklet are on line and downloadable at the EFDC website, this link will take you straight there:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/index.php/home/file-store/category/2-spirit-of-north-weald



Ad Astra House, Hurricane Way, North Weald, Epping, Essex CM16 6AA
Open Saturday and Sunday May to November 12noon to 4pm