



February 2013

Listings: HMS *Belfast*

March – May 2013

New for March 2013

Free Family Activities - included in general admission price. Drop-in events suitable for all ages with parental supervision.

History in Your Hands

9-10 March
11am - 12.30pm
and 2pm - 4pm

Discover hidden stories about HMS *Belfast* and explore the fascinating lives of the men who lived and worked on board - Ordinance Officer John Harrison was busy working when an Arctic wave overwhelmed the ship.

Learn about his incredible story of survival, and hear other stories as you examine authentic naval objects from IWM's collections, and learn more about how we conserve them.

Special Weekend Event - included in general admission price. Suitable for all ages.

HMS *Belfast* celebrates 75 years since her launch!

16-17 March

Come aboard HMS *Belfast* for a weekend of activities and celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the ship's launch in Belfast in 1938 on St Patrick's Day.

Taking place over the weekend:

- Meet some of HMS *Belfast*'s veterans and hear first-hand tales of life on the open seas
- Be enthralled by simulated gun firing of *Belfast*'s 4-inch guns
- Impress family and friends with your medal-making skills in a hands-on craft activity
- Find out how sailors communicated in live radio demos in the ship's Bridge Wireless Office
- Interact with volunteers on the Admiral's Bridge. Sit in the Captain's seat and learn about HMS *Belfast* throughout its 75 year history

Celebrating the ship's Irish heritage, there will be a special Irish-themed menu served in our new café over the weekend.

Some activities and events are to be confirmed, check iwm.org.uk for more information in early March.

Free Family Activities - included in general admission price. Drop-in events suitable for all ages with parental supervision.	
Signals at Sea 23-24 March 11am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm	Send and decode secret messages and find out how the navy used secret signals to communicate amongst themselves and with other ships. Taking place on the Gun Platform or, weather permitting, the flag deck, find yourself at the heart of communications on board and experience what it would have been like to navigate in war-torn waters.

Free Family Activities - included in general admission price. Drop-in events suitable for all ages with parental supervision.	
Darning and Yarning at Sea 29-31 March 11am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm	Get crafty and learn how sailors repaired their clothes at sea - uncover the difference between a cross stitch and a running stitch in this communal sewing activity. Find out about sailor's silks, the types of clothes sailors repaired and see your work form part of an impressive textile collage, which will go on display later in the year. Check iwm.org.uk for more information.

New for April 2013

Free Family Activities - included in general admission price. Drop-in events suitable for all ages with parental supervision.	
Darning and Yarning at Sea 1-7 April 11am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm	Get crafty and learn how sailors repaired their clothes at sea - uncover the difference between a cross stitch and a running stitch in this communal sewing activity. Find out about sailor's silks, the types of clothes sailors repaired and see your work form part of an impressive textile collage, which will go on display later in the year. Check iwm.org.uk for more information.

For more information or to make a booking, visit iwm.org.uk

<p>Free Family Activities - included in general admission price. Drop-in events suitable for all ages with parental supervision.</p>	
<p>History in Your Hands</p> <p>20-21 April 11am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm</p>	<p>Discover hidden stories about HMS <i>Belfast</i> and explore the fascinating lives of the men who lived and worked on board - Ordinance Officer John Harrison was busy working when an Arctic wave overwhelmed the ship.</p> <p>Learn about his incredible story of survival, and hear other stories as you examine authentic naval objects from IWM's collections, and learn more about how we conserve them.</p>

New for May 2013

<p>Free Family Activities - included in general admission price. Drop-in events suitable for all ages with parental supervision.</p>	
<p>Points on a Compass</p> <p>11 - 12 May 11am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm</p>	<p>From bananas in Borneo to a 21 gun salute in San Francisco harbour, together with friends and family explore the many countries and cultures that HMS <i>Belfast</i> encountered as she sailed 500,000 nautical miles across the globe in her 30 year career.</p> <p>Hear for yourself stories from across a world map and handle some of the objects that helped the ship and her sailors on their sometimes treacherous journeys.</p>

<p>Free Family Activities - included in general admission price. Drop-in events suitable for all ages with parental supervision.</p>	
<p>Sailor Tales</p> <p>25 - 31 May 11am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm</p>	<p>Join storytellers as they <i>spin a dit</i> (tell a story) about life on board HMS <i>Belfast</i>. Decide for yourself whether stories are genuine or whether they are tall tales.</p> <p>Imagine yourself as a sailor or one of the ship's furry stowaways and join in by telling your own seafaring story.</p> <p>Especially suitable for a younger audience, these drop-in storytelling sessions will encourage children to think about life on board ship, and embellish stories, just as sailors do.</p>

For more information or to make a booking, visit iwm.org.uk

Ongoing

HMS <i>Belfast</i> Private Tours	<p>Visitors to HMS <i>Belfast</i> can pre-book private tours with one of the Ship's Company and enjoy exclusive behind-the-barrier access. Discover some of the quirky sailor's stories of living and working on board including the time a reindeer joined the crew!</p> <p>Hear the unique stories of how sailors survived in freezing conditions during the Arctic Convoys and what it was like to be one of the first ships firing on D-Day and HMS <i>Belfast</i>'s role as part of the United Nations forces in Korea from 1950 to 1952.</p> <p>Private tours last for one hour, and due to the nature of the site numbers are limited to a maximum of 12 people.</p> <p>Further details are available on our website: iwm.org.uk . For more information or to make a booking, please call Victoria Chan 020 7766 0141 or email vchan@iwm.org.uk</p>
Gun Turret Experience	<p>Immerse yourself in the Gun Turret Experience, a chance to see what fighting at sea would have really been like. Overlooking the back of the ship, or Quarterdeck, is one of HMS <i>Belfast</i>'s Triple Gun Turrets.</p> <p>Lights, audio, projections and movement will recreate the experience, highlighting the hectic and cramped conditions that would have seen twenty-six men in this confined space at any one time.</p> <p>Entry included in general admission price.</p>
Interactive Operations Room	<p>HMS <i>Belfast</i> could once be controlled from the Operations Room, the nerve centre and brain of the entire ship. Visitors can now imagine exactly what this would have been like as the Operations Room features exciting interactives.</p> <p>The Operations Room's rotating radar screens have been recreated for the first time since the ship was operational, giving a sense of the movement and urgency of the room, and there are two large touch screen interactive games based on the real-life <i>Pony Express</i> exercise of 1961 which involved 60 warships, 20,000 naval personnel and 6,000 US, British and Australian troops off North Borneo in the South China Sea.</p> <p>Entry included in general admission price.</p>

-Ends-

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For more information or to make a booking, visit iwm.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

HMS Belfast

HMS *Belfast* is the most significant surviving Second World War Royal Navy warship, with a history that extends to the Arctic Convoys, D-Day, the Cold War, Korea and beyond. Moored on the River Thames between London Bridge and Tower Bridge, HMS *Belfast* tells the story of life on board and explores how war affects and impacts on the morale, resilience and determination of a ship's community. We take visitors on a journey though the ship's nine decks and show them what life was like for the 950 strong crew, through the real life stories of the people who served on her.

Open Daily: Winter 2012-13 1 November - 28 February 10am - 5pm.

Summer 2013 1 March - 31 October 10am - 6pm. Last entry an hour before closing.

(Closed 24 - 26 December).

Admission*: £14.50 Adults; £11.60 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); Children (under 16) Free; Special rates for groups of ten plus.

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iwm.org.uk / @I_W_M / www.facebook.com/hmsbelfast

* Please note entry prices include a voluntary donation, making a valuable contribution to the care and conservation of this historic site

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](http://iwm.org.uk), our flagship branch, is transforming with new First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with large object displays which will open in summer 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War (Please note IWM London is closed until July 2013 when it will partially re-open, and in June 2014 the museum will fully reopen). Our other branches are [IWM North](http://iwm.org.uk), housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; [IWM Duxford](http://iwm.org.uk), a world-renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; [Churchill War Rooms](http://iwm.org.uk), housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser [HMS Belfast](http://iwm.org.uk).

First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit www.1914.org



For more information or to make a booking, visit iwm.org.uk