



Have a Horrible Half Term at IWM North

IWM North, part of Imperial War Museums, Saturday 25 May – Sunday 2 June
Free Entry – Donations welcome

Ever wondered if you could get by on powdered egg or if you would be fooled by a parsnip disguised as a banana?

IWM North in Manchester, part of Imperial War Museums, is inviting families to visit this half term and find out just how rotten wartime rationing was.

Visitors will be able to view the **brand new Big Picture Show, Horrible Histories®: Rotten Rationing**; come face to face with a walkabout character, or enjoy free storytelling sessions, performances and workshops.

Hear your tummy rumble as you watch **Horrible Histories: Rotten Rationing**, a newly launched Big Picture Show. Animated character Rattus Rattus will take you on a journey back to the Woeful Second World War. As the lights fade down, giant screens and powerful surround sound immerse you in the heart of 360-degree action. Marking 60 years since the end of sweet rationing, the free 7 minute show is ideal for families. Shown every day at 11am and 2pm during half term, and only available at IWM North.

Get your red carpet poses ready to attend **premiere screenings of CBBC's Horrible Histories®** television show. Two brand new, full length Horrible Histories episodes will be screened on Saturday 25 May and Saturday 1 June at 2.30pm in the Learning studio. If that's got you in the mood for popcorn, visit the WaterShard Café & Kitchen, where you can also try wartime treats like mini-potted Woolton pies. Children's portions and lunch bags.

See if you will be the first to spot the family friendly masked character- a ration-weary 1940s housewife - as part of the **Walkabout Performances**. Just make sure she doesn't offer you a sweet; the only sweets that were not rationed during the war were cough sweets!

Get hands on with objects from IWM's collection in a **TimeStack Handling Session**. Discover the stories behind the artefacts as you handle a tin of dried eggs or examine a food ration book. Daily at 12.30pm.

Did you know it wasn't just food that was rationed during the Second World War? Discover how to make do and mend in a creative studio session **War and Wardrobes**. Or find out about the heroes of the harvest in our **Spades not Ships** session and make your own souvenirs to take home and keep.

Find out more at www.iwm.org.uk or connect with IWM North on www.facebook.com/iwm.north or on twitter @I_W_M #IWMNorth

– Ends –

For further press information please contact:

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Notes to Editors

IWM North

The multi award winning IWM North is designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to represent a globe shattered by conflict. The iconic building, innovative and dynamic exhibitions, use of digital media through hourly Big Picture Shows and public events explore how war shapes lives and inspire and encourage debate.

Open daily from 10am - 5pm with free admission at The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ (close to MediaCityUK Metrolink and Junction 9 of the M60) T: 0161 836 4000 E: iwmnorth@iwm.org.uk www.iwm.org.uk

DETAILED LISTING INFORMATION:

Visitors of all ages can get involved through workshops, children's tours and activities.

Unless otherwise stated activities are free, drop-in sessions (places may be limited on the day).

Activities are suitable for ages 5+ unless otherwise stated. An adult must accompany children under 12 at all times.

All events between Saturday 25 and Sunday 2 June are part of National Family Week with further events during June www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk

NEW Big Picture Show

Horrible Histories: Rotten Rationing

Daily, at 11am and 2pm (only showing at 11am weekdays and excluding school holidays)

Main Exhibition Space

Meet Rattus Rattus as he takes you on a journey back to the Woeful Second World War where you can discover foul food, dig for victory, and make do and mend. This new 360-degree Big Picture Show brings *Horrible Histories: Rotten Rationing* to life for all ages and has been specially created in partnership with Scholastic Children's Books. The show features brand-new material from *Horrible Histories* illustrator Martin Brown.

Horrible Histories: Rotten Rationing will be IWM North's first animated show based on the *Horrible Histories* books written by Terry Deary and illustrated by Martin Brown, coupled with IWM's unique collections, from wartime posters to archive sound and film. This family friendly audio-visual show will be projected onto the 20 walls throughout IWM North's Main Exhibition Space to create a fully immersive experience that is both fun and informative.

NEW CBBC Horrible Histories television show screenings

Saturday 25 May and Saturday 1 June, 2.30pm

Learning Studio

Has our brand new Horrible Histories Big Picture Show whet your appetite for all things horrible? See one of the new CBBC Horrible Histories episodes at one of our two free screenings – a different episode on at each screening.

Walkabout Performances

***Monday 27, Friday 31 May and Sunday 2 June, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm
Various locations (11.30am in Open Studio, 12.30pm Main Exhibition Space after War at Home
Big Picture Show, 2.30pm Main Exhibition Space after Horrible Histories Rotten Rationing Big
Picture Show, 3.30pm in Open Studio)***

All ages

A silent masked character is on the loose in the museum. Will you spot this ration-weary 1940s housewife as you drop in on them at one of our Open Studio sessions or catch them after the new Horrible Histories: Rotten Rationing Big Picture Show?

Open Studio

Daily from Saturday 25 to Friday 31 May, 11am-12.30pm and 3pm-4.30pm

Learning Studio

All ages

Spades not Ships, 25-28 May

Why were some things rationed during the Second World War. What have spades got to do with ships? Time to think about the heroes of the harvest. How did people on the home front help the war effort by growing their own food? What was the Women's Land Army? Why was it important for Britain's farmers to have healthy harvests? Find out more in this creative session.

War and Wardrobes, 29-31 May, 1&2 June

Discover the link between war and clothing during the Second World War. Be inspired by the craft and ingenuity of those wanting to look good on a ration and learning to 'make do and mend'. Make your own souvenir to take home and keep

What a Performance

Saturday 1 June, 11.15pm, 12.15pm, 1.15pm, 2.15pm

Main Exhibition Space

Inspired by our Horrible Histories Rotten Rationing Big Picture Show? Want to know more about the Second World War? See one of our special, family friendly performances dramatising stories of war time trials and adventure including the tale of a female ship builder and the Women's Royal Naval Service

TimeStack Handling Sessions (Ideal for ages 5+)

Daily at 12.30pm

Main Exhibition Space

A great opportunity to get hands-on with objects from IWM's collection in these themed 20-minute object-handling sessions. Take this opportunity to discover the stories behind the artefacts in our rationing and recycling themed TimeStack, featuring a tin of dried eggs and food and clothing ration books.

Storytelling sessions

Daily from Saturday 25 to Friday 31 May at 10.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm

All ages

Animals and War (Ideal for all ages)

Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 May at 2.30pm

Meet underneath the Harrier Jump Jet

Puppets and pictures bring to life heroic and heart-warming tales of wartime animal bravery such as the stories of Bonfire the horse owned by poet John McCrae and Simpson and his donkeys.

Bumpy Bear (ideal for all ages)

Wednesday 29, Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May, 10.30am

Meet underneath the Harrier Jump Jet

Take part in this family friendly storytelling session about Bumpty Bear and his adventures around The Quays. Learn how friendship and first aid keep this clumsy character smiling.

Billy's War (Ideal for all ages)

Saturday 25, Sunday 26, Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 May at 10.30am

Meet underneath the Harrier Jump Jet

This captivating story features a charming rag doll character of a young boy, Billy, from Salford who was evacuated to the countryside during the Second World War. Families will follow the story and learn about life on the home front during the Second World War.

Oskar's Journey (Ideal for all ages)

Saturday 25, Sunday 27, Monday 28 May, 2.30pm

Meet underneath the Harrier Jump Jet

Meet charming cat puppet character Oskar and discover his tale of adventure on a journey across a divided city as he seeks out a friend on the other side of the Berlin Wall. This session uses puppets, multi-sensory resources including sounds and smells, and object handling including the chance to see a real piece of the Berlin Wall.

What Nancy Did Next (Ideal for all ages)

Wednesday 29, Thursday 30 and Friday 30 May at 1.30pm

Meet underneath the Harrier Jump Jet

Meet Nancy and hear her tales of life in the Land Army in the Second World War. Learn about her wartime experiences away from home and making new friends... especially with a quiet and timid horse called Rufus. In this interactive family friendly session, visitors can choose what happens and so each story-telling session will be different. The session uses puppets and multi-sensory resources including sounds and smells.

The Adventures of Able Seaman Wally Tobin (Ideal for all ages)

Saturday 25, Sunday 26, Monday 27, Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 May, 1.30am

Meet underneath the Harrier Jump Jet

What have a parrot, a coconut and a motorbike got in common? This special storytelling session revealing the adventures of Able Seaman Wally Tobin and looks at how people from different cultures and countries work together in times of hardship and war.

Action Stations: The Interactive Timeline

Visit the interactive family Action Stations around the gallery with activities such as exploring the smells and creatures of the First World War trench or revealing the power of the poster during wartime.

Your History - Explore Imperial War Museum online

Ground level.

Personal stories and intriguing facts, family quizzes and tips for tracing people's wartime history are all available at the online access area.

Visiting IWM North with your family

We offer a great day out for all the family all year round with FREE ENTRY to IWM North, all our exhibitions and a wide variety of family friendly activities. We have free floor plans, trails, and regular tours to help you navigate our fascinating building.

We also have regular events aimed specifically at families including TimeStack Handling Sessions where you can get hands-on with the objects, and HotSpot craft activities, helping you to explore IWM North in more detail.

Within the Main Exhibition Space we have nine Action Station interactives and on the ground floor, our online area Your History offers more information about the collections, including games and personal stories.

We have free, self-operated lockers for your bags, lifts to all floors, accessible ground floor toilets and baby changing facilities. The WaterShard Café & Kitchen offers children's portions and lunch bags, and colouring sheets are always available. An indoor picnic area is also available at weekends and in the school holidays for visitors to bring their own refreshments. The IWM North Shop offers a range of pocket money purchases including souvenirs and stationery items.

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 are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch with six floors of exhibitions and displays; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

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