



HMS BELFAST

80 YEARS

HMS BELFAST
PRESS RELEASE

HMS *Belfast* celebrates 80th anniversary weekend with ship inspired cake, made by 2017 Great British Bake Off winner, Sophie Faldo



On 17 and 18 March 2018, London's iconic HMS *Belfast* marks its 80th anniversary with a weekend of free on board celebrations and activities

To mark this anniversary weekend, HMS *Belfast* has commissioned Sophie Faldo, the 2017 winner of The Great British Bake Off, to create a spectacular nine-tiered cake inspired by the ship's nine decks. Visitors can enjoy a free slice of Sophie's cake before climbing ladders, ducking through hatches and exploring the real decks of HMS *Belfast*.

On 17 March, visitors will also have the chance to meet surviving veterans from HMS *Belfast*'s 80 year history and learn what life was like serving on board the historic warship that saw action at The Battle of North Cape, D-Day and in Korea. The veterans, who will be stationed in key areas relating to their active service, will be on board HMS *Belfast* for 80 minutes to share their stories.

Throughout the weekend, a number of free nautical themed activities will be taking place on board HMS *Belfast*. During 'Signals at Sea' workshops, families will discover how the Royal Navy sent messages from one ship to another using lights, radios, codes and flags. As well as learning how to send their own names in Morse Code, families will learn about a new signal, especially created for HMS *Belfast*'s anniversary. Additional on board activities on both Saturday and Sunday will include face painting, nautical temporary tattooing, a photo booth and a competition to win a HMS *Belfast* construction set (retailed at £25.00). For visitors over the age of 18, a free rum punch inspired by the 'tots, sippers and gulpers' enjoyed by HMS *Belfast*'s crew will be available.

Sophie Faldo, the 2017 winner of The Great British Bake Off, said: "I am truly honoured to have been asked to make the cake to support the celebrations for the 80th anniversary of HMS *Belfast*. Being a serving officer in the Army, I relish the opportunity to mix my military background with my interest in baking, so I've put my heart and soul into making this nine-tiered cake, which I hope people will come along and enjoy on the anniversary weekend."

For further information, interviews and image requests, please contact the press office at:

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Ends

Activity Information

- Sophie Faldo's cake will be available to enjoy on both Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March 2018 on a first come, first served basis.
- HMS *Belfast*'s veterans will be on board for 80 minutes, between 10.30 – 11.50am on Saturday 17 March 2018.
- 'Signals at Sea' workshops will be taking place between 1 – 4pm on Saturday 17 March 2018 and 10am – 4pm on Sunday 18 March 2018. Workshops will run on a drop in basis in the on board School Room. Morse Code activities will take place on board in the Bridge Wireless Office between 10 – 4 pm on both days.
- Face painting and nautical temporary tattooing will take place on board on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March 2018 between 10am – 5pm. Get a souvenir photograph of your visit in our photo booth, which will also be open on both days from 10am – 5pm.
- To enter the competition for the chance to win a HMS *Belfast* construction set (retailed at £25.00), visitors will be invited to fill out details on an entry form provided at HMS *Belfast*'s admissions desk when they visit on either Saturday 17 or Sunday 18 March 2018.
- Visitors over the age of 18 can show their ticket for one free glass of rum punch. Additional rum punch will be available for purchase.
- Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March 2018, opening hours will be between 10am – 6pm (with last entry an hour before closing).
- Admission: £15.45 Adults; £12.35 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £7.70 Child (5-16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus. Free for members. A 10% discount will be offered for advanced tickets booked online.

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 through the ship's nine decks and show them what life was like for the 950 strong company, through the real life stories of the people who served on her.

Open Daily: Last entry an hour before closing. (Closed 24 – 26 December)

Winter Hours: 10am – 5pm (1 November 2017 – 28 February 2018).

Summer Hours: 10am – 6pm (1 March – 31 October 2018).

Admission (with Gift Aid): £17 Adults; £13.60 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £8.50 Child (5-16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus. Free for members.

From January 2018, a 10% discount will be offered for advanced tickets booked online.

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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 which attract over 2 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **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 is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the world. For more information visit www.1914.org



Sophie Faldo

After graduating with a Masters in Psychology at The University of Toulouse, Sophie joined the British Army as an Officer in the Royal Artillery. Sophie discovered she had a natural talent for baking and more recently, a passion for patisserie. In 2017, Sophie won, Channel 4's The Great British Bake Off, on which she routinely impressed the judges with her show stopping bakes and coolness under pressure – stand-out creations include her champagne cake, described by The Radio Times as 'a work of genius', and her trifle terrine which won her the Star Baker award in Week 5.