



21 June 2018

Meet veterans and get hands on with history at Imperial War Museums this summer

From meeting veterans to making paper planes and helping keep HMS Belfast spick and span, there's something to entertain and fascinate every member of the family across IWM's branches this summer.

At IWM London, HMS Belfast, IWM Duxford and IWM North, families can meet war veterans and eyewitnesses and hear their personal, first-hand accounts of life in times of war. Visitors to HMS Belfast can also help look after the largest object in IWM's collection – HMS Belfast herself! At IWM Duxford, families can take on the challenge to design aerodynamic paper planes.

We Were There: Meet Veterans and Eyewitnesses

IWM London: Every Tuesday and Thursday between 24 July and 30 August, 11am-1pm

HMS Belfast: Every Wednesday between 25 July and 29 August, 11am-3pm

IWM Duxford: Every Thursday between 26 July and 30 August, 11am-3pm

IWM North: Every Tuesday between 24 July and 28 August, 11am-3pm

This summer, families will have a very special opportunity to meet war veterans and eyewitnesses, including those who lived through the Second World War and the Cold War, to hear their personal stories of conflict. On selected days over the school summer holidays, veterans will recount tales of their wartime life, giving families first-hand insights into the causes of war and its impact on people's lives.

Suitable for all ages. Free, drop-in sessions.

Please note that due to the unique nature of this event, eyewitness availability may vary.

Ship Shape Saturdays

HMS Belfast

Every Saturday between 28 July and 25 August; 11am-1pm, 2-4pm

All hands on deck! The whole family is invited to help keep the iconic warship, HMS Belfast, in tip-top condition. Visitors to Ship Shape Saturdays can drop in and learn about what it takes to conserve HMS Belfast, the largest object in IWM's collection. Alongside our expert conservators families will put their learning into practice as they work through specially-assigned tasks searching for hungry insect pests, restoring the ship's original fittings and furniture, and caring for fabrics with specialised tools.

Suitable for all ages. Free, drop-in sessions.

Paper Plane Challenge

IWM Duxford

Wednesdays and Fridays throughout August; 11am-1pm, 2-4pm

Become an aeroplane designer and learn the principles of flight and aerodynamics at IWM Duxford. Families can take the challenge of creating the perfect paper plane, drawing inspiration from exhibitions housing everything from Spitfires to a Concorde.

Suitable for all ages. Free, drop-in sessions.

Ends

For further press information and interview requests please contact:

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Notes to Editors: Please note that while We Were There, Ship Shape Saturdays and Plane Paper Challenge are all free events, admission charges apply to HMS Belfast and IWM Duxford.

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 crew, through the real life stories of the people who served on her.

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

Summer Hours: 10am – 6pm (1 March 2017 – 31 October 2017).

Admission*: £16 Adults; £12.80 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £8 Child (5- 16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus.

HMS Belfast, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2JH

T: +44 (0)20 7940 6300

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 London

IWM London tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Explore what life was like at home during the Second World War in *A Family in Wartime*; delve into the world of espionage in *Secret War*; visit our award-winning *Holocaust Exhibition*; discover stories of bravery in *The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes*; see work by some of Britain's most significant 20th Century artists throughout our galleries or take in our latest major temporary exhibition as part of our season of programming.

Open Daily: 10am – 6pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing (Closed 24 - 26 December). Free Admission.

IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.

T: +44 (0)20 7416 5000

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

IWM Duxford

IWM Duxford is Britain's best-preserved Second World War airfield, with a fascinating 100 year history that dates back to the First World War. Duxford has been a witness to world-changing events over the past 100 years where ordinary people have had extraordinary experiences. At this active and dynamic museum, historic aircraft can regularly be seen taking to the skies from Duxford's wartime airfield. Exploring state of the art exhibition halls and historic buildings, visitors walk in the footsteps of the men and women from across the world who served at RAF Duxford and explore the rich displays which share powerful stories of the impact of aviation on the nature of war and on people's lives.

Open Daily: Summer 2017: 10am to 6pm. Last admission 5pm (from 11 March to 22 October 2017).

Admission*: £18 Adults; £14.40 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £9 Child (5- 16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus.

IWM Duxford, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, CB22 4QR

T: +44 (0)122 383 5000

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

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IWM North

The multi award winning IWM North brings the national collection to northern audiences. 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 inspires and encourages debate.

Open Daily: Last entry 30 minutes before closing (Closed 24 – 26 December). Free Admission.

Summer 2017: 10am – 5pm (April 2017 – November 2017)

IWM North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ

T: +44 (0)161 836 4000

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

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

