



## **February Half Term at Imperial War Museums**

**Saturday 13 February – Sunday 21 February**

This half term, visitors to IWM can draw, explore and investigate life in times of war and conflict. Take part in celebrated political artist Peter Kennard's art workshop at IWM London, discover what life was like at sea by exploring all 9 decks of HMS *Belfast*, investigate the Home Front during the Second World War at IWM North's family friendly exhibition *Horrible Histories®: Blitzed Brits* and find out what it was like to be in a Second World War bomber crew at IWM Duxford. These activities are all part of a programme of FREE\* events across IWM in February half term.

### **Arts and Craft Activities**

#### **Family Art Workshop: Protest and Survive**

**IWM London**

**2 – 4pm**

Join celebrated political artist **Peter Kennard** and develop your own Unofficial War Art collages and drawings on the subject of protest, linked to the current retrospective of his work at IWM London. Peter Kennard will be on hand to talk about his work and provide tips on creating collages and drawings during this free, drop-in workshop. All materials are provided and no previous art experience is required.

*Peter Kennard: Unofficial War Artist* is the first major retrospective of Kennard's work charting a 50 year career and features over 200 artworks and related items including a new art installation, Boardroom, created especially for the exhibition. The exhibition is on until 30 May 2016.

#### **Darning and Yarning**

**HMS Belfast**

**11am – 12.30pm and 2 – 4pm**

In this craft session, you can learn a skill essential to all sailors past and present – sewing! From repairing sails to socks, we need your help on board HMS *Belfast* to create a new sailors' cross stitch work. While you sew find out more about the Royal Navy and life on board HMS *Belfast*. \*Activity included in the general admission price.

#### **Daily Craft Sessions**

**IWM North**

**2 – 3.30pm**

Families are invited to get creative in daily craft sessions to make their own wooden Home Front hero, or dress up as a member of the Home Guard or an Air Raid Warden. Men of the Home Guard were not only readied for invasion, but also performed other roles including bomb disposal and manning anti-aircraft and coastal artillery.

## Talks and Tours

### [The Lancaster Experience](#)

**IWM Duxford**

**11am; 12 Noon; 1pm**

Come along to IWM Duxford and, for the first time, peer inside the legendary Second World War aircraft – the Lancaster bomber – to see what it was really like for the young men who fought and flew as part of a bomber crew.

Hear from a historic interpreter, dressed as a member of Bomber Command to find out everything from the role of each of the crew members to what they wore and the equipment and weapons they used. Visitors will also find out about the famous Dambusters Raids and the development of the bouncing bomb.

The Lancaster bomber is open for viewing between 11.20am and 3.30pm, except during the interpretative sessions. \*Activity included in the general admission price.

### [A Closer Look Tour: Blitzed Brits](#)

**IWM North**

**1.30pm**

Discover the resilience and inventiveness of the Blitz spirit in this tour of the interactive exhibition *Horrible Histories: Blitzed Brits*. Hear first-hand accounts of evacuated children who were separated from their parents for the first time, and the stories of ordinary people who stayed in the cities leaving them under the constant threat of bombs.

### [Dotty's Daring Blitz Adventure](#)

**IWM North**

**10.30am**

Younger visitors can take part in this interactive story telling session and discover the Blitz through the eyes of Dotty, a 10 year-old girl whose mum is an Air Raid Warden. Follow Dotty as she goes on a daring rescue mission to help a friend. Listen to warning sirens, imagine what it was like to shelter during air raids and get hands on with ARP artefacts and unique pieces of shrapnel collected by children over 70 years ago.

### [Family backpacks](#)

**IWM Duxford**

**10am – 3pm (last entry at 2.30pm)**

Borrow a family backpack, full of exciting challenges and activities which take you on a trail around key objects in the *AirSpace* exhibition. There are two backpacks on offer for children aged 6 and under and two for children aged 7 and above. The backpacks also include aviation-themed items to try on. \*Activity included in the general admission price.

– Ends –

## Notes to Editors

### **For more information or images please contact:**

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### **Opening Times and Admissions:**

- **IWM London:** Open daily\* 10am – 6pm. Free admission
- **IWM North:** Open daily\* 10am – 5pm. Free admission
- **IWM Duxford:** Open daily\*: Summer 10am – 6pm; Winter 10am – 4pm
  - Adult £17.50; Child (5 – 15) £8.75; Child (under 5) Free; Family Tickets (depending on family size) £30 – 46; Concession £14. Group Rates available

- **HMS Belfast:** Open daily\*: Jan – Feb, 10am – 5pm; March – October, 10am – 6pm
  - Adult £16; Child (5 – 15) £8; Child (under 5) Free; Family Tickets (depending on family size), £28 - £42; Concession £12.80. Group Rates available

\*All of our branches are closed on 24, 25 and 26 December.

## **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](#), our flagship branch, marks the Centenary of the First World War with new permanent First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with iconic large object displays. Our other branches are [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. 2016 is the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org).

