

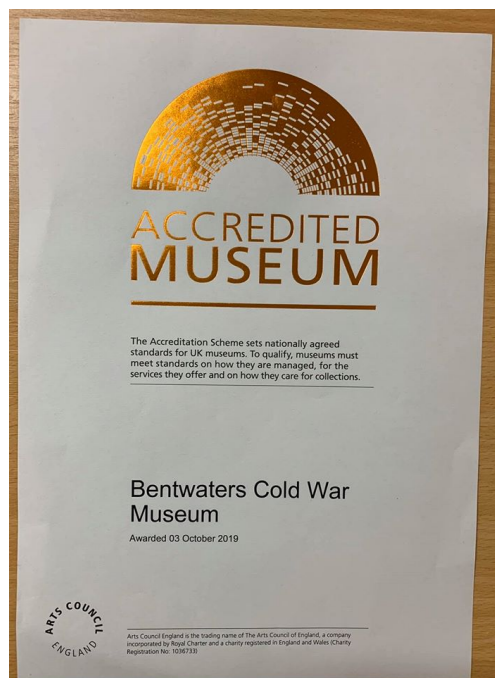
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The BCWM renews it's museum accreditation successfully.

The Bentwaters Cold War Museum has retained its status of Full Museum Accreditation following a review by Arts Council England. The Museum Accreditation scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries that makes sure museums manage their collections properly, engage with visitors, and are governed appropriately. Retaining Full Accreditation reflects the continuing good practice that the team of volunteers at BCWM are doing.

Accreditation covers all types and sizes of museums and galleries and there are currently more than 1700 museums participating in the scheme across the UK. Arts Council England states on their website that Museums Accreditation highlights how much strong museums matter to the UK:

Museums are at the very heart of our cultural identity: they're places for sharing stories, ideas and connections. Museum collections are much more than individual objects: they're irreplaceable public assets. They're our heritage, and people trust museums to safeguard them for the next generation. Museums shape communities: whether that's by bringing together people with shared interests or providing places and events that draw local communities together.



Aviation Book Sale on November 24th

We will be holding an aviation book sale at the museum on Sunday November 24th Sunday from 10:00-15:00 – why not pop along and see if you can grab a bargain!





The calendar will hopefully raise much-needed funds for a new café and shop at the museum. The idea of a calendar was that of BCWM manager Graham Haynes (an avid amateur photographer) and only became reality due to the help and organisational skills of professional model, Jessica Fisher. The museum wishes to

thank all of the models who gave up their time, free of charge to support this project.

Prices for the calendar are as follows: In the Museum Shop £12, posted to the UK £15, and posted to the US £20

Postage options

Postage to the UK £15.00 GBP

Buy Now



Final opening of 2019...

The last museum opening of the 2019 season was a really busy one on October 20th. It included presentations throughout the day on the Royal Air Force's presence at Bentwaters during World War 2 when the base was busy with Spitfires and Mustangs. There was also a visit from a Mazda MX5 car club who had a really good attendance and interest throughout the day.



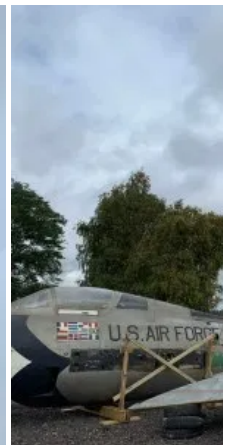
We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who visited the museum throughout the year and to those who joined the Bentwaters Aviation Society as membership fees are a huge benefit in keeping the museum alive and funded for the future.

You can join the Bentwaters Aviation Society by visiting our website [here](#).

The F84 arrives!



Here are some images as promised of the F84 being unloaded at Bentwaters after it's transit on 25th September 2019





New arrival at the BCWM!

The BCWM has now received it's 9th airframe in the form of a Republic F-84F Thunderstreak. The aircraft, 51-7133 was transported to the museum on September 24 and 25th from the RAF Museum at Cosford where the aircraft was in storage for almost 20 years. We are planning on a restoration and then a repaint of the airframe into the colours of an 81st FBW aircraft. We will publish more images of the aircraft soon, but you can read more about this aircraft's history on our aircraft page.



Exclusive photo opportunity of XX741...

The BAS have organised a photoshoot of Jaguar XX741 on a dispersal pad at RAF Bentwaters on 12th October 2019 between 1530 and 1930. The aircraft will have electrical power applied to it, but will **NOT** be ground running with her engines.

This is a rare opportunity to be able to photograph and video the jet in a realistic setting, that will also be enhanced with weapon loading scenarios during the event.

Places are strictly limited to 50 attendees, and will cost £50 per head.

You can read more about the event and book a place using this link – <http://www.bentwaters-as.org.uk/xx741-event/>





Last walk of the year....



The museum has organised the last Cold War Airfield Walk for this year on Sunday 27th October 2019. This will be a guided walk around the former RAF Bentwaters base. Take in the atmosphere of an ex United States Air Force base which played a huge part during the Cold War, and will include a visit to the museum's aircraft restoration hangar (other areas subject to availability on the day)

The cost is £17.00 per person (unfortunately no children permitted), starts at 11am ,and will last about four to five hours.

Contact the museum by emailing us on info@bcwm.org.uk for details about availability. Alternatively you can book a place directly and pay for it online by visiting the booking form on the BAS website using this link – <http://www.bentwaters-as.org.uk/2019tour/>

The places will be booked on a first come, first served basis.

Thanks to Bentwaters Parks Ltd for granting access.

Anglo American Open Day on September 15th

We had over 600 visitors on Sunday Sept 15th to our Anglo American Open Day which was a great turnout, so many thanks to those of you who were able to make it! We had some great exhibits ranging from classic American cars & bikes, to model aircraft, fire engines, owls, and even a Punch & Judy show! some images from the event can be seen below:



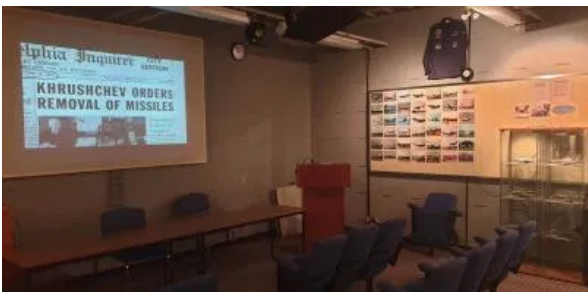






Some pictures in the Museum on September 1st.

We were open yesterday so took the opportunity to grab some photos of some of our displays. We are still open on September 15, and October 6 & 20 so why not try and pay us a visit?







Are we Suffolk museum of the year?

If you think we should be nominated for Suffolk Museum of the Year 2019 then please vote for us at the link below. All nominations are greatly appreciated.

You can nominate and read more on the East Anglian website [here](#).



Have you ever been on a tour of RAF Bentwaters?

Well if you haven't, and would like to do so, we are running one on July 28th 2019. The tour will include a visit to the Power of the Past Museum (Bill Kemball's excellent agricultural equipment collection), the BCWM Restoration HAS and a trip around the airfield site. The tour usually lasts approx. 4 hours so please bring a packed lunch and drinks.

It's a bargain at £15 per head, so why not book yourself a place? Visit the BAS website for the booking form





The BCWM has a new guide...

We have now produced a brand new guidebook for the museum, which is a glossy full colour 25 page booklet that covers the history of the museum as well as elements of the Cold War and the Bentwaters base. You can easily order yourself a copy online or buy it in the museum shop when you visit us. It's proved to be extremely popular and a very good seller!!! Prices are posted to the UK £7.50 and USA £10

weapons they had - educating the poor in their ways. They used the tactics of Mao Tse Tung by actually helping out the poverty stricken peasants on their land. These people had been used to abuse for years and here were young educated people actually helping them for free.

It was only a matter of time before the "message" spread to other areas of Cuba and by 1955, the rebels, led by Fidel Castro, felt strong enough to overthrow the government of Batista. This they easily achieved as they were aided by popular support.

Castro's first task was to punish those who had abused the poor. These found guilty were executed. He then nationalised all American firms in Cuba so that their wealth would be kept in Cuba itself rather than leave the island and go to multi-national firms in America. The money made from the nationalisation was primarily spent on a national health system so that all medical treatment was free, and also on the education system. Some Cubans fled and went to live in Florida. These Cuban exiles were treated by some Americans as heroes and brought with them stories that outraged the American press, most were false or exaggerated but this was ignored. America reacted by refusing to do any trade with Cuba whatsoever, this trade embargo would have bankrupted the island as her biggest money earner was exporting sugar to America. Up to this time, there is little evidence that Castro or Cuba had any real intention of teaming up with communist Russia. In 1960, Castro refused to hand over as a socialist - not a communist.

However, the trade embargo brought the two together as Russia stepped in to buy Cuba's sugar and other exports, the nations of America opposed to have shown Castro into the support offered by Russia.

Now with a supporter of communism only 90 miles from Florida, the new American president - John F Kennedy, decided to give support to the anti Castro Cubans who had gone to Florida. With CIA funding, a group of armed Cuban exiles tried to land in Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 with the sole intention of overthrowing the Castro government. It proved a fiasco - planes crashed without fuel, no maps of the island being used, Cuban exiles firing on Cuban exiles. But to Castro, this episode showed him where America stood in relations to Cuba. Kennedy did not apologise for America's involvement in this event.

After the fiasco of the Bay of Pigs episode, Cuba obviously felt threatened by her increasingly powerful neighbour. Castro seemed to look for a closer relationship with Russia who could offer her protection. In September 1962, anti-Castro Cuban refugees reported to the CIA that there was a build-up of Russian forces in Cuba.

On October 16th 1962, a U2 spy plane took high level photographs over Cuba and the resulting photographic prints revealed what was obviously a base for missiles. These were later identified as being intermediate range missiles capable of carrying a nuclear payload.

On October 17th 1962 the CIA reported to the president that the 16 to 22 missiles identified could tell 80 million Americans as they had a range of 2000 miles with a flight time of just 17 minutes. While this was happening USA intelligence reported that over 20 Russian ships were heading for Cuba with crates on board that obviously contained more missiles. They were not difficult to detect as they were being kept on deck in full view of US observer planes.

On October 26th 1962 more U2 photographs showed that the bases would be fully operational in a few days - at the latest by the end of October.

The threat to USA was very obvious. On October 27th the matter was made worse when a U2 was shot down by a Russian missile and the pilot killed.

In total, the Russians sent to Cuba 42 medium range missiles and 24 intermediate range missiles - which had a capability of 2500 miles. 22,000 Russian troops and technicians accompanied the missiles.

What should Kennedy do? He had already made a major mistake with the Bay of Pigs affair - now he could afford no such error, as the consequences would be disastrous for everyone.

Following American protests, Khrushchev, the Russian leader, sent Kennedy two letters both of which sent conflicting messages. One letter said that the missiles would be withdrawn if Kennedy promised not to invade Cuba.

The other was more threatening claiming that an USA host town actually in Turkey, why should not the USSR have bases in Cuba especially as the people of Cuba wanted them? Khrushchev said that if USA removed her missiles from Turkey then

MISSILE CRISIS 1962

COMMAND POST CAPABILITIES

Facility Layout

The hardened facility was laid out to accommodate a minimum number of staff and command functions to facilitate the Wing's ability to operate in a wartime or increased tension environment. The basic layout provided accommodations for the battle staff (lower forward) and the command communications operations panel located to the left of the "W". Directly in front of the display boards, the Battle Cell, above and to the rear of the "W", the Emergency Action Cell (EAC), above and directly to the rear of the "W", and to the right of the Battle Cell, the Disaster Preparedness Room to the left of the "W". The Pass Office to the left of the Battle Cell with a walk-in safe. Equipment Room to the far right of the "W". The Weather Room was located to the left of the "W".

Consoles

Ident consoles, in varying configurations were provided to facilitate the operation of the facility. Each console was tailored to the function(s) that it would serve. The basic console was made up of 3 different base units linked together with the required communications operations panel located to the left of the "W". Directly in front of the display boards, the Battle Cell, above and to the rear of the "W", the Emergency Action Cell (EAC), above and directly to the rear of the "W", and to the right of the Battle Cell, the Disaster Preparedness Room to the left of the "W". The Pass Office to the left of the Battle Cell with a walk-in safe. Equipment Room to the far right of the "W". The Weather Room was located to the left of the "W".

AUTOSPECCOMM (AUTOVON Secure Communications)

A secure communications facility usually located in a designated telephone bank or specially constructed underground room. Location was usually in the Plans Room but was left to the discretion of the local command. Taking from HQ USAF this the responsible Engineering and Installation Agency did the design and installation.

Internal Facility Intercom

A secure intercom system located in the equipment room and physically isolated from other systems and equipment. Wiring was contained in metal conduit. Yellow Western Electric Switches (for designating secure communications) were located in the Emergency Action Cell, Battle Cell and behind the Wing Commander's (located in the Weather Director position, Disaster Preparedness Cell, Plans room and Weather Room. Depending on the Wing requirements, other intercoms could have been located elsewhere. The control equipment was a Western Electric AS telephone system, usually equipped for 16 stations connected to a third communications rack. AC Power to the cabinet was isolated.

Secure VHF/UHF Communications

An air console system was used in later years to provide secure VHF/UHF communications between the CP and aircraft. This device was a USAF equipment and the major installations and Engineering Agency did the design and installation. The device depended on the Wing's Plans room and the Wing's Plans room and the Wing's Plans room.

Other Communications

- Telephone System
- Plan/Coordination System
- Internal PA System
- Base PA System
- Personnel Shelter (Bunker)
- Telephone System
- Handheld Shelter
- Commonwealth System
- Radio Communications
- BBQ (Inter-Battle Staff)
- HF (High Frequency)
- VHF (Very High Frequency)
- UHF (Ultra High Frequency)

Postage Location

Guide posted to the UK £7.50 GBF

Buy Now

2019 Anglo American Open Day is in the planning stages...

We are holding another Anglo American Open Day on Sunday 15 September 2019 from 10:00-16:00. Further details will be published soon, so please keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for more details as they are revealed.

**Many thanks to the East Of England CoOp for their charity collections...**

Many thanks to the East of England Coop for having Bentwaters Cold War Museum as one of their nominated Charities and massive thank you to everyone who supported us by putting their green tokens into our collecting box. We have just been presented with a cheque for £200 from Chris Matthews, the Manager at the Woodbridge branch.





Now available – Limited Edition 2020 BCWM Calendar.

The calendar will hopefully raise much-needed funds for a new café and shop at the museum. The idea of a calendar was that of BCWM manager Graham Haynes (an avid amateur photographer) and only became reality due to the help and organisational skills of professional model, Jessica Fisher. The museum wishes to thank all of the models who gave up their time, free of charge to support this project.

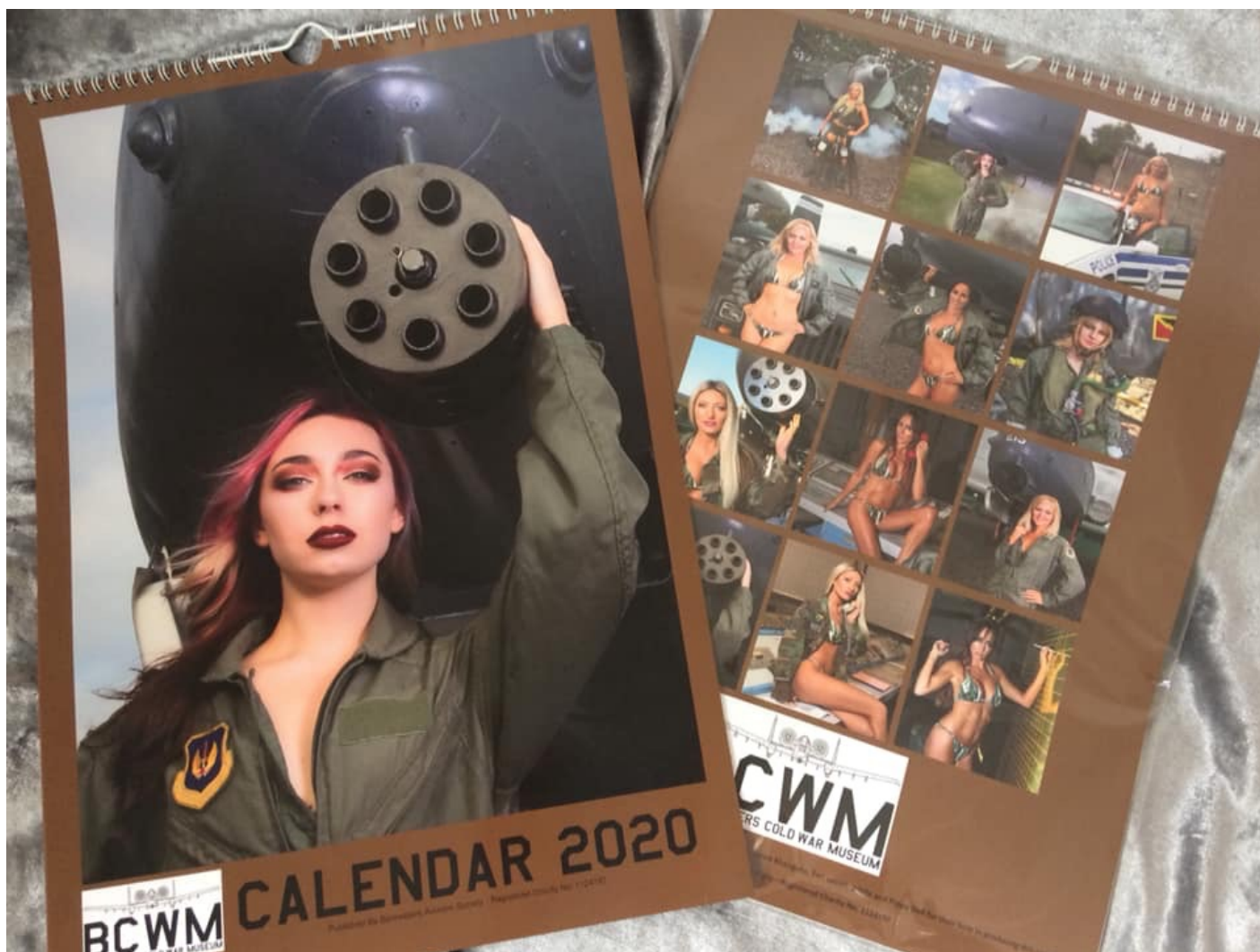
Prices for the calendar are as follows: In the Museum Shop £12, posted to the UK £15, and posted to the US £20

Postage options

Postage to the UK £15.00 GBP

Buy Now





Join us for a walk around Bentwaters on April 14th. – **AS OF MARCH 9TH THIS IS NOW FULLY BOOKED!**

The museum has organised the first Cold War Airfield Walk for this year on Sunday 14th April 2019. This will be a guided walk around the former RAF Bentwaters base. Take in the atmosphere of an ex United States Air Force base which played a huge part during the Cold War, and will include a visit to the museum's aircraft restoration hangar.

The cost is £17.00 per person (unfortunately no children permitted), starts at 11am and will last about five hours. Contact the museum by emailing us here for details about availability.

Alternatively you can book a place directly and pay for it online by visiting the booking form on the BAS website here. The places will be booked on a first come, first served basis.

Thanks to Bentwaters Parks Ltd for granting access.





The BCWM and Bob Hale appear on the BBC...

Our very own Bob Hale was recently interviewed on the latest BBC1 "Flog It" episode as part of their recent visit to Suffolk. The interview not only discusses Bob's time working at Bentwaters, but shows many parts of the museum – watch it on the BBC iPlayer using the link below:

one Flog It!

- Home
- Episodes
- Clips
- Coming to Flog It!
- Favourite collectables
- Meet the experts

Paul Martin and his team of experts invite members of the public to bring their antiques to be viewed and valued, with an option to sell at auction.

On iPlayer

NEW

Glemham Hall 34
Series 16

All available episodes (24 total)

Find us at

More roaring from the big cat...

An anti-det run was undertaken with XX741 on Sunday March 3rd – this was part of the ongoing restoration of the Jaguar and was used to prove some recent work had been successful which it was! The video is about 4 minutes long but is full of noise so make sure to turn up your volume...

[Link to YouTube video](#)

**Opening Dates for 2019!**

The new dates for opening in 2019 are listed below. Make sure you can visit us if you can this year.

April – 7, 21, & 22,

May – 5, 6, 19, 26, & 27

June – 2 & 16

July – 7 & 21

August – 4, 18, 25, & 26

September – 1 & 15

October – 6 & 20

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