

Happy Xmas and New Year!

From the trustees and volunteers at the museum we'd like to thank all those who support our efforts to keep the memories of Bentwaters and Woodbridge alive by being involved in the Bentwaters Aviation Society and the Bentwaters Cold War Museum.

We wish all of you across the world a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As we move into 2022 we will continue to work hard to keep the Aviation Society and Museum moving forward, and always appreciate your support. Don't forget that as a charity we always value your support and donations, so why not consider becoming a member of the Aviation Society? **You can easily sign up here at the BAS website.**

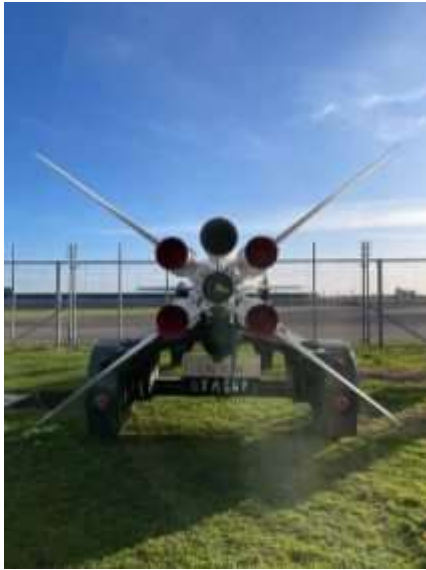


Now that the rain has gone...

After the delivery of the BCWM's latest addition to its exhibits, it made sense to show the Bloodhound off in the sunshine which made an appearance today after some horrendous weather last night. We are sure you will agree that the Bloodhound is looking good!









New arrival at the BCWM!

During some pretty nasty weather on December 7th, the BCWM took delivery of it's latest exhibit – a Bloodhound Mk1 Surface to Air Missile on it's original transportation trailer. We also took delivery of a Bloodhound launcher. The missile and it's accessories will be on show for the Spring in 2022 when we reopen after the Winter break. The missile and it's addons were donated to the BCWM from the RAF museum, Cosford, so our thanks go to them for this superb example of Cold War technology. As the weather was atrocious when the missile arrived at the BCWM, you will have to excuse the wet weather photos!









And the winner is...

The winner of our recent competition to win a copy of the new Cold War movie, "The Courier" is Barry Turner! Congratulations to Barry from the BAS/BCWM team and those at Kova PR who have kindly provided the prize for this competition. Thanks to all who entered into the competition, and please keep an eye out for future competitions from the BAS and BCWM.



The BCWM remembers Bill Olson and Dave Bullock.

The museum was honoured to be invited to attend memorial services today (18th November 2021) for Col William Olson 510th TFS/81st TFW USAF and Dave Bullock RAF Rescue winchman, at Hethersett and Aylsham respectively. Both lost their lives 41 years ago when Col Olson's A-10 crashed and he ejected into the North Sea. During the rescue attempt made by the RAF, both Col Olson and Dave Bullock perished in a tragic accident due to the heavy seas at the time. May they both Rest In Peace.









Remember November 11th.

On Remembrance Sunday here in the UK our thoughts turn to those who lost their lives in service at the twin bases. We have identified over 70 from 1944 to 1993 and continue to research records for anymore. This morning one of the museum volunteers laid a cross at the grave of SSgt O'Dell of the 67th ARRS who lost his life in a training accident. We remember him and all those in both the RAF and USAF who lost their lives so we may live in peace.



Enter our competition to win either a Blu Ray or DVD of the recent Cold War movie "The Courier"!

To enter all you have to do is reply [to this post on Facebook and post your answer there](#). A winner will then be randomly selected on We have 2 DVDs and 2 Blu Ray discs up for grabs.

The winners will then be randomly selected on 19th November 2021.

From which base did the 81st Fighter-Interceptor Wing move to Bentwaters from in 1951?

- Simply tell us what you think the answer is to be in with a chance of receiving a FREE copy of the movie to watch at your leisure!
- Many thanks to Kova PR for their recent help and donations to the BAS and BCWM.
- Good luck!!
- [#lionsgate](#) [#TheCourierMovie](#) [#kovapr](#)



New patch additions to our online store!

New to our online store today are a number of patches from the USAF covering the years from the 1980s to 1990s, as well as a rare YC-14 signed postal cover from 1976! Head over to our online store and have a look for yourself. **You can visit the store [here](#).**



LENGTH:
WINGSPAN:
FUSELAGE DIAMETER:
GROSS TAKE-OFF WT:

PAYLOAD:

FUEL CAPACITY:
PROPULSION:
CRUISE SPEED:
RANGE:

YC-14 SPECIFICATIONS

132 FT
129 FT
17.8 FT
STOL - 170,000 LB
CONVENTIONAL - 216,000 LB
STOL - 27,000 LB
CONVENTIONAL - 69,000 LB
58,500 LB
GE CF6-50 (TWO)
460 MPH
STOL - 460 MILES
FERRY RANGE - 2990 MILES



U.S. AIR FORCE
YC-14



FREEST FLIGHT
THE BOEING COMPANY

Log McCham

Dave B. McCham







Final opening before Winter!



LAST CHANCE

Tomorrow (October 17th 2021) is our last open day at the Museum this year before we close for the Winter. Why not pay us a visit and have a look at the Museum if you have never been before, or even have a return visit as there is always more to see! You can book tickets [online at the BAS website here.](#)

Last walk of the year...

This will be your last chance to walk around the Bentwaters airfield in 2021 on one of our popular guided walks so book early to guarantee a place!

Experience a chance to walk around Bentwaters and sample the atmosphere of a Cold War airfield and view the architecture of a former United States Air Force front line air base. The

tour will start with an hour long visit to the museum to find out the history of the site and then a guided walk around the airfield going past and through different areas of interest including the museums restoration hangar and finishing back at the museum.

- **The wearing of face coverings inside any of the museum buildings is enforced during the visit due to building layouts.**
- Cost will be £18.00 per person. All proceeds go to the Bentwaters Cold War Museum, charity No 1124197.
- Numbers will be limited to 30 people (sorry but no children under 12), dogs are allowed if kept on a lead.
- The walk is about 4 miles long and is mostly on a hard surface.
- The walk will be cancelled if weather conditions are extreme.
- Instructions from the guides must be followed at all times due to Health & Safety factors. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the walk.
- Please allow 4 to 5 hours for the visit, starting at 11am at the Museum.

Thanks to Bentwaters Parks for their kind permission for airfield access.

This is a ticketless event as we will have captured your details via the form. Simply come to the museum shop and let us know you have arrived on the day.

[You can book your places on the BAS website here.](#)







Would you like a £10 Amazon Voucher for sharing your thoughts about Cold War related visitor attractions?

Thanks to a British Academy Grant, Leeds Beckett University are conducting research into visitor experiences in Cold War visitor attractions and at attractions with Cold War collections. They are looking for 10 to 15 people who have visited a Cold War Museum or a museum with a Cold War collection to take part in an online focus group. Each participant will receive a £10 Amazon voucher. Each focus group will last no more than 60 minutes at most.

Available dates and times can be booked using the links below.

5th October at 1pm – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/175395782507>

5th October at 3pm – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/175405461457>

14th October at 10am – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/175414558667>

14th October at 1pm – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/175420165437>

20th October at 9am – <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/175428359947>





LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

United Kingdom

Come and see our Jaguar in action...

AS OF SEPT 9TH THIS EVENT IS NOW SOLD OUT.

The BAS & BCWM will be hosting an opportunity for you to see our Sepecat Jaguar XX741 in action at Bentwaters on November 6th 2021. The event will be held between 3pm and 7pm allowing for some fantastic daylight and twilight photo opportunities of the Jaguar in action.

At the start of the event you will be given an event briefing and given the opportunity to photograph the aircraft with aircrew and groundcrew on the runway. After this the aircraft will perform a start-up and a slow taxi as well as undertaking a static reheat exercise which is always a fantastic sight to witness.

You will then have the chance to photograph the aircraft from several prime locations undertaking a fast taxi and brake chute deployment, followed by the aircraft relocating to one of the dispersal pads in the wooded area of Bentwaters allowing for various floodlit photoshoots to take place.

Admission tickets to the event are priced at £75 each, and all proceeds go back into the Bentwaters Aviation Society Charity to help it's running and upkeep of the Society and the Bentwaters Cold War Museum.

Further details about the event can be seen on **the events page of the BAS website here.**







Remembering September 5th 1951.

The 5th of September is an important date for Bentwaters as it was 70 years ago in 1951 that the first aircraft of the 81st arrived to start what was to become 42 years of continuous operations as part of NATO.

The 91st Fighter Interceptor Squadron landed their F-86A Sabre jets having taken several weeks to transit from the USA.

You can find out more and all the history of the base (and Woodbridge) at the museum which is open on the September 19th, and October 3rd & 17th before we close for the Winter. To book tickets, **[please follow this link](#)**



More support for the BCWM from the local community.

Another article has been published by the Rendlesham Parish Magazine covering the BCWM. We certainly appreciate their support in the local community and thank them for their articles about the Aviation Society and the Museum. Their latest article covers information about the Museum's contents and layout as well as our reopening in July this year and our continuing efforts to practice safety for visitors with suitable Covid restrictions allowing for flexibility and ease during our opening hours. If you have not yet been to the Museum, have a read of this informative article and treat yourself with some admission tickets that you [can book on the BAS website here](#). A direct link to the Rendlesham Magazine is [here](#).

RENDLESHAM MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2021

SEPTEMBER 20

Bentwaters Cold War Museum

The Bentwaters Cold War Museum located on the old base across the road from Rendlesham village has re-opened following the lifting of lockdown restrictions.



Volunteer, Bob Hale gives talks throughout the day. Bob served at Bentwaters for several years and was part of the team to close the base in 1993. Bob was a Master Sergeant in the US-AF and worked in the Command Post involved in logistics and supply. His talks are fascinating and bring the history alive.

Unable to open at all in 2020 and delayed until July in 2021, the volunteers at the museum worked on implementing a system of online booking and social distancing to make it as safe as possible for visitors to attend the public open days. Whilst the numbers are not at the usual level, the trustees of the museum have been very pleased to see most of the time slots filled and visitors expressing their approval of arrangements to accommodate them.

With the museum closing at the end of October, Rendlesham residents have a few more open days to pop over and see what there is on display and enjoy a cuppa and the ever popular cakes in the café!

The museum is located in the former Command Post of the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing and was used to control and command the six squadrons of A-10 attack jets stationed at Bentwaters and nearby Woodbridge (together they were known as the "twin bases").

Below, top: Visitors can get close to the A-10 with its nose mounted gun. Bottom: Museum volunteer Eddie Harper shows visitors the police vehicles. Eddie and a number of volunteers dress in authentic uniforms to add atmosphere to the open days.

The building was designed to withstand attack or by terrorists. It has a foot thick blast conditioning system, nuclear, biological warfare, a highly secure scenario in the 1960s.

Heavy steel doors with only one way out, though emergency escape for exit if necessary. Guards would have entry to those with authorisation and

Below, top: The Museum. Bottom: The museum's large painting by John

More walking by popular demand!

AS OF SEPT 9TH THIS EVENT IS NOW SOLD OUT.

Experience a chance to walk around Bentwaters and sample the atmosphere of a Cold War airfield and view the architecture of a former United States Air Force front line air base. The tour will start with an hour long visit to the museum to find out the history of the site and then a guided walk around the airfield going past and through different areas of interest including the museums restoration hangar and finishing back at the museum.

- The wearing of face coverings inside any of the museum buildings is enforced during the visit due to building layouts.
- Cost will be £18.00 per person. All proceeds go to the Bentwaters Cold War Museum, charity No 1124197.
- Numbers will be limited to 30 people (sorry but no children under 12), dogs are allowed if kept on a lead.

- The walk is about 4 miles long and is mostly on a hard surface.
- The walk will be cancelled if weather conditions are extreme.
- Instructions from the guides must be followed at all times due to Health & Safety factors. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the walk.
- Please allow 4 to 5 hours for the visit, starting at 11am at the Museum.

Thanks to Bentwaters Parks for their kind permission for airfield access.

This is a ticketless event as we will have captured your details via the form. Simply come to the museum shop and let us know you have arrived on the day.

[You can book your places on the BAS website here.](#)







Some original 527th patches are now available in our online store.

We have just added some ORIGINAL 527th Aggressor Squadron patches to our online store! These will be of interest to you who like memorabilia from Bentwaters as well as Alconbury, so pop over to our online store and simply browse the USAF patches or just search for USAF 527, and bag yourself a treat! **Find our store here to see these as well as many other patches for sale.**









A busy day at the BCWM...

We were open on August 15th and were happy to see that we were almost fully booked for the day with visitors. This sort of attendance and interest really helps the museum to stay alive, so your visits and support are much appreciated. We also held one of our walks which took in the Northern Technical sites of the airfield which are always popular – if you haven't attended one of our walks we would recommend you take a look – **more info can be found on the BAS website here.**





Exclusive interview with the Director of "The Courier"

Simon Gladas of the BAS recently had the opportunity to interview the Director of the latest Cold War themed movie entitled "The Courier". Watch this 20 minute video on YouTube to get an insight into the movie and it's portrayal of the Cold War at it's height. Our thanks go out to [Kova PR](#) and [Lionsgate UK](#) for their help with this.

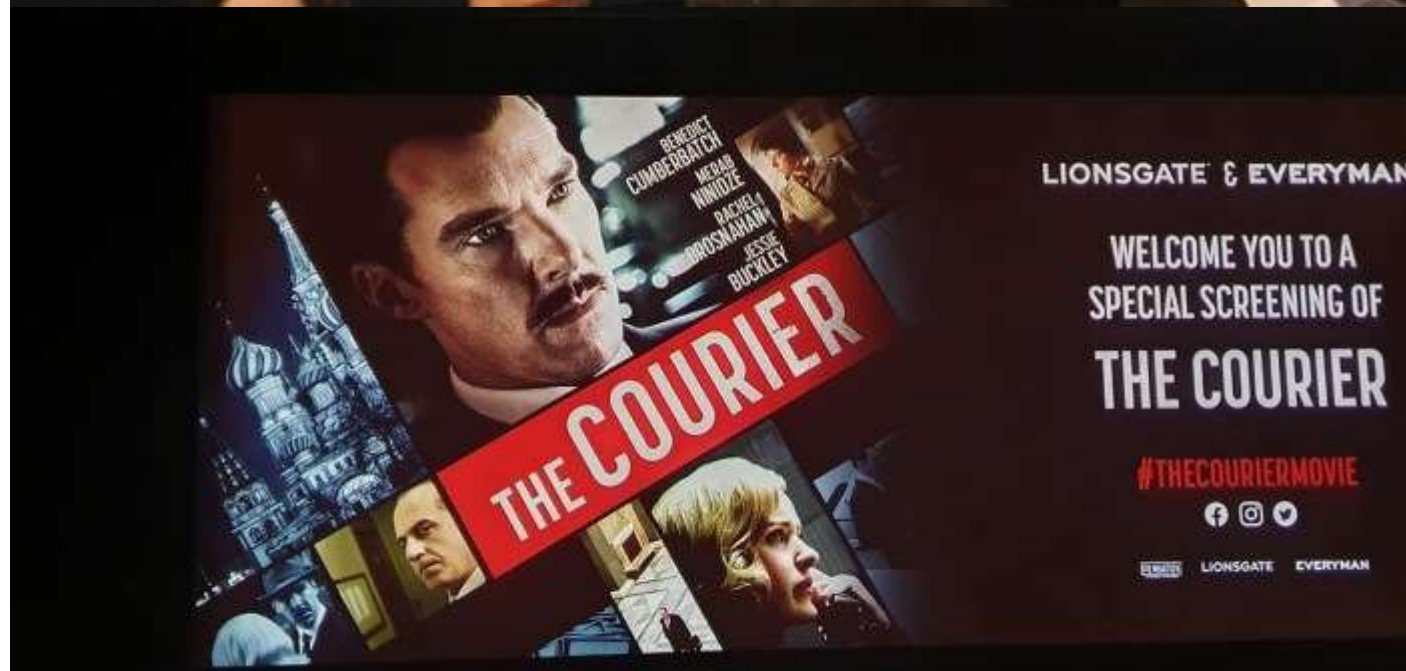
A proper night out!

Mikey J Pilbury attended the screener of the new LionsGate movie, The Courier, last night(August 9th 2021) as a result of winning the BAS/BCWM competition last week. It certainly looks like he had a good selection of nibbles prior to watching the movie. Well done again to Mikey and thanks to Kova PR and Lionsgate for the tickets! [#TheCourierMovie](#) [#lionsgate](#) [#kovapr](#)











More local coverage for the BCWM.

Another article written by Simon Gladas has been published in the Rendlesham Parish Magazine, and this time it covers the numerous aircraft we have at the BCWM. You can read the article and download it from their website [using the link HERE](#).



And our movie screener competition winner is....

Mikey J Pilbury

Well done to Mikey and thanks to all of you who participated in this competition as well. Your support is always welcome. Many thanks to Kova PR and Lionsgate too for their support in this!



Our airfield walk is back!!! Get those walking shoes on for August 22nd!

Experience a chance to walk around Bentwaters and sample the atmosphere of a Cold War airfield and view the architecture of a former United States Air Force front line air base. The tour will start with an hour long visit to the museum to find out the history of the site and then a guided walk around the airfield going past and through different areas of interest including the museums restoration hangar and finishing back at the museum.

- The wearing of face coverings inside any of the museum buildings is enforced during the visit due to building layouts.
- Cost will be £18.00 per person. All proceeds go to the Bentwaters Cold War Museum, charity No 1124197.
- Numbers will be limited to 30 people (sorry but no children under 12), dogs are allowed if kept on a lead.
- The walk is about 4 miles long and is mostly on a hard surface.
- The walk will be cancelled if weather conditions are extreme.
- Instructions from the guides must be followed at all times due to Health & Safety factors. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the walk.
- Please allow 4 to 5 hours for the visit, starting at 11am at the Museum.

Thanks to Bentwaters Parks for their kind permission for airfield access.

[You can book your places on the BAS website here.](#)







Win a pair of tickets to a VIP screening of a new Cold War movie!



***WIN TICKETS TO A COLD WAR
VIP MOVIE SCREENING
STARRING BENEDICT
CUMBERBATCH !!***

WWW.BENTWATERS-AS.ORG.UK

We have an opportunity for someone to win a pair of tickets to attend a VIP screening on August 9th 2021 in London of a new movie entitled “The Courier”. It’s a movie set in the Cold War starring Benedict Cumberbatch relating to the Cuban missile crisis.

To win a pair of tickets, all you have to do is [like the post on Facebook](#) and leave a comment telling us why you would want to see this film! That’s all – it couldn’t be simpler. The film is being presented by Lionsgate and Everyman and our involvement is through the **Kova PR agency** who have generously arranged the tickets. The winner will be announced on August 6th 2021 and will be notified via Facebook and or email.

The competition has the following terms and conditions.

- There is 1 prize of a pair of admission tickets for the VIP screening of “The Courier” in London on August 9th 2021.
- The competition is open to UK residents aged 18 and over.
- Closing date for entries is 11.59pm GMT on August 5th 2021.
- Only one entry per person is allowed, and entrants must leave a Facebook Like and comment on the [Facebook post here](#).
- The winner will be chosen at random.
- The winner will be informed by a reply to their comment plus a Facebook message and or email within 2 days of the closing date and will need to respond within 2 days or a new winner will be chosen.
- The e-ticket will be emailed within 2 days of the winner confirming their email address.
- By participating in this prize draw, entrants confirm they have read, understood and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.
- This promotion is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with, Facebook.

Take a walk on the wild side...

Northern Technical Site Walks

We are running some walks of the northern side technical area(not the airfield side) of the former RAF Bentwaters site over the coming months – this walk will show you some of the remaining buildings on the site and our tour guide, Graham Gilbert, will be explaining what various buildings were used for when the airbase was operational during the Cold War by the United States Air Force.

Each walk will start at 12pm from the museum car park, will last for approximately 1.5 hours, is limited to 16 guests per walk and will take place mostly on hard surfaces with some grass areas. The route being taken is suitable for mobility scooters. The walk only costs £5 per head, and [bookings can be made using a form on the BAS website](#). The walks are being held on August 15, 29th, and 30, September 5th, and October 3rd and 17th.

This is a ticketless event as we will have captured your details via the form. Simply come to the museum shop and let us know you have arrived on the day.

Why not combine a walk with a visit to the museum as well while you are here?!! [Admission tickets to the museum can be purchased here.](#)







Ever been to the BCWM?

Thanks to YouTube you can get a guided tour of the BCWM from our very own Simon Gladas in this video – it lasts about half an hour and gives you an insight into the Museum. Perhaps this might make you want to visit and experience us personally, so why not book yourselves in to visit us – **you can book admission tickets [here](#)**.

Back open and ready for visitors!

It's so good to be back and open and we were pleased to see visitors again. We're open again this Sunday 18th July so make your way to lovely Suffolk and enjoy the amazing museum that's all about Bentwaters and Woodbridge. Plus of course our Cold War history and the aircraft on display. And USAF veteran Bob Hale giving talks throughout the day about his time serving in the 81st.

Don't forget to book in online as we are operating under Covid restrictions – **you can book admission tickets [here](#)**.







Ready for July 4th!

The museum opened its doors last Sunday (June 27th) to welcome our Aviation Society Members back, and to showcase some of the work we have been doing over the past 20 months under the Covid lockdowns.

It felt great to be back doing what we love... sharing the history of the twin bases and keeping the memories alive. Come and visit us for our first opening on 4th July, don't forget to book in online as we are operating under Covid restrictions – [you can book admission tickets here.](#)

Below are some photos of the shop raring to go for visitors from July 4th onwards!







Showtime at Bentwaters!

The Rendlesham Parish Magazine has an article in it's latest edition that covers the airshows held at RAF Bentwaters starting in the 1950s. You can read the article and more in their latest edition of [their magazine here \(PDF format\)](#)

Julian Thompson by The author



Rendle

IF YOU GO DOWN TO
THE WOODS TODAY

THE SUFF
LEGACY FO

REV MANDY AND THE
NORMAN BOYS

We have a winner!

And we have a winner!! The recent Facebook competition to win a pair of admission tickets to the BCWM has been won by Ann Curtis. Well done to Ann from all of us at the BAS and BCWM. We would also like to thank everyone else who participated in the competition and it was great to see such a variety of comments throughout the last few weeks.



WELL DONE TO
ANN CURTIS WHO
WON THE
COMPETITION!

WWW.BENTWATERS-AS.ORG.UK

Museum staff out and about.

On Sunday June 27th, some of the museum staff were out at the Stonham Barns Living History Weekend. Depicting USAF Security Police from the Cold War Era were F Flight, the museums own re-enactors and our trade/info stand promoting the work we do at BCWM. Some photos from the day can be seen below.







Win a pair of admission tickets to the BCWM!!



**WIN A PAIR OF
ADMISSION TICKETS!**



WWW.BENTWATERS-AS.ORG.UK

WWW.BCWM.ORG.UK

You now have the opportunity to win a free pair of admission tickets to the BCWM by simply liking and adding a comment to our Facebook page. How easy is that?! You can pop over to our [Facebook page here and participate](#). The winner will be announced on June 28th 2021 and will be notified via Facebook and or email.

The competition has the following terms and conditions.

- There is 1 prize of a pair of admission tickets for entry to the museum on one of our open days in 2021. [Details about our opening dates can be found on the Visitor Page.](#)
- The competition is open to UK residents aged 16 and over.
- Closing date for entries is 11.59pm GMT on June 27th 2021.
- Only one entry per person is allowed, and entrants must leave a Facebook Like and comment on the [Facebook post here.](#)
- The winner will be chosen at random.
- The winner will be informed by a reply to their comment plus a Facebook message and or email within 7 days of the closing date and will need to respond within 7 days or a new winner will be chosen.
- The e-ticket will be emailed within 7 days of the winner confirming their email address.
- By participating in this prize draw, entrants confirm they have read, understood and agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.
- This promotion is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with, Facebook.

XX741 stretches her legs.

The team working on Jaguar XX741 took some time on Saturday May 29th to power up and taxi the jet – they undertook some maintenance on the aircraft that culminated in a short

taxi around the HAS complex and taxiways near our restoration hangar. As ever, some niggles were fixed, and some new ones arose – such is the nature of maintaining aircraft! Some photos of the day are shown below courtesy of Graham Haynes and Simon Parker. As the sun was shining, we also took the opportunity to take some photos of several BAS Members recreating scenes in appropriate garb – rather than us in that heat!











Have you seen inside the BCWM?

If you've not been to the museum then here's a taster of what's inside! It is packed with memorabilia, photos, info boards, models and all the history of the 50 years of the twin bases. Here's a few photos taken by trustee and volunteer Graham Gilbert recently





You can find out more about our **opening dates and admission bookings** [here](#).
You can find out more about joining the **Bentwaters Aviation Society** and donations [here](#)

Getting ready for July 4th!

Staff volunteers were again working hard this weekend (May 22/23) to get the museum ready for it's reopening in July – this weekend saw a refurb of our portacabin building to give it a new lease of life. We are sure you will agree it looks rather splendid with it's new paint scheme! There is always plenty to do to keep the museum alive, so please do consider joining the Bentwaters Aviation Society as a volunteer or even to make a donation – every penny counts especially after the Covid19 pandemic forced us to close our doors for over a year. Reopening the museum is a huge milestone in 2021 for us, so please do consider a visit to us from July 4th onwards.

You can find out more about our **[opening dates and admission bookings here](#)**.

You can find out more about joining **[the Bentwaters Aviation Society and donations here](#)**

We look forward to seeing as many of you throughout the rest of this year!







We are reopening on July 4th!



REOPENING ON JULY 4TH!

We will be reopening on July 4th! It's great to be able to open up again for the first time in over a year, and we look forward to seeing you again or for the first time!

However, given that we are still in the midst of the Covid Pandemic there will obviously still be a need to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing whilst visiting the museum. Further details are shown below.

Due to capacity and pandemic restrictions, you must book and reserve a timed entry slot to the Bentwaters Cold War Museum if you want to visit from July 4th onwards. Each slot is for a maximum of 2 hours. **If you do not pre-book your ticket online we will not be able to permit entry. We will not be selling admission tickets at the museum on the days we are open.**

- You can book up to 6 people from the same household/bubble per timed entry. If your household/bubble has 6+ people, you must make another booking for those people separately.
- Please note that under 14's will not be admitted on their own as they must be accompanied by an adult or concession paying visitor.
- Your contact information will be held on record for 21 days from the date of your visit to assist with Test and Trace if required.
- We reserve the right to refuse entry to any visitors who have not pre-booked.
- Timed entries cannot be exchanged on the day and late entry cannot be permitted.
- There will not be a facility to wait inside the museum prior to your booked entry time so please arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before the start of your timed entry.

The museum being open is strictly based upon current Government Covid19 guidelines, and as such short notice cancellations may be possible as a result of any changes to the guidelines. If this does occur after you have made a booking, then we will contact you directly by email to advise you of your options.

[You can book your tickets online here!](#)

Command Post - the BAS & BCWM magazine.

If you like the museum and what the volunteers are doing to preserve the history of the twin bases then here's a really easy way to help. Join the charity that supports the museum. Bentwaters Aviation Society membership is just £20 (\$27 for US) a year for a digital

membership where you'll get free entry to the museum, regular newsletters packed with articles, monthly talks at the museum, lots of member benefits and the opportunity to help finance the museum upkeep. Drop us a line at info@bcwm.org.uk and we'll send you a free sample of the newsletter to check before you join. [Join here on the BAS website](#) and help keep the memories alive!





Remembering VE Day.

The 8th of May will forever be associated with Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) when in 1945 World War Two came to an end. Bentwaters played an important part in WWII with six squadrons of RAF Mustang fighter bombers escorting RAF bombers and conducting low level bombing of targets to support the advance of the Allies in Europe.

Research at the museum has uncovered fourteen fatalities, most caused by bad weather (three on a single day in February 1945 over Belgium), mid-air collisions, mechanical failure and friendly fire. Only two were lost to enemy fire, one just four days before the end of the war. Major Arne Austeen DFC (a Norwegian) perished on the 4th May 1945 whilst leading his squadron on a mission to attack German U-Boats off the coast of Denmark. Neither his aircraft or body was ever found.



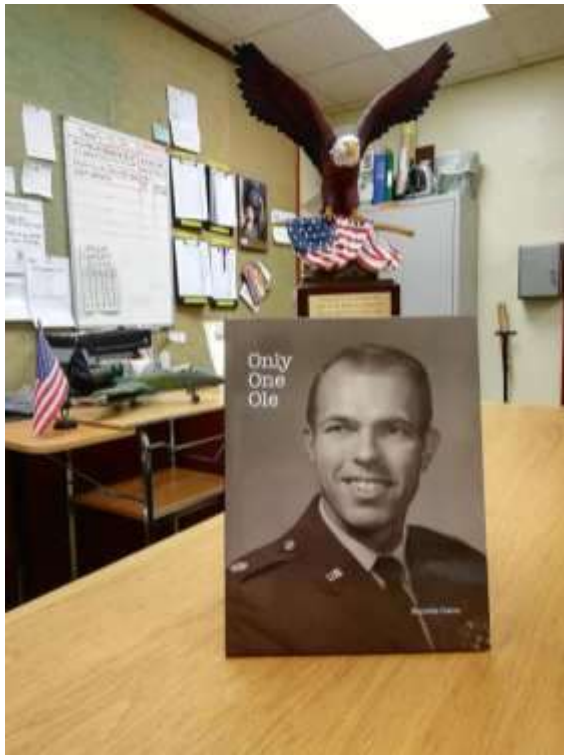


"Only One Ole"

The Bentwaters Cold War Museum has generously been donated a copy of a newly published book called 'Only One Ole'. The book is about Lt Col William Olson and was written by his widow Nannette Olson.

Lt Col Olson was killed in a tragic accident while flying a 81st Tactical Fighter Wing A-10 Thunderbolt II in November 1980, when his aircraft crashed into the North Sea after colliding with another A-10 over Norfolk. Sadly an RAF winchman (David Bullock) also lost his life in the attempted rescue.

The museum has a display about Lt Col Olson and the accident and the book is a welcome addition. If you would like more information about the book, then please drop us an email to info@bcwm.org.uk with Only One Ole in the subject line.





Doesn't our Hunter look good?

Spotted today in the East Anglian Daily Times newspaper is a photograph of our Hunter taken by Graham Haynes. It does look jolly good in our opinion, and it's always good to see our efforts in the media. [You can read the EADT article here.](#)



Remembering the Duke of Edinburgh.

After the recent passing of the Duke of Edinburgh, here is a small piece of news from 1953 when he undertook a 2 day tour of the USAF in the UK visiting bases at Bentwaters, Burtonwood in Lancashire and Brize Norton in Oxfordshire as well as a few others in the region. Some British Pathé footage can also be seen in this short video clip – [LINK HERE](#)



DUKE TOURS N.A.T.O. AIR BASES IN ENGLAND

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday started a two-day tour of N.A.T.O. air bases in the United Kingdom by visiting No. 1 Royal Canadian Air Force Fighter Wing at North Luffenham in Rutland. He is also to visit fighter and bomber bases of the R.A.F. at Wattisham and of the United States Air Force at Bentwaters (Sussex), Brize Norton (Oxfordshire), and Burtonwood (Lancashire).

Karen Haynes interviewed on Radio Suffolk today (April 23rd 2021)

Karen Haynes of the BCWM was interviewed on Radio Suffolk today (April 23rd 2021) to talk about our repurposed shipping container that is in the grounds of the museum. It has been refitted into a new staff room over the past few months, and will be a much needed space for the staff to have a break in when they are not busy restoring exhibits or maintaining the museum. The project to replace the Cafe/Shop portacabin is still underway and we are looking for grant funding to assist us in providing a replacement modular building. If you think you might be able to help, then please drop us a message!





Work carries on behind the scenes...

Despite the Covid Pandemic, work has been continuing at the museum over the last few weekends with essential and other maintenance and restoration work underway. Some of our volunteers have been tackling everything from grass cutting to cleaning our Rapier and Blindfire missile system to painting the new staff room and even the refurbishment of an ejection seat from our F4 Phantom! Suffice to say our staff have been working with Social Distancing in place and working to strict guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. Some images from the last few weekends are below for you to enjoy.











Do you remember the disco nights?

Can you remember the disco nights held at Bentwaters and Woodbridge? Below are some images from the museum's collection taken in the 80's and 90's. We would love to hear from you if you went to any of these social nights, especially if you were on the the DJs who pumped out the music – **get in touch by emailing us to tell us your stories here.**

ON-BASE CLUBS

There were various recreational clubs on Bentwaters and Woodbridge bases where persons could visit to have a drink and socialise. Often there was live entertainment including famous singers and bands.

Bentwaters

Officers Club - 1950's to 1990's (in 1992 it merged with the **Enlisted Club** and became **Open Mess**)

Non-Commissioned Officers Club - 1950's to 1970's

Enlisted Club - 1980's to 1992 (in 1992 it merged with the **Officers Club** and became the **Open Mess**)

Service Club - 1950's

Airmans Club - 1970's

All Ranks Club - 1970's to 1980's (Was called the '**Phantom Club**' and later re-named the '**Thunderbolt Club**')

Open Mess - 1992-1993

Woodbridge

Officers Club - 1950's to early 1980's

Non-Commissioned Officers Club - 1970's to 1980's (Called '**Woodys**')

Top Three Club - Late 1960's (For Senior N.C.O's)

Top Four Club - 1970's to mid 1980's

All Ranks Enlisted Club - Late 1960's

Consolidated Open Mess - Late 1960's to early 1970's (Called '**Voodoo Lounge**')

The clubs on the two bases (mostly Bentwaters) attracted quite a few famous singers and groups over the years. Listed below are some of the ones we know about:

Junior Walker And the All Stars (R & B, Soul); **Mungo Jerry** (Pop Rock, Blues, Soul); **Shakatak** (Disco, Jazz Funk); **The Animals** (Rock, Blues); **The Searchers** (Pop Rock); One of **The Everly Brothers** (Rock and Roll, Rockabilly); **Barron Knights** (Pop, Novelty Songs); **The Springfields** - Dusty and her brother Tom (Folk); **Vanity Fare** (Pop); **Geno Washington** (Soul, R & B); **The Primatives** (Indie Pop); **The Platters** (R & B, Soul); **Billy J. Kramer and the Dakotas** (Pop); **Bobby Vee** (Pop); **Tony Orlando and Dawn** (Pop); **Johnny Cash** - **June Carter Cash** - **Carl Perkins** all performed in one show (Country, Rock and Roll); **Detroit Emeralds** (R & B) **Jerry Lee Lewis** (Rock and Roll, Country) **Boxcar Willie** (Country) **Roy Orbison** (Pop) **Willie Nelson** (Country); **Holly Dunn** - **Ricky Skaggs** both performed in one show (Country, Folk); **Georgie Fame and the Blue Flames** (Pop, R & B); **Percy Sledge** (R & B, Soul); **Katrina and the Waves** (Pop); **K.C and the Sunshine Band** (Pop); **Joe Ely** (Rock and Roll, Country Rock); **Jim Reeves** (Country); **Edwin Starr** (Motown); **Tom Jones** (Pop); **Gerry Dorsey** later known as **Engelbert Humperdinck** (Pop); **White Snake** (Rock); **George 'Ted' Heath Big Band** (Swing); **The Drifters** (Soul); **Shane Fenton**(later known as **Alvin Stardust**) and the **Fentones** (Pop); **George Hamilton IV** (Country); **Lee Greenwood** (Country); **Unit 4+2** (Pop Rock) **Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders** (performed in Hanger 45 as part of a USO show, 1992).



Bentwaters NCO Club, Circa 1992 (Photo unknown)



Bentwaters NCO Club April 1985 (Photo Bruce Fortesque)



Happy anniversary to Bentwaters!

In March 1951, 70 years ago, a very special event occurred in the history of RAF Bentwaters. The airfield that had been used by the RAF since 1944 and was in "Care & Maintenance" was handed over to the USAF! And so began a new chapter in the amazing history of our bases. There is not a great deal of information to be found about these early days until the 81st Fighter Interceptor Wing arrived in September 1951, but we have found some newspaper cuttings from the period and the odd first hand witness account.

In the Bentwaters Aviation Society Spring newsletter due in April we'll take a look at the subject, but meanwhile our monthly articles that are being run in the Rendlesham Parish Council Magazine give some of the background to the 1951 arrival of the USAF to Bentwaters. [Check out their magazine here.](#)

If you can help support the museum in these difficult times please consider either joining us or donating. [Go to the BAS website here for more information.](#)

New Donor Wall coming to the BCWM in 2021

An exciting first for the museum is a Donor Wall where you can add your name and help fund and support the museum for the future. If you served at the Twin Bases of RAF Bentwaters or RAF Woodbridge you can include the unit and years you served, or buy a donor plaque to remember someone who served at the Twin Bases who is sadly no longer with us. Anyone can request a plaque but please note that the names and wording are subject to the discretion of the museum trustees.

The donation plaques (approximately 14cm x 20cm, see image below as an example) will be placed on an outside wall close to the entrance door of the museum and be on full display to visitors. The wording will be printed onto a plaque made of an aluminium composite

which will give it very good durability. We are asking for a **minimum donation of £100** to have a plaque added to the wall. Or for a large hand painted pebble (painted by museum volunteers) with a name and a flag of your choice on it, we are asking for a **minimum donation of £50**. These will be placed along the bottom of the Donors Wall.



SSGT ANOTHER(RETD)
81st TFW HQ
1980 - 1984



For a plaque or pebble:

- For former service personnel please provide us with the name, unit, and years served you want for the plaque.
- For generic details please provide us with your name, home town, and the year of your donation for the plaque.
- For a pebble please provide us with the name and flag you want painted.

Please ensure that if you do make a donation you include the required details as above as a note in PayPal. For those who are unable to use the Internet for payment, there is provision for cheques(made payable in £ only)to be used for payment – please [contact us using the Contact page with your details as above for this.](#)

Proceeds from the Donor Wall and Pebbles will be used for the replacement Café/Shop which is badly needed for the future survival of the museum.

If you don't want a plaque or a pebble, then please consider making a donation to the BAS/BCWM to help us through this difficult time of the Covid pandemic. We do hope you can join with us in raising funds and creating a lasting acknowledgement of your help and support at this challenging time. Please use [the donation link](#) to purchase a plaque or pebble or simply to make a donation.

Video Player