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WELCOME TO THE BENTWATERS COLD WAR MUSEUM

RUN BY THE BENTWATERS AVIATION SOCIETY

Stay warm this Winter with a BCWM fleece blanket!

As we head into Winter and the temperatures drop, why not treat yourself to a BCWM fleece blanket to keep yourself warm wherever you are? The new branded blankets can easily be rolled up and carried about in a bag so you can stay warm wherever you are! The fleece blankets measure 150cm x 100cm, and are available in camo, silver grey, navy, charcoal and camel colours.

You can easily get one for yourself or for someone else's Christmas present **at our online store here!**



Our thoughts are with the Grace family...

We were saddened to hear the news of Carolyn Grace's recent passing and extend our condolences to the Grace family at this time. Carolyn was a great supporter of the BCWM and was thrilled to be asked to open our original shop and cafe – an image of which is shown below. Her support and enthusiasm around all things aviation related will be greatly missed.



In remembrance...

When we remember the fallen at this time of year, we especially think of those who lost their lives serving from Bentwaters/Woodbridge which number almost 100 from 1944 to 1989.

On 5th Jan 1945 two Spitfires from 165 Squadron based at Bentwaters were lost during a combat mission, the first to be lost from the airfield.

Spitfire Mk IXB MK425 flown by Flying Officer Andrew Scott collided with Spitfire Mk IXB MK437 flown by F/O James Quinn. Both crashed near Brugge, Belgium. F/O Quinn died in the accident aged 25 while F/O Scott was taken to the Brugge hospital alive where he died aged 23. Both pilots are buried at Brugge General Cemetery. The headstones are set back to back in the Cemetery maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. F/O Scott's Log Book was donated to the museum by his widow and is on display in the RAF exhibition area.

We will remember them.



Why not become a Member and help support the BAS & BCWM?

Why not join the Bentwaters Aviation Society and help support the BAS & BCWM. By becoming a Member you will get free admission to the Bentwaters Cold War Museum, priority booking access for events, copies of the superb colour 12+ paged 'Command Post' newsletter published three times a year, invitations to our monthly talks (often including guest speakers), 10% discount in the Diner, a visit to the BCWM restoration Hangar, and the opportunity to become a staff member/volunteer at the Bentwaters Cold War Museum. Joining now will also give you free Membership access until the end of 2022 as well as annual membership to the end of 2023 (Memberships run from January to December).

You can easily become a member for a small annual fee simply by **completing a form on our online store here**.



UK/US/OTHER EMAIL MEMBERSHIP

BENTWATERS AVIATION SOCIETY

Get ready for 2023...

We have now confirmed our opening dates for 2023, and they can be found below. If you have never visited before, or have been before, then why not come along and see us in 2023 when we have plenty of dates to visit for you to choose from.

April 2, 9, 10, 16, & 30

May 1, 7, & 21

June 4 & 18

July 2 & 16

August 6, 20*, 27, & 28

September 3 & 17

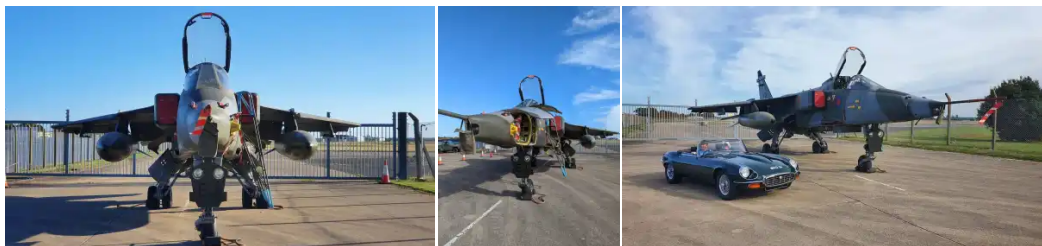
October 1 & 15

*August 20th is our Anglo American Open Day

Admission tickets can be purchased from our online store [here](#).

Did you hear the Jaguar purr?

We took the opportunity yesterday (Oct 16th 2022) to bring our Jaguar across to the museum where members of the public were treated to the sounds and smells of XX741 firing up her microturbo on several occasions during the day. And what better opportunity was there to be able to take photos of 2 very different Jaguars sitting together?



Thank You to everyone who visited us on October 16th 2022!

October 16th was our last day of public opening for 2022, so we would like to thank everyone who came yesterday and in 2022 to visit. It was a bumper day with almost 200 visitors that were with us from 10am all the way through to 4pm – our new Diner was in full swing as well with Hot Dogs being the most popular item on our menu throughout the day! There was also an informal American car meet at Bentwaters on Sunday – some images of which are shown here. See if you can spot the odd one out that is a photo of the rather busy BCWM car park on the day!!





New Remove Before Flight keyrings available on our online store!

New to our online store are some rather smashing Remove Before Flight style keyrings that relate to Bentwaters & Woodbridge and our friends at the USAF 67th SOS. Pop over to our online store for more info and the opportunity to purchase them.

Don't forget we are open for the final time in 2022 this Sunday (October 16th) so why not pay us a visit – in fact it's a great opportunity to bag yourself a keyring at the same time!

Visit our online store here!



It's time to get those walking shoes on again! Join us for another Airfield Walk on October 30th.

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

Please note the following important information about the event:

- The guided walk will start from the museums car park at 11am and will pass through different areas of interest including the museums aircraft restoration hangar.
- Cost will be £18 per person, All proceeds go to the Bentwaters Cold War Museum. Charity Number 1124197
- Limited places (sorry but no children under 12), dogs are allowed if kept on a lead.
- The walk is about four miles long and mostly on a hard surface.
- Allow four to five hours for your visit.
- Instructions from museum staff must be followed at all times due to Health and Safety factors.
- The walk will be cancelled if weather conditions are extreme. Thanks to Bentwaters Parks Ltd for granting access.

You can book your tickets at the BAS & BCWM online store [here](#).



Our new Diner and Shop are now open for business!

After a lot of work over the summer months the volunteers at the BCWM have finished our new diner and shop replacing our old facilities, and we are sure you will see the improvements from the photos here, and in person when you visit us!

We will be open this Sunday (October 2nd) and on October 16th before closing for the winter months, so make sure you visit us and experience our 50's feel diner with its retro seating, wall mounted art and memorabilia , and new shop.



Don't forget to book your place on the October Bus Tour...

Don't forget that we are holding a bus tour of Bentwaters on October 9th where you will get the opportunity to visit to Bill Kemball's Power Of The Past Museum (an extensive agricultural equipment collection located on the base) as well as giving you access to the BCWM restoration HAS where we have 4 aircraft under restoration inside.

Neither of these facilities are open to the general public, so these are real treats to visit!

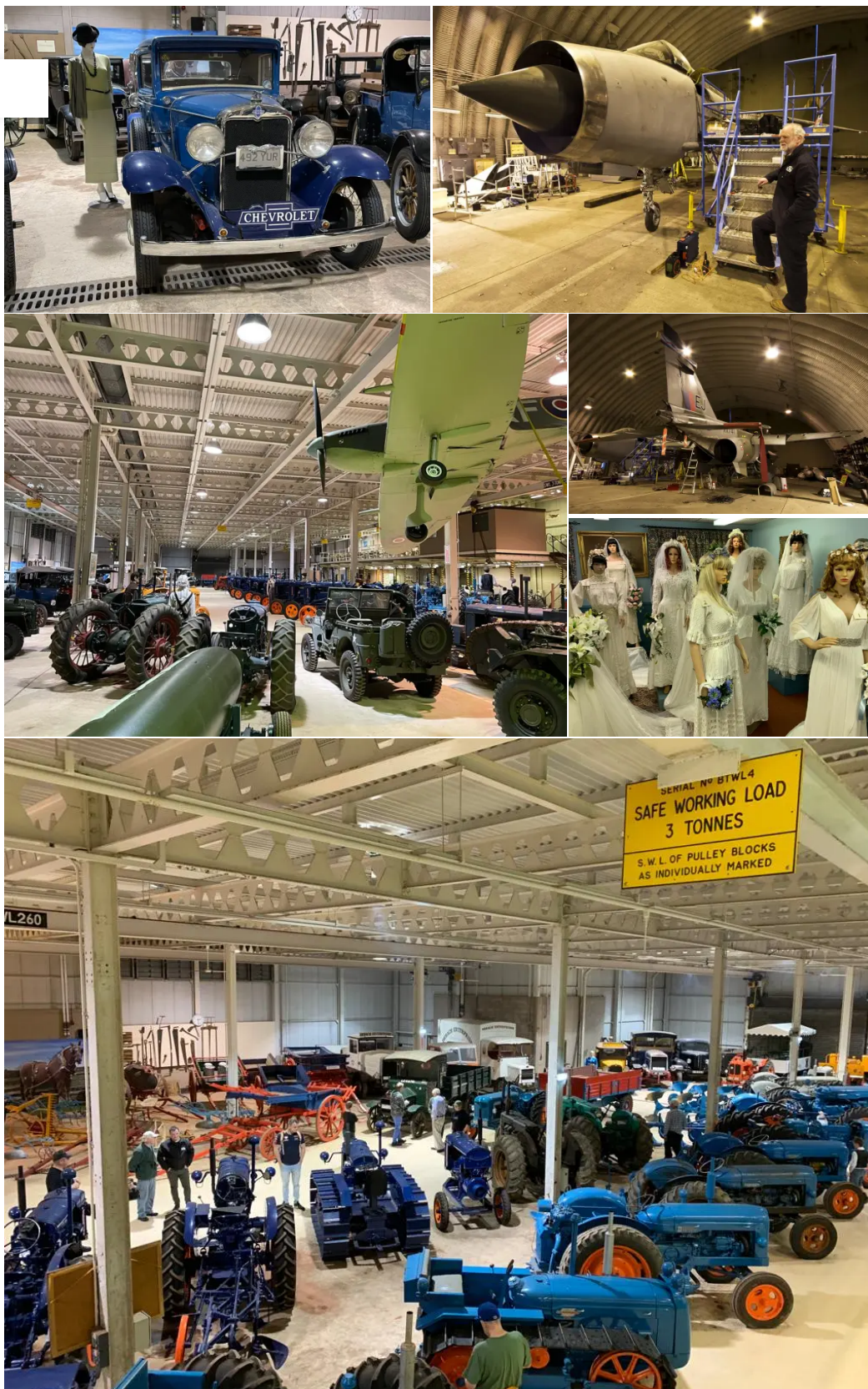
The tour will include a commentary and explanations of what you will see so you will certainly learn things you might not have known previously about RAF Bentwaters and it's facilities.

The tour usually lasts approx. 4 hours so please bring a packed lunch and drinks for yourself, and there will be opportunities to visit restrooms at the beginning and end of the tour.

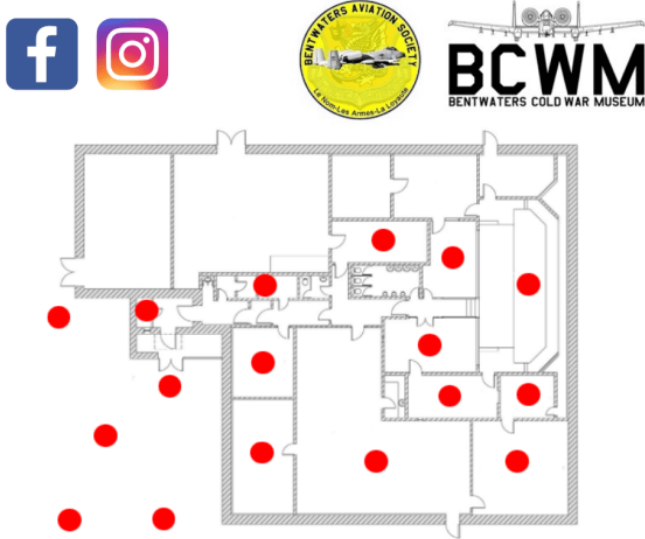
THE TOUR IS LIMITED TO 50 ATTENDEES AND COSTS £25 PER HEAD.

Head over the the BAS & BCWM online store where **you can purchase tickets here.**





Check out our new Museum Map on the Visitor Info page.



Come and see the Jaguar prowl...





COME AND SEE THE JAGUAR PROWL

We are holding a taxiing event of our Sepecat Jaguar on October 29th 2022, so it's an ideal opportunity to see the airframe running and take photographs of it in action.

Tickets for the event will cost £50 per head and is limited to a maximum of 60 attendees. The event will run from from 1pm to 4pm. Please note that the Jaguar will **NOT** be fast taxiing on the runway at this event, but on an aircraft hardstanding. More details about the event can be found using the link below.

You can buy tickets at the BAS & BCWM online store at <https://shop.bentwaters-as.org.uk>



Our new Diner/Cafe was recently officially opened by the USAF 67th SOS.

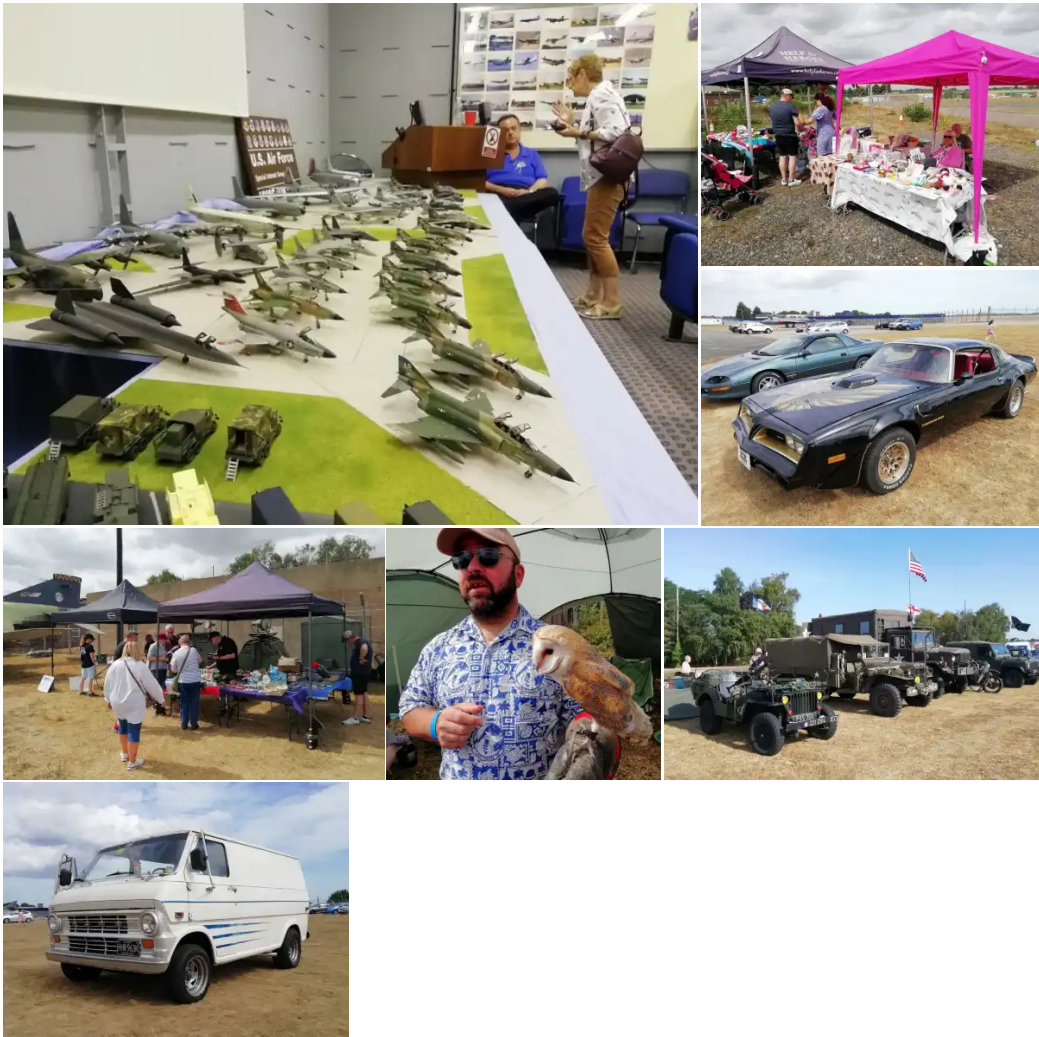
At our recent Anglo American Open Day held on August 21st 2022, our nearly completed Diner/Cafe was officially opened by visiting members of the USAF's 67th SOS from RAF Mildenhall. The guys spent the day with us and did a roaring trade with their own merchandise which was popular with visitors. The squadron's official historian and honorary commander, Mark Service, was also on hand to explain the history and function of the 67th to the public. Our thanks go to the 67th for their ongoing support for the BCWM.





Some images of the Anglo American Open Day!

Thanks to Graham Gilbert of the BCWM we have a really good selection of images that reflect the variety of exhibits that were on display at the BCWM's Anglo American Open Day. The BAS & BCWM would also like to thank all of the people who visited us yesterday, and we appreciate your support. Now, onto the pictures!!





All aboard the Bentwaters Bus Tour!!

Bentwaters Bus Tour 9th October 2022

We are delighted to announce that our base tour is back following a two year absence due to Covid19!!

The coach tour will include a visit to Bill Kemball's Power Of The Past Museum (an extensive agricultural equipment collection located on the base) as well as giving you access to the BCWM restoration HAS where we have 4 aircraft under restoration inside. Neither of these facilities are open to the general public, so these are real treats to visit!

The tour will include a commentary and explanations of what you will see so you will certainly learn things you might not have known previously about RAF Bentwaters and it's facilities.

The tour usually lasts approx. 4 hours so please bring a packed lunch and drinks for yourself, and there will be opportunities to visit restrooms at the beginning and end of the tour.

THE TOUR IS LIMITED TO 50 ATTENDEES AND COSTS £25 PER HEAD

Please arrive at the BCWM between 0930 and 1000am and park in the BCWM car park which is free to use whilst you are on the tour.

YOU CAN BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE HERE!



**BASE BUS TOUR
OCTOBER 9TH 2022**

BENTWATERS AVIATION SOCIETY

3 days to go until our Anglo American Open Day.



ANGLO AMERICAN OPEN DAY - 21/8/22

Our Anglo American Open Day is almost here - it's this Sunday!!

The weather forecast is looking good and no rain is forecast, so it's an ideal opportunity to get out, have some fun, learn new things and maybe even go home with some prizes from our classic tombola on the day!

We look forward to seeing you at the BCWM on Sunday!

Book online at shop.bentwaters-as.org.uk

Our Anglo American Open Day is almost here...

The Anglo American Open Day on August 21st is almost here!! As well as it being a normal opening day for the museum, our special event this year will give you plenty more things to see, and all for the standard admission price giving you some really great value for your visit.

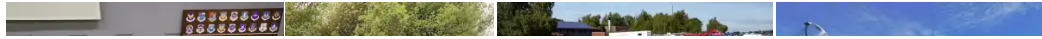
The event will be including displays from a variety of exhibitors that include classic American cars, military reenactment groups, birds of prey, scale aircraft models, Help for Heroes, fire engines, and representatives of the USAF 67th Special Operations Squadron based at RAF Mildenhall.

Of course there will be lots of options for food and drink at the event as well and what summer event would be complete without a tombola! Just make sure you get your tickets and see what you can win!

Admission tickets can be **booked on our online store here**.

Some images from a similar previous event can be seen below.





Sharing is caring...

The BCWM was recently contacted by some of our peers at the Yorkshire Air Museum to see if we could help them with the restoration of their Gloster Meteor NF14, and we were able to donate them a lower rudder section to allow them to further restore their aircraft. By way of thanking the BCWM, they have stencilled the details of our "donor" Gloster Meteor onto the rudder section as shown in the image below. It's common practice for many museums to assist each other by donating parts, artefacts and even offering assistance in the shape of human skills and knowledge – with these relationships between museums, our efforts to improve and expand displays are made much easier!



Look out for the 67th SOS on August 21st!





ANGLO AMERICAN OPEN DAY - 21/8/22

We can confirm that our Anglo American event on August 21st 2022 will be attended by a contingent from the USAF 67th Special Operations Squadron - why not come and say hello to them on the day?



Book online at shop.bentwaters-as.org.uk



More new online store products...

We have just added 2 new products to our online store – a Gift Card and printable postcards!

Why not purchase a gift card for someone allowing them to spend it on anything from the BAS & BCWM online store (including museum admission) using an amount of your choosing?

We have also added a range of downloadable and printable postcards for you to send to people – why not make a difference and send an old fashioned postcard for a change, bucking the trend for emails and online messaging!

You can find these and much more on [our store here](#).



Four horizontal lines for an address, stacked vertically.



We have a competition winner!

We have a winner for the Queen’s Jubilee competition to win free admission tickets and a guidebook on June 5th. Well done to Kim Gittens, and many thanks to all who entered the competition. As an FYI the answer to the question “When did the USAF start using the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom aircraft at RAF Bentwaters? was 1965. **The full details can be read here.**

Many Thanks for the support...

We would like to extend our thanks to the many visitors we had at the BCWM stand at the Suffolk Show this week. Our staff who were at the event were kept busy with many chats, explanations, and trips down memory lane as well as entertaining visitors with some of the equipment and exhibits from the museum. Some shots of the days taken by Simon Parker are shown below.





Don't forget to come and see us at the Suffolk Show over the next few days...

The BCWM have a stand at the 2022 Suffolk Show this year – you can find us at Stand 395.

We will be providing visitors with information about the BAS & BCWM, the opportunity to purchase merchandise, and have a chat with people who are keen to find out more about us, what we do, and how they can help us.

If you are going to be visiting the Suffolk Show on May 31st and June 1st why not come and see us – you will be most welcome!



Let's celebrate the Queen's Jubilee with a competition on Facebook!



WIN FREE ADMISSION AND A BCWM GUIDEBOOK

Enter our Queen's Jubilee competition to win free admission for 2 adults and up to 4 children on June 5th 2022.

To enter all you have to do is reply to this post with your answer to the question below. A winner will then be randomly selected on June 3rd and notified via Facebook.

When did the USAF start using the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom aircraft at RAF Bentwaters?



Updates on our opening dates for 2022.

We have just made some changes to our museum admissions whereby you can now book for up to 12 people in a single group rather than the previous limit of 6. This is all catered for in our online admission booking system so you will have the chance to visit with increased numbers in a single party.

We have also altered our admission booking times so that admissions can start on the hour at 10am, 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, and 2pm on the dates we are open. The maximum time limit for your visit of 2 hours has also been removed so you can now have longer to visit and enjoy the museum. We have removed the 3pm booking option due to the fact that we close at 4pm and 1 hour is never enough time to really enjoy what the museum has to offer!!

If you want to book tickets online you can **visit our online store** or use the QR codes below for direct access for Admissions, BAS Membership, and the BAS/BCWM online store..



Book the date! We are hosting an Anglo American Open Day on August 21st 2022.

We will be hosting an Anglo American day on August 21st 2022 which is a normal opening day for the museum, but will be added to by collections of British and American vehicles, reenactment groups, food stalls, and more. As we confirm more attractions to the day we will update our social media channels so you know what other things you can see on the day.

Admission tickets for the day will be the same as our regular admission costs so you will be getting more bang for your buck if you come and visit us on August 21st!

Watch this space for more news on this event!

You can book your tickets using this link!

Some images from a similar event held in 2019 are shown below.

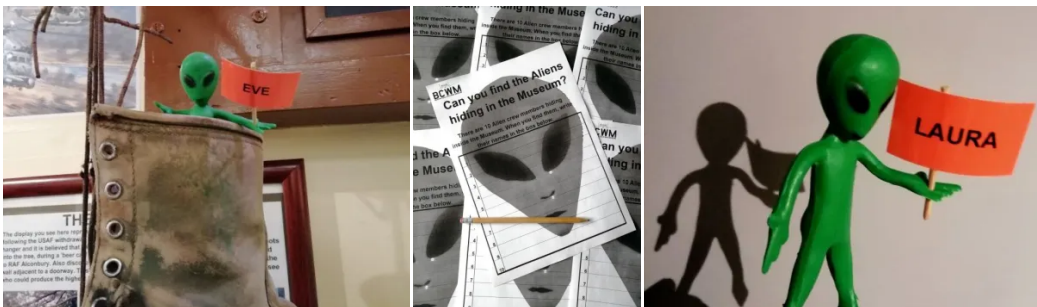


The aliens are back at back at Bentwaters...

Even in 2022 we find that the little green aliens have returned to the BCWM and have hidden themselves around the museum waiting to be found...

For visiting kids (an adults of course!), there are 10 tiny green aliens hiding all over the museum – can you find them and discover the name of the local village they have spelled out?

Give it a go if you are coming to the BCWM this year and see if you can spot them all!



Come and see us at the Suffolk Show!

The BCWM will be present at the 2022 Suffolk Show this year – you can find us at Stand 395.

We will be providing visitors with information about the BAS & BCWM, the opportunity to purchase merchandise, and have a chat with people who are keen to find out more about us, what we do, and how they can help us.

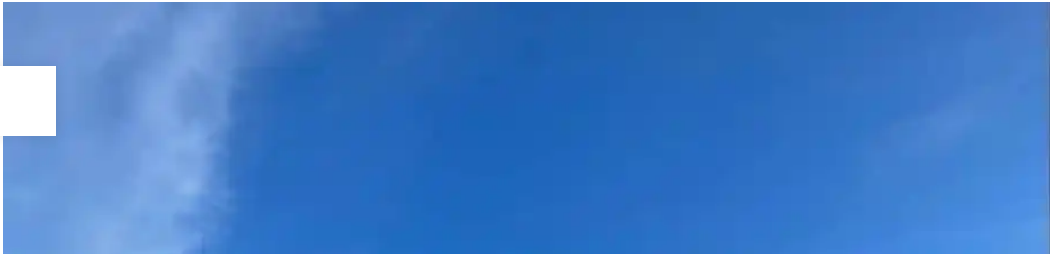
re going to be visiting the Suffolk Show on May 31st and June 1st why not come and see us – you will be most welcome!



1 week until we reopen! - We are open from April 3rd 2022.

The time to reopen for 2022 is almost upon us again and we are looking forward to seeing new as well as repeat visitors to the BCWM this year. We have undertaken lots of updates inside the museum as well as adding several new outdoor exhibits to our compound. Why not pay us a visit and see for yourself. You can book admission tickets online yourself using **[THIS LINK TO THE BAS & BCWM ONLINE STORE.](#)**





It's not long until we open for 2022...

Our first opening day of 2022 will soon be with us on April 3rd 2022. If you have never visited the museum before, we would suggest you pop over and see what we have on offer – it will certainly give you the opportunity to see and learn a lot about the Cold War. You can get your admission tickets easily online by visiting our online shop **using this link!**

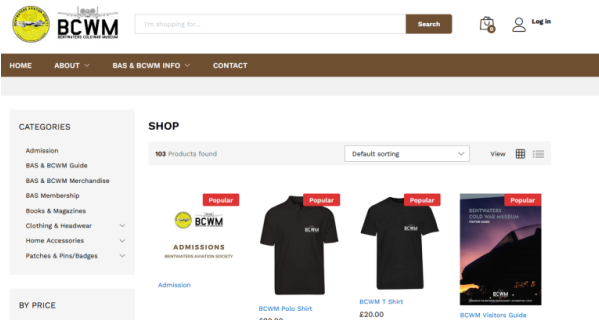
As a result of plenty' of hard work over the Winter months we do regret to say that our new Café and shop will not yet be ready to open, so we will be unable to provide any refreshments/catering and shop products as we would normally do. But don't worry, we are working as fast as we can to get it opened up for you! In the meantime don't forget that we have a **online store for BCWM merchandise** and much more so you can stock up on goodies before and after your visit!



New look shop now online...

We have just launched a new look one stop shop replacing our previous online stores that were split across the BAS and BCWM websites. You can now buy everything ranging from Museum Admission to BCWM Merchandise to aviation patches to BAS Memberships under one roof!

Why not pop over and have a **look for yourself using this link!**



Another chance to see the Jaguar roar!

We have 28 spaces available for people to attend an event on March 19th to see the BCWM's Jaguar XX741 in action. Find out more and book your slot at the **BAS website using this page**.



The Winter work continues...

As we carry on into Winter numerous BCWM staff members were hard at work on Sunday Jan 9th carrying out a range of tasks. These ranged from removing weeds on the roof of the museum, undertaking stock checks of our merchandise and other items, and building elements of our new shop and café. More behind the scenes work was also underway in the form of processing more renewed and new Memberships for the Bentwaters Aviation Society too. Whilst we are closed to the public until April 2022 we put every effort into the maintenance and upkeep of the museum which is an ongoing and never-ending task!





A new year and new members...

As we head into 2022 we have already had a swathe of Membership applications, both renewals and new, to support the Bentwaters Aviation Society. A snapshot of just some of the memberships waiting to be posted out is shown below. As the membership coordinator, Karen Haynes is always busy at this time of year sending out memberships to not only the UK, but across Europe and the USA as well!

If you are not currently a member of the aviation society, you can easily join up and don't forget that as a charity we always value your support and donations. Why not consider becoming a member of the Aviation Society? **You can easily sign up here at the BAS website.**



ARCHIVED NEWS

Archived News from previous years in PDF format.

[2021](#) / [2020](#) / [2019](#) / [2018](#) / [2017](#) / [2016](#) / [2015](#) / [2014](#)

CAN YOU HELP US?

As a registered charity, the Bentwaters Aviation Society undertakes numerous fund raising events throughout the year, but also greatly appreciate donations from the general public that allow us to maintain, run, and improve the Bentwaters Cold War Museum.

Should you wish to help us by making a donation, you can do so using the details below. All donations are extremely gratefully appreciated.

You can of course also sign up for a BAS membership – [find out more details and sign up here.](#)

You can donate to the Bentwaters Aviation Society wherever you are by using PayPal:

Donate



THE BAS/BCWM SUPPORTER'S WALL



The BAS/BCWM is creating a Supporter's 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. There is also the option to have a painted pebble placed at the foot of the wall as well should you prefer that option.

The donation plaques (approximately 14cm x 20cm) 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.

ND OUT MORE HERE

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