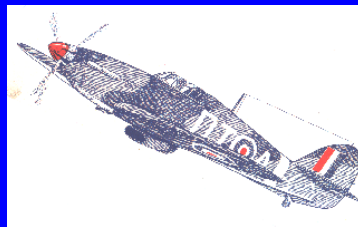


THE HURRICANE



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

EDITION: WINTER 2013

Electronic - A new way

This is the first edition of the NEW E-Hurricane. The magazine can now be delivered direct to your home or office within minutes of publication for you to read at leisure.

At the Annual General Meeting held at the museum on Sunday 2 December the Trustees seeking re-election were voted in en-bloc. The line up for 2012-13 is Peter Gardner [Chairman], Simon Chamberlain [Secretary] Patrick Gray [Treasurer] and members Stephen Wagstaffe, Bryn Elliott, Dawn Chambers, Mike Batt, Keith Hasted and Keith Davies.

In addition. Eric Probert, a long standing and highly regarded member of NWAMA sought election to the board of Trustees. He was voted in by the members present.

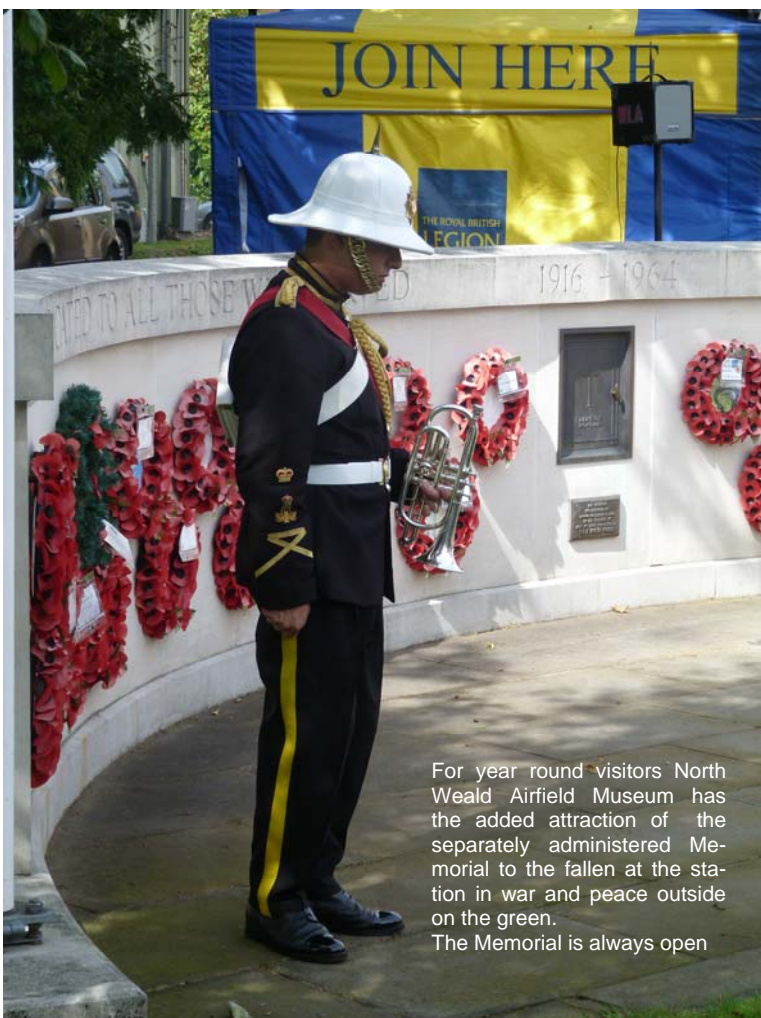
LOOKING TO 2013

For the coming year the museum is looking towards making itself more accessible.

For a good many years now we have been lucky in being able to draw upon the services of stalwart members including Eddie Collins

to ensure that both Saturday and Sunday opening was undertaken from 12noon to 4pm during the summer open period. Time moves on, sadly illness now means that Eddie is less able to open up for us on Saturdays but we are addressing other options including offering greater access to groups during the week.

The ready availability of this magazine may attract more groups with an interest in mid-week visits and these can be throughout the year subject to the closure of some rooms for wintertime refurbishment.



For year round visitors North Weald Airfield Museum has the added attraction of the separately administered Memorial to the fallen at the station in war and peace outside on the green. The Memorial is always open

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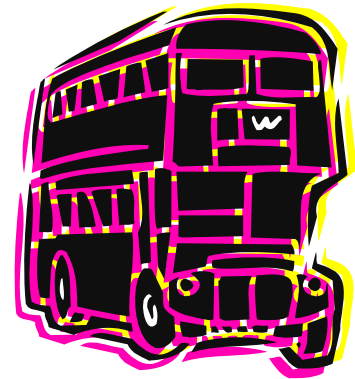
Trustee Steve Wagstaffe has announced the latest round of member visits to aircraft attractions. In the first instance these are for Member's but seats may be available to non-members if there is space.

Potential trips using private cars: -

1. Purfleet Collection, Essex
2. Coalhouse Fort, East Tilbury
3. Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire

Distant sites - using a 30 seat bus or 17 seat minibus

4. Manston Museum & Battle of Britain Memorial at Folkestone
5. Gatwick Collection & Croydon Control Tower
6. Bentwaters
7. Shuttleworth



It is proposed that the distant trips make use of local minibuses with a maximum size of party held to 16 plus the driver with places allocated on a first come first served basis against a non-returnable deposit. Only if there are significantly larger numbers wanting to attend would a bus company be approached for a quote.

Anyone wishing to go to any of these visits please contact Steve direct and we will see which are the most popular. E-mail is Stephen_wagstaffe@yahoo.co.uk mobile phone 07956 881848



The Service was led by Father Hingley and included the services of an excellent Bugler, Osman Dervish.

AUGUST 2012 EVENT

The Memorial was rededicated in August 2012, an event that attracted a crowd of local people, members and a number of former RAF members who had spent part of their National Service at North Weald.

Three former members found time to leave images and make recordings of their memories of times in the RAF and specifically at North Weald to add to the museum archive.



Terry Lewis 1956

AGM Report

The 2012 museum Annual General Meeting was a little different from usual in that it moved from its usual October slot and was held in meeting room facility upstairs in the museum building.

Some tough decisions were made by the membership including acceptance that the Electronic Age has arrived as far as *The Hurricane* is concerned.

In future full copies of *The Hurricane* will only be available electronically. This decision has been made in the face of ever increasing mailing costs and in the expectation that the quality of the product can be greatly enhanced from a simple two-sided photocopy to something making greater use of colour and many pages.

For this we will need *members E-mail addresses* and we have a scant few at the moment. But anyone will be able to find the latest edition of our website to download news and views on North Weald Airfield—Then and Now. Direct E-mail will mean that members in Australia and Norway will be able to read the latest at the same time as those living in North Weald village and that we can directly target important local groups and individuals who might be influential in ensuring the wellbeing of the North Weald Airfield Museum.

If the museum is to have a future it is with the younger generation and they understand the technology far better that we do and will not be fazed by the changes. We hope that members will bow to the inevitable and send us their e-mail addresses for direct delivery of the full edition. Mean while pages 1 & 2 will see some hard copy circulation.

Please let us have your stories and ideas for content in future editions of *The Hurricane*. Send them to the Secretary, Simon Chamberlain, simply mail them or drop them off at the museum.

Women at war

Mrs Constance G Thomas Chelsea Wash London SW3

I volunteered to join the WAAF in 1942. I was only 17½ and was [assigned] to Special Duties Plotting in RAF Fighter Command. One of my postings was acting as a Plotter at Blake Hall, the Operations Room for RAF North Weald.

After volunteering I was first sent to RAF Bridgnorth in Shropshire for initial induction and to receive my uniform and then off to Blackpool where we were put into Bed & Breakfast accommodation for a week and taught to march and do drill on the Esplanade. From the beaches of Blackpool I returned south to Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire for a week's assessment and training in my role as a Plotter. My first station posting was to Truston Laver (sic) in 9 Group Fighter Command; back up in the North West.

From there I went to RAF Llanawy (sic), North Wales before moving to Essex and North Weald. At North Weald, we were accommodated in Nissen huts sited in the grounds of Blake Hall where the Operations Room was located.

I was the youngest on the watch of three girls, we worked 12 hour shifts moving the tokens on the Group, not Sector, table. We had a very large table to plot on with a Gallery high above us where intelligence staff overlooked the table.

If there was no night flying by 12 pm we completed the following days rosters and were then faced with a 3 mile cycle ride in the blackout to the Nissen huts where we were billeted. We occasionally hitch-hiked in lorries as they were considered to be safe, the drivers asked us what we were doing at Blake Hall and in accordance with the secrecy we were sworn to we told them we were looking after 18 officers billeted there. Then because we spoke nicely and well they believed us.

We were sworn to secrecy and my parents did not know what I was doing in the RAF until after the war.

From a recent letter to the museum from Constance Thomas.

There are more stories on North Weald people on the Internet and most are outside our copyright—one such is that of Sergeant Georgina Stone WAAF here is the link -

<http://nell-rose.hubpages.com/hub/Sergeant-Georgina-Stone-Funny-Tales-Of-Her-Time-In-The-RAF>



Constance Thomas in her teens

BOMBS AWAY

It was a national newspaper story billed as the ultimate site for locating where bombs fell in the Second World War and indeed it is but unfortunately the local paper ran away with the storyline a little.

BOMBSIGHT—*Mapping the WW2 bomb census* is restricted to London where most bombs fell but I was intrigued to see that the local paper accompanied the storyline it ran with first hand witness reports of bombs on North Weald and I have never yet seen a bomb map for North Weald so expectations were heightened.

Sadly, it was not to be as the airfield falls outside the London Area on whose reports the mapping is based on. There are occasional 'out of area' strikes logged but that is mainly because they found their way into the London reports.

Still if you live in what was once the Metropolitan Area—and that includes Cheshunt, Loughton and Waltham Abbey—you will find the site faithfully reproduces all the bombs that fell between October 1940 and June 1941 and overlays them on a modern map so you can see that the M25, had it existed, would have been closed for repairs!

<http://www.bombsight.org>

WARDEN'S REPORT FORM.		A.R.P./M.I.
Form of Report to Report Centres.		
(Commence with the words)	"AIR RAID DAMAGE"	
Designation of REPORTING AGENT (e.g., Warden's Sector Number)		
POSITION of occurrence		
TYPE of bombs :-H.E. Incendiary Poison Gas		
Approx. No. of CASUALTIES :- (If any trapped under wreckage, say so)		
If FIRE say so :-		
Damage to MAINS :-Water Coal Gas Overhead electric cables Sewers		
Names of ROADS BLOCKED		
Position of any UNEXPLODED BOMBS		
Time of occurrence (approx.)		
Services already ON THE SPOT or COMING :-		
Remarks :-		
(Finish with the words)	"MESSAGE ENDS"	
ORIGINAL } DUPLICATE }	These words are for use with a report sent by messenger. Delete whichever does not apply.	



The museum may be shut for the winter but a selection of goods is still available for purchase via the museum website.

Currently available are a Museum T-shirt available in black, white or ash grey. These T-Shirts are made to order and can take up to four weeks for delivery at £12.99.

Also illustrated is the highly popular North Weald DVD covering the history of the airfield from 1916 to modern times.

At the other end of the scale are 'pocket money' items including squadron stickers for 71, 72 and 111 squadron's, various enamel pin badges and post cards—all illustrated on the [Museum Shop](#) web pages.



FOR SALE

IN THE

MUSEUM

SHOP

**MEMBERSHIP DETAILS
HOW TO JOIN**

We accept all currencies in welcoming you to museum membership—becoming a Friend of North Weald Airfield Museum as long as it means the same as £12.50p!

You can join through the museum [website](#).



Not so long ago **AgustaWestland** were promoting their helicopter line 'just down the road' from North Weald via the Olympics and HM Queen Elizabeth II. Their latest coupe is being able to announce that their AW101 and AW159 Lynx Wildcat helicopters played star roles in Skyfall, the 23rd James Bond adventure, which had its world premiere in London in October 2012. Staring Daniel Craig as James Bond, Skyfall sees the AW101 helicopter performing several dramatic sequences in the film equipped with sky shouting and a searchlight. [AW]

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

The museum is closed for the winter until April 2013



When we open again entry will, as usual, be free for members.

Except on Special Event Days visitors will be charged standard rates for entry:

- Adults £2
- Concessions £1.50
- Children [5-15] 50p

Group rates vary but generally there is a minimum charge of £50 per group.





151 SQUADRON



STORY FROM DOWN UNDER 151 Squadron

From time to time the museum gets enquiries from across the world to assist with research into aspects of the history of the airfield. One of the most recent came from Kristen Alexander in Australia and concerned a single pilot serving with 151 Squadron [a formation upon which we had precious little information].

Kristen Alexander is researching the Australians in the Battle of Britain and includes their RAF career pre Battle and post.

Australian Eagles features five Australians and one 'adopted' Australian will be published in July 2013. [Book details](#)

One of those pilots was Stuart Walch who served with 151 Squadron from January 1938 to May 1940 when he was posted to 238 Squadron. He died in August 1940. The families of the pilots have opened their photo albums [see left & above]. Kristen wanted a full photo of a 151 Hurricane from the collection and we were able to supply one image taken by the late Alan Church in pre war codes landing over the Epping Road and a number of documents featuring Stuart Walch at North Weald.

Old US Grumman Avenger and newer British Short Tucano at North Weald. Will the new UN treaty make it difficult to preserve aircraft of differing nations alongside each other in the future?



M.A. WARNING ON TREATY

The Museums Association, a national body representing museums across the nation has written to the International Council for Museums (ICOM) to alert the worldwide museum community to the potentially damaging impact a forthcoming United Nations (UN) arms treaty could have on military collections.

The [Arms Trade Treaty](#), which was held in New York in July 2012 and is likely to be ratified in spring 2013, controls the international trade of arms, being mainly designed to reduce arms trafficking by import, export, loan and gifts, and encompasses just the sort of material that museums such as North Weald might one day aspire to but in reality might seriously affect the type of material you might find in Duxford, Cosford and Hendon.

Under the proposals, a museum would have to seek the permission of the exporting country, the importing country and the transit countries to acquire and transport an antique arm or weapon, even for a temporary loan or a research project.

A group is already lobbying the UN to ensure an exemption for antique and museum arms and weapons, but as the treaty currently sits there are no exemptions and it is feared that the multi-national bureaucracy might kill off the movement of historic arms.

In the next five years a number of anniversaries are expected to be marked and it is predicted they will lead to attempts by museums to borrow artefacts for the duration of those anniversaries—the type of trade that will run headlong into the UN Treaty.

Perhaps fortunately the museum world has a little more time as the official line from the conference is that the gathered delegations could not reach agreement on a treaty text. [MA]

AROUND AND ABOUT

A few of the museum members give talks on aviation subjects to interested groups as a fund raiser for the Charity.

The most recent instance was by Trustee Steve Wagstaffe who gave a talk on the museum and airfield's history to the Epping Rotary Club at their Christmas dinner at Theydon Bois golf club on 11th Dec.

ON THE AIRFIELD

In Hangar 11 the Curtiss P40 Kittyhawk 43-5802 /G-KITT owned and operated by Peter Teichman has been repainted into a new scheme for the 2013 season.

Over at the Weald Aviation Service's hangar the company has been working in concert with the Royal Navy's Historic Flight to return Hawker Sea Fury T20 VX281/G-RNHF to the skies.

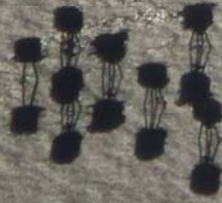
In December the completely rebuilt Centurus engine was fired up on the airfield. It is expected that the Sea Fury will be appearing on the 2013 show circuit.

....AND OFF

In September every two years for the past decade Duxford has been earning good money hosting a helicopter show called Helitech. The event has been used by many enthusiasts in the know as a means to access the historic collections at Duxford at no cost.

Sadly this is no longer the case as the organisers of Helitech have gone 'up market' by changing their name to Helitech International and abandoned Duxford to hold the helicopter event at ExCel in Docklands in 2013.

Continued on page 8



WHAT IS THIS?

An unfamiliar aerial angle on a historical site but can you work out what it is?

The picture was taken from about 7,000 feet on the approach to Heathrow in 'challenging' lighting conditions.

Answer next page.

NEW ON THE BOOKSHELF

From Airplan Flight Equipment in Manchester come the latest editions of their Flight Guide and Cockpit Companion.

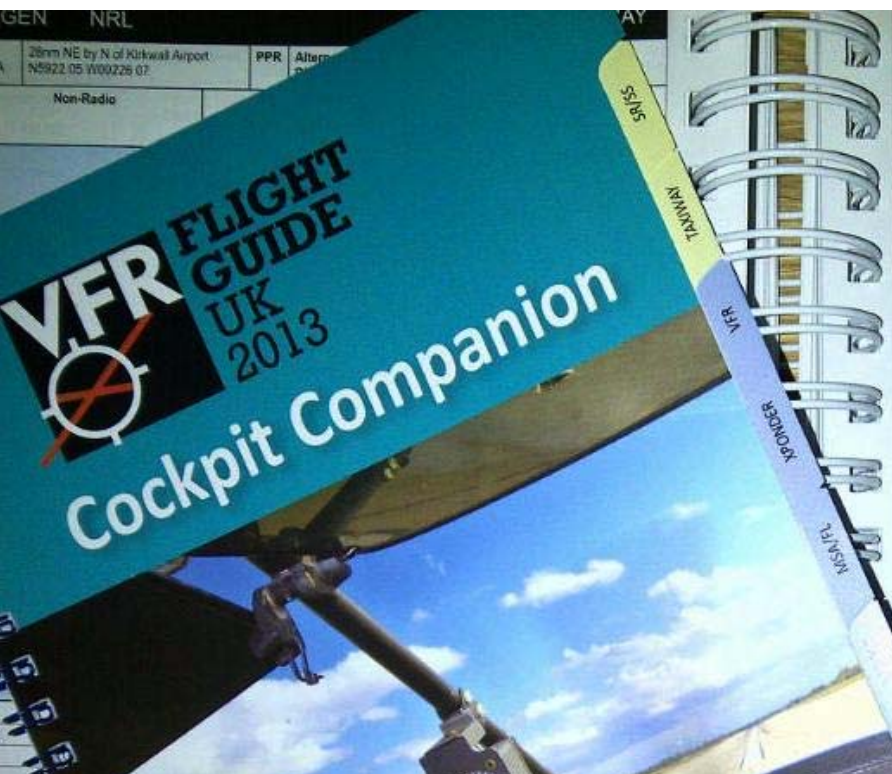
UK VFR Flight Guide : 2013 Edition over 950 airfields; full details on over 500 airfields, basic data on another 450 private sites. Every page fully reviewed and updated every year to ensure it carries the most up-to-date information with FREE revisions available by e-mail and website, by update booklet and by replacement pages.

The best-selling format, a single large spiral binding allows the guide to be folded over for use in even the smallest cockpit. In this format a FREE monthly on-line amendment service and FREE mid-year update booklet are available as part of the £25.95 purchase price. Other options include a loose leaf version in a binder for £43.95.

UK VFR Cockpit Companion Checklist Revised and updated for 2013, this is an indispensable checklist containing all the vital in-flight information that pilots need at their finger tips for only £7.95.

The Cockpit Companion is specifically designed as a 'memory jogger' a handy source a non-professional pilot needs when faced with the unexpected or unfamiliar. With 20 checklist pages in full colour, tabbed for quick reference and with a spiral binding for maximum ease of use, the UK VFR Cockpit Companion means that no pilot needs to be at a loss for a vital piece of information.

Data in the UK VFR Cockpit Companion includes: - Marshalling signals - Ground signals - Taxiway and runway markings - ATC and radio procedures - Transponder codes - Rights of way - Low flying rules - VFR minima - VOLMET and ATIS - Wind drift ready reckoner - Descent calculator - Circuit joining procedures - Sunrise and Sunset - Emergency procedures - And much more that might be of interest to the enthusiast rather than a pilot! Details and purchase options available on the web site at www.afeonline.com and both books are available through good pilot shops



AROUND AND ABOUT [cont from page6]

From 2014 the event will visit new locations in Europe—starting at Berlin, Germany.

For the time being we do not know whether they will return to the UK but if all goes well we can assume ExCel 2015. Or can we?

FUTURE DATES—in Essex

4-6 May 2013 Victory in Europe, Royal Gunpowder Mills—Secret Island, Waltham Abbey

The annual meeting of war commemoration at which there is a short air display by either the Caroline Grace Spitfire or one of the North Weald based classics operated by Peter Teichman
Set your GPS to EN9 1JY

22-23 June 2013 Air-Britain Fly-In.

Air-Britain's 34th Fly-In is the longest established UK Fly-In organised independently by and for aviation enthusiasts. All are welcome to visit by car or to fly-in vintage and classic aeroplanes from Aeroncas to Zlins. There will be no actual flying displays, but there will be a warm and friendly welcome and relaxed aviation event for all visitors by air or road.

8 September 2013 The North Weald Community Day. An event still in the planning but set to include lots of family fun.

2-4 August 2013 Military and Flying Machines, Damyns Hall Aerodrome, Romford RM14 2TN.



And.... Do not forget that the first eight editions of the Spirit of North Weald booklet are on line and downloadable at the EFDC website, this link will take you straight there:

<http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/index.php/home/file-store/category/2-spirit-of-north-weald>

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DID YOU GET IT RIGHT?

The Quiz image on page 7 is of a group of Second World War forts in the Thames Estuary. The strong shadows and the mottling of the wave pattern distort the shape.

ADVERTISING AND THE HURRICANE

One way in which the NWAMA can earn income and to finance the production of hard copies of the Newsletter is advertising. Advertisers need circulation beyond the membership and they also need to know who is reading the Newsletter. If you pass this edition on please let us know who to so we can help finance your reading!