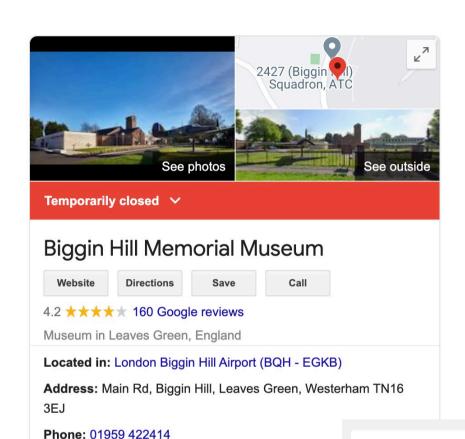


**CHAPEL ROOM PROPOSALS 2021** 

**BIGGIN HILL MEMORIAL MUSEUM** 





#### **VENUE**



Biggin Hill Memorial Museum is based at the air base made famous by its key role in defending Britain during the worst airbourne onslaught in history.

The Battle of Britain is as significant as the defeat of the Spanish Armada but some contributions to this victory, especially by the Women of World War Two are being forgotten and overlooked.

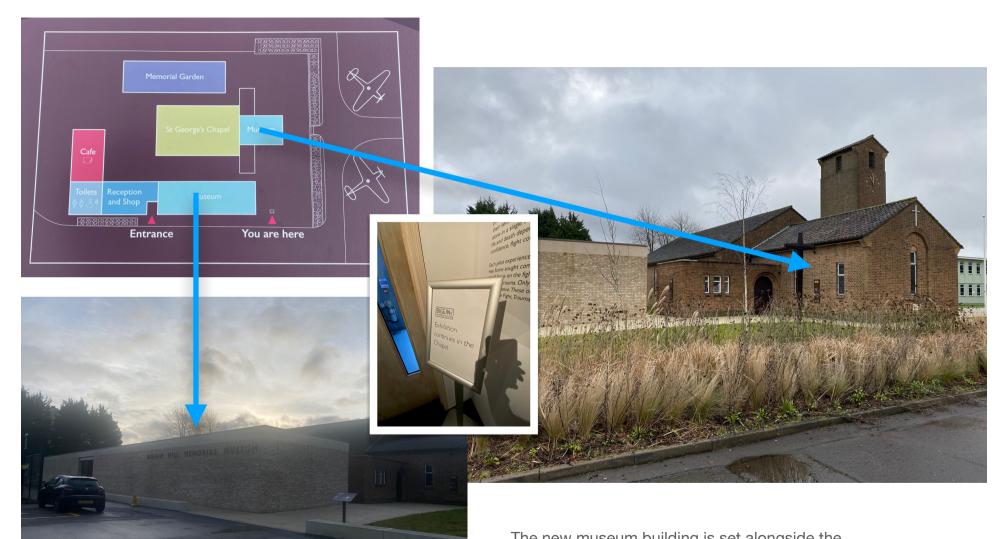
The Museum is a relatively new attraction and has met with good reviews on Trip Advisor.







## **VENUE**

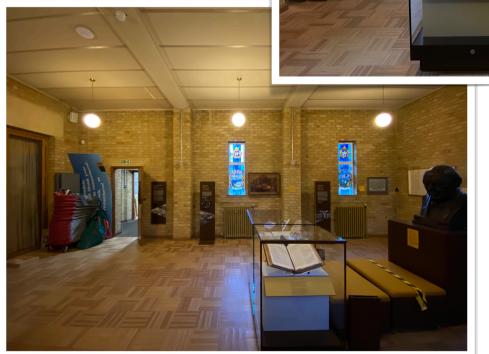


The new museum building is set alongside the Chapel and a greater use of this space makes for a logical extension to the existing Museum Offer.

# **CURRENT DECOR**



The Chapel is a listed building and was reconstructed after a fire. It is used for services and memorial occasions as well as serving as an extention to the main museum.



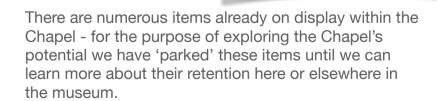


### **CURRENT CONTENT**



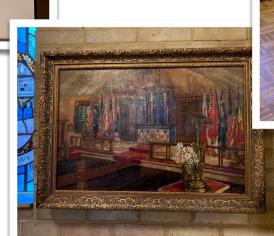






We FULLY appreciate that certain items should remain in situ or could be repositioned to ensure the continuity of the space. Museum to advise.

(We just love the 1000th kill taxi steering wheel story!)



## **CURRENT MUSEUM DISPLAY**



The existing museum contains material relating to the WAAFs but the new Chapel Exhibition area allows for a larger and more detailed exploration of the subject.



### Three women were recognised for their courageous conduct in the aftermath of a deadly air raid during the Battle of Britain.

RAF Biggin Hill was one of the targets in the attack which took place 75 years ago today, killing 39 people at the station. Sergeant Joan Mortimer, Flight Officer Elspeth Green and Sergeant Helen Turner were working as teleprinter operators when the Luftwaffe began their attack.

The following day they returned to work as further bombing raids began. Elspeth remained at her post keeping in touch with Fighter Command at Uxbridge, despite being knocked to the ground when the operations room she was working in took a direct hit.



Switchboard operator Helen also continued to work even as the building was hit repeatedly.

The two women finally escaped to safety when a fire broke out and they were ordered to abandon their posts.

Joan Mortimer had been working in the armoury, at the telephone switchboard, when the bombing began.

She continued to relay messages throughout the raid. Then she rushed outside to mark the unexploded bombs with red flags, carrying on as bombs went off nearby.

The women were each awarded the Military Medal for remaining 'cool, calm and collected', representing half of all Military Medals presented to WAAFs throughout the Second World War.

#### **(**

#### **Tweet**



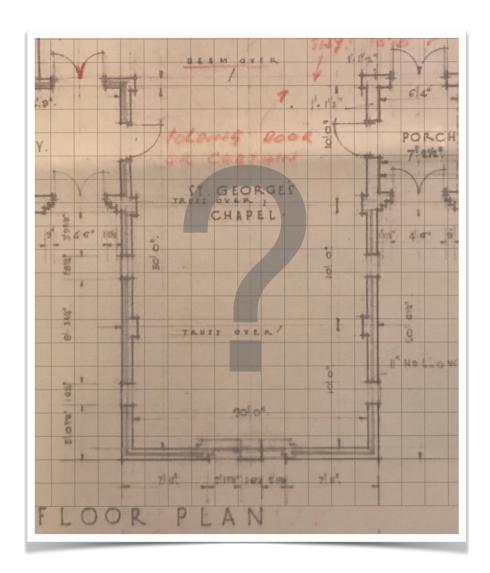
**London Biggin Hill Airport Community** @LBHACom... · Feb 3, 2017 ···· Happy 100th birthday to ATA girl Mary Ellis. Mary last visited Biggin Hill on the "hardest day" celebrations in 2015



#### THE BRIEF

An interactive exhibition to share inspiring stories of women in the WAAF and ATA during WW2, to offer fresh interpretation of the site's heritage that is relevant and inclusive for local families.

- After a visit to the exhibition, people will understand more about the life, work, experiences and achievements of the women who fought the Battle of Britain at RAF Biggin Hill by engaging with a range of interpretive content based on robust historical evidence.
- 2. After a visit to the exhibition people will understand more about women's roles in WW2 more generally and how WW2 changed attitudes to gender equality in traditionally male careers and in the military, and the ongoing impact of this on our lives today.
- 3. Our target audiences (young people, families, school groups, volunteers) will be able to make personal connections with the exhibition's themes and messages and link them to contemporary issues and personal experiences.
- 4. Local families and local audiences will feel inspired to make repeat visits to Biggin Hill Memorial Museum and see it as a local heritage resource offering high quality and inclusive opportunities for learning and engagement.
- Family groups with members of all ages will have an enjoyable time and learn something new through hands-on and multi-media interpretive content.
- 6. The exhibition and accompanying programme will attract local audiences who have not previously visited the museum.
- 7. Through the revised learning programmes and wider events programmes more young people will feel inspired to explore STEAM subjects and careers. Young people will help to shape the exhibition content.
- 8. Visitors will be encouraged to write their own responses to the exhibition, and these will be shared online and people will feel a greater sense of ownership and connection with the site.
- 9. Audiences can learn more and sustain engagement with our History Makers by accessing further information online on the museum's website and the History Makers website.



#### **IN BRIEF**

- Create a NEW ATTRACTION to add to the BHMM Offer
- Create a New Interpretation within St. George's Chapel
- Do not alientate existing Audience
- Appeal to NEW AUDIENCES
- Create an IMMERSIVE MULTI-SENSORY EXPERIENCE
- Appeal to Learners, International, SEND Audiences
- Have EMOTIONAL Impact
- Focus on UNIQUE/DISTINCT aspects relating to BH
- Ensure SENSE OF PLACE is brought out
- · Avoid duplicating what other venues depict
- Appeal to LOCAL COMMUNITIES
- Ensure Family Friendly delivery
- Make it ACCESSIBLE & INCLUSIVE
- Design and deliver to the Budget



**Guide Interaction** 



Teaching Packs for Groups



Social Media Friendly

### **ADDITIONAL FACTORS**

- It should naturally increase dwell time on site
- It should build awareness of BHMM offer
- It should have potential to enhance social media profile
- Involve Guides with the Stories and the VR element
- Have elements that the Guides can introduce visitors to or hand round
- Help add to the story of Biggin Hill during WWII
- Option to create a completely Unique Private Hire venue
- Allow space to still work as part of the overall church for services and events
- New Focus for Battle of Britain anniversary and Rememerance Day
- Maybe create new retail items based on these unique stories
- Work as a subject for a Teaching Pack or Outreach Study

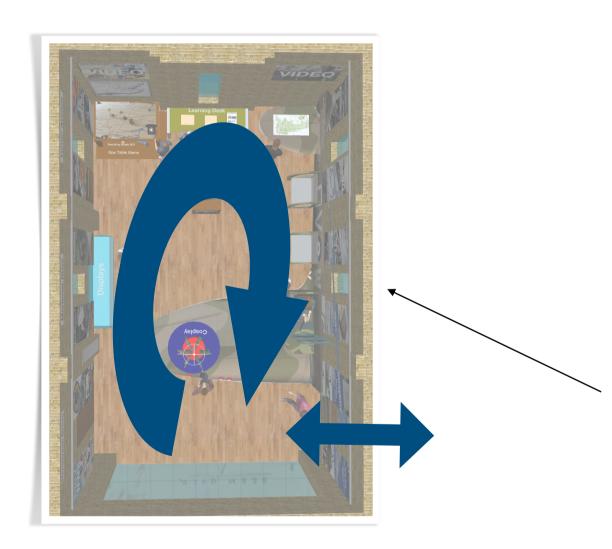


Be: ENGAGING





### **VENUE FLOW**



One of the key first steps in any project is establishing visitor flow and the spaces you have available for connecting with your audience.

Collectively with your team we need to explore how best to deliver each part of the story.

THERE ISN'T ROOM OR NEED TO SET UP A FIXED FLOW BUT GENERALLY PEOPLE FLOW IN A CLOCKWISE ROTATION AS WE READ LEFT TO RIGHT

## STORY TELLING TECHNIQUES

#### **EMOTIONAL - ENGAGING - MEMORABLE**

There are many ways of telling this story and we hope to employ many of these to appeal to a wide new audience.

- **TITLE** What the 'attraction' is called can help popularise its appeal to wider audiences.
- SOUNDSCAPE Walk-in status gives audio atmopshere.
- AUDIO NARRATIVE Voices, sound effects and music takes the audience further into the stories.
- **PERSPECTIVES** Finding different ways of approaching the story can articulate different viewpoints.
- POPULAR VOICE/S Choosing a famous name to deliver audio/visual can add value to its appeal.
- STATIC GRAPHICS The core of the story is representeted by impressive new artworks.
- **BRAILLE & TOUCH\*** Key sections of the story can be represented for touch with Braille and bass relief.
- LANGUAGES Being able to access different languages for audiences is appealing to individuals and groups.
- **DEEPER LEARNING** Subsiduary information can be portrayed through additional screens.
- QR APP The core story, deeper learning and detailed elements can be on a smart phone platform.
- AUGMENTED REALITY AR elements can be activated through a smart phone platform and link to other site apps.
- SCRATCH CARDS Surprisingly popular the story of key characters can be traced by revealing their story on cards.
- QUIZES\* Simple touchscreen quizzes can be set for adult / child responses to story content.
- 3D GLASSES\* Possible but not considered practical for this flow and delivery.
- VR\* A Spitfire experience using VR goggles, joystick and rudder pedals.
- **ARTEFACTS** Items pertinent to the story help bridge the gap in time.
- HANDLING OBJECTS\* Very helpful in direct story telling with individuals, groups and those with learning needs.
- SOUVENIR BOOK Contents of show explained in further depth can be on website also, secondary spend.
- **VOTING\*** Ask audeinces what they think after they have seen the exhibition. Was it good or bad to employ women?
- **CHILDREN** a happy child = a happy (on-line reviewing) parent or teacher so let them enjoy colouring in!

<sup>\*</sup> Covid considerations

#### **WOMEN IN WWII**



The overall subject of women's roles during WWII is covered at other museum venues around the UK but few locations can claim such a strong real life narative as Biggin Hill.

The WAAF and ATA stories linked to the venue are second to none and help explain the changing persepectives towards women's roles seen during wartime.

In the case of the WAAF their bravery was exemplary.

Likewise the ATA took on roles way beyond anyone's expectations and in many cases their broad range of flying skills were far wider ranging than their male counterparts.

The fact that they achieved an equal level of pay during the war was a justification of their skills.

Skills saddly ignored as soon as Britain returned to pre-war attitudes in the post war era.

#### **WOMEN OF WWII**





Able To Fly Hurricanes

It is a fine tribute these preconcept



The examples of war time attutides towards the employment of women into the war effort can still seem shocking today.

It is a fine tribute to their effort, ethusiasm and endurance that these preconceptions were so decisively quashed by countless examples of women simply doing their best.

However, the progres made by these Women of WWII can be easily overlooked.

This exhibition aims to ensure that their bravery, determination and spirit remains recognised and appreciated by generations to come.

## **WOMEN OF WWII**



### **MODERN REFLECTIONS**





We will aim to reflect these and link them to the ongoing story of Women's roles within the modern RAF. This continuity of roles and learning links well into the modern STEM learning programmes.





### **SENSE OF PLACE**



It easy to drive past a site like Biggin Hill and just see it as a relic of the past.

With the utmost respect to all of those who served at this place we hope to help represent their generation's effort and loss to a new generation of visitors to Biggin Hill.

It is SUCH a dramatic story.





## **CHURCHILL**





The Chapel boasts a plaster cast of Churchill created by a local artist.

His timeless thanks to 'The Few' epitomises the Battle of Britain 'spirit' especially here at the air field he held so dear.

We feel there might be some suitable reflection of Churchill in respect to the Women's War effort that could be explored adjacent to his likeness.

Museum to advise.

### **LEGACY**

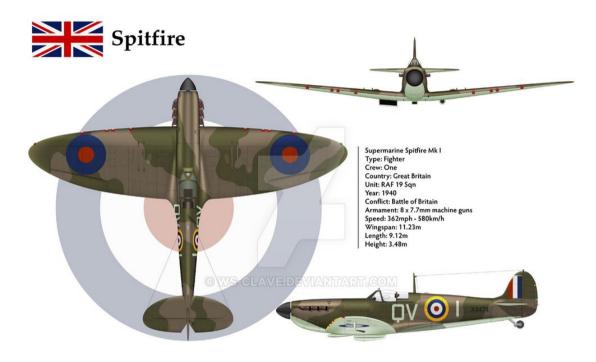




Three of the serving Biggin Hill WAAFs were awarded the Military Medal and many of the ATA Pilots were recognised later for their bravery. We hope to ensure that their efforts continue to be reflected within the exhibition.

### A FITTING SPACE





The name of Biggin Hill is so closely associated with the ultimate British Fighter plane, the Spitfire, that we wondered if we could fit one into St. George's Chapel?

It just so happens that in 'modern money' the Chapel is 9.3m long and a Mk 1 Spitfire is 9.1m long.

We felt that including the archetypal shape of this magnificent machine would help make visiting this space a memorable occasion.

And if you could fly it then it might just be an even better experience!

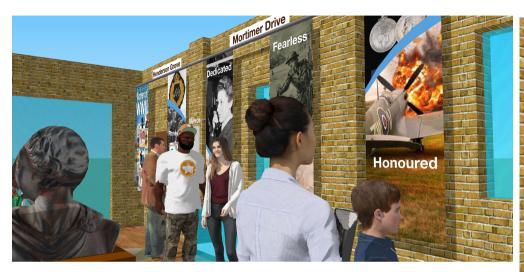
## **SPACE FOR DISPLAY**





The Chapel space offers three significant areas for display - we suggest that the WAAF area is placed to the South wall, the ATA to the North and education to the West. But there's a lot more to it than that . . .

### **WAAF DISPLAY AREA**







The South Wall display area will host the main WAAF exhibition featuring topic related drop graphics, touchscreens, display cabinets and an interactive ops room experience.

### WAAF OPS DISPLAY AREA



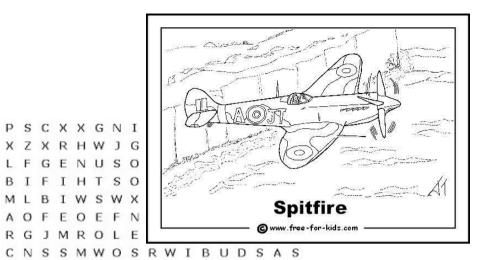
## **LEARNING/PLAY AREAS**

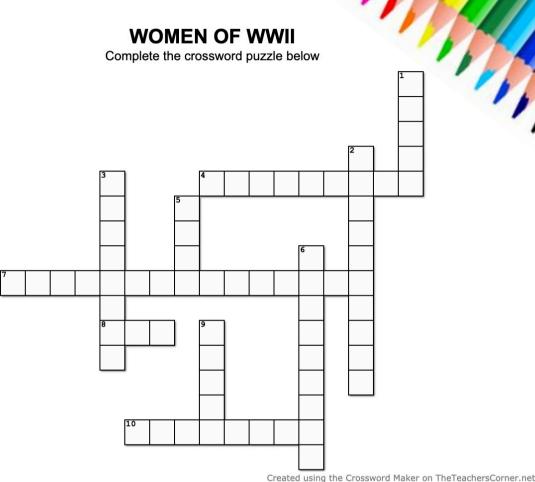


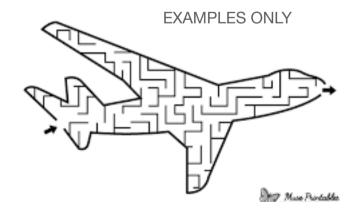


The Learning Desk can feature writing and drawing activities plus teaching sheets on the WAAF and ATA.

The 'cosplay' stand can feature some try-on uniforms for both boys and girls.







H I G J W Y W T B T I N Y V E M Q
T N C O H Z E I E Y C A Q W N S K
V E S T S J R N E R M V Y T J E B
S D T B U L S G T W Y S H I T L B
O R Z S G N I W O R G U L E B D Z
O A G R E E N L L A B E S A B D J
R G B Z L Y A C I K W Q L R Q U O
S Z X A F N M G D O X W P S O P O
W Z K R F N I H S N U S I I Y P B

#### Across

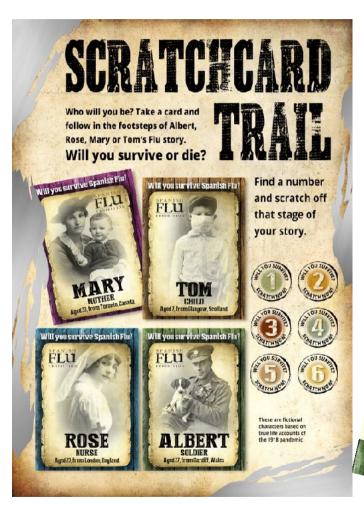
- 4. WAR TIME PRIME MINISTER
- 7. FAMOUS AIR BATTLE
- 8. AIR TRANSPORT AUXILIARY
- **10. FAMOUS PLANE**

#### Down

- 1. AWARDED FOR BRAVERY
- 2. NAME OF AIR BASE
- 3. SAME AS THE MEN
- 5. WOMEN'S AIR FORCE
- 6. WHERE PLANES WERE BUILT
- 9. WHO FLIES PLANES

### **SCRATCH CARDS**

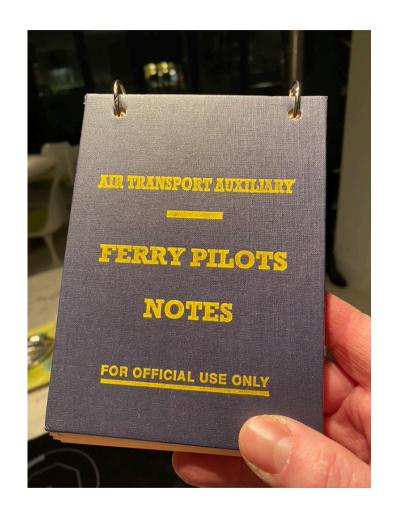


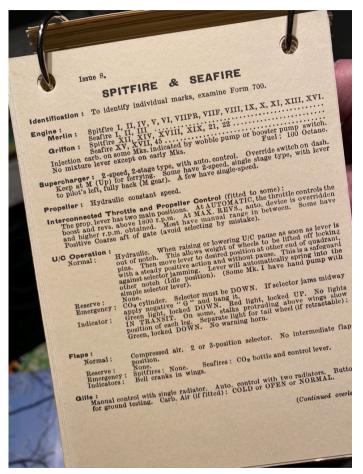


These proved an unexpcted hit at the Spansih Flu Exhibition. They were very simple but engaging and gave voice to accurate examples of Flu victims and their chances of survival or death.



### **SCRATCH CARD 'INVITATIONS'**





These scratch cards could be used to illustrate the different roles women fufilled during the war or different aircraft flown by the ATA and the scant 'life hack' clues they were given before flying these planes.

They also proved to be handy souvenirs of the visit to the Flu Exhibition.

### ATA DISPLAY AREA



The ATA area is dominated by a FULL SIZE profile of a MK1 Spitfire complete with one wing stretching across the main Chapel Floor as a temporary graphic or soft play activity carpet. It will look 3D and give great scope for 'selfies' and social media pics.

#### ATA DISPLAY AREA



The ATA section features the key points of the ATA's role, male and female pilots, groundbreaking achievements and astounding skills in flying aircraft of all shapes and sizes, sometimes with very scant book based briefings of how to fly them. This will be highlighted with a VR - (Virtual Reality) Flying Experience in which the participant gets to feel a little of the spirit that inspired the women that flew in the ATA.

The timeline will be illustrated with a forward trusting arrow gaining size and importance year by year, until the end of the war when all but a very few of the ATA's female pilots found themselves reverting to pre-war lifestyles despite their proven bravery and abilities as multi platform pilots.



This retrograde step is brought up to modern day with highlighting the first and subsequent female RAF pilots as continuing the work the ATA women started in 1940.



The ATA display area will feature a chance to feel what flying a Spitfire would have been like with a fully immersive VR experience. The team have created one already that we can use as a basis for this BHMM experience. It's been incredibly popular.

## **OVERALL LAYOUT**



The Chapel space allows for creating a broad and immersive experience that adds well to the contents of the existing museum. Incorporating a 'full size' spitfire profile into the space brings a great connection between the audience and the airfield itself. Plus it offers some great 'selfie' and social media opportunities.

## **FLEXIBLE LAYOUT**



The full size wing profile can be created in floor vinyl for a long lasting yet removable effect or it could be made as a colour printed floor mat that could be rolled away for other events in the chapel.









The drop banners are designed to be updateable for future temporary exhibitions and could be reoved or even rolled up like blinds for events in the Chapel.

### **SITE FIXINGS**



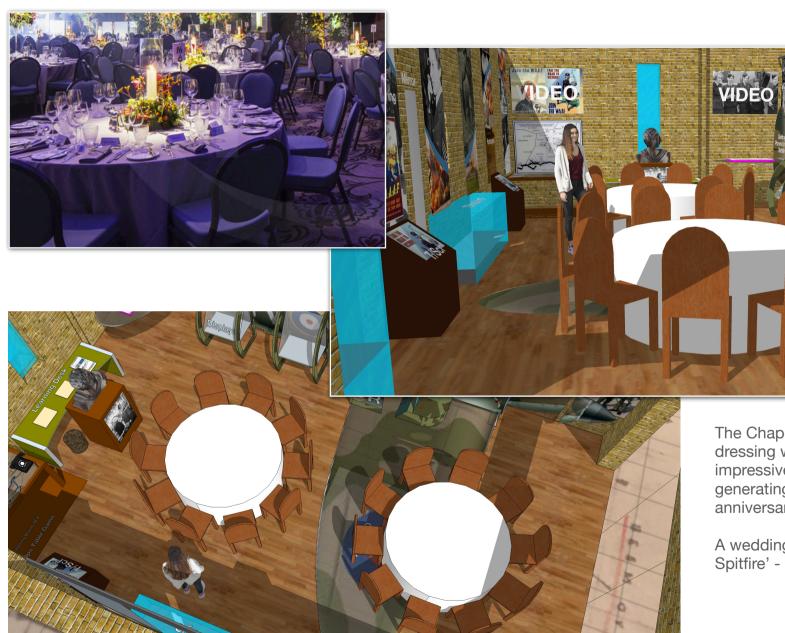
The upper rail for the banners would only require six mounting points thus minimising the intrusion into a listed proerty. The top rail could also carry a feed for downlights onto the banners and displays.

The Spitfire is created as flat graphic print mounted on studs fixed to the two pillar fronts plus make-ups both ends and around the door.

This keeps the intrusion into the Chapel space as little as possible.



### **PRIVATE HIRE**



The Chapel space with the new dressing will provide a very impressive backdrop for fund generating corporate, wedding or anniversary events.

A wedding with a 'fly your own Spitfire' - why not?

### **RAF LINKS**



#### **PROJECT REFERENCES**

Contact details not published here but available on request for data protection.





As Director of New Business at Golden Tours, we worked with Martin Wilkie from Unusual Design on a number of projects, the largest being a Chinese lantern display in London, Yorkshire and Cardiff. The team designed 130 giant lanterns, supervised the build, transported and installed the whole display with great success. They are hardworking and reliable and I could not recommend them enough. I have met a number of their past clients and Unusual go the extra mile for everyone they work for.

Marcus van der Gaag



#### To Whom It May Concern:

I first met with Martin Wilkie and Stuart Wescombe, when I was the Special Events Sales Manager at Earls Court Exhibition Centre. They had come to us looking for a suitable venue to host the BBC's Doctor Who Exhibition.

We were immediately impressed with their knowledge of the project and how they would make it work. They certainly knew what was needed in order to install the exhibition in the easiest most efficient way.

I have to say that they were a delight to work with, efficient enthusiastic and very reliable and working well with our internal teams.

I would have no hesitation in recommending them for any project they set their minds to.

Kind regards

Suzie Pollock





We have partnered with Martin and the Unusual team to deliver some truly memorable and impactful experiences for clients around the world for over 30 years. They are truly creative collaborators who blend imagination and practicality to produce, time after time, wonderfully designed and beautifully implemented environments and events. For a blue chip client base (including Hilton, Unilever, AMEX, American Airlines, EA Sports, The National Grid, Estrella, Gatwick Airport amongst others) and in locations that extend from Vancouver to Olympia, Bristol Airport to Dubai, Warwick Castle to Durban, SA. Always to specification, to time and on budget.

This deep experience is matched with an enduring passion to explore and develop new and innovative solutions that make the most of contemporary techniques and materials too. And so we were especially delighted to partner with Unusual to support our client Easyjet's exhibition stand that was recognised as the best sustainability initiative in 2020 by C&IT magazine for its highly sustainable as well as outstanding design.

Tony Evans Founder EGi Live







As Head of Licensing at BBC Worldwide and as UK Licensing Director at DreamWorks Animation, I have worked with the team at Unusual Expo for many years on a wide range of successful projects. Unusual Expo's imagination, flair for design, attention to detail, commercial skill and reliability make them an outstanding partner for live event projects of any size. and we have been consistently delighted with their work on such diverse projects as many Doctor Who exhibitions and attractions, a major DreamWorks Christmas character light show, theme park and stately home attractions, trade show stands and brand launch events.

Richard Hollis





Martin and his team brought the highly popular BBC Doctor Who exhibition to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester when I was the CFO.

They were a pleasure to deal with throughout the relationship, from initial planning to installation they showed great understanding of our gallery spaces and people movement. This expertise delivered the essential magic of making the exhibition truly engaging and very easy to promote to our existing and new audiences.

They were highly professional whilst retaining the ability to enjoy the process no matter what they had to adapt to whilst working at our site. They worked well with all members of our museum team, meeting our demanding timelines, budget constraints and commercial requirements.

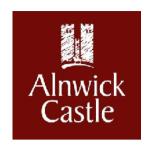
I am sure they will bring imagination to your project that will enhance the interpretation of this historic moment of national importance in an engaging and pertinent way.

I wish you every success.

Yours

Tony Hill (Former CEO MOSI)





We approached Martin's company with the task of upgrading our Dragon Quest attraction. They were able to introduce spectacular theming designs with state of the art technology in video projection, lighting and sound. The immersive experience is very popular with visitors, especially young families. The journey of working with them through to install was incredibly exciting as designs came to fruition. The creativity within the team makes working with Unusual Expo incredibly fun and their professionalism engaging.

Thanks,
James Boyd
Attractions Manager
Alnwick Castle











Reference: Unusual Expo - Martin Wilkie

I am delighted to act as a referee for Martin Wilkie who I have worked with on a number of projects since 2008, when we first met whilst I was General Manager of Nottingham Castle (Nottingham City Council) – Martin and his team producing "Robin Hood Up Close" with BBC Worldwide— the Castle's most successful exhibition ever.

Our relationship continued when I moved on to work for The National Trust and then the SS Robin Trust as I recognise and value the combination of creativity and practicality that Martin and his team provide. The content we have produced has been consistently well received by the public across differing user-groups and diverse audiences, and admired by those within the industry too. Partner organisations and stakeholders ranging from the Tolkein Society to Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust have always been pleased with results and commended our approach, with much credit given to Martin and his team's empathy of situations and content.

It could be said that the highlight of our working relationship was the Florence Nightingale Museum's "Spanish Flu – Nursing In the World's Deadliest Pandemic" exhibition which secured the 2019 Museum & Heritage Show's 'Best Temporary Exhibition Award', but I would also cite as a highlight the nature of our relationship which is based upon co-creation, respect of each-others challenges and opportunities, and strong budgetary awareness, attributes which have all provided the solid basis of our now longstanding relationship. It would also be fair to note Unusual Expo's contribution to our 'Best Retail' award in the same year, with our shop makeover helping to deliver an impactful start and finish to the museum's visitor experience, whilst seeing the image we created projected onto Parliament on Nightingale's Bicentenary/International Nurses Day, which was a unique opportunity entrusted to us, created many special memories and great pride.

As a former Visitor Services Manager of the Old Royal Naval College myself (2000 – 2002) I would be delighted to see what Martin and his team can produce at what I appreciate is a very special venue.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Kind regards,

David Green

Director – Florence Nightingale Museum



#### **OTHER PROVIDERS**









We undertake much of the creative and delivery process ourselves and always see a job in and finished and expect to be returning to snag and check that projects are running OK.

We still have an installation in Cheddar Caves up and running dating from 1989, an exhibition in Land's End installed in 2004 and many customers for temporary installations that are happy to come back and work with us again.

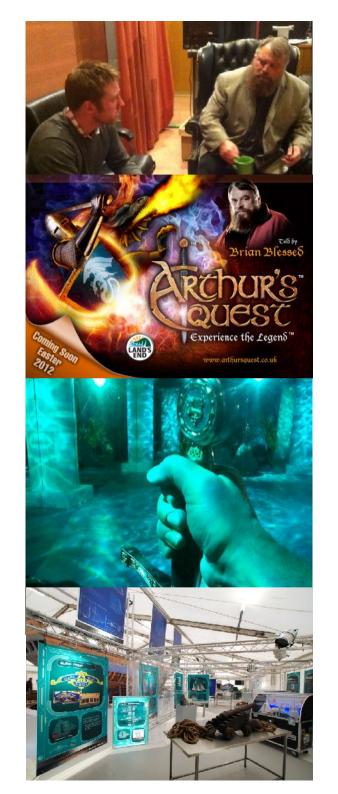
References later in this document.

We also have a solid base of known suppliers that we sub-contract build and technical elements to. We prefer to use trusted suppliers especially during these testing times but we are happy to work with BHMM approved suppliers.









#### **BIGGIN HILL - NATIONAL ICON**

Our experience in designing, creating and delivering projects has found us enjoying the process of bringing some of our other national icons to new audiences, whether real, mythical or just helping us to present the subjects.

Robin Hood - Nottingham Castle for the BBC with Keith Allen, Lucy Griffiths

Florence Nightingale 200 - Florence Nightingale Museum London

Doctor Who - UK Museums and Science Centre tour with David Tennant

King Arthur - Land's End with Brian Blessed

Shrek - Dreamworks Lights St. George's Hall Liverpool

World of Boats - Cardiff Bay with Dick Strawbridge

Dragon's Quest with Harry Hotspur - Alnwick Castle

Llywelyn Bren - Wales' forgotten hero, Cardiff Castle Black Tower Tales

Spanish Flu 100 years on - Florence Nightingale Museum

The Vyne's Tolkien Ring - NT The Vyne Basingstoke

BBC Coast - Cornwall and Isle of Wight with Dick Strawbridge

Alice in Wonderland - Southwark Park, Ripon & Cardiff

### **PREVIOUS EXAMPLES**



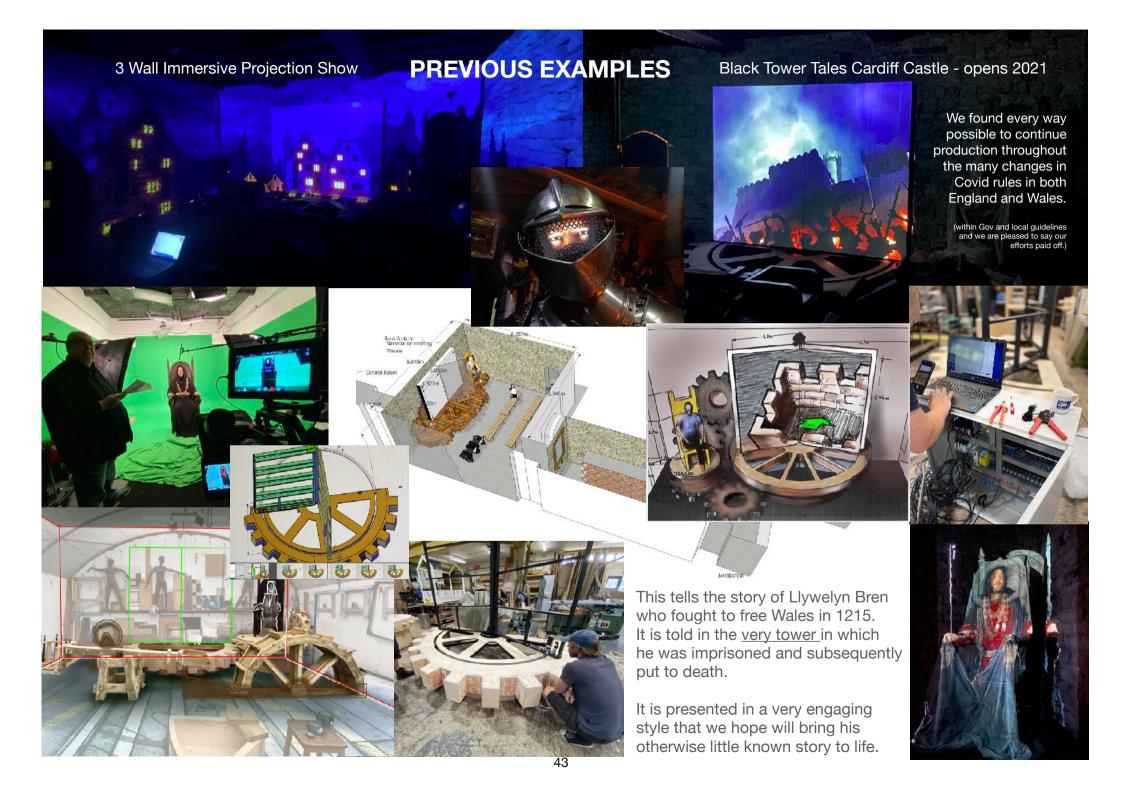
These three examples are **similar in footprint** to the Chapel Room

LEFT - Spanish Flu at the Florence Nightingale Museum where we mirrored the space and recreated a military field hospital tent, amongst other things. This brought almost double the normal footfall and an industry award for the museum.

BELOW - The Vyne Ring. A central display for this ancient treasure with dynamic graphics and displays arcing around it. This got the Vyne a front page banner headline in the Guardian and another 30K visitors that year.











Stu and Martin at another military museum



Andy pretending to work at Cardiff Castle



Simon juggling flamingos in Southwark Park

### THE TEAM

- There would be two designers heading up the project in terms of Design, Creation and Delivery.
- **Design Director Martin Wilkie** BA(hons) FRSA (1/2 hour away in Reigate)
- Production & Content Designer Stuart Wescombe BA(Hons) (1 hour away in Putney)
- Technical Andy Phillips
- Build & Logistics Simon Scott
- Accounts Rachel Owen-Jones

#### **THANKS**



We must thank your team for considering us for this project. We are very proud to be able to pitch our proposal to you, it's a fabulous story that we were not fully aware of.

We hope that we can help you to give the Women of WWII project the recognition it deserves. And in a manner befiting of the location.

Plus provide some fun for the kids. (both big and small)

Many thanks, we've all enjoyed it!

Martin, Stuart and the rest of the team.

Please also view the fly through video with outline layouts

#### **MEANWHILE.. DURING LOCKDOWN 1**

And last but not least . . . in June 2020, as Covid began to bite we teamed up with several of our regular suppliers to design and produce a simple but effective, anti-covid walk-through sanitising arch.

Hands, Face, Space, we thought: "What about all the bits in between?"

It has been very well recieved within the attractions and care home sectors.











Pictures % saniarch.co.uk

How does it work? Why choose SaniArch? Where Install, service and maintenance Purchase or hire FAQs

SaniArch

Already tested with over 22,800 users and counting. The SaniArch test programme is available for your Care Home or place of work. We are currently offering our SaniArch units out for industry testing in and around the South East.

★ 22,800

Archways to spray sanitising mist on visitors and staff trialed at Maidstone care home.