



AIM Biffa Award to support new exhibition at Biggin Hill Memorial Museum

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum is delighted to announce that they have secured £68,530 of funding from AIM Biffa Award History Makers, as part of the Landfill Communities Fund, which will fund a new exhibition to bring together material to showcase the acts of service and personal perspectives of ATA female officers and women who served in the WAAF, along with present-day voices and interpretation to help visitors critically engage with the role and legacy of these History Makers and inspire future generations.

Thanks to funding through the AIM Biffa Award History Makers programme, this new exhibition will explore the role of women during the Battle of Britain. The exhibition will explore the work of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) and the Women's Auxiliary Airforce (WAAF) at Biggin Hill. The exhibition will examine the roles and duties carried out, recognition and pay and perceptions of women during this time.

Women in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) played a critical role in Biggin Hill's operations during this period and this project gives a platform to their lesser-known stories.

This exciting project will bring these stories to life through film, interpretation, hands on learning, family engagement and through a VR experience.

Katie Edwards, Director Biggin Hill Memorial Museum said:

“Throughout this exhibition we have the opportunity to explore social expectation and stereotypes throughout history and as a museum, we have the opportunity to break down barriers through inspirational experiences.

This exhibition will allow us to delve into new stories to inspire young people with the lived experiences of women in WWII. It will provide an exciting opportunity for new programming and partnership opportunities. We will bring to life the stories of women such as Flt Off Elspeth Henderson MM, Sgt Joan Mortimer MM, and Sgt Helen Turner MM and other serving WAAF's at Biggin Hill and explore how their work shaped our future.”

Ann Galley, WAAF serving at RAF Biggin Hill during World War Two said:

“By sharing the personal stories of the people who comforted and touched people’s lives during the darkest of days we can understand and really connect with the past”.

Rachel Maidment, Biffa Award Grants Manager, said:

“It is a privilege to be able to fund this new exhibition at Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, exploring the vital role that women played during the Second World War. The AIM Biffa Award History Makers’ Programme is committed to helping tell the stories of some of our lesser known, but incredibly influential historical figures, like the courageous women who served during the Battle of Britain. We can’t wait to see the finished exhibition.”

The new exhibition will be launched in summer of 2022.

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Notes to Editors

About Biggin Hill Memorial Museum.

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum tells an international story and attracts both local communities and national and international visitors with a special interest in the site’s aviation and cultural heritage.

One of Britain’s oldest aerodromes, RAF Biggin Hill was described by Winston Churchill as the 'strongest link' in the Battle of Britain. In July 1940 two Squadrons 32 and 79 flew from RAF Biggin Hill to carry out coastal defence flights guarding shipping convoys around the southeast coastline. The airfield was a senior sector station guiding the defensive fighters based at four other airfields to protect London and the South-East from aerial attack and bore the heavy concentration of assaults by the German Luftwaffe. The station had endured ‘The Hardest Day’ on Sunday 18th August 1940, which was the hardest fought day of the Battle and took part in the battle on Sunday 15th September 1940, later known as the Battle of Britain Day. More than a thousand aircraft took part. RAF Biggin Hill sustained extensive attack during the Battle of Britain and in three weeks period was hit every day, sometimes twice a day. In October 1940 tactics changed from attacking airfields to focus on London and Biggin Hill went on to defend the southeast corner of England with success.

Biggin Hill Memorial Museum opened in 2019 with support and funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund and other charitable trusts.

The museum is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 5pm.

Ticket prices: Adults £5.75, Children under 16 £3.75, under 5's free

Website: bhmm.org.uk

Twitter: @BigginHillMMT

Facebook: @BigginHillMMT

Tik Tok: Biggin Hill Memorial Museum

Biffa Award:

Since 1997, Biffa Award has awarded grants totalling more than £180 million to thousands of worthwhile community and environmental projects across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The programme administers money donated by Biffa Group Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund. www.biffa-award.org

Landfill Communities Fund:

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is an innovative tax credit scheme enabling operators (LOs) to contribute money to organisations enrolled with ENTRUST as Environmental Bodies (EBs). EBs use this funding for a wide range of community and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill sites. LOs are able to claim a credit (currently 4.2%) against their landfill tax liability for 90% of the contributions they make. Since its inception in 1996, over £1.6 billion has been spent on more than 56,000 projects across the UK. For further information please visit www.entrust.org.uk or see HMRC's general guide to landfill tax.

AIM Biffa Award History Makers:

Through the Association of Independent Museums (AIM), Biffa Award gives grants to museums, galleries, and cultural facilities so that they can tell the stories of some of our lesser-known historical figures through the History Makers Scheme.

AIM is a national charitable organisation which helps independent and independently spirited museums, galleries and heritage sites prosper by connecting, supporting, and representing them.