



Press Release

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STOW MARIES GREAT WAR AERODROME UNVEILS EXHIBITION BY AWARD-WINNING MILITARY AND AVIATION ARTIST GRAHAM TURNER

Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome has opened a new art gallery space and is delighted to present an exhibition of work by leading aviation artist Graham Turner.

The exhibition features both original works and prints by the award-winning artist. Set in one of the Aerodrome's Grade II* listed buildings, constructed in 1916 for the Royal Flying Corps, it is only fitting that the exhibition focuses on scenes from the Great War.

Graham Turner is a Full Member of the Guild of Aviation Artists. He won the Cross and Cockade prize for the Best First World War Aviation Painting for his work *Steady Boy*, exploring the role of horses in the war. The same work won the Roy Nockolds Trophy (voted for by the public) and was runner up for both the Aviation Painting of the Year and Flypast Fellows Award for Excellence. Turner has also been presented with the Battlefields Trust Award for his work and support of the Trust.

The exhibition includes two original oils on canvas – *Replacements* and *Letter from Home*. *Replacements* shows a newly trained Royal Flying Corps pilot and observer arrive at their first posting, a front line BE2e reconnaissance squadron. *Letter from Home* is a poignant portrait of a young Royal Flying Corps pilot reflecting on memories of a distant, more peaceful life. Another original artwork, *Oops!*, is in gouache, showing a lucky pilot walking away unscathed from his Sopwith Camel after tipping it on to its nose on landing. In addition to the original works, the exhibition also includes a selection of framed prints of some of Turner's World War One paintings, including *Steady Boy*. Prints start from £135.

Ian Flint, Chief Executive Officer of Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, comments: "We have long been impressed with Graham Turner's work and are very pleased to have opened a dedicated space in which to show it. It is especially poignant to see paintings of young Royal Flying Corps flight crews displayed in RFC buildings that were the first line of defence against Zeppelins during the Great War -- a fitting tribute to their bravery."

The exhibition is open to visitors to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome; open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm. Adult admission £12, concessions £9, children 0-10 free. This includes a guided tour of our hangars of historic aircraft and all our exhibition spaces. Admission prices vary during events and the museum is closed on 4 September. Details and tickets for all upcoming events are at www.stowmaries.org.uk/events

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Please credit all images to the photographer/ SMGWA. For more information or additional photography contact comms@stowmaries.org.uk

Notes for editors:

- All proceeds from opening to the public and all events directly funds the ongoing work to preserve and protect Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome and support its battle for survival.
- The museum, situated between Chelmsford and Maldon in the Essex countryside, features the largest collection of Royal Flying Corps buildings in the world. It was the base of 37 (Home Defence) Squadron Royal Flying Corps, which was tasked to protect London from raids by German Zeppelin airships and Gotha heavy bombers.
- Essex County and Maldon District Councils led the acquisition of the site for the nation in 2013, following a generous grant from the Heritage Memorial Fund. It was placed in the care of Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, a registered charity.
- Today the museum, still an operational airfield, is supported and maintained by over 100 volunteers. It is open each Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4pm.