



Press Release

For Immediate Release – 28/09/2026

Light aircraft swoop into treasured local museum

Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome has enjoyed a lovely day of flying, as it threw open its doors to welcome pilots and aircraft from across the region.

The popular local heritage venue is the only remaining Great War period site built as an Air Station, untouched and still operating over 100 years later. While pilots flock to the site every weekend, twice per year the Arts Council England-accredited museum extends an invitation for aviators to visit to catch up with each other and the team on the ground.

Ian Flint, CEO of the museum, said:

"We love our pilots. We're always hugely grateful to them for their support and we like to show them that! On these fly-in days, we always attract some great aircraft and some long-standing flying supporters. It's a great chance for them to meet, share a coffee and discuss the flying season."

Dozens of aircraft took up the invitation, with flyers from as far afield as Hampshire making the trip. The aircraft ranged from classic 1930's De Havilland Tiger Moth to more modern Robins and Sports Cruisers – but all enjoyed a sunny blue sky, a warm welcome in the popular Airmen's Mess café and a lot of laughs with their fellow pilots.

One special visitor was Jasmine, 14, a budding Air Traffic Controller. Following a lot of planning with the museum, Jasmine was able to sit in with the Ground-to-Air radio team, chat to the North Weald Marshals team and get up close to a number of the aircraft.

Nigel Kemp, Air Traffic Controller, said:

"We always enjoy spending time encouraging young people who are interested in this exciting world. Jasmine had a great time and we were very happy to give her a taste for the work involved in becoming an Air Traffic Controller."

The Museum is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10am to 4pm. The new family-friendly pricing structure for 2026 means that children aged 0 to 10 are now free on all standard admission days, and prices for adults and concessions have been frozen.

For more information visit www.stowmaries.org.uk.

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Please credit all images to 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.