



# Press Release

For Immediate Release - 02/09/2025

## VINTAGE TRACTORS, LIVING HISTORY AND A TRIP TO THE ALLOTMENT MARK THE WW2 ROLE OF STOW MARIES GREAT WAR AERODROME

**Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome** turned the clocks back to World War Two at the weekend, for the second **Back to the WW2 Farm** event of the summer. Despite the changeable weather, visitors enjoyed living history, vintage farm machinery, historic military vehicles and some great family activities based around the wartime allotment – all helping to celebrate the site's role as a working farm during World War Two.

Visitors had a chance to chat with living historians presenting as members of the Women's Land Army, the Women's Volunteer Service and the County War Agricultural Executive Committee of Essex, as well as handle wartime weapons and equipment brought by Essex Historic Military Vehicle Association. Local historian and author Stephen Nunn spoke about the air crashes and battles that took place over the area in WW2, and on the Saturday, young visitors were able to harvest fruit and veg from the Museum's WW2 allotment, forage in the woods and try their hands at wartime baking.

The Aerodrome usually focuses on its fighting role in World War One, but the weekend's events recalled a time when the WW1 pilots and aircraft had left the site and it had reverted to its agricultural role as Flambirds Farm. It's latest exhibition, **Feeding the Nation: Fighting Without Flying**, tells the story of the struggle to feed the nation during wartime – an experience that was vividly brought to life over the weekend.

**Ian Flint, Chief Executive Officer of Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome**, comments: *"Our role at Stow changed dramatically between WW1 and WW2, and this weekend's events celebrated the vital role that we played as a farm, feeding the nation during a time of national crisis."*

The next event at Stow Maries will be the Large Model Air Show on Saturday 13 September, when the skies about the Aerodrome will be filled with amazingly detailed, radio-controlled aircraft. For more information and tickets visit [www.stowmaries.org.uk/events](http://www.stowmaries.org.uk/events).

Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome, Hackman's Lane, Purleigh CM3 6RN normally opens to the public every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm, and has a packed programme of events. For more information and bookings visit [www.stowmaries.org.uk](http://www.stowmaries.org.uk).

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For more information contact [comms@stowmaries.org.uk](mailto:comms@stowmaries.org.uk)

**Notes for editors:**

- 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
- Situated between Chelmsford and Maldon in the Essex countryside, the site hosts 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.
- More information about Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome can be found at [www.stowmaries.org.uk](http://www.stowmaries.org.uk)