

Western Approaches

Welcome to the Western Approaches November 2018 Newsletter



We're getting into the Christmas spirit with our free Christmas craft making 'Make Do & Mend' theme for the festive season. Visitors can have a go at making traditional Christmas crafts in the same way people did during and after the war, with paper angels, lanterns, paper chains and Christmas cards. We also have a unique specially designed letter to Father Christmas that children can colour and write on, and then bring to our post box in reception to receive a chocolate coin. Please note we will be closed from Saturday 22 December until Thursday 27 December for the Christmas break, and on 31 December and 1 January 2019.



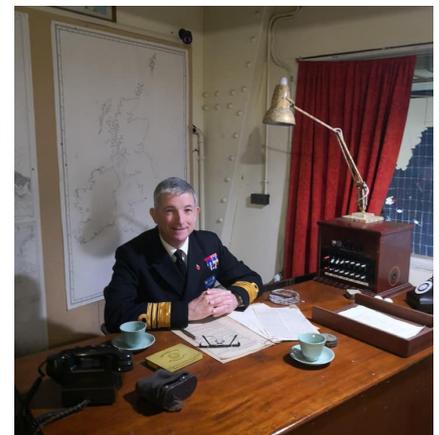
Home Front Heroes

Ex Brookside and Royle Family actress Sue Johnston came to the bunker to film a daytime BBC TV programme focusing on Home Front heroes. This commemorated the work hundreds of thousands of people did during the Second World War and aired in the week leading up to Remembrance Day. She was absolutely amazed by Western Approaches and even plotted some ships on the Operations Room wall. We've since had lots of visitors who say they loved the show and have been keen to see the bunker as a result.



Remembrance Sunday

Visitors took the chance to decorate pebbles in poppy designs to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Surgeon Commander Harry Rourke and some of the company of HMS Eaglet also laid a new wreath on our memorial for all those who lost their lives during the Battle of the Atlantic. Our Collections Officer Olivia Lyon-March joined the DEMS veterans, (Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships), for their annual Remembrance Day commemoration at the Pier Head. The plans for the bunker and make their own designs at our architects table or fashion kites from German banknotes as the children did during hyperinflation.



VIP event

We hosted an exclusive presentation evening with Vice Admiral Clive Johnstone, Commander of NATO's Allied Maritime Command who talked about the Atlantic 1939-45, Today and Tomorrow. His talk was an amazing insight to the challenges and operations of the modern Royal Navy. Around 60 guests enjoyed the event with drinks on arrival and a buffet dinner with all of them giving us some fantastic feedback



HISTFEST

Women, War and Disaster: 7 December
7pm – Tickets £12 can be booked online:
<https://histfest.com/collections/satellite>
Western Approaches Museum will be hosting an important panel event taking a broad look at the crucial role women have played in war and disaster. The event will be chaired by Emma Stringfellow (Director of Operations & Projects – Big Heritage) and panellists include: Dr Christienna Fryar (historian of slavery, unfree labour and disasters), Dr Emma Venables (Historical fiction writer/researcher of representations



Book now for an Escape Room Experience

Be one of the very first to take part in a truly unique Escape Room, which is located within the bunker, hidden beneath the streets of Liverpool. The room is within an area of the bunker which isn't normally open to the public and was originally the sleeping quarters of the staff who worked at the bunker during the war. To book go to <https://castlerockescapes.simplybook.it/v2/>

Bookings are now being taken online for December 9, 28 and Jan 6, 19, Feb 3, 16. The Escape should take approximately 45 minutes and prices are as follows: 2 players £32, 3 players £43, 4 players £55, 5 players £65, 6 players £72, (price does not include access to the wider museum, however a discounted entry ticket will be available).



Check out our wonderful WATU badges

If you're looking for that unique Christmas gift then why not treat a loved one to a traditional WATU (Western Approaches Tactical Unit) badge, for just £12.50. These are a faithful re-creation of the badge adopted by the incredible team of people who led the strategic fight against the U Boat threat. Based in Derby House they used the tactics developed in the Bunker to train Naval Officers and thus win the Battle of the Atlantic.