



June 2015

## History of Woodford's Airfield is shortly to Come Alive

In 2012, when the Nimrod project was scrapped and the airfield site sold for redevelopment, BAe undertook to create a heritage Museum on the site to recognise the contribution of A V Roe & Co and its descendant lineage. A V Roe, one of the oldest and most revered names in the British aircraft industry, was inextricably linked with Woodford Aerodrome from the early days. Avro aircraft made significant contributions to our defence in both World Wars. Indeed, from 1912 until the demise of the Nimrod in 2012, there was never a period in the history of the Royal Flying Corps / Royal Air Force when there was not at least one AVRO aeroplane type in service.



BAe have funded the conversion and extension of the Aerodrome fire station into a state-of-the-art Museum created by the Contractors, Conlon.

It features a main exhibition hall with displays around the walls tracing the AVRO development over its 100-year history from the original AVRO triplane to the current day. Volunteer staff are currently working hard installing exhibits in the hall.

Although Woodford has been responsible for a number of significant aircraft developments, such as the Anson, Lancaster and Nimrod, it is the Vulcan that will be the central attraction with the freshly painted Vulcan XM603 on static display adjacent to the museum building. In the main hall will be the nose cone and complete cockpit from Vulcan XM602, which visitors will be able to enter and have their photo taken.





Many local residents may not have been aware that for many years there was an Avro Heritage Centre on the Woodford site, which could be visited by special arrangement. This had been created by an enthusiastic band of current and ex-employees and also served as an archive of key documents and artefacts relating to Avro aircraft development prior to and during the company's occupation of the Woodford site.

Now these will have a purpose-built home for the future.

In addition to the public areas and exhibits, there will be five archive rooms housing the documentary history of Avro developments from its inception in 1905, including radical designs that didn't get off the drawing board or beyond prototype stage.



Stairs and a lift lead from the exhibition hall to the upper floor, which houses a cafeteria where refreshments will be available.

The AVRO Heritage Museum is scheduled to open in September, subject to all exhibits being in place. It will be open without prior appointment on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. Groups, such as schools, Probus or common interest groups, will be able to book tours on these days or during the week.

Watch out for the announcement of the opening date and advanced publicity during the summer.

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## **Your Vision for the Future of Woodford**

Woodford Neighbourhood Forum is organising an exhibition of its work to date in developing the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. Woodford Residents are urged to come along to view progress and comment. Residents from neighbouring communities are also welcome to view the exhibition.



The Exhibition will take place at Woodford Community Centre Small Hall on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June, 10am – 4pm.

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### **THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR**

Woodford Community Council would like to thank Jackson Barrett & Gass for renewing their sponsorship of the WCC website and Newsletter for a further year. Please see their details below.

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### **SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

It is vitally important to all the communities surrounding Woodford airfield that our views carry weight and that we can react promptly to changing events. For this, we need as many as possible to be signed up for the community newsletter. If a friend or an organization has forwarded this to you, please ensure that you continue to receive copies of all future newsflashes and newsletters by subscribing here.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter and newsflashes you can unsubscribe here.

Note: we respect your privacy and no information or data gathered from the online forms will be passed to any third party.

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