

AIR SHOW PLAYS ITS PART IN COMMEMORATING THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Crowds of flight fans will get the chance to join in the nationwide commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain at this year's Clacton Air Show.

This historic occasion will be marked both in the skies and on the ground at the event on August 26 and 27 which is expected to attract around 140,000 people.

Not only will the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) be on display above - but there will be an added attraction on the West Greensward in the form of Their Finest Hour (TFH) Events Unit.

The BBMF is the second confirmed signing for the air show which is organised by Tendring District Council (TDC) and follows hot on the tail of the Red Arrows.

It will be a nostalgic return for the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster – which always prove a huge draw – but more so than ever in this special year.

The modern BBMF evolved from very humble beginnings and has gone from being a loose collection of obsolete aircraft left hidden away in various hangars to caring for priceless assets of British aviation heritage with its own headquarters.

It was initially decided to form the collection to commemorate the RAF's major battle honour, the Battle of Britain, and latterly to commemorate the RAF's involvement in all the campaigns of World War Two.

Now the flight demonstrates the importance the RAF places on the aircraft, maintaining a link with our heritage and remembering the national debt owed to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Stephen Mayzes, TDC's Cabinet Member for Leisure, said he was delighted that the BBMF would be gracing the skies over Clacton again this year.

"They are some of the most popular aircraft we ever attract to the show and they will be performing on both days again," he said.

"To have them on board in 2010 is a great honour and it would not have been the same without them – especially as it is the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

"It will be a chance for all of us to pay tribute to the role played by the aircraft and those who flew them into conflict."

Their Finest Hour Events Unit has been put together especially for this summer and as part of the commemoration programme.

It consists of a ground display featuring a full-size replica Hurricane and will be staffed by 'pilots and WAAFS', as well as TFH personnel dressed in uniforms representing the era.

It will provide the crowds with great photographic opportunities either alongside - or actually in the cockpit itself.

The Battle of Britain Exhibition Bus will also be in attendance and contains information, artefacts, memorabilia and an audio-visual display.

On top of this there will be four unique TFH cars disguised as fighter aircraft for static display or mock dog fights.

There are still a limited number of opportunities for sponsorship and trade stands at this year's air show and anyone interested should contact Sarah Daniells, TDC's Tourism and Marketing Manager on 01255 686654.

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For further information on this press release contact Nigel Brown, Tendring District Council's Communications Manager on 01255 686338.