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exposure

Spring 2025

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Foreword

Hello and welcome to a new edition of exposure magazine. Please note this edition has be published a little later than usual to cover the conference which you can read about on page 04.

Just before publishing we have been contacted by the Royal British Legion who have allocated the NCCF/BNTVA 20 tickets to march in this years remembrance parade. If you wish to March in the parade please see details on p32. Please be aware of the eligibility for being able to march.

Important!
We need to inform you that contacting the NCCF/BNTVA Museum by phone has changed. The old number is no longer valid as Skype are no longer continuing the answermachine service. The new number and other contact details are all on p35.

The next magazine is due to be published in September where we hope to announce next years conference details.

Editor - Exposure

exposure

Spring 2024

The combined magazine for the nuclear community

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BNTVA
the Museum for Atomic Veterans

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British Nuclear Community Convention – May 2025

The British Nuclear Community Convention is presented by The Nuclear Community Charity Fund (NCCF). The convention aims to welcome and support the British nuclear community, including British nuclear test veterans and members of the wider Cold War community who share 'common bond'.

Key Event Presentations

Welcome Message: **Hon Life President NCCF – Jeffrey Liddiatt MBE. HonFBUL**

The Very Reverend Nicholas Frayling

The Nuclear Community Chaplain addressed the convention with a message of remembrance and a lesson for the future:
'Keep telling the story'.

NCCF Chairman – Ian Hall

The Chairman delivered updates on meetings with the OVA and Minister for Veterans and People. The Arrangements for NAVAD 2025 at the NMA. Presence at the Cenotaph for Remembrance Sunday. Funeral Drape Service availability and the importance of reunions and conventions.

NCCF Treasurer – William Long

Will gave an update on the state of the investments used to provide Care Wellbeing and Inclusion support to the community. Confirmation that the charity is meeting all its financial and operational responsibilities and is a viable organisation looking to continue grant support to members of our community.

Community Care Check Outreach Facilitator – Ian Higginbottom

Detailed numbers of beneficiaries contacted, relationships forged and support grants given. Outlined possible future provision at the national level, working with the OVA Valour project.

BNTVA Museum CIC – Nigel Heaps & Wesley Perriman

Nigel spoke about the creation and future showings of the HMS Campania exhibition; He also touched on the ongoing 'Atomic Airfields' project. Wesley Perriman described the actions involved in accepting and curating items donated to the museum, including letters, pictures, Coconuts, Equipment and Uniforms.

Exposure Magazine – Steve Bexon

The Editor gave an overview of the magazine and thanked people for all their contributions.

Operation Fallout – Stuart Brennan & Jamie Sefton

A presentation was given on developing Jamie's one-man show 'A Thousand Sons' into a cinema feature.

An Oral History of British Nuclear Test Veterans – Dr Chris Hills and Dr John Hogg

Gave an update on the progress of the oral history project of British Nuclear Test Veterans in partnership with the Office for Veterans' Affairs, University of South Wales, University of Liverpool, and the British Library. They also previewed a very professional and emotional film created within the project.

Cold War Military Vehicles – Steve Parker & Alan Rawsterne

Both spoke about restoring and operating their vehicles as well as displaying their vehicles in the grounds of the hotel.

Presentation of Honorific Appointments

John Baron CBE and Julie Whittaker were both made honorary Fellows of the NCCF for their individual contributions to the British Nuclear Survivor communities and the operation of the NCCF.

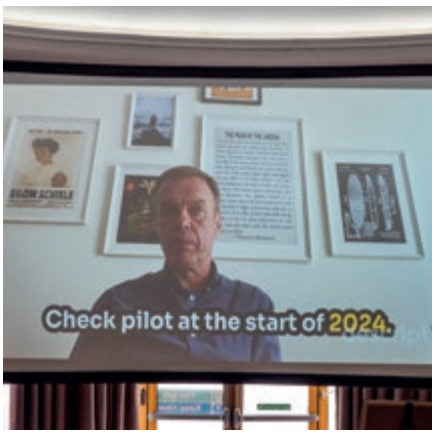
Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA) – Al Carns

Al Cairns Minister for Veterans and People addressed the veterans and their families recognising the work of the NCCF and welcoming continued collaboration.

All Photographs - Steve Bexon / BH Associates

NCCF Chaplain - Nicholas Frayling

NCCF Treasurer - Will Long



Community Care Check Outreach Facilitator - Ian Higginbottom

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An Oral History of British Nuclear Test Veterans - Dr Chris Hills and Dr John Hogg

Cold War Military Vehicles - Alan Rawsterne

Cold War Military Vehicles - Steve Parker

Royal Signals Museum - Ryan Ellis

CHRC Brunel University - Dr Rhona Anderson

Cold War Conversations - Ian Sanders

Dover Castle and the Cold War - Dr Kathryn Bedford (English Heritage)

Royal Signals Museum - Ryan Ellis

Ryan gave an interesting presentation on the Royal Signals Museum focusing on the part played and the methods used to securely communicate the British Nuclear Test results direct from the test site around the world to Whitehall within 6 minutes.

CHRC Brunel University - Dr Rhona Anderson

Rhona updated the meeting on the final stages of the research evaluation at the CHRC, a summary of which will be subsequently published in exposure magazine.

Cold War Conversations - Ian Sanders

Ian gave a fascinating insight into his role as the man behind the Cold War Conversation podcast, an award-winning oral history project preserving the stories of the Cold War before they are lost. He played some of the most poignant excerpts from recent years.

Dover Castle and the Cold War - Dr Kathryn Bedford (English Heritage)

Kathryn delivered an entertaining and informative talk of the history of Dover Castle with emphasis on its role in the Cold War and they physical legacy that remains.

Cold War Network - Dr Peter Robinson

Peter updated the convention on the developments with the evolution of the Cold War Network, which has grown from a series of meetings since our last convention into a Community Interest Company, with both a board of Directors and an advisory board delivering the inaugural Cold War Heritage Week, and building for the future with a collaborative platform dedicated to preserving, exploring, and promoting the heritage of the Cold War era.

Cold War Network - Dr Peter Robinson

Bringing together academics, heritage professionals, site managers, museums, researchers, and enthusiasts, the Network supports knowledge sharing, community engagement, and public education around one of the most significant periods of the 20th century.

NCCF Hon. Life President Jeffrey Liddiatt MBE. HonFBUL

NCCF Chairman Ian Hall

NCCF Hon. Life President Jeffrey Liddiatt MBE. HonFBUL. Opened the event.

"A very warm welcome to you all to this, the 2nd NCCF convention. It's good to know you are gathered here once again. A particularly special welcome is extended to our distinguished guests, John Baron and his wife, Thalia and Julie Whittaker.

We are also profoundly grateful for the contributions of all our speakers and guests today. I'm disappointed that family commitments and my current health prevent me from being with you in person once again; I shall be with you in all spirit.

I'm delighted to report that the past year has been another period of significant progress for the NCCF. We've seen an encouraging increase in claimants, and we have seen many receive support through the Care and Wellbeing Fund, which is making tangible differences in all their lives.

Furthermore, our outreach program has continued to forge closer connections with our community as we approach the end of the initial phase. We can reflect on the bonds created and the increase in befriending.

Under the dedicated chairmanship of Ian Hall, the NCCF continues on the path of growth and strength, ensuring we can better serve our care and wellbeing issues.

I wish you all an interesting and productive convention, and look forward to hearing about the day's successes."

NCCF Chairman Highlights Key Initiatives and Future Vision at Annual Convention

A strong sense of community and unwavering support for nuclear test veterans and their families resonated through the hall as the Chairman of the Nuclear Community Charity Fund (NCCF) addressed attendees at this year's convention. The presentation proudly highlighted the significant achievements of the NCCF, reassuring the audience of its proactive approach and exciting organisational plans.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman warmly welcomed both familiar faces and new attendees, emphasising the importance of these gatherings. A key highlight was a "very productive meeting" held with Al Carns, the Minister for Veterans and People. The Chairman reported that discussions centred on the vital work of the NCCF, its dedication to beneficiaries, and strategies to enhance further the support provided. "It was an encouraging discussion, and we are optimistic about continued collaboration to serve our community effectively," he stated, noting that the Minister himself would be addressing the convention later in the day.

A poignant moment in the address was the acknowledgement of National Atomic Veterans Awareness Day (NAVAD). Described as a day for "reflection, remembrance, and raising awareness of the unique sacrifices made by our nuclear test veterans," the Chairman reiterated the NCCF's commitment to ensuring these stories are heard and their legacy preserved. He invited the community to join in commemorating NAVAD 2025 at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) in October.
Looking ahead, the Chairman confirmed the NCCF's continued participation in the national Remembrance Sunday service at the Cenotaph in November. "It is a profound honour for our community to participate," he said, announcing that the NCCF would again be organising attendance. Members interested in participating were advised to watch for upcoming announcements on how to register.

An update was also provided on the Funeral Drape Service, a poignant offering from the NCCF. The Chairman announced that new drapes have been made, and the NCCF will manage their distribution. He acknowledged with a "heavy heart" the frequency with which these drapes are requested, underscoring the service as a "profound way for us to offer a tangible mark of honour for those who have served."

Picture courtesy of the family of Terry Brown (Ex RAF)

NCCF Coffin Drape Service

John Baron CBE presented with Honorary Fellowship of the NCCF

Attendees eagerly awaiting news on the latest edition of the NCCF Magazine were assured that the Chairman's colleague, Steve, would provide a full update later in the day.
The Chairman concluded by emphasising the critical role of Reunions and Conventions. "These events are the lifeblood of our community," he declared. "They provide invaluable opportunities to connect, share experiences, support one another, and forge lasting friendships." He reaffirmed the NCCF's dedication to supporting and facilitating these gatherings. He welcomed suggestions for making them "even better and more inclusive."

In closing, the Chairman reiterated the NCCF's unwavering dedication: "The Nuclear Community Charity Fund is dedicated to serving our veterans and their families. The initiatives I've outlined today and our ongoing dialogue with governmental bodies are just a part of our unwavering commitment. With your continued support, we can ensure that the legacy of our nuclear test veterans is honoured, their welfare is supported, and their community thrives."

The presentation gave attendees a clear sense of the NCCF's active engagement on multiple fronts, its commitment to honouring the past, and its proactive approach to supporting the nuclear veteran community now and in the future.

Nuclear Community Charity Fund Honours Stalwarts John Baron CBE and Julie Whittaker with Honorary Fellowships

The Nuclear Community Charity Fund (NCCF) has bestowed prestigious honorary fellowships upon two long-standing champions of the community: former Member of Parliament for Basildon and Billericay John Baron CBE and Julie Whittaker, the retired Centre Manager for the CHRC at Brunel University London. This distinguished recognition celebrates their selfless and unwavering commitment to the representation and welfare of those affected by the UK's nuclear testing programme.

For years, both John Baron CBE and Julie Whittaker have been instrumental figures, working tirelessly to ensure the voices of nuclear test survivors are heard and that they receive the support and recognition they profoundly deserve.

John Baron CBE: A Tireless Advocate in Westminster
John Baron CBE, Member of Parliament from 2001 to 2024, has been a formidable parliamentary advocate for the nuclear veteran community. As the long-standing Patron of the British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association (BNTVA) and subsequently the first Patron of the NCCF from 2018.

Mr Baron was a driving force behind the campaign for official governmental recognition of the veterans' service.

His persistent efforts were pivotal in securing this recognition, which consequently led to the establishment of the £25 million Aged Veterans Fund. This fund has been crucial in providing tangible support to many veterans and their descendants, with the NCCF playing a key role in administering a significant portion of these resources. Colleagues and community members alike have lauded Mr Baron for his unwavering dedication, often highlighting that without his significant contributions, the progress made in veteran welfare and recognition, including the very existence of the NCCF as a potent force for good, might not have been possible.

Julie Whittaker: A Pillar of Support at the CHRC
In her capacity as Centre Manager for the CHRC at Brunel University London, Julie Whittaker has made invaluable contributions to facilitating the research and understanding of the health and wellbeing of nuclear test survivors and their families. The CHRC, significantly funded by the NCCF, undertook vital multi-disciplinary research into the potential health effects of radiological and chemical exposures.

Julie Whittaker presented with Honorary Fellowship of the NCCF

Julie joined the CHRC in September 2017 and was instrumental in its operational management, supporting crucial research programmes and ensuring a positive environment for both researchers and the veteran community engaging with the Centre. Her dedication behind the scenes has been vital to the CHRC's mission to act as a national knowledge hub, disseminate evidence-based information, and ultimately enhance the care and wellbeing of the nuclear community. Researchers and students at Brunel University have acknowledged her work for its importance in enabling the CHRC's function.

A Legacy of Selfless Contribution
In a statement on behalf of the NCCF delivered by Nigel Heaps MBE, Nigel said he was honoured to be allowed to talk about both John and Julie. He enjoyed close working relationships with both parties and heartily confirmed the appropriateness of their Fellowship. Presenting their Fellowship certificates, Chairman Ian Hall praised both recipients for their profound impact.

> The decision to bestow honorary fellowships upon John Baron CBE, and Julie Whittaker was natural given their selfless dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment have brought about meaningful change and provided solace and support to countless individuals within our British Nuclear Test Survivor Community. They are true friends and champions of our cause, and we are delighted to honour them in this way.
>
> **Chairman Ian Hall**

The NCCF continues its vital work in supporting and developing research, providing care and wellbeing initiatives, and ensuring the inclusion of British nuclear test survivors, their spouses, and subsequent generations. The contributions of individuals like John Baron CBE and Julie Whittaker serve as an inspiration and a reminder of the profound difference dedicated service can make to a community that has long sought recognition and support. Their honorary fellowships stand as a testament to their enduring legacy.

An Oral History of British Nuclear Test Veterans Project - Letter from Chris and Jon

Hi, Jon and I wanted to write to send our thanks for putting on yet another fantastic convention. The event was enjoyable and full of positive energy. Thanks once again for your generosity!

As you know, Jon and I are focused on bringing the oral history project to a successful conclusion, as well as thinking about how we can build on it as a future community resource. We will be in touch again soon with more information about the 12th September British Library event. We're going to try to secure additional funding for travel grants for veterans and their families to attend. We want to give the veterans every opportunity to enjoy the launch of the archive, film and web resources.

Finally, we'd be very grateful if convention attendees could complete our feedback questionnaire.. It allows delegates, veterans and their family members to provide feedback on the film, which will help with our impact analysis.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6M08shJVli8z1HVPndqaWxLzNYaNtq6auKke1OPjFXCVrsA/viewform

Many thanks for all your support. It really does mean a lot.
Best wishes, Chris and Jon

Engines of History: When Cold War Steel Meets a Shared Past

There is a unique magic that occurs when the rumbling engines of Cold War military vehicles meet the individuals whose lives were shaped by that era.

For the past two years, I have had the distinct privilege of connecting with the dedicated people who meticulously restore these titans of steel, each representing a tangible piece of our recent history. The common thread among them is the Cold War – a time of tension and technological advancement but also profound human experience.

My work connects two essential organisations that share a common purpose. One is a museum dedicated to preserving the legacy of the British Nuclear Test Programme, including the stories and heritage of the test veterans. The other is a charity that tirelessly provides care, well-being, and inclusion grants to these nuclear test veterans and their families.

Bringing the impressive ex-military vehicles from the Cold War to events hosted by these organisations has been profoundly transformative. This experience not only educates and inspires but also creates unexpected connections among our community members and vehicle owners alike.

Imagine the scene: a child, eyes wide with awe, stares up at a massive military vehicle—something so grand and undeniably real that it feels as if it were taken straight from a movie set.

For the child, it's pure wonder. For the adult guests, there's often a wave of nostalgia, a rekindled familiarity as they remember convoys of these very vehicles once traveling along our motorways. However, for the veterans, the impact is even more profound. As they stand beside these machines, the years seem to fade away. The distinct sights, unmistakable sounds, and even the faint lingering smells of oil and canvas can transport them back in time, reviving memories of youth, service, and camaraderie. These moments are powerful, fostering a deep connection between the guests and the vehicle owners, united by a shared history.

I have seen it on many occasions: a military vehicle owner, initially a quiet enthusiast, suddenly becomes animated, their face glowing with excitement as they share stories and insights. The countless hours spent tinkering in a workshop and meticulously restoring every detail culminate in rewarding human connections, transforming a personal passion into a shared, nostalgic journey.

The effect is electrifying. Hidden interests are awakened, and new passions emerge. It's not merely a display; it's a dynamic interaction that shifts perspectives and enhances understanding.

If you are an event organiser with a Cold War theme or a proud owner of a military vehicle from this significant period, I encourage you to reach out and get involved. Look for opportunities to showcase these remarkable vehicles at your location or event. Think about how you can incorporate them into the visitor experience, allowing for genuine interaction between attendees and the vehicles, as well as their passionate owners. In exchange, these owners will have the chance to engage with your unique piece of Cold War heritage, creating a mutually beneficial experience. Let's work together to bring history to life!

Nigel Heaps MBE

Let's work together to bring history to life!

The MVT can be contacted at:

Website: **www.mvt.org.uk/**
email: **info@mvt.org**

or write to:
The Military Vehicle Trust
PO Box 1712
Northampton
NN2 1LQ

All Photographs - Steve Bexon / BH Associates

Alan Rawsterne the owner of the Austin Champ speaks to Veteran driver of the Champ

NMA Remembrance Visit

On the Sunday morning a complementary coach trip was provided to visit the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas. The Very Reverend Nicholas Frayling conducted the act of remembrance at the memorial.

Barabas Attila / Adobe Stock

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The Nuclear Community Charity Fund

Making that difference

NCCF Holds Meeting with Veterans Minister to Advance Community Care Initiative

17 December 2024 – Representatives from the Nuclear Community Charity Fund (NCCF) met with Al Carns MP, the Minister for Veterans and People, to discuss the progress of the Community Care Check pilot project – an innovative support scheme delivered by the charity with funding from the Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA).

A Collaborative Step Forward

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Defence in London, focused on the early successes and future delivery of the pilot programme, which has been instrumental in providing tailored welfare checks for nuclear veterans and their families. Since its launch in September 2023, the initiative has helped hundreds of beneficiaries, offering personalised support in accessibility, daily living adaptations, healthcare access, and wellbeing measures.

NCCF Chair Ian Hall praised the Minister's engagement, stating: "Today's discussion reaffirmed the government's commitment to our nuclear veterans. The Community Care Check pilot proves how targeted, compassionate support can make a real difference – We strive to ensure no one in this community is left behind."

Key Outcomes from the Meeting

- **Progress Review:** The NCCF presented regular feedback on the CCC pilot progress and, at the meeting, was able to add personal context to the feedback data. Ian Higginbottom, CCC Pilot Outreach Facilitator, detailed specific stories and testimonials from beneficiaries he has been working with under the project. This provided a more human perspective on the project's impact, evidencing improved outreach to elderly veterans and their family members.
- **Future Funding:** Discussions explored long-term funding options to extend and develop the pilot beyond its initial phase. These options included potential partnerships with other charities, developing additional grant funding from within the third sector and securing private donations. The goal is to secure a sustainable funding model to support the project's expansion and ensure its continuity.
- **Policy Influence:** The Minister acknowledged the need for continued communication between his office and NCCF to shape future veterans' policies.

Minister for Veterans and People, Al Carns

"The work being done by charities like the Nuclear Community Charity Fund is essential in understanding the unique needs of our veterans. The government-funded Community Care Check pilot is a crucial step in helping those who have served our country receive the support they deserve.

I am looking forward to seeing how the NCCF build upon the project's success and create lasting positive change."

Next Steps

The NCCF's next steps are crucial in the evolution of the project. The final impact report, to be presented by Autumn 2025, will outline the project's proposed expansion across the entire NCCF beneficiary pool to deliver permanent programme status. Plans are also underway to increase outreach activity with other charities and introduce digital support tools for those working with harder-to-reach veterans. These steps are vital in ensuring the project's continued success and the well-being of our veterans.

Why This Matters

The UK's nuclear test veterans – many now in their 80s and 90s – alongside their family members, face unique challenges. Projects like the Community Care Check pilot are critical to addressing gaps in care and recognition. This meeting marked a positive step in securing their legacy.

Alistair Carns ©House of Commons/Laurie Noble - https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/

Membership Data Review

Why the Nuclear Community Charity Fund Needs a Check-Up

Ensuring our efforts reach those who need them most.

The Nuclear Community Charity Fund (NCCF) has been a lifeline for countless individuals and families affected by the British Nuclear Testing Programme. From supporting those facing health challenges to providing educational grants and community initiatives, the NCCF has made a tangible difference in the lives of many. However, as the charity grows and evolves, so must its data management practices.

The Challenge of Data Accuracy

Like any organisation dealing with personal information, the NCCF faces the ongoing challenge of maintaining accurate and complete data. Outdated contact details, missing records, and incomplete beneficiary information can hinder the charity's ability to deliver timely and practical support.

Imagine a scenario where a beneficiary facing a health crisis has moved house, but their contact details haven't been updated. This could lead to delays in receiving crucial assistance. Similarly, incomplete information about a beneficiary's needs might result in them missing out on relevant programs and support services.

The Importance of a Data Review

A comprehensive review of the NCCF's data is essential to ensure that:

- **Beneficiaries receive the right support at the right time**
  Accurate data allows the NCCF to identify and respond to each beneficiary's specific needs, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively.
- **Funds are utilised efficiently**
  By eliminating duplicate records and outdated information, the NCCF can streamline its operations and maximise the impact of its charitable funds.
- **The charity maintains its reputation for trustworthiness**
  Demonstrating a commitment to data accuracy and transparency builds trust among beneficiaries, donors, and the wider community.

Taking Action

The NCCF is taking proactive steps to address this challenge. The charity is currently undertaking a comprehensive data review, which includes:

- **Contacting beneficiaries to verify and update information**
  This might involve sending out surveys, making phone calls, or organising community events.
- **Implementing data cleansing procedures**
  This involves identifying and correcting errors, removing duplicates, and standardising data formats.

Bluebay / Shutterstock

The Call to Action

The NCCF's data review is not just an administrative task; it's an investment in the future of the charity and the people it serves. By ensuring its data is accurate and complete, the NCCF can continue to provide vital support to those who need it most, now and in the years to come.

How you can help

- If you are a beneficiary of the NCCF, please take a moment to review and update your contact details and personal information; This can be found in the address details of the envelope this magazine arrived in.

- Spread the word about the importance of data accuracy and encourage others to support the NCCF's efforts.

Together, we can ensure that the NCCF remains a beacon organisation for our Nuclear Test Survivor Community.

Applying for Assistance from the Nuclear Community Charity Fund's Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund

1. Introduction to the Nuclear Community Charity Fund and the Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund

The Nuclear Community Charity Fund (NCCF) stands as a dedicated organisation committed to supporting the veterans and descendants of the British Nuclear Tests. Established in 2017, the NCCF emerged from funds secured from Libor fines, initially under the purview of the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association (BNTVA) before evolving into an independent Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The core mission of the NCCF encompasses two vital areas: funding research into the multifaceted social and health challenges encountered by the nuclear community, and delivering direct support through its Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund.[1] The creation of the NCCF using monies raised by the Libor fines through successful bids by the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association underscores its specific and dedicated purpose in addressing the unique needs of this community. This historical context assures potential applicants of the fund's legitimacy and its unwavering focus on those affected by the British Nuclear Tests.

At the heart of the NCCF's support lies the Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund (CWI Fund), a cornerstone activity designed to make a tangible difference in the lives of its beneficiaries.

The fundamental aim of the CWI Fund is to alleviate suffering and enhance the overall well-being of the British Nuclear Survivor Community by providing essential goods and services that fall outside the scope of state-provided assistance. By directly addressing the community's specific health and well-being challenges, the fund plays a crucial role in improving the quality of life for veterans and their families. The explicit emphasis on addressing needs "not provided by the State" is a key differentiator of the CWI Fund.

This clear articulation helps prospective applicants understand that the fund is a supplementary resource, intended to bridge gaps in existing statutory services rather than replace them. This understanding is essential for managing expectations and ensuring that applications align with the fund's intended purpose.

2. Who is Eligible to Apply?

The Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund supports various British Nuclear Survivor Community individuals. Primarily, the fund is available to residents of the United Kingdom. The eligibility criteria are designed to encompass those most directly affected by the nuclear tests and their subsequent generations. Specifically, the fund welcomes applications from: veterans of the British Nuclear Test Programme, the spouses of these veterans, their children (who are post-test offspring), as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all following generations.

This wide-ranging eligibility highlights the enduring impact of the nuclear tests and the NCCF's commitment to supporting multiple generations of affected families. This recognition of the long-term consequences underscores the fund's dedication to addressing the ongoing needs of the nuclear community.

While the connection to the British Nuclear Tests is paramount, there are also key requirements that each application must meet. Firstly, applicants must demonstrate how the specific support they are requesting will contribute to a reduction in their suffering and an increase in their overall well-being. This criterion emphasises the charitable purpose of the fund. It requires applicants to articulate a direct link between their need and the positive impact the requested assistance will have on their lives. Secondly, applicants should not have the financial means to afford the requested support easily. This implies a consideration of the applicant's financial circumstances to ensure that the fund's resources are directed to those in genuine need. This aspect is often called a "wealth question," where the NCCF assesses an applicant's free savings against government-set levels for receiving benefits, which are £6,000 or £10,000 for those receiving a pension. These requirements ensure that the fund operates in alignment with its charitable objectives, assisting those who are both eligible and in demonstrable need of support to improve their quality of life.

3. What Kind of Help Can You Receive?

The assistance provided by the Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund is primarily in the form of goods, services, and therapies, rather than direct cash grants. This approach ensures that the funds are directly used for the support and well-being of the beneficiaries. The NCCF manages the process by directly paying the relevant contractors and suppliers for the approved goods and services. This method ensures the support provided directly addresses the applicant's needs.

The types of assistance available through the CWI Fund are diverse and aim to address a wide range of needs within the nuclear community. Some examples of the support provided include: adaptations to homes such as the installation of wet-rooms to improve accessibility and safety; the provision of stair-lifts and other mobility aids to help individuals navigate their homes more easily; respite care breaks for veterans or their carers, offering much-needed relief; profiling beds designed for comfort and to assist individuals with specific health conditions; mobility scooters to enhance independence and enable greater freedom of movement; and rise and recline chairs that aid individuals with sitting down and standing up. Furthermore, the fund can facilitate access to Occupational Therapist Assessments to accurately identify an individual's needs and recommend interventions and counselling services to address mental wellbeing. It is important to note that the fund addresses issues not typically covered by public or social services. Eligible members of the nuclear community, encompassing all nuclear test veterans, their spouses, and all their offspring, can apply for any goods or services that would enhance their health or well-being.

While the fund offers significant support, there are certain limitations to be aware of. The NCCF will not provide reimbursements or services a beneficiary may have incurred before receiving a formal "Offer of Support" from the charity. Additionally, the fund generally does not accept repeat applications from the same beneficiary within 18 months, unless there has been a significant and dramatic change in their circumstances, which must be supported by evidence for consideration. Any requests for further funding beyond an initial grant require the submission of a completely new proposal. Finally, it is essential to note that the fund will not increase the grant amount to cover any overspending or liabilities that may arise at the conclusion of a project or provision of services, especially if the overspending exceeds 5% of the initially agreed grant provision. These limitations are in place to ensure the fund can effectively support a broader range of beneficiaries and operate within its resources.

4. How to Apply: The Application Process Explained

Applying for assistance from the Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund involves a structured process designed to ensure that applications are thoroughly considered and that the support provided meets the needs of eligible individuals.

The first step in the application process is identifying specific goods or services. Where the applicant is unsure about the most appropriate support, the NCCF strongly recommends seeking advice from a qualified Occupational Therapist. A valuable resource in this initial stage is the "AskSara" tool provided by the Disabled Living Foundation. This award-winning tool allows individuals to explore various areas of their living situation and identify equipment that could make daily life easier.

By working through the relevant sections, applicants can generate a report detailing potential solutions. This report can then be emailed to the NCCF at **office@thenccf.org**. When emailing the report, including the applicant's name, email address, and physical address in the comment box is crucial to allow the NCCF to match the report with their application. Alternatively, the report can be printed and mailed with the application form. Applicants can complete multiple "AskSara" reports for different areas of need. Furthermore, the report links recommended living aids and their suppliers, which can be helpful when completing the application form. For those who believe they would benefit from a professional "in-home" Independent Living Assessment, this can be requested by proceeding to Step Two, completing the Application Form, detailing their health issues, and writing "ILA request" in the Additional Information box

The second step is to complete the official Application Form. This form can be accessed on the NCCF website. Applicants are advised to complete all sections of the form as thoroughly and accurately as possible. If any questions or difficulties arise while filling out the form, assistance is available by emailing **office@thenccf.org**. Providing a valid email address is highly recommended, allowing the NCCF to quickly resolve any queries or request clarifications. When applying for multiple items or services, all requests should be combined on a single application form, as there is no upper limit to the number of items that can be requested.

The third step involves gathering and submitting supporting documentation. It is essential to include copies of any leers that support the application, mainly leers from doctors, care providers, or other relevant healthcare professionals who can attest to the applicant's needs.

Additionally, applicants must forward copies of two separate documents as proof of identity and current address, such as a recent utility bill or a leer from Social Services or the local Council. The final step is submitting the completed application form and supporting documentation. These materials should be sent by post to the following address:

NCCF Care
PO BOX 8244
Castle Donington
DE74 2BY

Alternatively, applicants can contact the NCCF by telephone at:
07884 187 800
or email **office@thenccf.org.**
Once the application is received, the NCCF will process it. Applicants can expect a decision from the Grant Panel within 14 days, with urgent cases often being addressed even more quickly.

5. Understanding How Your Application is Assessed

The Nuclear Community Charity Fund employs a thorough and impartial process to assess each Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund application. All applications are anonymised to ensure fairness and objectivity before being presented to the Grant Panel. This crucial step removes any identifying information about the applicant, allowing the panel to decide solely based on the evidence provided within the application itself.

The Grant Panel carefully considers each application on its individual merits. A primary consideration for the panel is whether the requested support will genuinely reduce the applicant's suffering and improve overall wellbeing. Applicants must clearly articulate this connection in their application. Another significant factor in the assessment process is the applicant's financial situation and ability to afford the requested support.

As mentioned earlier, this involves a "wealth question" where the panel considers the applicant's free savings in relation to government benefit thresholds. The panel also ensures that the requested support aligns with the charitable objectives of the fund and will be used for appropriate purposes

The Grant Panel may reach one of several outcomes based on its assessment. Sometimes, they may issue an 'in principle' decision, indicating that the application can proceed if certain conditions are met. It is important to reiterate that the NCCF does not provide cash grants directly to applicants. Instead, if an application is approved, the NCCF will directly purchase the necessary goods, services, or therapies on behalf of the applicant. This ensures that the funds are used precisely to support the health and well-being of the nuclear community.

6. Tips for Making a Strong Application

Potential applicants can take several key steps to increase the likelihood of a successful application to the Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund. Firstly, it is crucial to provide comprehensive information in the application form. Ensure that all sections are filled out completely and accurately. Clearly explain how the specific goods or services you request will reduce your suffering and enhance your well-being. Be specific about your health issues and how the requested support will address these challenges. The more detailed and clear your explanation, the beer the Grant Panel will understand your needs and the potential impact of the support.

Secondly, including strong supporting evidence is essential. Attach copies of any letters from doctors, care providers, or other relevant professionals who can corroborate your needs and support your application.

Remember to include the required copies of your proof of identity and address. If you have utilised the "AskSara" tool, ensure the generated report and your application details are submitted. This objective evidence can significantly strengthen your case.

Thirdly, be transparent and clear about your financial situation. Answer all questions related to your ability to afford the requested support honestly, considering the criteria of the "wealth question." Accurate information will help the NCCF assess your eligibility based on genuine need.

Finally, do not hesitate to seek assistance if you encounter any difficulties or have questions about the application process. You can contact the NCCF directly via email or phone for guidance. Additionally, members of the BNTVA can also reach out to them for assistance with completing the application form, and they may even benefit from a fast-tracked application process8 Utilizing these resources can help ensure that your application is complete and accurately reflects your needs.

7. How the NCCF Ensures Fair and Effective Support

The Nuclear Community Charity Fund is committed to ensuring that the Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund provides fair and practical support to all eligible British Nuclear Survivor Community members. The NCCF has established several key processes and principles to achieve this.

A dedicated Grant Panel carefully reviews all applications. To mitigate any potential bias, the NCCF implements measures to protect the identity of applicants from the Grant Panel members, and vice versa, throughout the application process. Panel members must also declare any potential conflicts of interest, ensuring impartiality in decision-making.

The NCCF regularly provide its beneficiaries with wetrooms, Mobility scooters, walking aids and stairlifts

The fundamental purpose of the fund, which is to ease suffering, enhance wellbeing, and enable social inclusion within the British Nuclear Survivor Community, guides all decisions made by the Grant Panel. By focusing on these charitable objectives, the NCCF ensures that the support provided directly addresses the needs of the beneficiaries. Furthermore, the NCCF's policy of directly purchasing goods, services, and therapies, rather than providing cash grants, ensures that the funds are used precisely for their intended purpose and maximise their impact on the lives of those they support. This direct provision of assistance allows the NCCF to maintain accountability and ensure that the resources are utilised to benefit the nuclear community.

8. Need More Information? Contacting the NCCF

For individuals seeking further information about the Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund or the application process, the Nuclear Community Charity Fund offers several avenues of contact.

You can reach the NCCF by post at: **The NCCF, PO Box 8244, Castle Donington, Derby DE74 2SS**. For telephone inquiries, please call **07884 187 800**. You can also contact them via email for general enquiries or Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund enquiries at **office@thenccf.org**. The official website of the NCCF, **www.thenccf.org**, also provides a wealth of information about the fund and the charity's other activities. In addition to these direct contact methods, the NCCF publishes the Exposure Magazine, which contains the latest news and information about the fund. The Care Resources page on the NCCF website may also offer valuable information about potential suppliers and services available through the fund.

Conclusion

The Nuclear Community Charity Fund's Care Wellbeing and Inclusion Fund offers vital support to veterans of British Nuclear Tests, their spouses, and post-test offspring. The fund aims to ease suffering and enhance wellbeing within this deserving community by providing goods, services, and therapies tailored to individual needs. This guide has outlined the eligibility criteria, the types of assistance available, the application process, and how applications are assessed. Potential applicants are encouraged to review this information carefully and contact the NCCF for further assistance. The commitment of the NCCF to fairness and effectiveness ensures that the fund continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by the British Nuclear Tests.

Wesley Perriman / BNTVA Museum

BNTVA

the Museum for Atomic Veterans

Teflon Tel

Terry Banbridge - Balloon Unit Cardington

P22

The shifting tides of HMS Campania

The HMS Campania Exhibition

P26

‘Teflon Tel’

Known as S.A.C Terry Bambridge 2781978 attached to Balloon Unit Cardington

I was doing my national service attached to Balloon Unit at Cardington as a motor engineer and it is where I started my first business. There were hundreds of men passing through Cardington every week, where they received all their kit and I realised there was an opportunity to start a business supplying boot polish, brushes, dusters, condoms and electric kettles. The business grew rapidly, so much so that I had to ask the warrant officer who was in charge of our section if I could have room in the MT stores to store all my stock.

The warrant officer was a very obliging man, very kind, ex-lancaster rear gunner and also I believe he was the camp bookmaker, when he suggested that as I was going round all the huts selling my stock, I could take a few bets for him. Then it transpired that he used to like shooting in the neighbouring farms and so asked if I could sell his rabbits for him as I made my daily rounds, which was very handy because the electric kettles I sold plugged into the light sockets and it was a good way to boil the meat. He was a very reasonable man and he let me more or less have every weekend off, so I could visit home. Then one day he mentioned to me that they needed a detachment at Aldermaston which in those days was a very secret place and he was amazed that I offered to go on that detachment.

When our team arrived at Aldermaston we were given the task of hoisting up under the balloon a great big Toblerone shaped object.

When I was having lunch with all the scientists, they explained to me what the device was and they were going to detonate it in Australia, they suggested that I ought to go and as somebody who lived all my life in Walthamstow and had never been abroad, further than Blackpool, where they spoke a different language. It seemed very exciting to me. Once I returned to the camp, I explained to the W.O. what the mission was to be and that I would very much like to go. He said he would put my name forward, which he did, but it was rejected as they explained they wanted a regular service man. I then asked the warrant officer if he could write back and say I was the only man he could recommend for the task. He then suggested, if I was accepted, he could take over my business, which I readily agreed to. Sure enough, I was selected to go to Australia.

We were then informed that we were going to go to Australia via America and we would be transported to America by civilian airlines and we would need to wear civilian clothes. Every weekend when I was at home, always Sunday nights before returning to Cardington on the Birch buses, I used to go dancing at the Lyceum Ballroom in London and it so happened my departure for America was late Sunday evening, so I went dancing and whereas previously all my friends used to tease me about having to leave all the girlfriends, this time I informed them I was flying to New York which nobody believed as there were no tourists at all going to America in those days.

It was then agreed that we would get a taxi to Heathrow airport and if I didn't get on the plane, I would have to pay for the taxi, which was a very nice send off for me. To fly in those days as a tourist was very unusual and I believe on the plane was Cyril Stapleton the famous band leader.

On arrival in America, we were given a tour around New York, stayed 1 night in a hotel and the next morning we then boarded to fly to San Francisco. Then, we were taken to a big camp between San Francisco and San Jose, called Moffet Field, where we would stay for a few days. We had been briefed before departing that our mission was top secret and there was no mention of what we were doing, but if anything was asked we were to say we were preparing for the Queen's visit to America which was imminent. It so happened, when I was walking around San Francisco, people would hear my accent and ask me where I came from and what I was doing, I would inform them that I was preparing for the Queen's visit as briefed, they would then ask me if I could arrange for them to meet with the Queen upon her arrival, which I agreed I would try to arrange and they would take me to their houses to show me where they lived for when the Queen came. These houses were nothing like I'd seen before, huge mansions with swimming pools and beautiful gardens. I then ended up staying over the night, which led to the police showing up as I was walking through San Francisco the next day, they took me back to the camp where I was charged with desertion.

On a winch elevating atom bomb to 900 ft

Tents after a cyclone went through our camp

Fortunately, it was decided too much trouble to replace me so I was allowed to continue with the mission.

Days later, we were taken to the airport where we then boarded this beautiful Lockeed Constellation, which was to take us to Adelaide. On the way across the Pacific I noticed on the port side the two engines had stopped. I then was told on the star board side another engine had stopped, luckily we weren't too far from Hawaii where we due to stop for refuelling, we landed safely. But now, the engines needed to be repaired. We were then taken to the beautiful 5* Reef Hotel, for our accommodation whilst the plane was being repaired.

The trouble was the hotel was very expensive and we didn't have much money to afford to buy any drinks, our food was supplied but not the drinks. Walking through the hotel one day, I bumped into a very nice lady who asked me where I was from and as we started talking, I explained that we couldn't afford to buy much in this hotel, so she said 'don't worry, if you want a few drinks just mention your room number to the barman'. So, when I asked our team if they would like a drink, I took them to the bar and ordered all the drinks and gave the barman my room number.

This happened quite often over the next few days and the men thought that any minute I would be arrested and spend the next few years in a Hawaiian jail, not knowing that this lady had organised this for me. We eventually left Hawaii and continued our journey to Adelaide, stopping once more for fuel on an island I believe were called Canton Islands.

We arrived in Adelaide, in those days a very sombre town, it was called the town of churches because there was a church in every road. We were eventually flown from Adelaide to Maralinga, from there I was told to go with the team to the transport yard where we were to collect all our equipment, i.e winches, gas trailers etc and naturally the balloon. Whilst there, the person in charge asked if the 6 chassis cab trucks were a part of our equipment, which I informed him that they were. We then had to drive all our equipment out of Maralinga village to a very remote spot in the bush where they had set a tented camp up for us and were told we were not to return to Maralinga village. Our nearest civilisation I assume was the runway with the Vulcan aircraft, which we could hear from our camp and see them taking off. We didn't have a lot to do, so my first job was to find a use for these 6 Commer chassis cabs.

Which I decided would be ideal for stock car racing, so we proceeded to build a track in the bush away from everybody's prying eyes. Owing to the fact we didn't have much to do, only a few rehearsals, we had a lot of free time. So to make use of this time, I first went looking for gold and then I found the pipeline that supplied fresh water from Adelaide to Maralinga, which had wonderful large storage tanks every so often along the length of the pipeline, with beautiful fresh water. I then went back to the camp and asked the men if they would like to have a swim, which they all thoroughly enjoyed. Another time, we decided to catch a baby kangaroo, which was my worst idea, as the mother nearly killed us. On another one of our trips, we noticed something very unusual and it was four vertical posts which transpired to be what was left of a hut and where a prospector skeleton lay at the bottom of a well he had tried digging through solid rock. Living in the tents in the bush was quite dangerous.

One night, we had a whirlwind come across the bush and take all our tents away as we were asleep in our beds. In the morning, after we retrieved our tents and re-erected them, I lifted the duck boards up, the flooring of my tent and found about 50 scorpions living there.

Swimming in the water storage tanks, piped from Adelaide

When we arrived in Maralinga, we were instructed that when we woke up in the morning to throw our top blanket off immediately and to bang our boots upside down to remove the scorpions which may be waiting.

We all used to have a pet scorpion, which we would gamble on to fight to the death. We made a small ring of fire with the brush wood and we would put our scorpions in the middle of the fire and let them fight to the death, the last one standing was the winner.

Another aspect of us living in the bush, with the dingo's, before we went to bed at night we would brush the sand around our tents. In the morning we would wake and look out of our tent and see the footprints of the dingo's walking around our tents. When you looked at the dingo's from one side they looked in good health, but when you looked at the other side of their body the flesh was all burnt away you could see the skeleton of the animal where the radiation had burnt the flesh away.

Finally, the day of detonation arrived, we were taken out in to the bush with all our equipment, raised the balloon, anchored it to a concrete block which was in place, with the device hanging below about 800ft.

Myself and Corporal O'Brian (electrician), were left alone with the device. His job was to connect the device to the cable that ran miles back to Maralinga village and my job was to make sure the truck and all the equipment worked and then we were instructed to jump in a truck and drive like hell as fast as we could along the track back towards Maralinga village. Along the track there were countdown speakers and we were instructed 2 minutes before detonation to jump out and bury ourselves in the sand, which we did, thankfully. We were only about 10-12 miles away from the detonation, the heat was colossal and I maintain to this day no one has been nearer an atomic explosion than Corporal O'Brian and myself and lived. I believe that burying ourselves in the sand saved our lives. When I finally got back to our campsite, I was put under a shower for 36 hours, with somebody checking my radiation level every 30 minutes during the day. Then, after I was cleared for radiation, a couple of days later the team were ordered to go back to the site of the detonation. We were issued with radiation suits and told if we wanted to go to the toilet, we would have to do it in our trousers.

The reason given for having to return to the site, was to report on the damage to all the different materials arranged around the detonation area. Naturally, we didn't see much. Again, we were all heavily radiated and again I was made to shower for another 36 hours. We now know after my family have done great research that we were used as human guinea pigs, same as those on the Christmas Islands.

I believe the reason I am still so healthy after suffering all this radiation, is that 2 minuses make a plus. I know I was heavily radiated because, one day many years later I was phoned whilst at work by the Airforce and asked if it would be okay to use my radiation record as evidence in the case that Australia was bringing against England, for what I believed was the Atomic cloud that blew over Adelaide. A few months later, I got a letter from the Australian High Commissioner, thanking me for my evidence. Which to this day, the Royal Airforce denies they have any knowledge of. They also claim to have no knowledge of my medical records from when I arrived in Australia to when I departed. I have requested this information many times, I have tried to involve members of parliament, including David Cameron, to ascertain my radiation levels.

Everybody has an excuse not to help me, which I believe has happened to every other person who served at Maralinga. If anybody knows of Corporal O'Brian, I would love to hear from them. Again, the RAF is not willing to help me and I know a reporter of The Sun newspaper is trying to find him as well. Good luck to all those who are still fighting for compensation, it is another POST OFFICE SCANDAL.

Though this time, it's the government we are fighting, not deceitful Directors.

Teflon Tel.

The Shifting Tides of HMS Campania Dreams, Duty, and the Atomic Crucible

Imagine a ship that braved both the bone-chilling waters of the Arctic Convoys and the searing heat of nuclear Nuclear Tests. This exhibition tells the improbable thirteen-year tale of HMS Campania, a ship whose varied service earned it the intriguing nickname, 'The Festival Ship'.

HMS Campania Exhibition at the Cold War Awareness Week Launch – Leeds Beckett University May 2025

The BNTVA Museum has just launched an exciting new multi-media exhibition all about HMS Campania. The exhibition premiered during the launch of Cold War Heritage Week at Leeds Beckett University. It was then shown at the NCCF Nuclear Community Convention at the EMA Hilton.

One of the great features of the exhibition is its multimedia aspect, this amplifies the event impact with in-depth stories and multimedia assets relating to the story being read on the display boards.

Along with the multimedia website at **https://bntva.museum/campania** you can also listed to the exhibition podcast starting with the premiere launch on Spotify by using this shortcut link **https://rb.gy/p5j8em**

The exhibition explores the fascinating journey of this ship, from her initial conception as a merchant vessel through her significant contributions as HMS Campania, an Escort Aircraft Carrier in wartime, to her role in the Arctic Convoys. The sinking of U365, Post-war service as 'The Festival ship CAMPANIA', to her re-commission as Flagship of Rear Admiral A. D. Torlesse, RN for Operation HURRICANE, the testing of Britain's first Atomic Bomb on third of October 1952.

Funded by the BNTVA Museum and donations, the six-board exhibition (approx. 3 sq. metres) is available free of charge to host institutions in mainland UK, with courier delivery and return. Interested venues can contact the BNTVA Museum.

Please pass this on to any organisation you feel may be interested in hosting the exhibition Email interest to **office@bntva.museum** or read further information and complete the form at **https://bntva.museum/campania/exhibition-site-administration/**

BNTVA Museum Shop

The BNTVA shop is about to be restocked. New the new stock will be photographed and included on the shop wbsite page which can be found at: **https://www.bntva.com/shop**

Proud Descendant of a Nuclear Test Veteran - Pin badge £5.00

Proud to be a Nuclear Veteran - Pin badge £5.00

Proud to be a Wife of a Nuclear Test Veteran - Pin badge £5.00

BNTVA Lapel Pin £5.50

Guinea Pig Ship, HMS Diana 1956-57 by Brian Marshall £17.50

BNTVA Blazer Badge £12.00

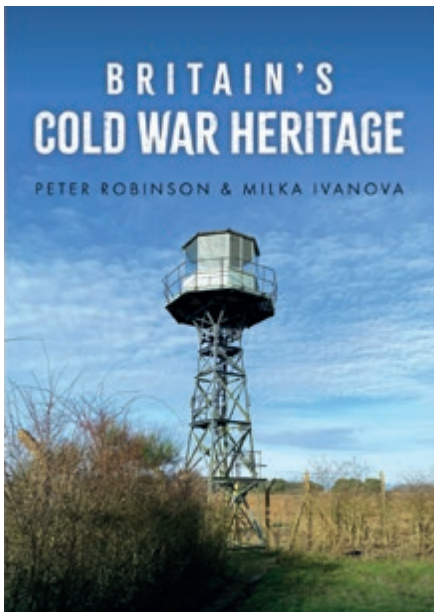
Christmas Island Challenge coin £10.00

Montebello Islands & Maralinga Challenge coin £10.00

Operation Grapple Challenge coin £10.00

The stock to be added will Include: Guinea pig books, BNTVA ties, BNTVA caps, Snowstar thermal hats, Beanie hat (bobble), Beanie hat (no bobble), Gilet S L XL XXL, Fleece S M L, Red Polo M L XL 2XL, Navy Polo M L XL, White Polo L XL

Book Review: Britain's Cold War Heritage



Note: The book's cover features the watch tower at the former Blue Danube bomb store at RAF Barnham, Suffolk—now part of the Gorse Industrial Estate. This Cold War-era site once housed Britain's first operational nuclear weapons and serves as a stark reminder of the era's strategic tensions.

As someone already familiar with many of the UK's Cold War sites—having previously visited places like Orford Ness and RAF Upper Heyford—I approached Britain's Cold War Heritage by Peter Robinson and Milka Ivanova with a sense of curiosity and a desire to uncover new places to explore. What I found was not just a historical reference, but a practical and engaging guide that inspired a memorable family visit to the RAF Radar Museum at Neatishead, deepening our understanding of Britain's Cold War defences and the development of radar technology.

The book is structured around key Cold War themes and locations, blending historical narrative with site-specific insights. It covers everything from radar stations and nuclear bunkers to protest movements and cultural responses. What makes it particularly effective is its balance between depth and accessibility.

It doesn't overwhelm with technical language, yet it provides enough background to appreciate the significance of each site. This made it ideal for family use, especially when planning a visit to a museum like Neatishead.

The RAF Radar Museum, located on the site of the former RAF Neatishead station in Norfolk, was a direct discovery from the book.

The museum is housed in the original 1942 radar operations building—a structure that once played a vital role in the UK's air defence during the Cold War. The book helped us understand how Neatishead evolved from a WWII radar site into a Cold War command centre responsible for monitoring and directing air defence operations across southern Britain.

In the 1950s, the site was upgraded with a new underground bunker designed to withstand attack. By the 1970s, Neatishead had become a key centre for tracking aircraft and coordinating responses as part of NATO's air defence.

This Cold War legacy is preserved and interpreted throughout the museum's many exhibition rooms.

One of the most compelling parts of our visit was the Cold War Room, a preserved operations space that vividly illustrates the tension and readiness of the era. The room includes original equipment and displays that show how the UK prepared to respond to potential threats. Two clocks show local and international time, and a national alert panel could display emergency messages, including orders to scramble aircraft in the event of an attack.

This chilling detail underscored how close the UK came to the brink of nuclear war and how important RAF Neatishead was in coordinating a response.

Walking through the museum, we encountered a wealth of Cold War history brought vividly to life. The original operations room, preserved with its consoles, maps, and plotting tables, gave us a glimpse into the high-stakes environment of Cold War air defence. The museum also features a range of radar equipment used over the decades, which were part of Britain's network designed to detect and intercept potential threats.
One of the most memorable moments of our visit was seeing my sons sit in the cockpits of both a Tornado and a Jaguar aircraft. These hands-on exhibits were not only exciting for him but also served as a powerful way to connect younger generations with the technology and history of the Cold War. What could have been a simple photo opportunity became a meaningful learning experience, thanks to the context provided by the book.

Adding to the richness of the visit were the museum volunteers, two of whom had actually served at RAF Neatishead during its operational years.

The RAF Radar Museum - on the site of the former RAF Neatishead

Their personal stories and insights brought the exhibits to life in a way no display panel could. They shared anecdotes about life on the base, the pressures of working in a high-alert environment, and how radar operations evolved over time. Their presence added a deeply human dimension to the visit—one that aligned perfectly with the book's emphasis on the people behind the technology.

Beyond Neatishead, the book also helped me reflect on previous visits to other Cold War sites. At Orford Ness, the haunting landscape of decaying buildings and abandoned test facilities took on new meaning when viewed through the lens of the book's narrative. Once a secret military testing ground, Orford Ness was used for radar experiments and weapons development, and its eerie isolation speaks volumes about the secrecy and experimentation of the era.

Similarly, RAF Upper Heyford, with its aircraft shelters and American presence, became more than just a relic of NATO cooperation—it became a symbol of Britain's strategic role in the Cold War.

What sets Britain's Cold War Heritage apart is its visual richness. The book is filled with photographs and archival images that not only enhance the reading experience but also serve as practical tools for identifying and locating sites. The inclusion of a guide to 50 publicly accessible Cold War locations was particularly useful, allowing us to tailor our itinerary and plan future visits. It's a book that invites exploration, not just contemplation.

The authors also do an excellent job of weaving in the cultural and social dimensions of the Cold War. From the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) to the portrayal of nuclear anxiety in popular media, the book situates Britain's Cold War heritage within a broader societal context. This helped spark conversations within our family about how the Cold War shaped public consciousness and how its legacy continues to influence our understanding of security and technology today.

In conclusion, Britain's Cold War Heritage is more than just a historical overview—it's a gateway to exploration.

Whether you're a Cold War enthusiast, a student of history, or a curious traveler, this book offers a compelling and practical way to engage with Britain's recent past. For our family, it turned a holiday into a journey through history—one radar screen, control console, and museum exhibit at a time. The RAF Radar Museum at Neatishead, in particular, stood out as a highlight, and it's a visit we might not have made without the book's guidance. It's a testament to the power of well-researched, accessible history to inspire real-world discovery.

The book is available from Amberley Publishing:

https://www.amberley-books.com/discover-books/military-history/the-cold-war/britains-cold-war-heritage.html

ISBN: 9781398121454

Information on the Cold War Network can be found at:
www.coldwarnetwork.co.uk

Introducing The Cold War Network:

Connecting Cold War Heritage Across the UK and Beyond

Across the UK, Cold War sites—from disused bunkers and nuclear test facilities to airfields and listening stations—offer a glimpse into a complex, and often hidden, chapter of 20th-century history. Many of these sites, however, remain under recognised and underfunded. The Cold War Network exists to change that.

Today, the Network acts as a hub, connecting owners and custodians of Cold War heritage with researchers, educators, cultural organisations, and the wider public. Its growing membership, (currently almost 300 members) includes major institutions like English Heritage, the National Trust, and Imperial War Museums, as well as smaller privately owned sites, volunteer-led projects including Barnton Bunker, the Greenham Control Tower, and Drakelow Tunnels and organisations and associations that include the BNTVA, The Military Vehicles Trust as well as private collectors.

In 2020, Dr Peter Robinson, Head of Events, Tourism and Hospitality Management at Leeds Beckett University, and his colleague Dr Milka Ivanova, Postgraduate Course Director for Hospitality and Events, secured funding from the Leverhulme British Academy Small Grants Programme. Their project was designed to investigate how visitors engage with Cold War spaces and collections, with a particular focus on comparisons between Eastern and Western Europe.

As part of the project's final phase, a dissemination event was hosted at Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker in February 2023. Representatives from organisations involved in the research, including English Heritage, the National Trust, Imperial War Museums, RAF Radar Museum, and the University of Stirling/National Museum of Scotland's AHRC-funded project "Materialising the Cold War" were invited to attend. Participants identified a clear gap in specialist expertise and collaboration around the management and marketing of Cold War heritage. There was a strong appetite to keep the conversation going.

From this shared interest, The Cold War Network was born.

From Research Project to National Platform

Over the following 18 months, three more events were organised - at Alconbury Weald, The Yorkshire Air Museum, and Orford Ness. Each of these gave further structure and direction to the development of the network, including creating a steering group to ensure effective, community-led decision-making.

The Cold War Network has become a national organisation legally registered as a Community Interest Company. It brings together academics, museum professionals, heritage organisations, military veterans, special interest associations, educators, and enthusiasts. The Network's mission is to preserve, promote, and share the history and legacy of the Cold War while supporting those who care for related sites and collections.

Today, the Network is governed by a multidisciplinary Board of Directors and advised by a group of experts in Cold War archaeology, museum studies, interpretation, and visitor engagement. Together, they ensure that the Network remains responsive, innovative, and inclusive in its approach.

Bringing People Together: Online and In-Person

A core part of the Network's work and success is bringing people together to share knowledge and experiences. In-person gatherings at Cold War heritage sites across the UK offer guided tours, expert talks, and networking opportunities, creating immersive experiences for those working in or studying Cold War history. The network also hosts a developing programme of webinars - some aimed at those interested in the period's history and some for those responsible for managing Cold War collections and sites.

Increasing Public Awareness and Engagement: Cold War Heritage Week

One of the Network's flagship projects is the delivery of a National Cold War Heritage Week. 2025 sees the launch of this event on 16th May, followed by a week-long series of events bringing together museums, archives, private collections, and Cold War sites to deliver a coordinated programme of exhibitions, talks, film screenings, school workshops, and site-specific activities.

Orford Ness

This initiative is designed to raise public awareness, encourage cross-organisational collaboration, and provide a platform for community engagement. Importantly, it creates opportunities for the wider public to connect with Cold War stories that are still shaping our modern world. Students from Leeds Beckett University are managing this year's inaugural event.

Sharing Knowledge and Building Capacity

To keep members connected, the Network publishes six newsletters a year featuring project updates, funding opportunities, research highlights, educational resources, and upcoming events. The Network also supports collaborative partnerships among members, helping them secure funding, co-create exhibitions, and share resources. These partnerships allow smaller sites to bring underrepresented stories to wider audiences by pooling expertise and infrastructure. Several successful projects are already being developed between members.

Looking Beyond Borders

A further opportunity presented by creating an organisation that represents the UK's national Cold War era heritage is to actively build connections with similar networks in Europe and North America, exploring opportunities for joint projects, knowledge exchange, and cross-border dialogue. This international outlook helps place the UK's Cold War heritage in a broader context while ensuring the Network benefits from global best practices.

Preserving the Past for the Future

The Cold War Network is more than a project – it's a movement. One that understands the Cold War is not just history, but a living legacy that continues to influence the present. As it grows, the Network will remain committed to amplifying Cold War stories, supporting those who care for its heritage, and inspiring future generations to understand and engage with this vital period in our shared history.

For more information, visit: **www.coldwarnetwork.co.uk**

> We are humbled that our small research project has become a national organisation with members from across the UK working together to raise the profile of Cold War Heritage while benefiting from sharing knowledge, expertise and best practice to bring Cold War stories to life for visitors, members and supporters.

Dr Peter Robinson – Director and Chair: The Cold War Network

Head of Subject: Events, Tourism and Hospitality Management – Leeds Beckett University

COLD WAR NETWORK

National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph

This years annual Service of Remembrance which will be held at the Cenotaph on Whitehall on Sunday 9th November 2025.

The BNTVA have been allocated 20 spaces for veterans wishing to march in the parade, as per last year.

Eligibility to apply for a space

The RBL asks that associations register individuals who adequately reflect the depth and breadth of the veteran community, with particular priority being given to those who have not marched previously.

- Ex-service personnel from the UK and the Commonwealth who have served the Crown.
- Retired emergency services personnel from the UK and Commonwealth who have served the Crown.
- Partners or first-generation family members of those who served in His Majesty's Armed Forces and have died.

  This **only** includes the following:

  - Wives, husbands, partners or civil partners
  - Siblings
  - Parents
  - Children
- Those marching on behalf of their organisations that have historically played a significant role in times of conflict, supporting the Armed Forces community or who are key organisations in Remembrance.
- A carer of a veteran requiring wheelchair assistance.

As this is a veterans' parade, currently serving personnel are not permitted to take part. Civilians cannot take part unless they meet the eligibility criteria.

As any carer accompanying a veteran will be included within the 10,000 attendance-cap; where appropriate, the option of one veteran assisting another for the duration of the dispersal should be considered.

How to Apply

If you meet the eligibility criteria and wish to march, please email **editor@exposure.press** or call us on **07884 187 800.** If we can't answer please leave your name and number and that you wish to apply and we will get back to you asap.

Or write to:

BNTVA Remembrance Parade
NCCF
PO Box 8244
Castle Donington
DE74 2BY

The deadline for us to be able to manage the registration process is September the 22nd, this allows us a few days leeway to chase up any individuals for outstanding information. Please don't delay as parade spaces are limited.

Please note

Once we have registered your for your ticket, the RBL contact you directly.

E-Tickets and joining with full event information will be sent to all participants on the **30th -31st October**.

Remembrance Sunday Timings

- Event day timings will be communicated two weeks before the event in the joining instructions. Due to security reasons, the RBL are not able to share this information before this stage. We will communicate this to all who have applied.
- Individual security checks will take place before entry to Horse Guards Parade. Ticket holders must bring photographic ID and proof of address with them to gain access.
- In 2024, marchers were advised to arrive at accreditation around 8-8.30am.

Preparation of the BNTVA Garden in the Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance will be conducted by our friends at the Poppy Factory.

shawnwil23 / Shutterstock

National Atomic Veterans Awareness Day 2025

NAVAD will be celebrated at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire this year on Wednesday the 1st of October 2025.

Further details regarding the timings for the event and how to register will be published in the next magazine due in September.

Information on the National Memorial Arbortuem can be found at: **www.thenma.org.uk**

For those who have never visited the NMA before, its well worth a visit. Set in 150-acres with more than 400 memorials waiting to be discovered, including the British Nuclear Tests Veterans memorial.

Dates for Your Diary 2025

15-19 SEPT 25

All Tests Reunion 2025

Pontins, Sand Bay, Weston-Super-Mare
The adult-only reunion brings together Veterans and their families for a week-long holiday.

To Book call **0203 286 3988**
or visit: **www.labrats.international/atr**

01 Oct 25

National Atomic Veterans Awareness Day (NAVAD)

National Memorial Arboretum
Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire,DE13 7AR

10 Nov 25

National Service of Remembrance 2025

Cenotaph, Whitehall, London. See **page 32** of this Magazine

Important

Contacting the NCCF & BNTVA Museum has changed

The old way of contacting the NCCF and BNTVA Museum has changed. Please read on for further information on how to make contact by phone using our new number.

In May Microsoft officially retired the Skype Application to shift their users to use Microsoft Teams as the primary means of communication and collaboration.

As a result old NCCF telephone number **01158 883 442** no longer functions. If you do call this number you will be met with a message that says the number is incorrect.

We have a dedicated mobile number for the primary means of communication going forwards. This will give us the flexibility to take calls away from the office.

Please note
If you do call and we are unable to answer your call please leave your name, number and nature of your enquiry and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We receive a high volume of scam calls

Updated Contact Information

By Telephone

If you wish to contact the NCCF or BNTVA Museum by telephone please call the new number:

07884 187 800

By Email

If you wish to contact the NCCF or BNTVA Museum by telephone please call:

NCCF: **office@thenccf.org**
Exposure Magazine: **editor@exposure.press**
BNTVA Museum: **office@bntva.museum**

By Post

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Exposure
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exposure
The combined magazine for the nuclear community

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