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Cold War Network - January 2026

Last week's Cold War Network event at Dover Castle provided a fascinating and thought-provoking day of tours and talks, offering fresh perspectives on one of the most significant Cold War sites in the UK. We are extremely grateful to CWN Director, Dr Kathryn Bedford, for hosting such an engaging and well-curated programme, and to the dedicated staff and volunteers at Dover Castle whose expertise and support ensured the event ran so smoothly. The strength of discussion throughout the day once again demonstrated the value of bringing members together to share research, interpretation, practice, and sector experience.

Looking ahead, planning is already underway for our next in-person event at Drakelow Tunnels in October, where we anticipate another opportunity to explore Cold War heritage within a unique and atmospheric setting. We also hope to be able to announce shortly the agenda for our February 2027 event, and will share further details as soon as these are confirmed.

In the meantime, we hope you will be able to join us online for our next webinar, continuing our programme of research-led discussion and sector engagement.

Sponsorship Opportunities

This month, we are also delighted to launch our new Cold War Network Sponsorship Booklet, which outlines a range of opportunities to support the Network's activities - from events and webinars to collaborative heritage initiatives. Sponsorship plays a crucial role in enabling us to sustain and expand our work across the sector. If



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Full details can be found here:

[https://www.coldwarnetwork.co.uk/
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New Webinar: Entertaining Armageddon March 12th at 6pm



From *Dr Strangelove* to the *Fantastic Four*, the Cold War has been part of popular entertainment for decades. While some film outings, such as the BBC's 1984 film *Threads*, gave a bleak and realistic depiction of the reality of nuclear war, terrifying the nation, many are far more light-hearted.

This webinar will focus on the Cold War as entertainment, both at the time and today. Two papers will explore how comedians navigated their own and their audiences' fears of destruction, and how the Marvel Cinematic Universe uses Cold War references to make contemporary points:

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Laughing at the Bomb: comedy depictions of nuclear Armageddon created during the Cold War. Dr Kathryn Bedford.

These films and TV shows have audiences in the tens of millions, they shape how the Cold War is (and was) understood by the majority of the population, but are often overlooked by those who study the period.

Following the papers there will be an opportunity for attendees to take part in discussion, expanding on the speakers ideas and reflecting on their own favourites.

[Click here to book your place](#)

National Cold War Heritage Week 2026

National Cold War Heritage Week 2026 – 18–24 May is now in early planning, following the successful launch of the inaugural week in 2025. Momentum is already building across the UK, with a growing range of sites and contributors confirmed, and more in discussion.

Planned activity includes guided bunker and airbase tours, exhibitions, film screenings, specialist talks, and on-site displays. The week will showcase the breadth of the UK's Cold War heritage, from ROTOR radar stations and regional government bunkers, to missile history, aviation collections, and the wider stories of secrecy, preparedness, and everyday life during the Cold War.

Confirmed and developing contributors include Nothe Fort, Orford Ness, Fort Widley, Barnton Bunker, Upper Heyford Heritage Centre, and others finalising plans through their committees and volunteer teams. Independent speakers and specialist collections are also involved, with opportunities for partner hosting and shared displays.

Full programme details, booking links, and promotional materials will be released as planning progresses.

To express interest in participating, please contact info@coldwarnetwork.co.uk or mollytunstall@brimstonemarketing.co.uk, and keep an eye on the Cold War Network website and social media channels for updates as events go live.

Community Fund Toolkit

We are beginning work on two new practical toolkits designed to strengthen education delivery and organisational resilience across our membership as part of our Community Fund project.

Education Group Toolkit

The Education Toolkit will focus on two curriculum priorities: GCSE and A-Level Cold War, and Local History for younger audiences. We are intentionally developing a stronger, research-led offer for older students, as Cold War provision remains underrepresented within many heritage education programmes. Secondary schools typically require at least two hours of structured, curriculum-linked content for a visit, and this toolkit will support members in designing longer, activity-rich sessions that meet that need.

The toolkit will provide guidance on curriculum alignment, age-appropriate storytelling (including how to approach complex or sensitive topics), the effective use of primary sources, and object-based learning - including which types of objects work best in an educational setting. It will also address accessibility, meeting the needs of SEN groups, and engaging the home education market.

Development will take place in partnership with an experienced consultant and will be informed by three structured workshops: subject experts generating curriculum-relevant stories; teachers assessing classroom value and alignment; and young people testing engagement and appeal. Member case studies will form a core strand of the toolkit, showcasing what makes sites distinctive, how they connect to local history, and what approaches represent best practice. We will also ensure that the final resource complements rather than duplicates existing online material.

Engagement Toolkit

Alongside this, we are developing an Engagement Toolkit focused on organisational resilience and community capacity. This resource will support members in strengthening volunteer recruitment and management, upskilling teams, planning events, interpreting heritage effectively, engaging diverse demographics, and building long-term sustainability.

Practical frameworks, templates, and real-world case studies from across the network will underpin the toolkit, ensuring it is grounded in experience and transferable across different types and sizes of organisations. Following completion, we will deliver dedicated training webinars to support implementation of both toolkits, currently scheduled for November and February.

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workshops, please email info@coldwarnetwork.co.uk

Small Donations Keep Our Membership and Events Free For Members

If every member made a £10 donation, we would be able to cover the CWNs costs for two to three years, and invest in new marketing materials and merchandise to engage new audiences in Cold War histories.

[Click here to donate](#)

Thank you to those members who have donated.

This Newsletter Is Sponsored By....

Midland Models, a specialist online and exhibition retailer with over 2,500 items in stock at any time, including a wide range of models, books and collectables, including an extensive range of Cold War-related items.

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The logo for Midland Models is a red rounded rectangle with a white border. Inside the rectangle, the words "midland models" are written in a white, lowercase, italicized serif font.

If you would like to be a sponsor, please email info@coldwarnetwork.co.uk

Upcoming Events

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Future Events

[March 12th at 6pm - Entertaining Armageddon](#)

7th Cold War Network Meeting - Drakelow Tunnels. October 2026 (Details TBC)



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