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Cold War Network - January 2026

As we begin a new year, it is encouraging to see such strong engagement across the Network and a busy programme already taking shape. This edition brings together updates on forthcoming events and opportunities for members to get involved as we continue to support, promote, and champion Cold War heritage across the UK.

We are very much looking forward to meeting members in person at our Dover event on 19 February, which is now fully booked. Thank you to everyone who has registered – we look forward to a productive and engaging day. Planning is also well underway for National Cold War Heritage Week, as well as our next Members Cold War Network event at Drakelow Tunnels (pictured below) in October. Further details on both will be shared in due course. In addition, we are currently developing our June Webinar.

This newsletter also highlights our upcoming webinar, *Entertaining Armageddon*, taking place on 12 March at 6pm. Exploring how the Cold War has been interpreted through film, television, and popular culture, the webinar brings together two fascinating papers that examine comedy, fear, propaganda, and contemporary reinterpretations of Cold War themes. Alongside these activities, we share updates on National Cold War Heritage Week 2026 and explain how small member donations help keep our events and membership free and accessible to all.

We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year ahead.



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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:

Cold Warriors: Retrofuturism, Propaganda, and the Return of Cold War Politics in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Dr Laura Crossley

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

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National Cold War Heritage Week 2026

Following National Cold War Heritage Week 2026, the Cold War Network will begin a year-long programme of activity focused on supporting members to better market Cold War heritage and engage visitors.

From June to October 2026, we will work with members to deliver a series of collaborative workshops at five Cold War sites across different locations. These workshops will bring together staff, volunteers, subject experts and the general public to explore how we can create meaningful visitor experiences, encourage first-time and repeat visits, and raise awareness and appreciation of Cold War heritage, collections, sites, places, and histories.

The learning from these workshops will directly inform the development of a set of practical toolkits, designed to support members - particularly those working with volunteers - to deliver engaging, sustainable experiences. These toolkits will be written and developed between November 2026 and January 2027, before being piloted, refined, and shared across the network in early 2027, ahead of National Cold War Heritage Week 2027.

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locations to work with us to host workshops. All members will also be able to send representatives or volunteers to take part, helping to shape the toolkits and ensure they reflect the realities of working across the sector.

If you would like to be involved in National Cold War Heritage Week 2026 and haven't yet let us know, 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.

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

Upcoming Events

Future Events

[6th Cold War Network Meeting - Dover Castle. Tuesday 10th February 2026](#)

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

[8th Cold War Network Meeting - Scotland. March 2027 \(Details TBC\)](#)



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