

MIDLAND AIR MUSEUM

The aviation museum at Coventry is called the Midland Air Museum which reflects its primary goal of displaying aircraft and subjects connected with the Midlands. The Armstrong Whitworth factory was nearby and a complete Argosy is resplendent along with aircraft from wider afield such as Lightnings, a Vulcan with Blue Steel, Canberra, Meteor NF, Sea Vixen - the list goes on.

There are a number of lesser known aircraft that makes this museum a must if you are anywhere nearby – Chichester Miles Leopard (in superb condition the second prototype, Bournemouth has the first one) a Gnat fighter (painted in Finnish colours) and a Boulton Paul 111A delta research aircraft. Rare aircraft include rotary wings of the Fairey ultralight, driven by jets at the blade tips and the German contra rotating blade design of 1941 vintage. More modern is a Russian Mil-24 Hind complemented by the stalwart of Russian fighter squadrons the Mig21. French aviation is represented by a Mystere,

there is a Polish trainer the Iskra, and USA aircraft include a Phantom, Voodoo, Starfighter, F100, T33 and a Sabre whilst from Sweden a J29 Tunnan, the first swept wing fighter in Western Europe resides in the hangar. Sir Frank Whittle was born in Coventry and a large part of the museum building is dedicated to his work and other jet engines especially as Armstrong Siddeley was also a local company and is represented by the Sapphire as used in the Javelin (also on display) and the Orpheus as used in the Gnat and Fiat G91. Other engines on display range for the Williams FJX-1 which powered the diminutive Leopard to the RR

Spey as used in the Phantom and the Thrust SSC the latter being on display in the Coventry Transport Museum. An example of the Jumo 004 which powered the Me262 is also to be seen. The Museum is well worth the effort to visit and has one many accolades for its contents and management.



Steve Robson

LAST CHANCE TO SEE XH558 IN THE AIR THIS WEEKEND

There will be one of the last chances to see the Avro Vulcan this weekend when XH558 'Delta Lady' will perform a round Britain tour. On Saturday it will cover areas in the north of England with southern England covered on Sunday. The nearest points to us she will be crossing over will include Farnborough, Middle Wallop and Old Sarum in the afternoon. The Vulcan to the Sky trust have strongly recommended that people should check the Vulcan homepage (www.vulcantothesky.org), Twitter (@XH558) and Facebook (Vulcan XH558) for latest updates on these two days to ensure accurate timings and locations being overflown. They have stressed this point to avoid any disappointment on the day.



XH558 passing the "Needles" earlier this year

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