

## Churchill War Rooms\* – May Half-term 2010

May Half-term at the newly named Churchill War Rooms see a range of activities for all the family, from code-breaking to celebrating the 70th anniversary of Winston Churchill becoming Prime Minister, including:

### ACTIVITIES:

#### May

**All Change Please – All change!**

**\*Churchill War Rooms**

1 May, 2010 marks the launch of the venue name change to Churchill War Rooms.

#### Paint Like Churchill

**Saturdays in May and Half-term**

**8,15,22,29 & 31 May - 4 June, 2010**

**10.30 – 16.00 in the Clore Learning Centre**

Sir Winston was a prodigious painter, producing more than 500 oils and exhibiting at London's prestigious Royal Academy. This Half-term come and discover the man behind the iconic images with drop-in explorations and discussions of Winston Churchill's important paintings. Try out your own art skills, from a basic level of 'painting in' Churchill's favourite painting of Chartwell, to copying one of his pieces, using one of his varied styles on display and painting your own subject.

#### Churchill the painter: his mentors and studio

**Thursday 13th May 12.30-13.30**

An expert talk and discussion from David Coombs and Charles Marley. David Coombs is the leading authority on the artists who influenced and worked with Churchill, and his place in twentieth century art. Charles Marley curates Churchill's studio at Chartwell, and will detail the considerable impact of that space on Churchill. Both speakers will welcome questions and discussion. The event will last 60 minutes, and is free of charge for visitors to Churchill War Rooms. To reserve your place, or if you have any questions, contact Simon Thomson on 020 7766 0151 or [sthomson@iwm.org.uk](mailto:sthomson@iwm.org.uk)

#### Sir Winston Churchill's life through his paintings

**19 May, 2010, 12:30-13:30**

A free lunch-time talk by Minnie Churchill, Director of Churchill Heritage and co-author of *Sir Winston Churchill: His Life and His Paintings*. Minnie will share an expert and intimate understanding of Churchill's love of painting, and the window into his life and interests that his art can provide. The event will last 60 minutes, and is free of charge for visitors to Churchill War Rooms. To reserve your place, or if you have any questions, contact Simon Thomson on 020 7766 0151 or [sthomson@iwm.org.uk](mailto:sthomson@iwm.org.uk)

## **EXHIBITION:**

### **Undercover – Life in Churchill’s Bunker**

**Extended due to popular demand – now on until end 2013**

#### **Churchill War Rooms**

Visitors will be able to learn from the first-hand personal accounts of those who worked in the Cabinet War Rooms during the war, what life and conditions were like, and experiencing the authenticity and emotional resonance of walking through the corridors where Churchill made history.

# The exhibition is included in the general admission price (details below)

#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **General Admission**

**Tickets:** £14.95 adults; £12.00 seniors and students; £9.00 visitors with disabilities (Free Carer); children under 16 free, Special admission rates for groups of ten or more.

**Opening hours:** 9.30am-6pm; last admission at 5pm

Location: Clive Steps, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AQ

**Nearest tube:** Westminster

Churchill War Rooms is a branch of the Imperial War Museum.

Entry to *Undercover: Life in Churchill’s Bunker* is included within the price of a ticket to Churchill War Rooms

[www.iwm.org.uk/churchill](http://www.iwm.org.uk/churchill)

The Cabinet War Rooms were created in 1938, as the underground storage areas of the Office of Works Building in Whitehall were converted to house the central core of government and to become a military information centre, serving the Prime Minister and the Chiefs of Staff of the air, naval and land forces. Intended as a temporary site, the rooms became operational on 27 August 1939, a week before the German invasion of Poland and Britain's declaration of war. This 'temporary' but timely measure served as the central shelter for government and military strategists for the next six years.

#### **1940: Britain’s Finest Hour**

The momentous events that occurred during 1940 determined the eventual outcome of the Second World War. It was the year that saw the creation of the Ministry of Food and the instigation of rationing. Britain’s great wartime leader, Winston Churchill, came to power. Britain’s armed forces endured the fall of France, the evacuation of Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain, while on the home front, the unrelenting bombing of the Blitz began to hit many cities and towns across the country.

All branches of the Imperial War Museum will commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this crucial year with a range of special exhibitions, events and newly arranged exhibits from the Museum’s core collections. To bring everyone closer to the events of 1940, the Imperial War Museum has created a dedicated website with information on all of its anniversary activity, plus dynamic online content telling the full story of Britain’s finest hour. [www.iwm.org.uk/1940](http://www.iwm.org.uk/1940)

#### **For further information and images contact:**

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