

Old Buckenham Air Show Review

For the last five years we've had to endure driving past signs for the Old Buckenham Airshow knowing we were unable to go because of other diary commitments or us taking our holidays too early. This year however our diary was full of local commitments so for the last 6 weeks or so we've been quietly looking forward to this event.



Old Buckenham airbase was built for the USAAF 453rd Bombardment Group during the war and was home to the legendary James Stewart for a time. It's just off the A11 in between Thetford and Norwich.

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Showday soon came around and we'd spent all week planning what to take in our picnic hamper. Yes, that's right- Old Buckenham Air Show is one of the few events we've attended recently that still allows a good old fashioned picnic – despite the fact that there was a very enticing local food (and drink) village as part of the show at reasonable prices.

We bundled Jazz the pampered pooch into the van along with enough food to feed the five thousand, and set off nice and early to secure a good spot! As well as being family friendly (apparently the kids changing areas were very good this year) Dogs are also welcome and catered for with a great big Doggie Watering station.

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Car parking was easy and free- all the local air cadets were doing a fabulous job guiding cars in and before we knew it we were settling our stall out in prime position (with lots of others I hasten to add- definitely worth arriving around 10am as gates open).

We left our picnic with our chairs and went for a wander around the show. First up for us was the large display of WW2 vehicles- Keith was in his element, he's a huge history buff and the vehicles were in great condition. He had to drag me past the queue for tank rides! It looked so much fun so maybe next time for that!



There was also a large collection of classic cars to look at including a couple of beautiful split screen VWs ☐. May favourite was the

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one painted in the colour of my favourite wine ☐.

Further round the site was a small funfair for the kiddies, a collection of stalls selling camping bits, aviation and wartime souvenirs.



After an hour or so of mooching I couldn't wait any longer to get picnicking- this was timed well as the commentators announced the bar opened at 12:00. Keith went to get some beer whilst I set our food out. He really enjoyed all four of the local ales on offer but his favourite was the Shark.



After a lovely leisurely lunch it was almost time for the main feature and boy what an exciting program it was!

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First up was some airplane aerobics and some impressive loop de loops! 

This was followed by local pilots The Wildcats doing some amazing synchronised formation work.  

A favourite act was next- O'Brien's Flying Circus- where Brendan attempted successfully to land his plane on a moving landing area being towed at 60mph by a car! Which was gripping! He managed a touch down despite fairly strong winds



Next up was our show highlight- star of the film "Memphis Belle" - the last flying B17 in Europe, SallyB. Absolutely sensational seeing her in the air. And when she put her smoke on for her final salute and they played We'll

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meet again through the speakers- well, Keith and I were blubbing like babies! 🤔🤔🤔🤔

How do you follow this?! Well, with the P51 Mustang "the Shark" of course. Listen to the sound of the wind rushing through the gun placements. AMAZING



THE HURRICANE THAT WAS SCHEDULED TO FLY WAS SADLY UNABLE TO FLY DUE TO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS SO INSTEAD THE MESSERSCHMITT TOOK TO THE SKIES.



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Next up and another treat- the Spitfire- this particular one is used in all the films. Again- just listen to that sound. □ isn't it fabulous.



After such an indulgence of history and beauty it was onto the lighter fun acts, including Otto the helicopter from O'Brien's flying circus doing all sorts of crazy things that you wouldn't normally see helicopters do! □

There were a couple more local pilots doing light aircraft manoeuvres before the finale - a real plane shadowed by a remote controlled 41% sized model aircraft- doing a simultaneous routine. Fantastic. The flying went on for over 1.5hours and was fantastic. We absolutely LOVED the whole show (as you can probably gather by this post!)

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Tickets cost £18 (advance online rate) or £20 on the door for Sunday. Saturday is a reduced rate but there were less acts flying. Would highly recommend this for next year.

Campsites close by include Old Buckenham Country Park. Or you can pre book camping at the airfield.

Keep an eye on twitter @OldBuckAirshow for details of next years show and if you want to see more pics of the day search #oldbuckairshow

All pics above were taken on my Sony Cyber-shot Superzoom [//ws-eu.amazon-adsystem.com/widgets/q?ServiceVersion=20070822&OneJS=1&Opera-](https://ws-eu.amazon-adsystem.com/widgets/q?ServiceVersion=20070822&OneJS=1&Opera-)

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Until next time

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