

Answers;

Spitfire Hall

1. The birds nest on display is the last one removed from our Spitfire whilst it was being restored. It represents the bold and brave attitude of pilots at war to meet challenges head on.
2. They are Battle of Britain class trains. The nameplate of a third train of this type (222 Squadron) is mounted on the wall.
3. It's in a case near to the left of the Spitfire (remember directions are given when pointing the same way as the planes). The statue captures the moment at which pilots had to leap into action when the alarm bell was rung. Often, pilots had less than 10 minutes to get airborne before coming under attack.
4. The Rolls Royce **Merlin Engine**, interestingly it also powered;
 - De Havilland Mosquito x 2
 - AVRO Lancaster x 4
 - AND the American P-51 Mustang x 1
5. In the Spitfire Hall in the drawers of the Home Front Display (wall behind Spitfire). Ration books are perhaps the most recognisable of WWII related documents. From 1940 until well into the 50s a great deal of materials (petrol, medals, silk, rubber, food, cloth, etc etc.) were rationed (given out in small weekly amounts) to the British people. This was a government effort to keep Britain supplied and 'fighting fit' despite the privations of the German U-boat war against British shipping. Rationing became such a part of life for the British people that it created a whole culture of its own represented in the "make do and mend" and "dig for victory" mentality where nothing was given to waste. To this day many people in Britain take pride, rightfully so, in the 1940s Blitz spirit of helping each other, recycling and doing one's bit for the war effort.
6. Hurricane Hall, to the right of the Hurricane, Schneider Trophy cabinet. It's called the Supermarine S6.B. The S6.B was a very fast float plane that was constructed nearly entirely from aluminium. It was so fast it broke the Schneider record and brought its designer Reginald B. Mitchell great fame. Mitchell based the now iconic Spitfire design on the S6.B, thus making it the direct ancestor of all 24 marks of Spitfire!

Hurricane Hall

1. Linen. The Hurricane is one of the last fighters to be built largely out of wood and linen fabric. This method of construction meant that the plane was not only very light, but also easier and cheaper to repair than the all-metal spitfire.
2. In the uniform Cabinet of the Hurricane Hall to the right of the Hurricane (there are several other places these can be found). The RAF pilot's wings badge was, and still is, worn with great pride by military pilots. It signified that one served with the oldest Air Force in the world and was a qualified pilot. It also looked quite dashing when worn with the RAF blue dress uniform. In the same cabinet there's also a Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) cap badge and uniform.
3. ...So few. Was spoken by Winston Churchill during the Battle of Britain to refer to the relatively small number of RAF pilots who were defending Britain against the German Forces. It has since been called into question as it does not reflect the equally valuable contribution made by the Army, Navy, female and civilian forces to the defence of Britain in 1940. The quote can be found over the entrance to the Museum.
4. BSA (Birmingham Small Arms). Incidentally, the same company (one of several) that produced rifles for the British Army during WWII and still does so today.
5. In the Hurricane Hall, uniform cabinet. Right hand side of Hurricane Pilots, soldiers and sailors always marked their own clothing so as to prevent them getting lost or stolen. Unless you lost equipment in combat, you were liable to have your wages docked to replace the item!
6. Hurricane Hall, German cabinet, left of Hurricane. The Iron cross was one of Germany's oldest medals and was issued for gallantry during both the First and Second World Wars. For conspicuous bravery or more than one courageous act, a German soldier could be awarded swords, diamonds and oak leaves which were added to the soldier's existing Iron Cross. The medal was considered iconic of the German 'military spirit' and as such a popular item of loot to Allied soldier even though looting was strictly forbidden by the Allied High Command.
7. Mae West (in the dinghy to the right of the Hurricane). It's called a Mae West by pilots because it gave pilots the appearance of a "large" chest for which the actress Mae West was famous for!