



INGHAM WHITE EAGLE

Za Waszą wolność i naszą

Autumn/Winter 2021

**To the Memory of all who served at RAF Ingham and in Dywizjony
Bombowe Polskich Sił Powietrznych**



Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter Edition of our newsletter *Ingham White Eagle*.

As 2021 draws to a close, we can reflect on a year of extremes that started in the grip of Covid, with no volunteers or visitors on-Site, and only a small team undertaking essential maintenance.

Since the return of our Volunteers through the summer, progress has been accelerating, at an ever increasing pace. Most of the work has been taking place towards the rear of the Site, including the Café, Visitors Garden, Nissen Hut, and Toilets. But now we've moved onto our main project, the **Main Exhibition Centre**. Through the summer we were delighted to welcome a new group of volunteers from the White and Red Eagle Association, part of the Polish community in Yorkshire.

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And to close the year, we've had some incredible success with grant funding. So, looking forward, 2022 is going to be an incredible year, in so many different ways. We are extremely excited about the Heritage Centre's future. Come and join us, and get involved in this Globally Unique project.

On behalf of the Trustees and Committee, I'd like to wish you and your families, a happy, safe and healthy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Geoff Burton

Chair/ Trustee



2021 - The On-Site Story

This year has been like a football match, a tale of two halves! The first had our small maintenance team of Brendan, Colin and Geoff undertaking (Covid essential) maintenance, and some limited projects. Then the second half saw the return of our Volunteer Team, including a group of younger volunteers from the White and Red Eagle Association, part of the Polish community in Yorkshire. Work has increased at a phenomenal rate since the summer, with some of the projects highlighted below, showcasing our ability to not only survive, but thrive and evolve:

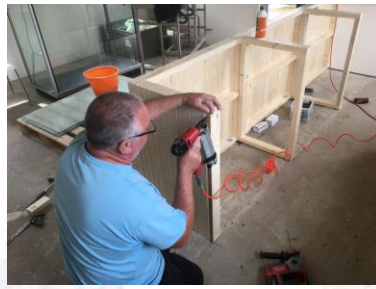
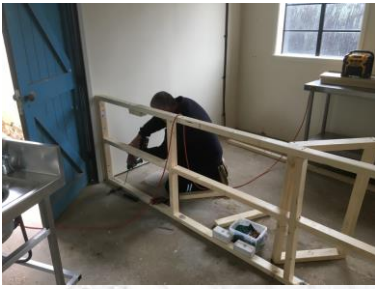
Front Entrance

Keeping the Main Entrance clean, is like painting the Forth Road Bridge!



Café Interior

Good News story from Covid. B&Q closed their Café, so we bought all their tables & chairs for our Café, at a snip. Tony, one of our resident chippy's, has built the new main Café counter.



Café Exterior

The external walls have been undergoing some renovation and rendering.



Garden Wall & Fencing

The Garden Wall was in a poor state, and has now been rendered; and the Garden Fence has been re-creosoted.



Inner Court Yard

Before building work and rendering could begin, cleaning the walls of 70 years of moss, algae and loose masonry was made so much easier by using a Karcher.



Families Nissen Hut

Work continues inside and out, with the hanging of the original doors, and re-painting of the wooden window frame.



New Gates

A new set of side gates were installed, to allow for additional access.



New Reception & Shop

Our other chippy Graham, has built our new Reception Counter, and the Reception & Shop will hopefully open in the spring; and Carol and her team, levelled ground and laid a grass verge outside the Reception.



Utilities

Basic utilities were finally installed on-Site, with mains water supplied to Toilet Block and Treatment plant, and mains electricity installed across the entire Site, including the portacabins.

Workshop ceiling

Condensation is never a great thing to have in a Workshop, so we've had foam insulation sprayed on the ceiling.



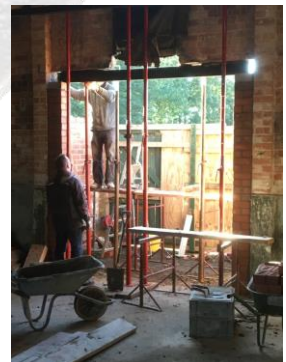
Workshop concreting

You may recall that in Sep 20 our volunteers laid a concrete apron along the north side of the Workshop, which subsequently had racking installed on it, thanks to the generosity of Mike Erentraut, of Erentek Ltd. In this last week before Christmas, we've also managed to lay the south side apron; meaning the Workshop will be operational early in the New Year.



Main Exhibition Centre (MEC) Main Entrance

Preparation works for the new Main Exhibition Centre are underway, with the stabilising the new Main Entrance, which despite its aperture, had never had a RSJ/Lintel installed above the door during its time as an agricultural store. Two new columns were also built.



MEC Roof Removal

Removing the old WW2 roof of the North Wing, proved to be both challenging and exhausting work for our volunteers. The steel roof trusses will now be shot-blasted and powder coated, prior to the new roof being installed.



Memorandum of Understanding

On 11 December, Richard Kornicki, Chairman of Polish Air Force Memorial Committee (PAFMC) and Geoff Burton, Chairman of RAF Ingham, met at the iconic Dambusters Pub in Scampton village, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document, which formally completed the agreement between both organisations.

The agreement is designed to support both organisations in:

- Promoting the history and heritage of the Polish Air Force in Britain during the Second World War.
- Publicising the huge contribution made by Polish airmen and women, to the Allied war effort.
- Acting as focal points, for enquiries involving the Polish Air Force in Britain during the Second World War.
- Promoting Polish/British friendship and continued integration.



Fundraising Achievements

Speaking from 11 years of experience, grant fundraising is the most difficult nut to crack. It's not about what you think you want, it's about what the Funders are looking for!! Grant Fundraising has certainly been a rollercoaster of a journey.

Business Resilience Grant

Through summer, we were able to claim Business Resilience Grant, which allowed us to purchase Covid prevention equipment, including hand sanitizer dispensers, counter screens and contactless payment machines. We are also bringing internet services to the Site, with a new dedicated phone line. And finally, we've purchased Picnic Tables and Benches made from recycled plastic; these will provide a welcoming rest and relaxation facility for both visitors and volunteers alike.



Jonny Cracknell - Miles for Many



Our admiration and grateful thanks goes out to Jonny Cracknell and his team, for their outstanding effort in running 85 miles in five days; and in the process raising an incredible £1,303 for RAF Ingham.

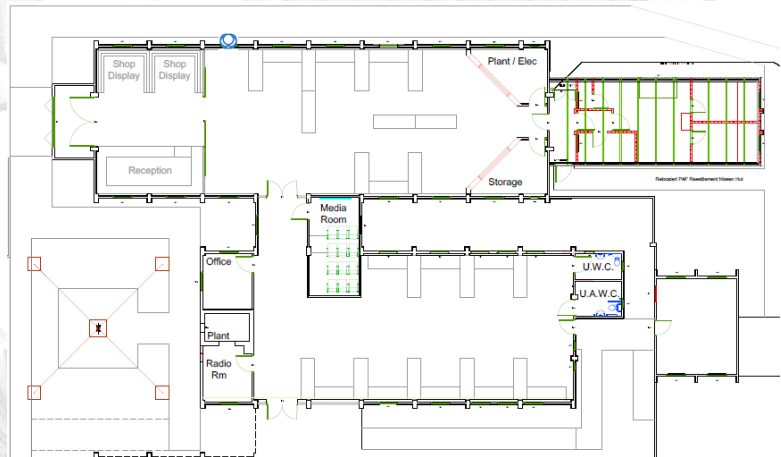
Main Exhibition Centre Appeal

POLISH BOMBER SQUADRON CENTRE
Centrum Polskich Dywizjonów Bombowych

MAIN EXHIBITION CENTRE - Appeal

Our aim is to create a globally unique Heritage Centre in the heart of Lincolnshire. Dedicated to remembering and celebrating the remarkable lives and stories of the men and women of the Polish Air Force Bomber Squadrons, who worked and flew alongside the RAF during WW2.

The project involves the complete renovation of the old 'Airmen's Mess', to create a new **Main Exhibition Centre** building, with a combined exhibition space of 290.95m²; featuring two Exhibition Halls, a Cinema/Media Suite, a Polish Families Resettlement Hut, Research Facility, Meeting Room, Cafe and Toilets.



“Our target is £200,000. Please Support Our Project by giving as much as you can, to support our globally unique Polish Air Force project.”

Cheques payable to: **‘RAF Ingham Heritage Group’**

www.goldengiving.com/wall/raf-ingham-heritage-centre

FCC Communities Foundation

We are extremely excited and delighted to announce that FCC Communities Foundation, through Landfill Communities Fund, have awarded us a grant of **£96,673** towards the renovation of the former WW2 airmen's mess, to create the Main Exhibition Centre at RAF Ingham Heritage Centre, Fillingham, Lincolnshire.



“We’re delighted to be supporting the Heritage Centre at RAF Ingham and pleased our funding will benefit so many people.”

Richard Smith, Grant Manager FCC Communities Foundation

As part of the FCC Grant Fundraising process, we are also grateful to secure **£8,000** Match-Funding from West Lindsey District Council.

Polish Air Force Memorial Committee (PAFMC)

As part of our new partnership with PAFMC, they have kindly pledged **£40,000** of Match-Funding, which they hope, will encourage other Polish and British organisations and companies to also donate towards the Main Exhibition Centre fundraising appeal.



POLISH AIR FORCE
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Polish Air Force Commemoration

Following its cancellation in 2020, it was an honour once again, to be invited to attend the 60th Polish Air Force Commemoration at Northolt, London. Despite reduced attendance due to Covid restrictions, it was wonderful to see Jan Black (Stangryciuk), Rear Gunner, 300 Sqn, there.



(Photo @RAFNortholt @POLAND_MOD)

Site Closure

During the winter months, in addition to essential maintenance work, there will also be various large scale infrastructure projects starting to take place on-Site.

We take the safety and wellbeing of our visitors very seriously, so on the grounds of Health & Safety we have taken the difficult decision to close the Heritage Centre to visitors, from 01 Dec 21 - 31 Jan 22. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Touring Exhibition of Polish Air Force Bomber Squadrons

After several false-starts over the last 18 months due to the pandemic, we are now hopeful that the planning, design, creation and delivery of the touring exhibition about the Polish Air Force

Bomber Squadrons, can now take place at various locations, around the East Midlands; more information to follow.

And finally, a lovely message from the Polish Embassy



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POLISH AIR FORCE
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

