



# INGHAM WHITE EAGLE

*Za Waszą wolność i naszą*

Winter 2022



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



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### Welcome & Happy New Year

This last year has been a game-changer for all at RAF Ingham, with not only the incredible grant funding success from FCC Community Foundation, but also the generous donations from PAFMC and SPK, which has allowed us to go-ahead with the complete renovation of the ww2 Airmen's Mess.

So, we're now preparing and planning for 2023. From its small beginnings in 2010, our dream will finally be realised, with opening of our **Main Exhibition Centre**.

On behalf of the Trustees, may I wish you and your families, a very happy and peaceful New Year.

*Geoff Burton*

Chair/Trustee

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# On-Site Round-Up

The second half of this year has seen no let-up in the pace of work on-Site. Our Volunteer Team have been focusing on the external areas of the buildings, whilst we had the better weather and plenty of light.



Wartime A.M buildings were originally constructed with an intended 'ten year life'. 80 years later and the repairs and rendering continue around the main building.



With many areas of external walls already re-rendered, the task of painting the exterior is well underway.



All 40+ of our new Crittall windows and our new Crittall main entrance doors have now been installed; giving our Main Exhibition Centre a whole new look, and flooding the building with natural light.





Another team have been working on restoring a pair of large A.M sliding doors.



And finally, during Nov, we spent time continuing to build new pathways, to provide level accessibility for all, throughout and around the entire Heritage Centre site.



## Volunteering

We're always looking for new volunteers, are you interested?

We have roles to suit everyone: **Administrative to Painting, Gardening to Building work, Mechanics to Fundraising, Visitor Guide to Carpentry, Reception/Shop to Cafe**  
You'll be warmly welcomed, and we'll find a volunteering role that will suit you, your skills and abilities, and the time you can offer.

Contact: Wendy, our Volunteer Coordinator, [wendy.holland@btinternet.com](mailto:wendy.holland@btinternet.com)



# Polish Air Force Commemoration



The Annual Polish Air Force Commemoration Ceremony was once again held at PAF Memorial, on the traditional first Saturday of Sept. This was followed by a Reception at the Officers Mess, RAF Northolt. As always, it was a wonderful thought provoking event, organised and managed by Richard Kornicki and the Polish Air Force Memorial Committee.



# Can You Smell The Coffee?

You certainly 'will do' very soon now, as our new Cafe (based in the old ww2 'Food Preparation' building, to the rear of the new Main Exhibition Centre) is starting to take shape. The Cafe will provide visitors with a warm and welcoming ambiance, and serve Coffee & Cake and a great selection of hot and cold snacks. Thanks to the *Reset-Recovery Grant*, from Arts Council England for providing the funding for the Cafe's catering equipment.



# Let Tyrants Tremble

No. 199 Squadron were stationed at RAF Ingham between Feb - Jun 1943, but did you know, they already had connections with the local area prior to arriving at RAF Ingham?

The Sqn was formed in June 1917 during the Great War, and was tasked with the training of Night Bomber Pilots, who would then be sent to France. In June 1918, the Sqn moved to a new aerodrome called





Harpwell, on a western corner of what later became RAF Hemswell. However, the Sqns existence was short-lived, and was disbanded a year later in June 1919.

The second local connection happened over 20 years later during ww2, when 199 Sqn was reformed on 7 Nov 1942. This time flying Vickers Wellingtons, at RAF Blyton, some 7-8 miles north-west of RAF Ingham.



*The Squadron's motto is, 'Let Tyrants Tremble'*



## Spotlight on a Volunteer

In this edition the Volunteer Spotlight falls on **Tony Gordon**.

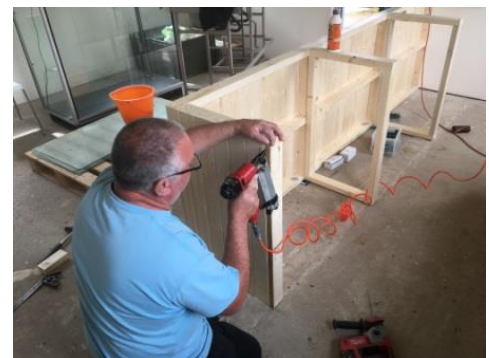
Tony is a carpenter by trade, and joined us almost via the back door (if you pardon the pun). He's married to Carol, our 199 Sqn Researcher, and slowly but surely, she's drawn him into our project.



Tony hails from Wigan, enjoys caravanning, and has a dry Lancashire sense of humour and fun.

If it's anything to do with screws, nails and a length of timber, then Tony is your man! He's built the Cafe counter, the roof on the new Cinema, and has been involved in constructing the roof for the main entrance, and has repaired and hung all the original doors in the Polish Families Resettlement Nissen Hut, to name but a few projects that immediately come to mind.

Tony brings his vast knowledge and wealth of the construction industry to our volunteering team, and is a great asset to have.



***“As an organisation, you are only ever as good as your team of volunteers”***



## Remembrance

Remembrance Sunday is always a poignant time of reflection, when we honour and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, fighting for peace, and "*For Your Freedom and Ours*".



## Wonderful Visitors

Through the autumn we've been delighted to welcome so many wonderful visitors to our Heritage Centre. Some with personal or family connections to those who served on the squadrons, some who were interested in this almost forgotten part of aviation history in the UK, and some who are only now starting to learn about their own heritage and history.



One of our guests was Julia Ellerton, whose father Marian Jachimowicz had flown with 304 Sqn. Julia, who'd had to wait until the end of Covid restrictions, to fly all the way from Australia to visit us. She'd brought with her, photos, artefacts and personal memorabilia about her father.



Marian Jachimowicz  
- W/Op 304 Sqn



Another group of wonderful visitors were the Polish Scouts and their leaders from ZHP Edynburg. They dropped-in on the way home, after a long weekend visiting aviation events further south.



*We would like to thank everyone who visited us and supported us, through 2022. Thank you for your interest, enthusiasm and belief in our Project.*



## **We Need Your Help**

If you know of any work colleagues, friends, neighbours and acquaintances that have family connections to the Polish Air Force Bomber Squadrons or 199 Sqn, then please either pass on this Newsletter, or encourage them to make contact with us.

Please spread the word. Thank you

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RAF Ingham Heritage Centre

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POLISH AIR FORCE  
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



Museum  
Development  
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