

INGHAM WHITE EAGLE

Za Waszą wolność i naszą

Spring 2020

**To the Memory of all who served at RAF Ingham (Cammeringham)
and in the Dywizjony bombowe Polskich Sił Powietrznych**



Welcome

Hello once again, to the Spring Edition of our newsletter *Ingham White Eagle*.

The title picture above, was taken at Centralna Stanica Harcerska (Central Scout Campsite) Fenton, during their end of season camp, and shows Scouts of Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (Polish Scout Association) from around the UK, (see article on page 7).

During the second-half of last year, we saw some challenging changes, welcomed some wonderful visitors, said goodbye to some of our long standing volunteers, and ended the year with major changes on-Site. On that note, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers (who've decided to move onto pastures new), for all their hard work and dedication over the years, in helping to make the Heritage Centre Site, what it is today. Good luck with your future endeavours.

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We continually strive to increase the circulation and visibility of *Ingham White Eagle* and indeed raise awareness of RAF Ingham as the 'Home of the Polish Bomber Squadrons', not only around the UK, but also globally. So please forward, pass-on, or print-off a copy, to anyone you feel might enjoy the content or have Polish connections. We estimate, that despite their advancing years, there are still quite a few PAF Veterans around UK and the World, and certainly 2nd, 3rd and now even 4th generation descendants.

This brings me to one of our enduring projects, '*Oral Histories*', or to you and I, identifying veterans who served at RAF Ingham or in the Polish Bomber Squadrons; recording both visually and orally, their thoughts, memories and reminiscences, (both funny and serious), of their experiences during the war years, and after. This project is of such globally historical importance, as we need to record their stories, through their voices and pictures, for future generations to experience, learn, remember and inspire. This is their Heritage, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Please help us.

Enjoy your read.

Geoff Burton

Chairman / Trustee

Roll Call

James Robinson



It is with great sadness, that I have to report the passing last year (2019), of James Robinson, (aged 97). I had the honour of meeting James at his home at Sussexdown (former RAF Association Care Home, in Storrington) in 2017. A man full of infectious laughter, with a love of life and red wine.

Our story started when he contacted me, following an ad I'd placed in the RAF News, some 4 years ago. I visited him at his flat, and during my visit, I was fortunate enough to record his thoughts and memories, as part of our Oral Histories Project, so his story will become part of our living legacy programme.

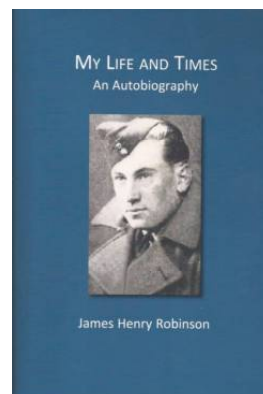
James joined the RAF in May 1940 and was posted to RAF Hemswell, but he spent most of his time on-night duty, at the Relief Landing Ground, above the village of Ingham. More on this story, in the next edition.

From his autobiography '*My Life And Times*' he has 'two tips for life':

"Make the most of every day and have what you like, but in moderation."

"Laugh at adversity and learn from it."

A truly wonderful Gentleman, so sadly missed. Sleep well.



Volunteer Team



VOLUNTEERING

RAF Ingham Heritage Centre

Join the Team and Get Involved

At RAF Ingham, we're creating a wonderful Heritage Centre, to remember the men and women who served there, and those in the Polish Air Force Bomber Squadrons.

We're looking for new Volunteers* to join our successful team; from administrative to painting, gardening to brickwork, vehicle mechanics to fundraising, visitor reception to woodworking, and researcher to tour guide; there's a role for everyone.

* For Health & Safety reasons, you must be 18 years or over

You'll be warmly welcomed, and we'll find a role that will suit your skills, abilities, and the time you can offer.

For more information, contact: Volunteering@rafingham.co.uk



 [RAF Ingham Heritage Centre](#)  [@rafingham](#) www.rafingham.co.uk

Our Team is very diverse, bringing together people of different ages, backgrounds, and cultures. We are an organisation which fully embraces Equality & Diversity, and we welcome everyone. We're currently working on-Site every Sunday morning, all year round. Although many of our weekly tasks centre around DIY, painting and gardening at present, we will soon require volunteers to man our Visitor Reception, opening in early spring.

So if you're interested in Volunteering, we'd love to hear from you and welcome you into our great team.

'Raise The Roof' Project

The North Wing roof of the Heritage Centre is deteriorating at a rapidly alarming rate, and is of very serious concern to us.

We were hoping it would remain intact until we were ready to commence the full restoration and renovation of the Wing; clearly, this will not be possible, as it now resembles a huge piece of Swiss Cheese. Most of the wooden purlins are rotten, and the original 1940s concrete covered mesh roof sheets are disintegrating on a weekly basis. We need to act now, and replace the entire roof by this summer.



We are now focusing all our efforts this year, to raise £60,000 required for a new roof. It is



planned that the new roof will contain integrated photovoltaic cells, allowing us to generate solar power and create a self-sufficient 0% energy footprint, within the Site. Our Heritage Centre will use 100% renewable energy to, power, heat, and light the Centre.

Once the North Wing is water-tight, we can commence its renovation; creating the largest single display area within the planned Heritage Centre. The North Wing consists of 8 bays, and each bay will cost approx £7,500 to replace.

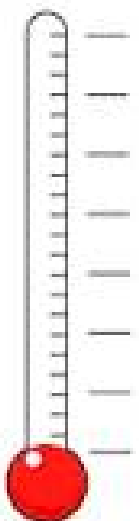
This is where we need your help!
Whether as an organisation or individually,
please either sponsor a roof bay, or donate.



www.goldengiving.com/secure/donation/raf-ingham-heritage-centre

Cheques payable to: *'RAF Ingham Heritage Group'*

Post to: *'Raise the Roof Fund'*
RAF Ingham Heritage Centre
Middle Street, Fillingham
Gainsborough
DN21 5BU



Dęblin Officer Cadet Visit

Polish Air Force Officer Cadets from Polish Air Force Academy Dęblin, traditionally attend the Annual Polish Air Force Commemoration weekend at RAF Northolt in September each year; and for the second year in succession, as part of our joint heritage and to increase their awareness of the RAF, they spent a few extra days in Lincolnshire visiting RAF Cranwell. As part of their visit to our county, we were again privileged to host them at RAF Ingham.



During their visit they were briefed, and shown a small display, depicting the history of RAF Ingham and the Polish Bomber Sqns. The visit also allowed the Cadets to experience where their fellow countrymen would have lived, worked and flown from, some 75+ years previously. The Cadets were deeply moved by their visit; and we look forward to welcoming the next intake of Officer Cadets, next year.



Hatfield Memorial



We were invited to attend the unveiling of a new Memorial Board on Hatfield Moor, to the crew of PAF Wellington of 305 Sqn, that crashed on the Moor on 27 Sep 1941. We gathered with a group of local Polish families, as the Memorial Board was unveiled by



Monika from the Polish Consulate, Manchester, and some of the Polish children. We then proceeded onto the Moor, to the Crash Site itself, where prayers and dedication were said.

Restoration Projects

Restoration Projects

Now that the Volunteers Workshop structure is complete, we're hoping to be installing an electrical supply and the internal workbenches and equipment, by early in the Spring. Our thoughts will then turn to our restoration projects themselves. We have two distinct projects: the AEC Matador 6x6 0854 Airfield Refueler, and the Brockhurst Bowser Trailer. We're fortunate that several of our new volunteers have specific mechanical, electrical, and carpentry skills, and are extremely keen to get involved. We have copies



(AEC Matador 6x6 0854 Airfield Refueler)



(Brockhurst Bowser Trailer)

of technical drawings of the vehicles, along with a great pool of knowledge from people, who've either worked on AECs, or undertaken their own restoration projects on similar vehicles.

Roland Chorazy Visit

In July, we welcomed Roland Chorazy, who had travelled from NSW, Australia, on a voyage of discovery, to visit the airfields his Father, Edward Chorąży had flown, as a Pilot with 300 Sqn, including RAF Ingham. We were able to show Roland copies of the original Operational records, detailing his Father's missions from RAF Ingham.



Polish Scout Camp - Fenton

We renewed our connection and friendships with Polish Scouting, when we were invited to attend their end of season event at Fenton Polish Scout Camp, Fenton, (just outside Lincoln, in September. Despite the regular showers of rain, the scouts had a great day, and they and their leaders/parents were fascinated to learn about PAF heritage, and about what we're aiming to achieve at RAF Ingham.



New Visitor Reception

If you've visited the Site over the last few years you'll have been greeted by a ramshackle collection of blue portacabins and shipping containers. Not anymore! As part of our evolution, it was decided to re-roll the existing Exhibition Cabin, bring together the remaining other units, and create a new Visitors Reception and Shop.

The project involved copious amounts of green paint, a fair amount of groundwork's, and lot of hard work and elbow grease! And all through the wettest Autumn in memory.

With a new coat of paint, and some fantastic help from **Lindum Group Ltd**, who provided the Hiab lift capability, we were able to re-position the cabins into their new configuration.

We're planning to open the newly refurbished Visitor's Reception in early Spring.



Pirate Gold

In May, we were contacted by BBC Radio Lincolnshire, and asked to be one of the locations for their Sunday morning programme 'Pirate Gold'. This is very similar to the TV programme of the 80s *Treasure Hunt*, starring Aneka Rice. We were delighted to accept, and on Sun 9 June, we were chosen as the 3rd location for that mornings broadcast. Great secrecy had to be maintained, with volunteers only being informed on the Sunday itself. We hid our 'Clue' on the Airmen silhouettes.



On Our Radar

Going Commercial

As part of our drive to create a self-funding Heritage Centre, we have created a commercial side to our operations. As a Registered Charity, we cannot trade commercially, so we are in the process of launching 'Ingham Aviation Trading Ltd'. The company will manage the Visitor Reception Shop, the on-line shop, and in the future, our Cafe and Heritage Centre Reception. The company will be run by volunteers, with all profits coming back to the Heritage Centre, via the Charity.

More information on the on-line shop, will be available in the spring.

In Remembrance

Since creating our Memorials and Memorial Gardens in 2016, we've spoken to many of the families and descendants of the men and women who served with the Polish Air Force Bomber Squadrons, and those who served at RAF Ingham (Cammeringham).

As well as honouring and remembering the fallen, many families would like to remember their loved ones in a special, but very personal and loving way.

So we have decided to create a unique Garden of Remembrance, where families can remember their loved ones, with engraved granite plaques. More about this in our Summer Edition.

Our Website (www.rafingham.co.uk)

Our Website in its current form, dates back to the foundation of our Group, almost 10 years ago; and as a platform, is no longer suitable or sustainable, to take us forward into the next decade. The decision was taken in late 2019, to create a new website that would deliver a more dynamic and versatile information platform, with galleries,



an on-line shop, and many more interactive features.

In order to achieve this, we have renewed our great partnership with the Media Students at Lincoln University (Cygnet PR), led by Jasmine Maguire. Cygnet PR, are currently designing and creating a brand new website platform. So we ask you to please be patient during this transition period, and the phoenix will rise from the ashes.

In the meantime, you can still follow us on both Facebook and Twitter.

New Exhibition Room

If you've visited our Site over the years, you couldn't have failed to miss the transformation of the broken-down shell of the old 'Food Preparation Building' into a watertight fit for purpose building, standing separate from main Mess building. Our Volunteers have been working for five or six years, to reclaim, reconstruct and transform the structure. Originally, the intention was for the building to become the volunteers workshop; however, with the arrival of the New Workshop, this building is being re-rolled, as future Exhibition Room. We look forward to opening it as a new Visitor attraction later this year.



Thank You.

Registered Charity No 1142147

VISIT US

www.rafingham.co.uk



@rafingham



RAF Ingham Heritage Centre

rafingham@hotmail.co.uk

RAF Ingham Heritage Centre
Middle Street, Fillingham, DN21 5BU
Tel: 07787805978

