



INGHAM WHITE EAGLE

Za Waszą wolność i naszą

Autumn/Winter 2024



The King's Award
for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

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



In August we were presented with the Kings Award for Voluntary Service by the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire Mr Tony Denis

Welcome

Our first year of being open has been a fantastic success. We have welcomed over 2400 visitors to our new Polish Bomber Squadrons Centre. In our Café, we've served thousands of cups of tea & coffee and sold hundreds of slices of cake to our visitors. And our Shop has sold-out of product lines faster than we could restock them.

They say the proof of the pudding is in the eating, but don't just take our word for it, see what our Visitors have said (see page 7)

Geoff Burton
Founder/ Trustee

Contents

	Page
Welcome	1
Kings Award for Voluntary Service	2
Afternoon Tea	2
Book Launch	3
Poppies	3
Busman's Holiday	4
Young and Old Remember	4
New Partnership with Cadent	5
What our Visitors Say	6
Tourism Awards	7
Spotlight on a Volunteer	8

Kings Award for Voluntary Service



On 28 August, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire Mr Toby visited RAF Ingham to present our incredible Volunteer Team with the Kings Award for Voluntary Service.

The Lord Lieutenant presented us with a Glass Award and Certificate signed by His Majesty the King. We were one of only three volunteer groups in Lincolnshire to be honoured with this, the first 'Kings Award'.

Geoff Burton (Founder and Trustee) said:

"We are extremely honoured and delighted to receive the Kings Award for Voluntary Service which highlights and recognises the incredible hard work, dedication and commitment of our amazing team of volunteers here at RAF Ingham. It is their enthusiasm, energy and friendship, which has made the Group the enduring success it is today. I am so proud of our entire team, who've worked so hard and given so much to create this wonderful Centre, in order to ensure this inspirational part of our joint Polish and British history is there for future generations."

Afternoon Cream Tea

On Saturday August 31, we held our first classic Afternoon Cream Tea for 40 visitors under glorious summer skies. With decorated and laid tables under gazebos, parasols and bunting, our visitors enjoyed a selection of sandwiches, cakes and scones with jam and cream, plus limitless tea or coffee. Musical entertainment was supplied by Chris Frith and 2 friends.

A great time was had by all.



Our First Book Launch



In September we were delighted to welcome and host Dr Penny Starns launch of her latest book 'Flying for Poland'. The book details the exploits of 1586 (Special Duties) Flight and the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 and was co-written by Jonathan Falconer and Penny.

During the day Penny was delighted to meet several descendants of aircrew of 1586 (SD) Flight.



Poppies

Our volunteers teamed up with ladies from Ingham Village, to create this incredible blanket of poppies for Remembrance.



'Busman's Holiday'

A real 'Busman's Holiday', as we welcomed the Volunteer Tour Guides from International Bomber Command Centre. A great opportunity to chat and swap ideas. We're looking forward to the 'Return Fixture'.



The Young and Old Remember

We held our traditional Remembrance Sunday service at RAF Ingham, and were delighted to be joined by 50 Polish Motorcyclists, the RAF National Service Veterans and local families and our Volunteers.



Cadent Volunteers

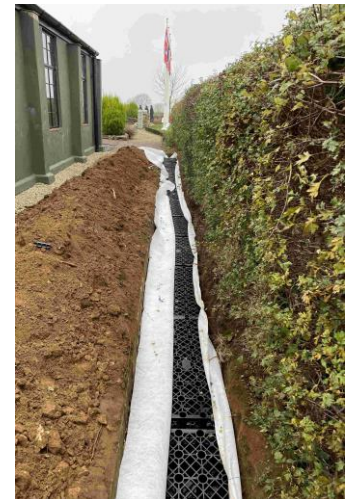


Your Gas Network

In November we announced a new volunteering partnership with Cadent Gas Ltd, the UK's biggest gas distribution network.

The Cadent volunteers, bring diverse and varied skill sets, which will allow us to undertake a myriad of infrastructure and maintenance projects.

A group of Cadent employees have already started volunteering alongside our team on several major projects, including the installation of a rainwater drainage system around the buildings, the restoration of the Memorial Gardens and clearing of the blast trench.



What Our Visitors Say

They say the proof of the pudding is in the eating, but don't just take our word for it, see what our Visitors have been saying about us. All the below were taken from Trip Advisor, Google Review or Facebook Review.

"This a very impressive and interesting place. The exhibits are comprehensive, there is a small cinema, a mock-up of a life size Lancaster and a tea shop. Well worth a visit."

Peter

"The Museum in Ingham is a real treat for history enthusiasts! The exhibits are wonderfully presented, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the rich past. The staff are very helpful and knowledgeable, enhancing the overall experience. This museum is a must-visit for families and history buffs alike, making it a key attraction in the area!"

Yar

"Fantastic little heritage centre focusing on the Polish Bomber crews based at RAF Ingham and throughout Lincolnshire. Lots of history boards written in both English and Polish detailing the history and what life was like during WW2 and the years after. Lots of interesting artefacts and the cardboard Lancaster nose section is an absolute work of art.

There are toilets and cafe on site and a nice little gift shop. The staff were all friendly and very informative and were ready to help with any questions."

Aviation Modelling

"Fantastic visit with enthusiastic welcoming guides. It's really worth a visit. At times quite moving."

Dusty

"This is an important gem of a museum. The nail has been squarely hit on head. The displays cater to all knowledge levels. Perfect opportunity to take the kids around so they know the story of our Polish friends coming to play a huge part in the allied effort. Everyone is friendly and the little cafe is just enough to round off your visit. Wait until you see the model of the Lancaster. Congratulations to all involved."

Andy

"This is a really interesting museum, covering the involvement of the Polish Air Force flying from England in WW2. The site is all level and has great disabled access. Really helpful and well-informed staff. A great afternoon out."

Dan

"Jewel of a museum run by wonderful people. Thoughtful, educational and respectful."

"I found the staff helpful, informative and you can see their joy & passion for the heritage site. I found the cafe was a pleasant experience and being the ever-indelible Yorkshireman, I found the prices very reasonable and worth having a bite to eat and a cuppa."

Martin

"Beautiful and fun museum, prices are fantastic, staff are great, and it really brings the experiences of the pilots and ground crews to life. I loved it here."

Alan

We've Been Shortlisted for Tourism Awards

Absolutely Fantastic News!

We've only been open for 7 months, yet we've been nominated and shortlisted in two categories for the Lincolnshire & Rutland Tourism Excellence Awards.

The categories are **New Tourism Business of the Year**, and **Outstanding Contribution**.

The Awards Ceremony is in February next year, so fingers crossed.



Winter Opening Hours



We have made the conscious decision to remain open through the Winter months, but will be providing a slightly reduced schedule of our Opening Times and will be closing for a short period over Christmas and the New Year, as follows:

16 Dec 24 – 10 Jan 25	CLOSED
11 Jan – 09 Apr 2025	Sat & Sun 1000-1500hrs
10 Apr – 31 Oct 2025	Thurs, Sat & Sun 1000-1500hrs

Spotlight on a Volunteer



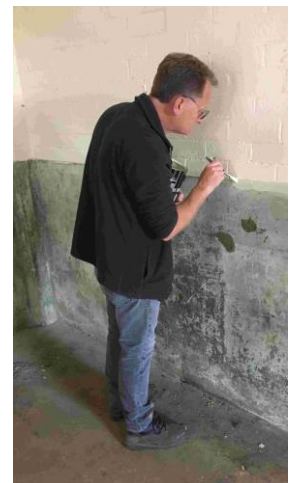
Brendan Pritchard is one of the original founding members of our organisation, and I have been waiting a long time to shine the spotlight onto him.

He's held most positions within the organisation over the years and has been a Trustee of the Charity since 2011.

From the outset he has used his vast knowledge of architecture, capital works, planning regulations and surveying, along with boundless energy, enthusiasm and ideas, as well as a great love of aviation, to help steer and drive our project to where we are today. So much of his work goes unseen on a weekly basis, but his impact reaches far and wide.



Brendan has been here from day one and this spotlight is deservedly well overdue.



Christmas Greetings

And finally, all that remains for me to do in 2024, is on behalf of everyone here at the Polish Bomber Squadrons Centre, is to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.



Registered Charity No 1142147

www.rafinham.co.uk rafinham@hotmail.co.uk

X @rafinham

f Ingham Heritage Centre

Polish Bomber Squadrons Centre
Middle Street, Fillingham, DN21 5BU



Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in Manchester



POLISH AIR FORCE
MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



museum
development
md
midlands



Aviation Heritage
Lincolnshire

West Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL