

# INGHAM WHITE EAGLE

*Za Waszą wolność i naszą*

Spring/Summer 2022

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



## Welcome

Welcome to the Spring/Summer Edition of our newsletter *Ingham White Eagle*. It's often said "that after the dark days of winter, spring brings hope for the year ahead". This was never more-true than for us here at RAF Ingham. In this Edition, we'll tell about our successes with funding, which have allowed us to commence the full renovation of the Airmen's Mess, to create our new **Main Exhibition Centre**. We celebrated Jan Stangryciuk-Black's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. April/May proved to be very exciting months, with an unexpected phone call; and the unveiling of our new Polish Air Force Bomber Squadron Trail. As you'll see from the above photo, we've also finally attended our first external event in 3 years; and we throw the spotlight on one of our Volunteers.

*Geoff Burton*

Chair/ Trustee

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Jan @ 100

# HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY JAN



Our dear friend and 300 Sqn veteran Jan Stangryciuk-Black became a Centenarian in April.

Jan has lived an incredible life, and one which we'll be detailing, in our new **Main Exhibition Centre**.

So we raise a glass, and wish you Jan, a very  
Happy 100th Birthday.



## 2022 - The On-Site Story

"Our success post-pandemic has been nothing short of incredible!"



You will remember we launched our **Main Exhibition Centre (MEC)** project, last autumn.

With great fundraising success through the winter, with grant funding from **FCC Community Foundation**, and substantial donations from **Polish Air Force Memorial Committee** and **Polish Ex-Combatants Association (SPK)**, we were able to commence the renovation project.

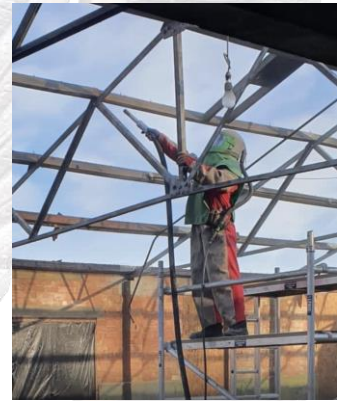
## **Phase 1**

Through Nov - Jan, our Volunteer Team dismantled the roof from both the North and Central (South) wings of the old Airmen's Mess, which had long-resembled a colander and weren't fit for purpose.



## **Phase 2**

February saw the rusty girders being shot-blasted and powder coated; and in March/April contractors installed the new roof and guttering.



## **Phase 3**



In May, the new external security doors were installed by contractors during the week, then our team were busy at weekends, building a new main entrance, preparing the internal walls and removing old ironmongery, and generally clearing up and filling skips.



## Phase 4



In June, we started the mammoth task of painting the internal walls (see next article); the Forth Road Bridge has nothing on us!!

Unwanted apertures were bricked-up and the structure for our new mini-Cinema is starting to take shape.



## Phase 5

Jul - Aug have seen the installation process for power, lighting and data, in both wings. The first electric light in there for 60-70 years; this was not lost on our Team.



## **Phase 6**

Next month (Sept) after one or two delays, 40+ new Crittall windows will be installed around the circumference of the MEC, including new glass Main Front Doors. All this glazing will allow huge amounts of natural light to flood the building.

Once the external shell of MEC is complete, work will then commence to fit-out the interior. We're looking forward to updating you all, on our progress, in our Autumn edition.

All of these results are due to the hard work and dedication of our wonderful team of Volunteers.

**Why not, come and join us!**



## **204 (Lincoln) Sqn - Air Cadets**

As part of our continuing involvement within our local community, we have now teamed-up with 204 (Lincoln) Squadron Air Cadets.



As part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, a group of Cadets from the Sqn, have been undertaking some volunteering, with us. They were supposed to be painting the walls, although their coveralls



bare testimony that as much paint ended up on them, as did on the walls! But joking aside, the Cadets have undertaken an incredible amount of painting, over the two weekends they've been with us; and are a great credit to themselves, their Sqn, and the Air Cadet organisation.

Thanks to Sqn Ldr Mark Woods and Flt Lt Jo Woods, for making the volunteering opportunity possible.



## Recognition by the Polish Government

In early April, we received an unexpected phone call from the Polish Consulate, in Manchester.



We were informed that Brendan Pritchard and I were to be awarded the '**Bene Merito**' medal by Michał Mazurek, Consul General, Manchester, on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The ceremony took place during the Polish Constitution Day Reception on 03 May, at the Polish Consulate, Manchester.



Geoff said: *"This was a huge honour and wonderful recognition for all of our team at RAF Ingham Heritage Centre, that have made the project the incredible success it is today".*

## Ride to the Wall



In May, we were delighted to welcome the motorcyclists from **Ride to the Wall**.

**Ride to the Wall** is a unique motorcycling event which gives motorcyclists an opportunity to gather together at a place of remembrance, to pay their respects to our serving and fallen service men and women and in doing so, raise funds solely for the purpose of perpetuating their memory and recognising the sacrifice made.

The ladies and gents enjoyed a tour of our Site and then paid their respects to our fallen, before continuing their journey. What a lovely group of people.

## 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On 19 May we celebrated the 80th Anniversary of RAF Ingham airfield becoming Operational.

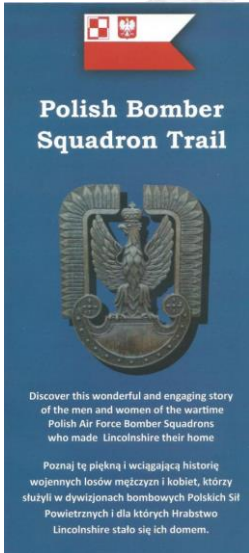
On 19 May 1942, No. 300 (Mazovoian) Polish Bomber Sqn arrived with their Vickers Wellington bombers from RAF Hemswell. Its true to say, that as this early stage, with very little infrastructure, the air and ground crews found Ingham a poor substitute for Hemswell! Ingham was initially classed as a Satellite airfield, but soon became an operational airfield in its own right.

Now 80 years later, and the old Airmen's Mess is once again, a busy, bustling place, and will be the focal point of our Heritage Centre, to tell the stories of the men and women who served here 80 years ago.

# PAF Bomber Squadron Trail



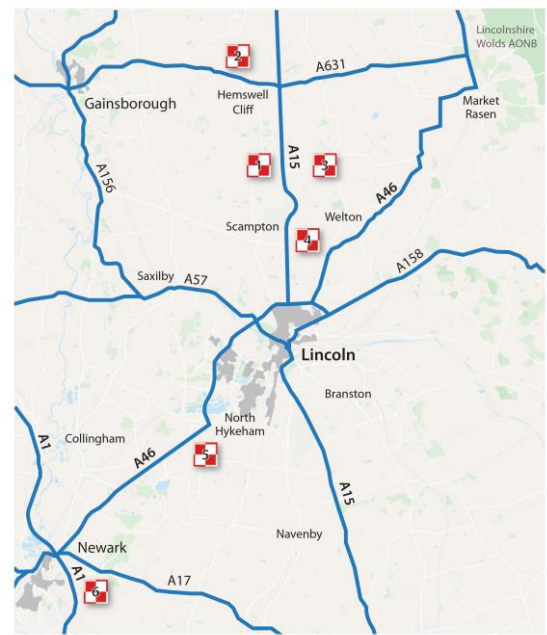
For many years before the pandemic, we had wanted to create a Polish Bomber Squadron Trail around Lincolnshire, to remember and keep alive the memories of the men and women of the Polish Bomber Squadrons, and the airfields they live and worked at.



Though Covid, with time on our hands, this finally became a reality. We persuaded St Modwen Logistics (who now own the form RAF Swinderby airfield), and WLDC to fund the project.

The Trail consists of six A1 sized interpretation boards; five at the former airfields of Ingham, Hemswell, Faldingworth, Dunholme Lodge and Swinderby, and the sixth at Newark

Cemetery, where almost 400 Polish Airmen are buried.



1) RAF Ingham 2) RAF Hemswell 3) RAF Faldingworth 4) RAF Dunholme Lodge  
5) RAF Swinderby 6) Newark Cemetery



On 24 May, during a simple ceremony, Michal Mazurek, Consul General, Manchester, unveiled the Polish Bomber Squadron Trail.





## Spotlight on a Volunteer

***"Your Volunteers are your greatest asset"***

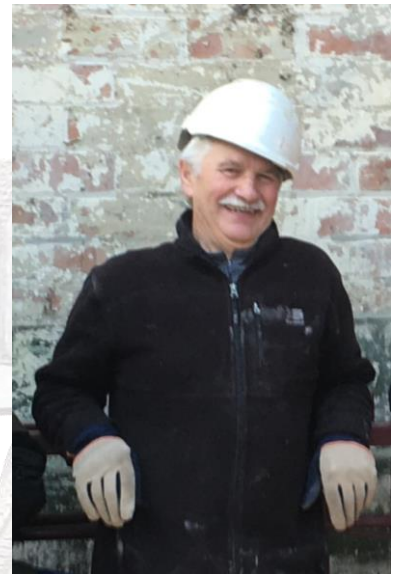
This is a new feature and each edition we'll shine the Spotlight on one of our great Volunteers. This edition we're introducing Richard Bartle.

Richard and his wife Angela joined our Volunteer Team just before Christmas. A retired builder by trade, Richard is one of our hardest working volunteers, undertaking most of the brick, block and rendering work. His skills, knowledge, energy and enthusiasm for our project seems boundless. He also willingly passes on his skills to other volunteers, and undertakes numerous additional days of building and renovation work at the MEC.

He has a wonderful dry sense of humour and brings his years of experience to our team.

Oh, and he loves BBQs.

***"As an organisation, you are only ever as good as your volunteers"***



## A three year wait comes to an end



After an absence of three years, due to the pandemic, it was fantastic to be back at Woodhall Spa 1940s Weekend (see title photo). The weather was incredible, and the crowds returned in their thousands.

Over the weekend we welcomed so many visitors to our Stand, including Polish, Dutch and Canadians; even Mr Churchill came to see us!

A huge thank you and well done to all our new team of Volunteers; who for most, this was their first experience of attending an external event with us. And of course, thanks once again, to the Petwood Hotel and their staff, for hosting us in their gardens.



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