

NUTHAMPSTEAD AIRFIELD MUSEUM

News from the Trustees - April 2013

North Hertfordshire District Council Supports the Museum

At a regular meeting of the North Hertfordshire District Council, the museum project was given official unanimous support. The local parish official who represents Nuthampstead congratulated the Trustees and commented on a worthwhile project for the community together with the continued success of the Woodman Pub as an important local amenity.

Long Term Future of the Museum, "Land Grab"

The security of the museum lies in our hands, or more specifically, our wallets. Andrew Grisbrooke was kind enough to purchase the plot of land from Ian and Sandy Johnson, owners of the Woodman, so we had a place to begin construction on the buildings. Now, in order to secure the long term future of our museum, the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum land must be purchased from Andrew. In order to do this, the museum trustees devised a plan to sell plots of land at \$100 per square. We have named this fund raising effort "Land Grab".

In order to purchase your plots of land, please make checks payable to "398th Bomb Group Memorial Association" and mail to the 398th BGMA Treasurer, Mellisa Ledlow at 16210 Breakwater Path Drive, Houston, TX 77044-1112. Please make a notation that the check is for a "Land Grab" purchase. Also, please note that you can donate or purchase plots by using Pay Pal at the museum's website: <http://nuthampsteadairfieldmuseum.webs.com>.

Donations

The museum continues to receive donations from members of the 398th Bomb Group Association. A considerable amount was brought to the reunion in Philadelphia. Our thanks go to the Stahlman Family, George Hentschel, Irma Schwieterman, Dawne Dougherty, Ruthanna Doerstler, Richard Fox, Bobbi Mier, Paul Roderick, Ellen Alexander, Joe & Dot Hauldren, Keith Anderson for donating the Ike Alhadeff papers and to Leo Cunningham gunner on the Donald B. Lowe crew who sent his collection of memorabilia and medals.

Also a special thanks to the Millville Army Airfield Museum, Millville, NJ who kindly donated a jacket from their vast collection of memorabilia.

If you are ever in New Jersey, plan to see the museum where you will receive a warm welcome. The museum has an incredible amount of exhibits all housed in the original wartime buildings on what was known as "America's First Defense Airport".

We were excited to find two small exhibits of two of our 398th Veterans who live in the area, one of whom was until recently an active volunteer. Their names are Randy Anderson, Navigator with the 600th Squadron's Erle Ford Crew, and William Burke Peirce, Co-Pilot with the 602nd Squadron's Franklin Taylor Crew.

Our thanks to Lisa Jester, Executive Director and Joan Legg who both made us welcome during our visits.



Above is a jug (both sides pictured) which George Hentschel donated to the museum. He was given it by the landlord of the Robin Hood pub in Langley (near Nuthampstead) on VE Day; they had run out of glasses so George had to drink from this!

Unfortunately the pub closed some years ago and is now a private home.

Construction Update

Last year the trustees and our dedicated group of volunteers were able to erect building one. This year we will finish building one and hopefully erect and complete building two along with the memorial garden. The extremely wet summer and fall of 2012 effectively stopped the building progress. Optimistically, the English weather will be much kinder in 2013.

Fundraising Events

In November we had the pleasure of welcoming back Air Vice Marshall Alan Merriman who gave a most interesting talk on the Hawker Hunter.

Alan Merriman was attached to the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down where he was involved with the testing and development of the Hunter.

We would like to thank Alan Merriman and all of those that attended for their generous support which raised £220 for the museum, and our thanks to Sandy & Stuart at the Woodman for hosting the event. Alan will return this year to give a talk on the English Electric Lightning.

The "Friends" also had a Fundraiser in November. Peter Godfrey gave an instructive and humorous talk on firearms; this was to raise money to provide a lectern which will be located next to the flagpole on the airfield where the Veterans casket flags are flown. Despite fog over most of East Anglia that evening, there was a reasonable attendance and £120 raised. The Friends would like to thank Nicky and Martin Barker for their generosity in hosting this event.