



RAF Elsham Wolds Association

Looking to the future, remembering the past



News Archive 2017/ 2018

(For Current Updates, please refer to [Latest News](#))

NB: Content below is 'redacted' to omit "routine items" (e.g. Newsletter despatch)

Elsham Wolds Marker (17 August 2018)

A new Marker Stone, inaugurated by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust, now stands adjacent to the one remaining 'J'-Hangar, on the Elsham Wolds Industrial Estate, as a reminder of the previous use of the land. This is one of many scattered across the UK commemorating former airfields.

IBCC (16 August 2018)

As advised in the Newsletter, the Centre officially opened on 12 April, although it had been receiving visitors since early 2018. We are pleased to report that the Ribbon of Remembrance looks impressive and includes 'our' Association stone, commemorating those who served at Elsham Wolds.

Stones dedicated to several other members of 103 and 576 Squadrons are also in evidence.

Gordon Mellor (10 January 2018)

It is with sadness we confirm the death of our Association President, in his 99th year. See (Member) Announcements for further details.

Association Events (14 December 2017)

The well attended 2017 Remembrance Service took place on Sunday 5th November, followed by a three course lunch.

As previously agreed and advised in Newsletters, the 2018 Reunion will take place on Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd September. Following a review of the future viability of the November event, the committee are pleased to advise that a Remembrance Service will be held in 2018, on Sunday 4 November. Full details will be published the Newsletter, when known.

Reunion Weekend (20 September 2017)

Our 36th Annual Reunion over the (English) August 'Bank Holiday' weekend started with the traditional Saturday Dinner, at the Golf Club. Musician John McAllister, who recently joined the Association, entertained the company with six songs from his recent album, accompanied by Nancy Hughes. The evening was the first public performance of the numbers from 'N For Nan' – dedicated to the crew of F/O Guy Johnston, lost on the Nuremberg raid of 30/ 31 March 1944, in which John's uncle was Bomb Aimer.

Following the AGM (see below) and buffet lunch on Sunday, everyone made their way to the Memorial Garden for a service of remembrance. This was conducted with his usual aplomb by Canon Peter Hall and music provided for a second year by the Market Rasen Band. Although the planned flypast by the BBMF did not take place due the majority of their aircraft being grounded, a Tender from the RAF Fire museum was on display. The service concluded with music played on a 1940s Gramophone by Hull GP, Dr Jay Pinto as a tribute to those who flew at that time. It was particularly poignant to hear 'So Deep Is The Night' sung by Richard Tauber, which was the inspiration for the title of 103 Navigator, Don Charlwood's, first book, 'No Moon Tonight'.

The weekend, concluded with the Sunday Supper, where musical entertainment was provided by singer Jayne Darling: invited back by popular consent after her stunning performance, last year. Once again, catering throughout the weekend was by Chris Sharpe and her team from Your Chef Ltd.

As always, none of this would have happened without the tireless organisation of our departing Secretary. Thanks are also due to the ATC Cadets from 866 (Immingham) Squadron and all who helped decorate the Village Hall, lent equipment, assisted with running the bar and other tasks.

2017 AGM (20 September 2017)

As previously intimated, Secretary and Events co-ordinator, Jennie MacKay, stepped down at the AGM. Chairman, Bob Whymark, also advised that he no longer wished to seek re-election, for personal reasons. Sincerest thanks to both for significant contributions and considerable time given to Association activities during their years in office. With no nominations received for either role, these positions are currently vacant.

The Meeting agreed a number of actions, including a review of the format of future events (noted above). Members should be assured that the remaining Committee are progressively addressing this and other matters arising from the AGM, whilst ensuring that the Association continues to function and thrive, as before.

The proposal for an Association Constitution was also discussed at the AGM. If adopted, this would formally define a framework for administration of the Association and collate key decisions made at recent AGMs. A draft has been written specific to the needs of the Association, with flexibility, fairness and consensus, in mind. It is based on existing practice and precedent, although several areas of administration where clarification is required were identified in developing the draft.

The Committee will finalise a draft document for circulation to all members for comment, with a view to publishing any changes, prior to a vote on the final document at the 2018 AGM.

Newsletter 52 (18 August 2017)

The next edition includes a feature marking the 60th Anniversary of the BBMF, an item on the Pforzheim raid in February 1945 and the story of the 2015 meeting between two families at Beaulieu-les-Fontaines, in north eastern France, courtesy of Memorial Room stalwart, Allan Holmes. Also included is an extensive obituary to rest at the IBCC site, in addition to the usual Members News, Association updates and Committee messages.

Newsletter 51 (26 May 2017)

The Spring 2017 edition includes an overdue report on the 2015 Danish ceremony for Stan Slater's crew; appreciations of two recently departed Veterans (Cyril 'Mick' Rollins and A C 'Bob' Blackie); an article on The Gramophone Tour; news on (Canadian) Lancaster KB882, in addition to the usual Members News, Association updates and Committee messages. Insufficient space prevented publication of the planned item on the Frank Holmes commemoration.