

## **Parham Airfield Memorial Museum Chairmans Report 2017**

The museum was visited by four and a half thousand visitors during 2017 season of which six hundred and ninety were children, these numbers appear slightly down from last year but we are aware that a considerable number of visitors go unrecorded and this is a situation that will be looked at and improved on in 2018. We hosted fifteen group visits as well as the annual "Tea Dance" and our Jeep "Glenda" has proved to be a great hit with visitors especially the younger ones and is now displaying insignia for the 390<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group thanks to museum volunteer Barry.

Accompanied by three museum volunteers' I attended the Memorial Day Service at the American Military Cemetery Cambridge and laid a wreath on behalf of the museum a duty we will be carrying out again this year. Sadly since my last report we have lost museum volunteer Gerry Green who was a loyal, popular and dedicated member of our team, his funeral service was attended by six museum volunteers.

Both myself and BRO Curator/Historian Chris Pratt have given talks to various organisations in the community on the 390<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and BRO and I am pleased to say that requests for 2018 have already been received. The tower exterior was repainted by both museum volunteers and "volunteers" from RAF Mildenhall who were organised by our Honorary President Colonel Derek Salmi USAF. Due to a promotion Derek is returning to the United States later this year to Command the 92<sup>nd</sup> Air Refuelling Wing and I have passed our congratulations onto him as well as ensuring that he briefs his successor as to his duties to Parham museum!

The touch screen computer has been well used by visitors to access information and research a subject of interest to them, the process of reorganising the museum library continues and our archivist is making great strides in the inputting of information onto the library computer which will greatly aid and speed up research, (see attached archivist report) also, another ongoing long term project is the work relating to our large collection of photos which are being collated into a searchable database.

The revamped ground floor displays in the tower have received excellent feedback from visitors as have the new displays in the main corridor of the Moller building and my sincere thanks go to those volunteers who worked so hard on them.

The museum continues to evolve and improve and there are some exciting projects in the pipeline at the moment, which, if they come to fruition will add hugely to the museums attraction and exhibits as well as making it an outstanding resource for research for both the 390<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and the British Resistance Organisation. The Data Protection Act which is due to become law in May of this year has meant a lot of hard work to ensure that we comply in all aspects with it and I would like thank Peter Senior who has put in a great deal of time and effort to guide us through the complexities of it.

I would also like to thank Lydia and Peter and all members of the Newsletter team for all their hard work in producing our latest newsletter which in my opinion is the best yet, also our web site has been completely re designed and is updated on a regular basis by Lydia who kindly took on the task.

Finally, I would like to thank all those volunteers who turn up on a regular basis in all weathers to not only man the museum when its open but who also work hard out of season cleaning, revamping displays and carrying out maintenance to ensure we are ready for opening in April and who also turn up to help with out of season group visits.

**Tim Brett**  
**Museum Chairman.**