

NATIONAL HERITAGE REPORT – FEBRUARY 2022

The restrictions of the past two years have meant that we could not attend the usual events however Keith and John mounted the Battle of Britain display at Uxbridge in September 2020 supported by Paul Wakefield and again in 2021 supported by Paul Norris and Paul Wakefield, both of Newhaven Fort.

The Battle of Britain display at Bentley Priory was mounted by Simon Craine, John Shere and Nicola Craine in 2020 and again in 2021. Photographs of both Uxbridge and Bentley Priory events are on the membership website. I attend this event as a volunteer of the Museum, selling 'raffle' tickets in 2020 and the new venture of selling craft items in 2021.

It should be noted that mileage is not claimed by Heritage members' participation in these displays.

In October 2021 Simon took the wartime display to the RAF Norton Project in Sheffield for which he received £75 for Heritage Funds.

During the period under review Tim Kitching has made his excellent ROC podcasts on the Bentley Priory site. I have recorded a short commentary for the Visitor Experience giving the most strategic history as time was limited.

During the restrictions Heritage has been busier than ever with the public looking at the website, 1045 email enquiries have been responded to by the Team with special thanks to Lawrence Holmes and Neville Cullingford who have given specific information not available to the Team.

The Heritage Team are grateful for the vast amount of memorabilia dating back many years given by Bryan McCarthy via Terry Giles.

John Shere has his first Presentation since the restrictions on 24th March to the Potton History Group in Bedfordshire.

I give below a small sample of the interesting enquiries to which we have responded, however it is disappointing that when asking some members in Groups to respond this is often not forthcoming and takes precious time in following up:

Request for wartime logs in an area of Bedford. (If only!).

Enquiry re Speke Post.

Medal found to be issued by Police for ATC Cadet March in 1985.

K2, 8 Group memories of Stewart Jackson deceased, also mentioning Geoff Cameron.

Correspondence with restorer of Inkberrow Post.

Old Holbeach Post keys sent to Lincoln for ceremonial hand over at Branch event.

From S California question about wartime circular map size.

News of ROC memorabilia for sale on ebay.

Enquiry about Ambergate Post in Derbyshire.

Request for support of Chippenham Post which was under threat of housing estate.

Details of former members who served on Shetland Isle Post.

Can Stanhope and Wearhead Posts in Durham Group be kept as historical sites?

Was Stoke Holy Cross/Poringland an ROC bunker in 1950? (ROC Post was Framlingham).

Correspondence with family of shot-down pilot who later served on Chorley cum Hardy Post.
Enquiry about WWI Ranging Stations.
Application to have Ambergate Master Post listed by Historic England (not granted).
Police enquiry about member in 1980s, criminal investigation.
Many requests for Service numbers, some dating back to the 1940s.
Request for Information about ROC/UKWMO involvement at MOD site, Langhurst, Horsham.
Woodland Trust opening Blean Post as part of Heritage Open Days.
Protracted emails with developer about Holsworthy Post, Heritage unable to support developers.
Lepe Country Park, interactive telescope to view inside Post.

Cheryl has continued to be busy in Scotland, replying to website questions and not least putting the Museum and Post area together again after bad weather.

Paddy in Northern Ireland has been isolating to shield his wife from infection but has kept in regular contact with his members and with me.

The Heritage Team would like to congratulate Jenny and Neville on their successful negotiations which have resulted in the display at Old Sarum. Members of the Team were privileged to attend the opening ceremony and were pleased to hear the Curator say that more space could be made available when further items can be added.

The Team will be taking the wartime display to the Vintage Village at RAF Cosford on 12th June, this is in place of the National Armed Forces Day at Scarborough which we are not sure will go ahead.

Edwina Holden
17th February 2022.