

## WEB EDITOR VISITS POST RESTORATION PROJECT August 2013



Some six years ago Matt Allen, from Wigston in Leicestershire, took on the task of restoring the old Kettering underground Post, which is located close to the village of Pytchley. Although he'd never served in the ROC he had learned a lot about the Corps and, having located the derelict Post, decided that he wanted to preserve a piece of local Cold War history. It was a daunting prospect!

Web Editor Mick Marks went along to see how the project was progressing, and was surprised to see just how much had been achieved. The original Observer Corps Post was built in 1932 and was operational throughout World War Two.

The underground structure was completed in 1961 but the Post was closed down during the 1968 reorganisation. Due to severe flooding at the nearby Raunds (sometime in the early 1980's) – the Kettering Post was re-opened and brought back into operation. Former Raunds Post member Dave Thoday tells me that he, and his fellow Post Members, had to take part in Exercises at the neighbouring Benefield Post until the Kettering one was ready. Final closure came when the Royal Observer Corps was stood down in 1991.

This was Matt's second Open Day, following his acquisition of the site, and had been well advertised through Facebook. The site has been cleared, trees cut down and the long grass trimmed. The above ground structure was sound and has come up well after several coats of new paint. Below ground the interior is dry and redecorated. Many of the instruments have been located, but Matt is in dire need of a BPI and GZI so if you know anyone out there. . . . !

Picture taken for the local paper during an exercise in 1985

### Putting their country before wives and kids

THREE brave men will slip into their nuclear fallout shelter this weekend totally unconcerned about the peace demo at Molesworth.

They are volunteers of the Royal Observer Corps, and have already made the agonising decision to put their country before their families in a nuclear war.

They all pray that they'll never be sent into action — to click into the national network of 870 bunkers that will "plot" a holocaust. But they are facing reality.



• Left to right, Dave Thoday, Geoff Drew—Reading, Group Staff Officer Ken Biggs, Chris Lamberton, of the Home Office, and Pete Browning.

The write up seems to overdramatise the situation that would ensue in a real emergency. But as we all said at the time – Thank God we were never put to the test!

The site before restoration began.





The site in 2013





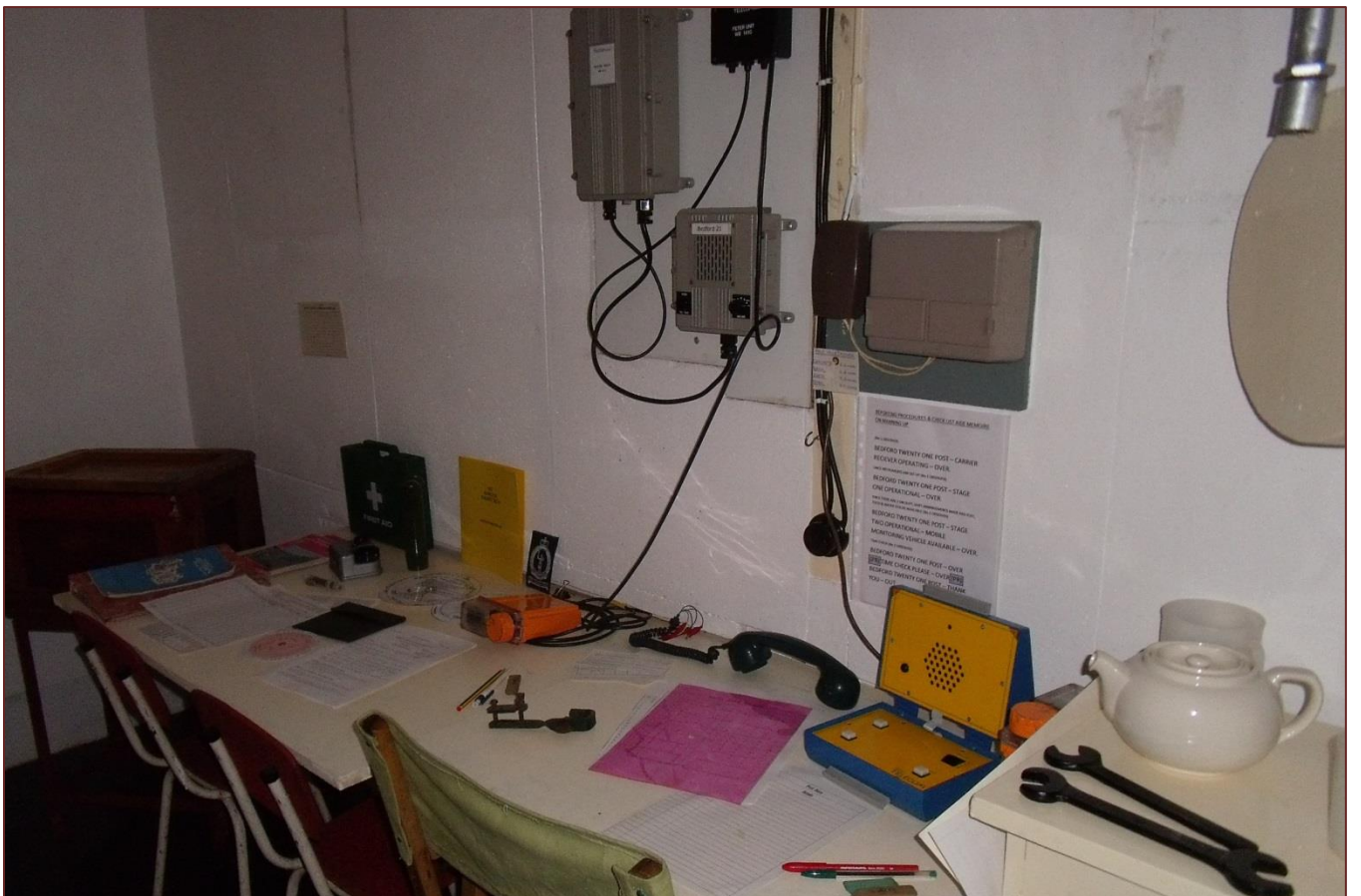
Above:- *"No you can't go down there!"*

Below:- **Matt Allen** and one of his team





The interior today





***Pictured Below:- Matt Allen with Mick Marks -***



Well done to ***Matt*** and his team. Matt would like to acknowledge and thank:- ***Rick Thomas, Wes and Emma Booth, Sam Tait, Wayne Gillham***, and all those who have helped him in the past few years.