



The North Weald Airfield Museum Association Newsletter

Registered Charity No 1081157

July 2007

From the Chairman

After two hectic years commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ending of World War II in 2005 and the 90th anniversary of the airfield's opening in 2006 things may seem quiet in the museum, but in fact a lot has been going on behind the scenes.

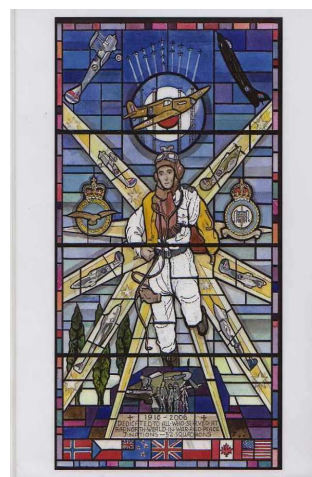
At the end of 2006 the Air Scene Museum at Blake Hall had to close. However, thanks to the efforts of our Vice-President Arthur Moreton a number of significant exhibits of relevance to RAF North Weald have found a new home at Ad Astra House. They are not all on view yet, but will be integrated into the various displays in due course.

Following the conversion of the loft for the storage of the uniforms collection, work is now progressing on the reorganisation of the library, including increasing the shelving provision by at least 50% and separating the reference library from the general books, DVD's and videos. This will be followed in turn by a much needed tidy-up of the work room.

On June 19th 2007, exactly 55 years after Princess Astrid of Norway unveiled the Norwegian Stone on the green outside Ad Astra House in 1952, the 132nd Wing of the Royal Norwegian Air Force dedicated a memorial to the veterans of 331 & 332 Squadrons who flew from North Weald during WWII. It takes the form of a full size replica of a Spitfire Mk IX, mounted on a shaft in front of the squadron building at their base at Bodø and the eulogy was given by our dear friend Major General Wilhelm Mohr. Arthur Moreton, representing the local communities of North Weald and Epping and myself, on behalf of the Museum, made the trip 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle to join veterans and serving members of today's RNorAF for the ceremony. It was a deeply moving event that was brought to a thrilling climax with a close formation flypast by 4 F16 Falcon jets.



North Weald 90 Year Commemorative Window



As we move into the second year of the 90 Year Commemorative Window Project I am able to tell you that to date just over £10,000 of the £12,000 required to complete and install the window has been raised since the appeal was launched in the summer of 2005. The design has been finalised and the picture at the head of this letter shows you what it will now look like. The most significant changes are to the figure of the pilot, who is now wearing typical Battle of Britain flying gear and to the background, which has been simplified to represent the summer sky. I am sure you will feel, as I do, that the window now tells the full story of our airfield and it is with great pleasure that I can tell you that a full size drawing of the design and manufacture of part of the window have been commenced. These will be on show at the museum as soon as they are finished and you are cordially invited to call in and see them. It is our hope that the presence of these works of art will be the final incentive that will enable the remaining money required to be collected and a completion and unveiling date to be set. May I also take this opportunity to thank you once again for your support.

RAF NORTH WEALD RAF NORTH WEALD

NEVER BEFORE HAS SO MUCH BEEN NEEDED FROM SO FEW !

Your museum **NEEDS** you.

Can you spare a few hours a month or a week manning the museum.?. If you enjoy meeting people and keeping active why not contact Elaine via the museum or telephone her on 01992 560691. She will make sure your offer is utilised as we need your help to keep the museum running.

SUMMER DANCE

Do you like to dance, eat good food and enjoy terrific company?

Then check your diary as we are holding a Summer Event on **Saturday 28th July 2007 at North Weald Village Hall.**

It will be a great evening with a wonderful buffet and fantastic entertainment provided by 'Silverbird'. If you have never seen Barry Smith of 'Silverbird' before, he has his rig set up in a cockpit of an aeroplane with spinning props and smoke!!!....brilliant fun and he will entertain us all evening with a wide range of period tunes. 1940's dress optional.

We really do hope you will be able to attend. Tickets are priced at £17.50 each. So why not bring your friends, It would be excellent if we can have a 'Sold Out' event and raise well needed funds and awareness for our museum. Tickets are on sale at the museum at weekends or by calling Elaine on 01992 560691

BLAKE HALL

At the end of 2006 the Airscene Museum at Blake Hall closed. The wing of the building converted into North Weald's control room at the height of the Battle of Britain is to be returned to domestic use. The collection, built up over many years by the Aspinall brothers has been broken up, but thanks to Arthur Moreton a number of significant Exhibits relating to RAF North Weald have been obtained for our museum. These will be gradually integrated into our displays and those of you who have visited Ad Astra House this year cannot have failed to notice the dramatic remains of a Rolls Royce Merlin engine in the Modern Room. In August 249 Squadron Association will be holding their annual reunion at North Weald and it is hoped to have material relating to their time on the airfield on display.

NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD



IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Flying for Freedom

NEW NEW NEW - Just off the press.

A pictorial overview of RAF North Weald and its community in the epic days of the Second World War, by our vice president Arthur Moreton. In response to requests from members and visitors to the museum Arthur has spent numerous hours compiling a wealth of pictures and information on our airfield during those epic years in the form of a A4 size book.

So why not order a copy for your collection, it would make a fantastic Christmas gift.

It is now on sale via the museum for just £7.50 but hurry or you will be disappointed.

For further information contact Dawn on 07719436732.

Future Newsletters

We want you as members to be more involved with the newsletters so we intend creating two new features and these are:-

Memories:

Have you any WW2 memories that you would like to share?

Did you know?

Have you any facts regarding North Weald that you would like to share? such as:

Did you know that forty-one aircrew from North Weald and its satellite airfield at Stapleford Tawney were killed during the "Battle of Britain".

If you can contribute please contact me Ivan on 0208 2793784 or issk16@yahoo.com and I will be more than happy to publish them.