

306th Bomb Group Museum Newsletter No.4, July 2019



As our readers will by now know, a group of seven enthusiasts got together to seek to preserve the Museum into the future following the death of Ralph, its founder. Surprisingly, or perhaps not, within that group we are fortunate to have all the expertise and skills necessary to successfully support the enterprise. An example is John Watson-Read, a horticulturalist, who lovingly tends the surrounding lawns and gardens and has created the “Triangle-H” motif and landscaped the “memorial corner”. Thanks John. By the way, John is also our “canteen manager”!



While we have not since attracted the 360 or so visitors that came to our opening day on 5 May, we have nevertheless had sufficient numbers to make our subsequent Sunday openings worthwhile. So far we have managed to staff these days from our small group of volunteers and it seems that the word is getting around, as a number of our visitors have made round trips in excess of 100 miles to be there!

When the 306th left Thurleigh in 1945 they were by no means the last of the United States Air Force to set foot on the airfield. After the cessation of hostilities the airfield was converted to become the flight facility of the of a newly created research establishment which, together with the construction of a suite of very advanced Wind Tunnels at the neighbouring Twinwoods Farm Airfield - of Glenn Miller "fame"- became the Royal Aircraft Establishment Bedford. Associations with NASA Establishments and the USAF ensued and visitors from these service organisations were relatively frequent. With photographs provided by courtesy of the Bedford Aeronautical Heritage Group, two such "aircraft" visitors were a Lockheed Hercules on liaison duties and a Lockheed U-2 on military duties.



By way of a "tailpiece" to this Newsletter a Lockheed U-2 was "borrowed" from the USAF for research into the properties of the atmosphere at high altitudes and also in connection with investigations into the structure of thunderstorms! MDD 8/7/19