

# *306<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Museum Newsletter No.7*

*December 2019*



I know Newsletter No. 6 ended with the words “Until next year...” but a few things have happened which seemed to justify another in 2019. So being a “December” issue it gives the opportunity to wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

The first thing is to thank is to thank Ray Franklin [our founder’s son] and his wife Val for their tremendous help in ensuring the future of the Museum. To labour the point no further, Ralph’s huge collection of everything collectable was not entirely orderly and Ray and his brother, Graham have done a sterling job in sorting the wheat from the chaff. We wish Ray and Val [and the dogs] a happy retirement in their new home in the West Country.

While on the “people” thing, it is a pleasure to welcome Mark Fussell to the Museum management group. Not only does he bring experience and an enthusiasm to look after our finances, but is accompanied his son Alex and friend Matt. These two lads are full of the 306<sup>th</sup> “spirit” and already, at their own initiative, have acquired and erected a “stained-glass” window in the Museum Chapel.



*The Museum Chapel*

Deviating from the Museum but hopefully of interest to our readers is the recent discovery of a Lockheed P38 “Lightning” aircraft below the sea bed off the coast of Harlech in North Wales. With nose art “Maid of Harlech” it is visible only when the conditions of sea and sand are right. The aircraft – I hesitate to call such a noble machine “a wreck” – has been given protected status by the Welsh authorities and, as I understand it, this was conferred on 11 November 2019, the 100th Anniversary of the first Great War Armistice Anniversary Day of 11 November 1919.



As a result of the success of our first Summer Season it had been decided that our Sunday opening will begin in March 2020 as opposed to this year when we opened in May.

While the Newsletter is not really the place for adverts, I thought perhaps readers may be interested in a book I have recently published, entitled:

***“Eighty Years of Thurleigh Airfield***

***A Pictorial Record of the Airfield and its Aircraft 1940 – 2020”***

This 80-page book [ISBN 978-0-954 1594-5-0] lists eighty-five different aircraft types which were resident or visited the Airfield over the period and includes a section, “U.S.Army Air Force Occupation 1942-1945”. Price £10 [GBP] plus p&p. Orders to [mike@mddobson.co.uk](mailto:mike@mddobson.co.uk) and payment by cheque or PayPal can be arranged. Maybe a handy Christmas present!

Until next time,

MDD 30/11/19