

95TH BOMB GROUP HERITAGE ASSOCIATION REPORT

What a remarkable year this has been on so many levels!

Our buildings have undergone significant changes and updates. The exteriors have received a fresh coat of paint from a contracted company, complete with a guarantee. The toilets have been renovated, with traditional designs for both the ladies' and gents' facilities, while the accessible has been brought up to regulation. Other areas have also benefited from decoration, improvements, and maintenance. We've added beech hedging along the boundary and a yew hedge behind the memorial bunker.

The museum has experienced a thorough deep clean and reorganisation, now featuring superb new lighting. We've also welcomed new collections, thanks to generous donations, with more additions planned. Also, to enhance air circulation, we have installed fans in the built-in cabinets.

The bar has thrived throughout the year, hosting numerous dances and open days, keeping Brad's Bar lively with a steady

flow of beer! Over the winter, the PX

underwent a significant revamp,

introducing new stock, including our own branded glasses and beer sets, which have been very well received.

The Committee has welcomed many visitors over the past year. In June, we hosted a large group as part of the D-Day anniversary cruise, with over 200 guests attending over the weekend. We provided dancing, live music, military vehicle displays, and, as always, a warm welcome from our dedicated Committee and volunteers, for which we are extremely grateful. We've also had numerous visitors from the US, including family members coming to see where their relatives served, as well as tours featuring the cast from "Masters of the Air." Another successful Americana Day and our regular open days have contributed to a fantastic year.

Financially, 2024 was quite an

expensive year; however, through the success of our events and visits, we have worked hard to raise funds to reinvest in the Heritage Association for future projects.

None of this progress would have been

achievable without the support of our

members, volunteers, and Committee. Their efforts are clearly reflected in the

transformation of the RFC.

The 95th BGHA is looking forward to an exciting 2025 season with what is shaping up to be the busiest year ever at the Red Feather Club.

We are currently working on a new building to house a ground crew display & the Dodge Weapons Carrier, this has been ongoing for some weeks, plus the prior planning etc; alongside ongoing essential maintenance and further developments for the museum.

As well as the usual trio of dances with big-name acts arranged by Andy Garner - in April there's The Biscuit Town Band, in June Cody Lee and in September David Broad and the Meanwood Valley Stompers - there are also three charity dances, one for our friends at the 96th during their VJ 80 Reunion, one for Redlingfield Village charity; and one during the 95th's own Reunion. We have a whole host of major visits planned including three Masters of the Air tours and other large groups from both abroad and the UK.

BUT... the highlight will surely be the 95th Bomb Group Heritage Association Reunion in the UK; coinciding with the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May. Our American friends will get to visit the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, the Royal Estate at Sandringham and King's Lynn, go on a military vehicle run to Parham Airfield and a 1940's street party.

We must mention the loss of two key members of our Association, which has deeply affected our Committee and organisation; we will strive to remember and honour them in the best way possible.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed and supported us over the past year. Here's to a successful year ahead!