



Pollington Airfield Memorial Garden

"We Will Remember Them"



Hon. President Reece Ounsley

Committee Members, Chairman John Staveley-Churton, Vice Chairman Peter Gulliver, Secretary Margaret Cromack,
Treasurer Richard Lyons.

Newsletter

Hello, My Name is Margaret Cromack I have just taken over from Renee as Secretary to the Memorial Garden Committee.

In January 2017 I offered my services to help Renee with the secretary's job, to take some pressure off her. I will be, recording the minutes of committee meetings and the AGM meetings.

I will write any risk assessments that are required.

Renee has also asked me to take charge of the sale of goods and Raffles at events.

I will be another pair of hands whenever Renee needs help.

Since then I have helped with two reunions, helped to keep the garden tidy, and enjoyed every minute.

I must have passed my assessment as Renee (as she reported in the last newsletter) has decided to pass the reins to me.

This is quite a daunting task, but I know Renee is there to help and advise me. Thankyou Renee I'm sure I will be calling on you soon.

I would like to update our contact details for you could you please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter and return it to me ASAP

My contact details are

Mrs M H Cromack 5 Oakdale Close, Snaith, East Riding of Yorkshire, DN14 9HL.

Tel. 01415 860052 mob 07711112171

e-mail Lestweforget1995@gmail.com

Message from Chairman, John Staveley-Churton.

I'm very honored to be part of the PAMG Committee and I will strive to ensure the Garden remains, a fitting memorial to ALL who served at RAF Snaith.

The Aims of the Committee are. The maintenance, improvement and raising awareness of the Garden, to build on the foundations for the Garden to be a Memorial for future generations to come.

We have an excellent team with many different strengths. Retired RAF Wing Commanders. Current serving RAF 51 Sqd personnel. As Secretary, Margaret Cromack brings a wealth of organizational skills gained through her dedicated work with St John Ambulance. Rtd RAF WO Richard Lyons as Treasurer whose experience of RAF traditions is invaluable. Peter Gulliver, Vice Chairman, as Historical Researcher has a virtual encyclopedic knowledge of who flew with who on what aircraft and what happened to them, he is assisted by Belgian Friends of RAF Snaith, and others who are involved in similar research.

Jonathan Wilson, Operations Director of Kelkay Ltd, on whose land the Garden is situated, Jonathan and Kelkay have been exceptionally helpful since the inception of the present Committee. Geoff and Delise Thorp who work on the design of both the Garden and the floral tributes at the Reunion and Remembrance Days, Geoff himself is Rtd RAF Officer. East Riding Councilor Caroline Fox, who is currently

Preserving the memory of those "Brave Boys" who flew out of RAF Snaith, 150 Squadron and 51 Squadron during WW2.

the Chair of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. We also have many people who support the Garden in many ways.

Last, but certainly not least, Renee, who as our Honorary President will continue to work closely within the team and who's depth of knowledge of everything involving the Garden is invaluable to the Committee. Should we need any "guidance!" I feel sure Renee will be looking for "the rounders bat!!" (That's another story)

John

A report from the local newspaper



President honour for Renee
A "selfless" woman has been made the Honorary President of the Pollington Airfield Memorial Garden Committee. Renee Ounsley BEM was presented with a thankyou gift and the certificate of appointment by chairman John Staveley-Churton after a remembrance service at St John the Baptist Church Pollington and the Memorial Garden. Renee said she was "very honoured to be offered the position"

THE CREW STORY OF HALIFAX MK II HR788 MH-?

As those who attended the last November Remembrance Day Reunion at Snaithe, Peter Gulliver gave a short talk about the recent contact of a museum based in Holland. The museum had been approached by a civilian who had adopted some war graves and asked if there was any way to find out more about the people whose graves they were maintaining.

The initial approach was made by Hans van Dam, who is a Database Volunteer at the Liberation Museum Zeeland and he was making enquiries on behalf of Leon Hilleman, who is the gentleman who volunteered to adopt and maintain the grave of Sergeant Anthony Ribour Helliwell (Navigator). Since that initial approach, Mr Hilleman has undertaken the care, upkeep, and maintenance of some more of the crew's war graves within the cemetery where the remains are interred.

By way of a brief update, we can now reveal the relatives of the crew have been traced, with the exception of 2 crew members. Some of those relatives have already provided a little background and photographs of their loved ones; in relation to those more recently located information and photographs are still awaited. This is obviously an on-going story, and there are still two families to find and potentially unite with the families of the crew that have already been found.

Wherever possible and only with the agreement and support of the relatives traced, the RAF 51 Squadron History Society are able to reunite the families of the lost crew members, and sometimes this leads to lasting friendships being formed. For this particular crew, it was both their first and last operation as a crew.

[Preserving the memory of those "Brave Boys" who flew out of RAF Snaithe, 150 Squadron and 51 Squadron during WW2.](#)



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Operation to Düsseldorf on the 11th-12th June 1943 (failed to return)

The crew consisted of:

Rank	Service No.	Name	Position/Role		
Flight Sergeant	656484	John James Anderson	Pilot	RAFVR	KIA
Sergeant	1098278	Anthony Ribour Helliwell	Navigator	RAFVR	KIA
Sergeant	658031	Albert Edwin Brodie	Bomb Aimer	RAFVR	KIA
Sergeant	1382321	David Glassman	Wireless Operator / Air Gunner	RAFVR	KIA
Sergeant	632404	George Luff	Flight Engineer	RAFVR	KIA
Sergeant	1266090	Frederick John Biddle	Mid Upper Gunner	RAFVR	KIA
Sergeant	1473151	George Edward Evans	Rear Gunner	RAFVR	KIA

Once the story is completed, it will appear both in the database of WingsVictory and the database of BevrijdingsmuseumZeeland, as well as forming part of the database of stories and photographs being created by the RAF 51 Squadron History Society, so the brave men of RAF Bomber Command who gave the ultimate sacrifice will always be remembered.

Peter Gulliver and Neil Smith

Joint Chairmen

The RAF 51 Squadron History Society

Message from the Treasurer Richard Lyons

We can now accept donations & payments electronically

To pay / donate towards the upkeep of the garden please send donation by Bacs to 56 00 36 42321204 or cheques made out to P.A.M.G. to

The P.A.M.G. Treasurer, 7 Aire View, Snaith, East Riding of Yorkshire, DN14 9ET

Tel: 07967303372

Richard

Plaques

A new plaque was placed in the garden for F/S James Frederick Vaissiere by his son and daughter on Saturday 9th December.

For all enquiries about plaques please contact Richard Lyons

Events

The Remembrance reunion was well attended the weather was very cold but dry.

The young people from 2357 ATC Squadron, Pollington School and Snaith School did a good job on the day. There were 4 plaques dedicated and many poppy memorials laid. Then back to the village hall for lunch, speeches, and socialising.

The next reunion will be on **29th April 2018** which will be on the same day as the Freedom of Snaith for 5 1 squadron as already explained. The reason being is that the RAF cannot use two different days due to their duties. This event is being organised by the Snaith & Cowick Town Council, we are hoping to be part of a joint committee.

Please let me know if you want details of the Reunion in April and I will send them out as soon as I receive them from the joint committee. Margaret

Please send details of the Reunion April 2018	
Name	
Address	
Post Code	
Tel:	
E-mail:	

If you have anything you want to share with us please let me know, preferably by e-mail

Kind Regards

From friends at RAF Snaith

We would like to wish ALL RAF Snaith Veterans, their families, and friends.

Sincere Seasonal Wishes

from The PAMG Committee



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If you wish to receive a copy of our newsletter

Please complete and return to Margaret ASAP

TITLE	
SURNAME	
FIRST NAME	
ADDRESS 1	
ADDRESS 2	
TOWN	
COUNTY	
COUNTRY	
POST CODE	
TELL. No	
MOBILE	
E-MAIL	

Mrs M H Cromack 5 Oakdale Close, Snaith, East Riding of Yorkshire, DN14 9HL.

e-mail Lestweforget1995@gmail.com