



The Eighth in the East.

Newsletter No. 3 July 2012

Dear Friend,

It's been awhile since our last newsletter and my apologies for that. However, the steering group and our rapidly growing number of potential partners have been hard at it over the last few months – all of them volunteering their time and skills.

When we first started on this project, over two years ago now, we wanted it to coincide with the 70th anniversary of USAAF activity in the East of England. We now realise that that isn't possible. Indeed, given the importance of this history, it's odd that we thought we would need an anniversary to peg it to! Come August, however, we will be tweeting and using a Facebook page to draw wider attention to the 70th – and to the project.

Horham – Your Shout!

I think all who attended would agree that this was a tremendous success. It allowed us to outline our thinking and then to receive considerable input from those who have been working in this field for many, many years. Those of us who organised the day certainly went away feeling that this is a project that many groups and individuals have been waiting for, one which will deliver some significant, sustainable outcomes if we are able to put together a successful bid to Heritage Lottery Fund. Most importantly, I think, was the general recognition that time is catching up with museum volunteers as it has done with the fliers that their work commemorates. We need to do everything we can to replace this hard-working band.

A big thank you to James and the team at Horham for helping us with the day. A great group of people and an inspirational museum.

Horham Messages

These were the key messages to come out of Your Shout!

- Need for volunteer training
- Greater communications needed between volunteer groups
- Professional marketing needed for this history
- There is support for oral history work
- There is support for archaeological work
- Help needed to access funding for museums

HLF

We have been having regular meetings with Mark Dykes and our mentor Claire Adler at the HLF offices in Cambridge. They have been very supportive of what we are trying to do but, with such a lot of public money at stake, there are many, many hoops for us to jump through yet! Indeed, such is the complexity and ambition of this bid; we have decided to delay our main application until November. A decision will then be made by spring 2013. Meanwhile, HLF has generously given a small amount of funding so that we can employ two consultants to help us with the bid. We advertised and interviewed several suitable candidates for these roles earlier in the summer (well, what should be summer) and then appointed Karen Merrifield and Tim Heathcote.

Karen Merrifield from Innovate Educate in York is very experienced in designing learning plans and she has been hard at work talking to existing volunteer groups, museums, schools and colleges to help us design an educational package which recognises different age groups and delivers new skills and not just an understanding of the recent past. Naturally, any ideas that you might have to help us deliver inspirational and innovative learning please shout.

Tim Heathcote is based near Bury St Edmunds and he has been looking into the marketing aspects of the bid and, in particular, potential partners and how we can draw up agreements with them. We already have strong support from diverse organisations such as UEA, the Airfield Research Group, Lowestoft Airshow and the Council for British Archaeology (East) and Tim is working to make these relationships as robust as possible.

Airfield Research Group

We have had a couple of very positive meetings with ARG and we are really hopeful that they can join with UEA, CBA (East) and the various county archaeological services to deliver one of the key elements of the project. We really are excited by their involvement. It seems that the built history of the Eighth Air Force is under more threat than ever and so it would be very useful if you know of buildings, former runways, artwork etc... that might disappear.

Lowestoft Airshow

We have held preliminary discussions with the organisers of the Lowestoft Airshow which, I think I'm right in saying, is the largest open-air event in the region. They are keen to develop a greater learning element to their work and we would very much welcome the profile that they can offer. We hope to have a presence at the show throughout the duration of the project and beyond so that we can engage visitors with this history.

Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum

Pam and the team at Flixton kindly offered us space at their open day earlier in the summer which we were unable to use. However, it's clear that if we are successful with our bid next year we will need to attend all kinds of event such as this. As ever, if you can help do get in touch.

New Media

Andy Pritchett from Ugly Studios in Norwich was one of the younger members of the gathering at Horham in February. He and his associates in the heritage interpretation sector have lots of ideas about using smartphone apps and other related technology. We're planning a day to discuss all this in Norwich in the autumn. So watch this space and get in touch with your ideas.

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