



# TEMPSFORD VETERANS AND RELATIVES ASSOCIATION

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021



### *Bob's diary*

For obvious reasons, a short newsletter this time. We were lucky, indeed, to be able to hold a “reduced” Summer Gathering this year; Covid restrictions meant that we were unable to operate as normal. However, the weather was kind, and those who attended had a good day!

Thanks to those who put in the work “on the day” to make it run smoothly.



## **SAD NEWS**

We are sorry to report that we have lost another of “our” veterans. Geoffrey Pidgeon, while not a member of Tempsford Air or Ground Crew has, for some time, joined in our meetings, as his work on the Secret Wireless War was bound up with fitting the equipment into Tempsford aircraft.

Geoffrey will be remembered as a most remarkable man, an energetic and committed enthusiast in everything he touched. Consequently, he made many friends in many walks of life, his life in the bathroom industry, his love of bowling, his passion for the history of Bletchley Park of which he had been a part and the many good friends he made through social contact. Those of you who knew Geoffrey through his wartime work and his books and newsletters that informed us about this secret but vital aspect of the war effort will be aware of the light he shone on these little known and sometimes still hidden parts of the work around Bletchley Park. His book ‘The Secret Wireless War’ has become the standard reference on the subject.

He will be much missed.

### **A reminder, and a word of warning to new(er) members.**

We are able to continue to hold events at the Barn, thanks to the kindness and support of the Erroll Estate. The “job” of dealing with us, since the death of Lady Erroll, has passed to her son, Richard, and we very much appreciate his understanding of the depth of feeling we all have about Tempsford. That said, there are a few ground rules that need to be absorbed and followed.

The runways are totally out of bounds. Please keep to the perimeter track, and the area immediately outside the Barn. Dogs must be kept on leads at all times. This is a working farm, using dangerous machinery!

As can be seen from the pictures, the shelves in the Barn are unstable, to put it mildly! Absolutely no-one should be climbing on any structure: any damage to the Barn or straying away from designated areas could easily result in the Estate refusing to allow us access in future. This is private land, and we are privileged to be able to come and remember our family members who served here - please do not spoil it.



You may recall that a while ago an intrepid team followed in the ski tracks of the agents charged with destroying the heavy water plant at Vermork - Operation Gunnerside. The cabin in which the agents stayed has been preserved, and turned into a museum. A Norwegian friend has kindly sent us photographs of the the cabin, to complete the story.



# ***138 & 161 Special Duties Squadrons***

***Special then***

***Special now***

***Special always***

## Contact details:

Bob Body - [editor@tempsford-squadrons.info](mailto:editor@tempsford-squadrons.info)

Helen Body - [tvaradmin@tempsford-squadrons.info](mailto:tvaradmin@tempsford-squadrons.info)

## Websites

[www.tempsford-squadrons.info](http://www.tempsford-squadrons.info)

[www.161squadron.org](http://www.161squadron.org)

[www.tempsfordairfield.com](http://www.tempsfordairfield.com)