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398th BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION • 8th AIR FORCE • 1st AIR DIVISION • NUTHAMPSTEAD, ENGLAND

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FLAK NEWS

OCTOBER 2019

THE HUT IS UP!



After a few years of anticipation, planning and fundraising and very generous donations, the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum has a brand new Nissen Hut!

The new Nissen Hut finally became a reality in mid-August. Plans are to stage a section of the hut as Station 131 base living quarters, just as it looked during WWII, by filling it with artifacts and period pieces donated by our members. The Museum has even acquired an authentic WWII era potbellied stove to 'warm up' the look!

Additional details about NAM's exciting new acquisition are on page 2.

A New Addition at The Nuthampstead Airfield Museum!

by Marilyn Gibb-Rice

The Nuthampstead Airfield Museum is thrilled to announce that the third and final building of the museum, the Nissen Hut has been erected!!! Many thanks to Leo Croce (602nd SQ Co-Pilot) and his daughter and son-in-law Pam and John Goode for spearheading the fundraising that got us over the finish line and able to buy the materials and have it constructed. We had several generous donations and we would like to thank everyone that donated.

At this point we have the outer walls that are a lovely green in keeping with the war time coloring. There is insulation and then the inside walls. Two secure doors were installed instead of the standard type which are not as secure. Our plan is to put in two windows in each end of the Nissen Hut - but not operational ones. Only for show!

The materials were purchased from Gareth Pugh Steel Framed Buildings and the hut was erected by R A Cooper. Both companies were from Wales and very professional to work with.

Now we just need to get our electricity - and yes, we are still waiting! But we are optimistic that it will happen before the Memorial Service in 2020!!! We also will be working on the hut over the winter to "kit it out" and have some nice displays for all to enjoy. We hope many of you will be able to come over to see all of our museum in the near future.



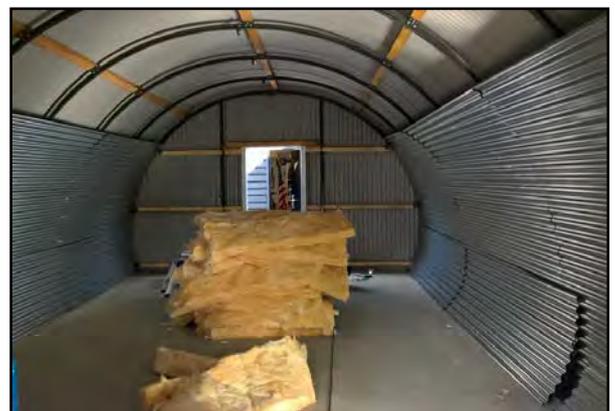
Leo Croce, center, with his daughter Pamela Goode and son-in-law John Goode at the 398th BG Memorial in Nuthampstead England, May, 2018.

The three were major funding benefactors for the new Nissen Hut. Thank you Leo, Pam & John and thanks also to *everyone* who contributed!!

Building the Hut

Photos right and directly below: The materials were delivered and the framework erected.

Photos bottom left and right: The corrugated sheet metal was fitted over the frame. A view of the interior, lots of insulation going in!



The Nuthampstead Airfield Museum Roadshow

Article and photos are from the July 2019 issue of the Nuthampstead Airfield Museum Newsletter



The Nuthampstead Airfield Museum mobile display was out and about this summer at fetes, markets and open events. This year the museum display was present at eight venues locally in villages and towns. While this display makes for a good talking point with local people, it also helps with ongoing fundraising and creates awareness regarding the museum and its promotion within the local area and surroundings. The mobile volunteers also receive items that people donate to the museum such as an original gas mask which was received at the Barkway Village Market. The mask was kindly donated by Jenny Warren of Barkway and it is already on display in the museum. The other venues for the museum displays are Royston Market, the May Fayre Royston, Langley Upper Green and the Little Grandson Air Show. Many thanks to Andy and Jackie Green, Peter Godfrey and Deirdre Field for volunteering to man the display. The weather wasn't always the greatest but they were always there with a smile on their face!



The Nuthampstead Airfield Museum has done well this season, they have had 349 visitors since the first of April, but that is only counting their open days. Geoff Rice has met numerous people who come by appointment and their fundraising talks have gathered many people as well. So that probably makes their visitor total closer to 400. *That is fantastic!* Great job and thank you to all involved with The Museum!!