

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

HERITAGE CENTRE'S REPORT APRIL 2026

Last year saw a 139 visitors to the Heritage Centre, including 7 American families who were visiting the sites that their ancestors served at during WWII. We have a close relationship with Falcon Cranes and co-ordinate these visits so that they have the opportunity to see some of the old hanger buildings that are still standing, the runways and the exhibits and records at the Heritage Centre. We opened on 27th April and closed on November 9th, allowing those visiting as part of Remembrance Sunday the chance to access the exhibits.

Throughout the warmer Summer and Autumn months, we saw visitor numbers rise, we took part in the Shipdham Yard Sale, and hosted guided bat walks from the Heritage Centre around the village. All activities that we will be hosting again this year, as well as looking for opportunities to make this beautiful space open to the public more frequently.

We continue to have a number of projects earmarked for this year including photographing and mapping all of the grave markers in the cemetery off Pound Green Lane to make locating them easier, and starting our Voice of the Village project to record as many villager's tales in audio or video format for posterity.

Our band of volunteers is somewhat depleted at the moment, following the sad loss of Helen Cramp in February and a number of our other volunteers having to step back to care for parents/partners. Currently we have 4 regulars and 3 who can help occasionally, to ensure that the centre is open every Sunday, between 11am and 2pm, and at other times, on request. We have approached the History Group in the hope that a few of their supporters may be encouraged to join us.

If anyone is interested in joining our volunteers, has anything related to the village history that they would like to share with the community, or would like to know more about Shipdham life and the Shipdham Airfield, please do drop in or give me a call.

We would usually have reopened by now, as the warmer days seem to be arriving, but are currently trying to get a sustainable roster in place. So please bear with us.

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