

Speaker Meeting 17th March 2026
Dave Gilbert - The Making of a Memorial

In March, Dave Gilbert, the Losses Archivist for the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC), gave us a fascinating talk on its conception in 2009 by Lord Worth, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, through to its official opening in 2018, and beyond, as work is still ongoing to honor non-airmen who also played a significant role in our defense. Showing us a photo of Arsenal football ground filled to capacity brought to light what the loss of 58,000 airmen looked like. As well as interesting details about the recruitment of volunteers to produce the digital archive, and the making of the laser-cut steel panels for the Walls of Names, we heard many stories of personal loss. The one which will stay with me, in particular, along with the sets of brothers, including twins, is that of the 14 and 16 year old lads who won prizes to have a flight in a (non-combative) aircraft which sadly crashed. A brilliant speaker, and if you haven't yet visited the memorial, it's a must!

