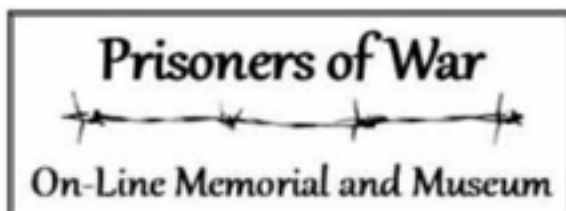


# NEWSLETTER NO:1

## The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War

FIRST EDITION  
OF OUR  
NEWSLETTER



Please share this  
Newsletter with  
others

### A word from the Chair of Trustees

Welcome to our first newsletter since registering as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation a little over a year ago.

Our focus this year has been on developing a new website to preserve and share information about the experiences of Allied Prisoners of WWII, and on introducing procedures that ensure we are a well-run charity.




Our new website has been designed to improve access to the wealth of information kindly donated by friends and relatives of Prisoners of War.

It is a matter for regret that currently our lack of funds means that searching the website is a rather slow process. In the coming year we will be working on funding proposals.

If you have ideas for how to improve the website and/or suggestions for possible sources of funding, please send them to me at [powmemorialmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:powmemorialmuseum@gmail.com)

All that we have achieved to date has been the result of selfless volunteers who give freely of their time to build a website, load information to it, carry out research, run the charity as a trustee and so on. My thanks to each and all of them.

We still have a lot to do. If you would like to help us with any of the following:

-  organising POW80 particularly if you have experience of event management;
-  scanning documents and converting them into editable text using OCR software;
-  managing a charity as a trustee;

please contact me at [powmemorialmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:powmemorialmuseum@gmail.com)

Dave Lovell

### POW80

2025 will be 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation and repatriation of tens of thousands of Prisoners of War. We would like very much to deliver an informative and commemorative event to mark this at a venue in UK and we will very soon commence planning for it.

We realise that the cost, location, date and programme will affect whether you will attend and these are currently unknown. It would help us greatly, though, to know how many people are likely to attend.

If you think you might please email [pow80event@gmail.com](mailto:pow80event@gmail.com) stating the number of people in your party. If you have any ideas for what you would like the programme to include, please also let us know that.



Prisoners of war (POWs) in the hundreds of thousands were taken by German and Italian forces during the Second World War. Most were captured in a string of defeats in France, and the Balkans between 1940 and 1942. They were held in a network of POW camps stretching from Nazi-occupied Poland to Italy..

### **How the Project / Website began: (Over 20 years ago)**

Philip Baker became involved with the subject of Prisoners of War because of his friend Charles Saunders.

In 2001 Philip was working for Saga Holidays, a major British tour operator. The leader of the Broadstairs and St Peter's Concert band approached him because the band had the idea of performing a concert in Boulogne to say "thank you" to the citizens who had helped British soldiers, including Charles, during the war.

Unfortunately the band did not have enough money to pay for a trip to France, and they asked Philip whether his employers, Saga Holidays, would sponsor their proposed trip. Saga Holidays agreed to do this and they appointed Philip as the organiser of the trip. The concert took place in Boulogne in



Lamsdorf Camp

June 2001 and was a great success, and widely reported on French TV, radio and in the newspapers.

Read more of this story at [Prisoners of War Museum Web page](#)

**Mr Philip Baker BEM**

Philip received his British Empire Medal for his work on the creation of Lamsdorf Website, this took place in November 2021 at the British Embassy in Paris.



## 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF WWII PRISONERS OF WAR 2025

### NEWS

The trustees of the Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War have approved a proposal to look into the practicalities of organising an event in 2025 to commemorate the liberation of Allied POWs in 1945.

Whilst the focus for the event will be the relatives of the prisoners an important objective is bring the little known experiences of Australian, British, Canadian, New Zealand and other nationality's prisoners to the public's attention.

If you would like to help the organising committee please email: [pow80event@gmail.com](mailto:pow80event@gmail.com)



Christmas Quiz – All the answers are on the website (and the bottom of these pages:)

1. How many POW records do we have on the site?
2. What is the name of the first POW listed alphabetically?
3. Who started this project more than 20 years ago?

Picture round:

4. Who wrote and produced this play	5. What are these POWs carrying?
	

## Reporting on our first year as a registered charity

**Trustees are delighted to announce that the Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War has doubled its number of weekly users following the launch of a new website.**

Since becoming a registered charity in November 2022, the online resource has attracted a total of 5,800 users from around 40 different countries. It has also seen the addition of some 75,000 records sourced from The National Archives, with extensive work by two volunteers to correct errors in the data before uploading.

We have developed a new website and uploaded to it all the content from websites managed by the charity's founder, Philip Baker. This significant task was carried out entirely by volunteers. This marks a major milestone in delivering the charity's objective of providing a permanent, Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War maintained and regularly updated as an interactive, historical and educational internet resource which enables the collection and preservation of information.

Between July and November 2023, the website doubled the number of users per week – from 250 to 519 – with around half coming from the UK. On average it attracted 42 users per day, hitting a peak of 150 users on Remembrance Sunday. Average engagement time is 5 minutes and the most viewed pages are STALAG VIIIIB LAMSDORF / STALAG 344.

Whilst the majority of users come via Google search and Facebook referral, there are a large number of regular visitors who come direct to the site via the URL.

### Highlights of 2023

- Appointed one new Trustee, Michael Sharratt, following the retirement of Philip Baker.
- Held 4 Trustee meetings.
- Opened a bank account with the Co-operative Bank and transferred the money donated by people who had paid to attend the POW75 commemorative event in 2020 which was cancelled as a result of Covid restrictions, and who did not seek a refund.



- Developed policies to support management of the charity and the volunteers who undertake work for it <https://www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com/charity-policies/>
- Met with representatives of the Friends of Stalag IVB association to explore synergies and invited them to provide a Trustee. As a result, Tony Drewitt joined the Trustees on 01.11.2023.
- Spoken to a Trustee of the Children and Families of the Far East Prisoners of War ([COFEPOW](#)) about the potential for some form of collaboration.
- One of our volunteers also compiled a new 55 page 'Help with Research' guide which was published on the website. [Use this link:](#)
- Met with the National Memorial Arboretum to discuss future maintenance, and possible replacement, of the existing memorial to all POWs which it hosts.

The Online Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War is registered charity no 1200975.

Our Trustees are: Brian Cooper, Dave Lovell, Ian Bowley, Katie Foster, Michael Sharratt, Robert Sharratt, Tony Drewitt.

Philip Baker is retained as our Project Advisor.

This is the first of our Newsletters to keep people informed if you have suggestions or ideas please contact: [powmemorialmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:powmemorialmuseum@gmail.com)

### Answers to the Christmas Quiz:

A1 [81395 \(on 17th Dec\)](#)

A2 [Daniel William A'Bear](#)

A3 [Philip Baker](#)

A4 [Roy Pike](#)

A5 [The bread ration](#)