

# GUIDE FOR VISITORS

Wherever you're coming from, welcome to Thanksgiving Field and the tiny park with its big heart. Whether you're visiting in person or on-screen, there's much to enjoy – and surprise.

Some visitors may be local - popping round from the Tally Ho Farm Shop or, hey, the Honesty Café. Others may come from afar, going an extra mile beyond Legoland and Windsor Great Park (to the smallest in the UK).

The big Field and Uplifters Celebration Park have a diversity of things to make you smile and think.

The Field is where an American B17F #3351Z ended up burnt out on 14 October 1943 after the greatest ever air battle – the Second Schweinfurt Raid, aka Black Thursday. After a long and gruelling day - described later as "one of the most remarkable sagas of WWII" - all the crew were safe, and looked after by the Grant family along the road at Old Dairy Farm. Internet research showed most returned to long lives back home. The plane wreckage was taken away, save for a few lumps of burnt duralumin and spent cartridge cases in the field. On 20 October 2013, I unearthed these – and their provenance. The rest is unusual history.

Though sprung from a day of battle, what's here is not a war memorial but a tribute to those everyone who help rebuild life and hope after conflict of any sort. So this is place that, uniquely, celebrates a fenciful of Uplifters: people seen by individuals, families or groups as inspiring, encouraging, or good examples. As well as the plaques, we have Corners that celebrate common humanity – with the ethos set by Henri Dunant who inspired the International Red Cross movement: Civilisation is helping each other; people to people, nation to nation.

These happenings have been made possible by the spirit of generosity and imagination of the family at Tally Ho. With their encouragement, it's been my privilege to make something of this tiny fragment of history - to give you big smiles and surprises. Wherever you're coming from. Happy landings!



Hugh Gibbons, Creator & Ranger  
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Spring 2023

**THANKSGIVING FIELD**

**UPLIFTERS CELEBRATION PARK**



BEHIND THE BARN AT TALLY HO FARM CROUCH LANE WINKFIELD BERKSHIRE SL4 4RZ

[WWW.THANKSGIVINGFIELD.ORG](http://WWW.THANKSGIVINGFIELD.ORG)

## LOCATION near Windsor, Ascot & Bracknell

**TALLY HO FARM is at Crouch Lane, Winkfield SL4 4RZ** in pleasant countryside about 20 miles west of London, mid-way between Windsor and Bracknell. They're near Legoland, Ascot racecourse and Windsor Great Park – and make a diverting extra to visit. And free. Tally Ho is a leading supplier of quality equestrian products.



Crouch Lane lies west off North Street in Cranbourne, the A3022 main road between Windsor and Bracknell. NB1 You'll need a car, horse or bike to get to Tally Ho – buses are few, and mean at least a half-mile walk. The entrance off Crouch Lane is well marked. The Shop has a surprising stock of equine supplies - Tally Ho is big in the national polo world – and there's a toilet. Shop hours are 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, and 10am-4pm on Sundays.

Since March 2023 Tally Ho has had a big addition to its facilities – an Honesty Café. This serves all sorts of refreshments - with a big outdoor terrace and lovely view south across the fields, glimpsing St Mary's church. Opening times are 8:30am-4.30pm (Monday to Saturday) and 10am-4pm (Sunday). Dogs are welcome, and biscuits are available.



The little Park is embedded behind the barn, and open to visit during the Farm Shop hours.

Along the path on the right of the entrance to the Honesty Café is a latched gate marked Broadwell Stud Private. But visitors can go through and turn left to just the barn and Park. NB1 Outdoor footwear's advised. NB2 Please keep dogs on leads as there are chickens wandering and other dogs about. If it rains, you can shelter in the barn - but absolutely no smoking in there. And the wires by the fence are lightly electrified!

The Park is unattended, with a very detailed information board is on the side of the barn by the gate into the Park. Everything then is self-explanatory, and you can enjoy browsing, exploring the plaques, or taking in the vista. There's seating for about eight adults.

### IF YOU WANT DETAILED GUIDES

go to [www.thanksgivingfield.org](http://www.thanksgivingfield.org) which has PDFs ready for reading on-screen or printed out.

- WINKFIELD WITNESSES is account of the Field in the voices of those on the day – and now – from the crew of our B17 in the air and after; civilians and others on the ground in Ascot, Winkfield and Schweinfurt; then and now.
- MISSION 115Z is the story of how the fragments found were made into unique artworks send out to the crew families and others across the USA, museums and churches, embassies et al. Many of them are on plinths of 200-year-old oak from Lily Hill Park in Bracknell.
- GUIDE TO ALL THE PLAQUES lists in detail all the plaques – large and small – that have been placed on the Uplifters Fence over the years. They range from a Roman military medic to Greta Thunberg – via wingwalkers, alternative Oscar Schindlers, the Skateboard Hero, Salvador Dali's only known speech, the under-age RAF pilot, and three poets.

And if you more information at any time – or have a suggestion to share – I'm happy to hear from you.

Hugh Gibbons, Creator & Ranger

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## OUR THREE CORNERS CELEBRATING COMMON HUMANITY



**HENRI DUNANT CORNER** is a tribute to someone symbolising the spirit of the Field. A businessman who witnessed the bloody aftermath of the battle of Solferino, Henri rolled up his sleeves and did what he could to ease suffering on both sides. This led him to be the inspirer of the International Red Cross, and first winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. The words on the corner echo his definition of Civilisation: *"Helping each other – people to people, nation to nation"*.

**EVERYWOMAN'S CORNER** is a tribute to the mothers, wives, sisters, daughters and others who so often have to pick up the pieces after conflict. (Author Alan Bennett said that "history is women following behind, with a bucket.") Four WW2 families represent different facets. Patricia Consolmagno cared for B17 navigator Joe after he spent three years as a POW in Stalag 3. Our friend Michael Pfrang's mother grew the family in the aftermath of his father returning from the Russian front having lost a leg. Lutheran pastor Schorn and wife survived the many raids on Schweinfurt. And Gladys Saunders' knew of PTSD in the family after a V1 hit (but she smuggled soil from Central Park NY to plant our trees...)



**LOUIS ZAMPERINI CORNER** celebrates a story shared in books and the film Unbroken. A 1936 Olympics athlete, in the USAAF Louis survived drifting across the Pacific in an open rubber dinghy, torture as a POW, and severe PTSD back home. But his immense and unbroken compassion saw him return to Japan to forgive his torturers, and become an exemplar for later generations of civilisation and common humanity. Louis was from Long Beach in California, where our B17F was built in 1943 – and where the Rosie the Riveter Memorial Park is

## OUR GIVING-THANKS SEAT

The Seat has wording that echoes the dedication at the American German Air Memorial Garden in Schweinfurt. It's somewhere to sit and give quiet thanks for someone in your life. You're welcome to create one in your own home, back yard or work as well.



And a variation is: if you could sit and have an hour's conversation with someone on the Uplifters Fence, who might that be? And what would you want to ask or talk about?

## OUR FEED-THE-MIND-AND-SOUL PLAQUES ON THE POSTS



These little acrylic plaques from a nearby garden centre were put in place for the opening of the Field in June 2014.

Each has a personal thought for visitors to reflect on, and maybe raise another smile to take away.

It's said that they represent each member of the crew of B17F #3351Z that ended up in the field beyond the warden grazing here. In addition, PEACE is at the entrance gate to the Park, to set something of the spirit of this place. The others are fixed on the upright posts on the fence.



## OUR TREES, FOREIGN SOIL, AND BOTTLED BREATHING SPACE

**WHEN THE FIELD OPENED in June 2014**, we planted two apple trees to mark the occasion – and provide shelter and food in years ahead. Both were given by nearby Oak Trees Garden Centre. The



planting was done by local resident Hilda (nudging 100) led in by children from Winkfield and Ohio, and Chris Adkins from Tally Ho. One was a Bramley which we named Ramsey, after the county in Minnesota where the cartridges were made in 1943. The other was a Cox's Orange Pippin – an eater called Dieter, after Pastor Dieter Schorn, our champion in Schweinfurt. Alas, the wind and dry weather got to both. Happily, the wonderful Jealott's Hill Community Landshare garden includes a big array of native English trees which the volunteer team makes available to community projects. So they were delighted to provide a new sturdy and whatever-the-weather hawthorn in November

2016. There's a plaque to JHLS on the Uplifters Fence.



**THE SOIL they're in has its own fun story.** It's quite a mix, and means that this is a corner of an English field that is forever foreign. Some was collected from Podington, the airfield from which our B17 #3351Z flew. More came from St Josef's church in Schweinfurt – destroyed on Black Thursday – brought to a meet-up at St Martins-in-the-Fields by Michael Pfrang, present pastoral assistant at the church. Pastor Dieter Schorn sent an urnful of soil from the American German Air

Memorial Garden in the city. And from the USA? Well, importing soil is forbidden. But it happened that Gladys Saunders was in Central Park for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and maybe smuggled a thimbleful back...

**UPLIFTING MUZAK** plays automatically all the time you're in the Field. The music is John Cage's 4' 33". To hear this, just listen.



**AN INFINITE SUPPLY OF QUIET BREATHING SPACE** for visitors to take away was provided in 2014 by pupils at Sidcot, a Quaker school in Somerset.

Jackie Bagnall, Director of their Centre for Peace & Global Studies, wrote to the Guardian newspaper about the weekly one-hour of silence for pupils and staff that they'd been appreciating for over 300 years. She kindly arranged for Sidcot pupils to bottle this breathing space – so it could be scattered across the Park and anywhere else – and made available on-line for anyone to use at home or work. Grab some from the air and take it home.

**OUR UPLIFTING ANTHEM FOR FAMILIES** can be sung anytime, anywhere by anyone – preferably fortissimo. To the tune of The Stars & Stripes Forever by John Philip Sousa, it goes...



*Oh be kind to your web-footed friends  
For a duck may be somebody's mother.*

*Be kind to your friends in the swamp  
Where it's always cold and damp.*

*Oh you may think that this is the end.  
Well it is.*