

## Dear Friends of the Museum

From the Cambridge Museum Team

October and November are months of remembrance. We pause to honour courage, sacrifice and peace by marking Te Pūtake o te Riri, He Rā Maumahara on 28 October, the liberation of our sister city Le Quesnoy in France on 4 November and Armistice Day on 11 November. Each commemoration invites us to reflect not only on the past but also on how those events continue to shape who we are today.

In this spirit, Karen has written a moving piece in this newsletter about Donald Taylor. It is a story that brings these commemorations close to home and reminds us how deeply history lives within our own community.

### He Rā Maumahara | A Day of Remembrance

A new display in our main gallery explores the immediate impact of the largest conflict of the New Zealand Wars — the Waikato War (1863–64). Among the items on show is one of only a few surviving cheques from the Kingitanga's bank at Maungatautari. This rare document is a highlight of our collection and provides a tangible link to a pivotal moment in our history.

The cheque will be on display for a limited time before it travels to Te Whare Taonga o Waikato Museum and Gallery to be part of the exhibition *Ngaati Hauaa* opening in June 2026. That exhibition will run for approximately 18–24 months, closing at the end of 2027.



Elizabeth Harvey and Craig Hoyle at the U3A/CHS History Talk series, August 2025 MICHAEL JEANS

ADDRESS FOR MAILED COPIES

### Family History Month

As part of Family History Month in August, we were delighted to host journalist and author Craig Hoyle in partnership with U3A Cambridge. Craig shared his deeply personal journey from the Exclusive Brethren and explored his grandfather George Hayward's diaries and letters tracing echoes of faith, control and belonging that spanned generations. His talk was a moving reminder of the importance of preserving family stories, even when they are difficult to tell.

We also enjoyed talks and workshops at the Cambridge Library with the Cambridge Genealogy Group and journalist Andrew Johnstone, looking at ways to digitally record histories.

### Community Connections

Local historian Lyn Williams is currently researching two Hamilton-based projects — Maeroa and Hockin House — and would love to hear from anyone with memories or photographs to share.

If you have a connection to Maeroa (including parts of Forest Lake), or if you lived or worked at Hockin House when it was a nurses' home from the late 1940s to 1960s, please contact Lyn at [lynwilliamsheritage@gmail.com](mailto:lynwilliamsheritage@gmail.com).

### Thank you to Jumble Around

We are grateful to Jumble Around for their generous donation which has enabled us to purchase new lapel microphones and an external hard drive for our oral history projects.

These resources will make a real difference to the way we collect, preserve and share the voices of our community. The microphones ensure we can capture clear and authentic recordings, while the hard drive provides us with secure and reliable storage for our growing archive of oral histories and sound archives.

### Looking ahead to 2026 – be part of the Team

As we plan for 2026, we are looking for people who care about history and community to join the Committee. This isn't just about keeping things running; it is about driving new projects forward.

#### Our goals include:

- building the collection – growing and protecting what we hold, both physically and digitally
- fundraising for storage – safeguarding our collection for future generations
- raising our profile – with pop-up exhibitions and events to spark local interest.

We are especially keen to bring in younger members because it is a great way to begin your contribution back to your community and one that produces tangible results.

If you have ever thought about getting involved, now is the time. You don't need to be an expert, just bring enthusiasm, ideas and a love of history. Put your hand up and be part of the 2026 Committee.

**Together, we can make the next chapter of Cambridge's history one to remember.**



## The Hero Behind the Street Name Flying-Officer Donald Graeme Lane Taylor

*Tucked away just opposite the entrance to Resthaven Retirement Village, is a quiet cul-de-sac called Donald Lane. Who was Donald and why was a street named after him? The answers can be found in the records and artefacts of the Cambridge Museum. We are honoured to share the story of local hero Flying-Officer D G L Taylor.*

It was near the end of World War II when two teenagers from Onnen in the Netherlands witnessed the crash of a Spitfire. It was one of eleven in an early morning attack on a German supply train. The boys ran to the scene of the crash, hopeful of saving the pilot, but they saw at a glance it was too late. They knew that the Germans would soon arrive to clean up the site, so they left – but not before collecting a piece of plexiglass from the cockpit, and the top piece of a smashed oxygen tank as mementoes of the pilot's bravery.

### Early life

The pilot's name was Donald Taylor. He grew up in Cambridge in a home on the property of what is now Donald Lane. His father was Cambridge dentist Graeme Taylor, who arrived in Cambridge in 1911. Graeme built the family home in Vogel Street in 1913, and married Enid Lewis the following year. The couple had two children, Olwyn and Donald.



*Flying-Officer Don Taylor*

Graeme was a keen sportsman and took part in literary and amateur theatricals. When he died in 1935, aged 50, his funeral paid tribute to his military service in WWI, and he was missed by his wide circle of friends.

Son Don was well-known and popular in Cambridge before he left for Europe during WWII. Like his father, he was a good sportsman, participating in rugby, tennis, swimming and shooting. At a Patriotic Committee dance held just before he set off, Don Taylor made the farewell speech on behalf of the 26 men who were leaving for active service. He was just 18 years old when he began his flight training.

### Military service

According to his flight log, he had carried out an extensive programme of training and missions from July 1942. His neat, comprehensive notes show episodes of blackouts, lost and injured friends, hits with flak and cancellations due to "duff" weather. A mission in Boulogne in September 1944 saw the NZ Spitfire Squadron cooperating with the British Army in direct forward support when it strafed German gun emplacements. This was reported in the press as a great success.

Flying-Officer Taylor set off for his final mission on 8 February 1945.

At Onnen, 6km southeast of Groningen, a city in northern Holland, his squadron carried out an early morning attack, strafing a railway marshalling yard. The Spitfires attacked a departing supply train, turned and came in for another attack. It was during this manoeuvre that Taylor took his plane low, one of its wings

clipping a water tower, before it crashed into a house. Taylor and two railway workers at the property were killed.

In a letter to Taylor's mother Enid, Squadron Leader John Pattison described Don as "an experienced pilot and a skilful section leader. He was the youngest and one of the most popular members, not only of this Squadron, but of the whole wing".

### Remembrance

In 2016, the Cambridge Museum had an approach from researcher Dirk Munk from the Netherlands who wished to contact Taylor's family. Munk was researching and documenting those who fought and died near his home in Groningen.

Through his research, Munk discovered roughly 6,000 aircraft were destroyed in Holland during the war. He estimates about 500 crash sites with the remains of 1,085 airmen remained untouched. They are declared war graves in Holland.

For years, Munk had known about four graves linked to Commonwealth soldiers in the cemetery in Haren, a small town near Groningen. The stories behind the Dutch buried there were well known, but nothing was known about those four gravestones.

"The interest in, and the respect for, the men that fought then is rising, also among the younger population," Munk said.

With the Cambridge Museum's assistance, Munk contacted Colin Holmes, Don's nephew. Colin's family had left Cambridge decades earlier, and he admitted he knew little about his uncle, his mother Olwyn having passed away in 1962.



*Colin Holmes at Onnen in 2018 near where Flying-Officer Taylor's plane went down. The bridge still bears the scars from the Spitfires' mission. Image: Dagblad van het Noorde 5/5/2018.*

It was a proud day for Colin when he unveiled his uncle's memorial plaque at the town of Haren in 2018. He and his wife Rae were emotional when they met the youngsters Egbert Vos and H Wolters, now in their 80s, who had witnessed the crash. They presented Colin with their mementoes – the cockpit glass, now polished into an arrowhead shape, and the piece from Don's oxygen tank.



## Legacy

Colin Holmes visited the Cambridge Museum recently, donating his uncle's flight log, medals, cockpit glass, piece of oxygen tank, personal photos, correspondence and reports. The Museum will ensure the memory of Donald's heroism continues for future generations.



After Don's passing, his mother Enid devoted herself to community service. In 1947, she was famous for becoming the first woman Councillor at the Cambridge Borough Council, involved in the Hall, Band and Library committees.

Donald Lane off Vogel Street was named for Don Taylor in 1954. Take a moment to remember him next time you pass by.

Karen Payne



Don Taylor (Cambridge Museum collection)

## References:

Vancouver is Awesome newsletter 9/1/2016

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Donald Taylor collection, Cambridge Museum

## King's Empire Veterans Association Cambridge Branch, 1980-2008

CM4708, donated by Colin Wilson in 2003

### Background

The **King's Empire Veterans Association (KEV)** was New Zealand's first returned soldier's service association. In 1900 retired members of the Imperial and Colonial Forces came together under the patronage of Governor-General Lord Ranfurly to form the New Zealand Empire Veterans Association (NZEVA). The association aimed to provide fellowship and support for men who had served the Empire in conflicts across the world.

Members were issued with a bronze medal, shaped as a Maltese cross and encircled by laurel leaves, with the letters NZEVA engraved at the centre. Suspended on a red, white and blue ribbon, it was worn on the right side of the uniform.

In 1910, the association's name was changed to the **King's Empire Veterans Association**, and the medal letters were updated to reflect the new title. (Source: *Orders, decorations and medals awarded to New Zealanders: an illustrated guide for collectors* / Geoffrey P. Oldham and Brett Delahunt. p96)

### Who could join?

The KEV was an exclusive association. Membership was open to returned personnel who had served overseas in a war declared and waged by the Crown or the Commonwealth. By the mid-20th century, World War II veterans turning 60 began joining in large numbers.

### A Social and Supportive Fellowship

Although it began with a strong welfare focus, by the late 20th century the KEV had become mainly a social group of like-minded people. Members and their families enjoyed regular meetings, sports tournaments and Christmas socials.

Branches were not permitted outside Auckland until 1965, but once formed, they attracted a loyal following. Members looked after each other and their widows and widowers, carrying on the founding spirit of fellowship and service.

### The Cambridge KEV

The Cambridge Museum holds a collection of membership lists, minute books and badges from the Cambridge KEV. If you wish to view these archives, call us on 827 3319 to book a time.





## Coming up in November

### The AGM and Special Talk: Thursday, 20 November 2025

You are cordially invited to the Cambridge Historical Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **20 November 2025 at 7 pm** at the Cambridge Bridge Club on Fort Street. Please note that the Committee has co-opted Stephen Schollum, a member of the Historical Society, to act as Chair while the Society is currently without a President.

**The AGM will be followed by a talk** titled *Reel Conversations: Stories from Cambridge Filmmakers* Matt Hicks (*The Tavern*) and Andrew Johnstone (*When the Cows Come Home*).

### Call for Committee Nominations

At the AGM, we will be voting in the 2025/6 Committee. Please consider putting nominations forward for the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- up to 10 Committee members

We would be happy to have an informal chat with you about any of the roles. Please call 07 827 3319 or email [secretary.cbhs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cbhs@gmail.com) to arrange a time that works for you.

### How to nominate committee members

You can nominate yourself or another member of the Historical Society for any position on the committee. Collect nomination forms at the Cambridge Museum front desk. Once completed, either return them to the Museum or email them to Jo at [secretary.cbhs@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cbhs@gmail.com).

## Morning Tea – and you're invited!



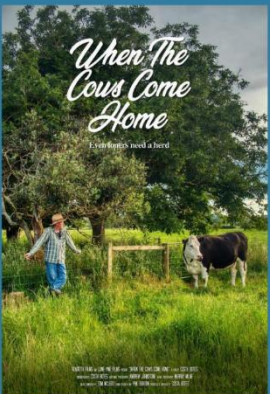
Join us on **Friday 7 November at 10.30am** for a special morning tea. We'll be gathering in the Museum to enjoy a cuppa, share stories and plan a new summer display together.

This year we want to create a case that really connects with visitors, one that is built from everyday objects you remember from your own family life. The kitchen is full of things that have shaped the way we cook, eat and live, so we are starting there.

At the morning tea you will be able to suggest kitchen objects you'd like to see in the case, share a short memory about them (which we'll use as the display labels) and enjoy a friendly chat with fellow members as we shape the display together.

**RSVP by Wednesday 5 November** for catering purposes.

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY and FRIENDS OF CAMBRIDGE MUSEUM PRESENT:

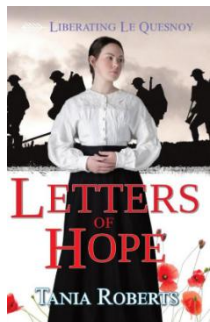



**Reel Conversations: Stories from Our Town's Filmmakers**

Guest speakers: Matt Hicks and Andrew Johnstone

7 pm on Thursday, 20 Nov 2025. All welcome.  
Cambridge Bridge Club, Fort Street

## RECOMMENDED



### Book Launch: *Letters of Hope* by Tania Roberts

Join Tania Roberts on **Saturday 1 November at 2.30pm** in the Community Centre at Resthaven.

For authentic war time reading, the first book *Letters of Hope* centres on life in the fortified town of Le Quesnoy during the four years of German occupation.

## New additions to the collection:

- Cambridge Railway gate hinge pin
- Archive: Spenser or Spencer Street, Leamington
- Book: Susan Hague's Cambridge Museum Chapter 1999-2012, with CD: Susan's Farewell
- Cambridge Community Arts Council archive
- Karāpiro Lake Rowing Event 1950s, photographed by Vic Butler
- Book: *The Owl Spread Its Wings* – The History and Register of St Peter's School, 1936-2010

