American Cemetery
Madingley

On Friday 20 September, a small group from the Brampton & District Branch visited the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial at Madingley. Operated by the American Battle Monuments Commission, similar to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the cemetery contains the remains of 3,811 of American war dead from the Second World War. Additionally, there are also 5,127 names recorded on the memorial's Wall of the Missing. The Cambridge American Cemetery is one of 26 burial sites from France to the Pacific which honour American war dead and missing and are administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. It is one of two in the United Kingdom, the other is located in Brookwood, near London.

After taking in the Cemeteries' Visitor Centre and Memorial, the group from the Brampton & District Branch were moved by a tour of the ground by the Cemetery Assistant, Ms Tracey Haylock. She led the group to several individual graves, giving the background and stories of those who were buried. Of note, the tour included visiting Private Eugene C Murphy, U.S. Army Air Forces, from Connecticut, USA, who died on 10 November 1944 whilst working in Brampton as part of the First Bomber Wing Headquarters at RAF Brampton Grange. The Brampton & District Branch left a wreath on Murphy's grave, in thanks for his sacrifice during the Second World War.

After the tour the Branch Chairman laid a wreath to remember those who has paid the ultimate price for our freedom and the liberation of Europe at the cemetery memorial prior to the lowering of the American flag, the bugle call at evening colours popularly known as "taps".

The Cambridge American Cemetery, chapel, and Visitor Centre and Memorial are open every day from sunrise to sunset. It is open to all visitors free of charge. Its maintenance and support are paid for by the U.S. Government in perpetuity and is a strong reminder of the close relationship between the UK and the United States through both World Wars and to the present day.