



550 Squadron & RAF North Killingholme Association

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Reunion Weekend

The Ashbourne Hotel, North Killingholme

**Friday 3rd July 2015
&
Saturday 4th July 2015**

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WELCOME INFORMATION



News and Reminders...

Flypast – Cancellation

Following the well-publicised engine problems with the Lancaster we were allocated a Dakota flypast by the BBMF. Unfortunately, an unscheduled engine change has had to be carried out and the flypast has been cancelled. We have explored other options but to no avail at present. A revised programme for Saturday afternoon can be found on the back page.

Name Badges

Name badges help new members get to know us and also prevent those embarrassing moments when you know the face but can't remember the name. If you would like to wear a name badge on Saturday please use your place card from the Friday evening dinner and collect a plastic holder from Reception at the Ashbourne.

Tote Bags and other Merchandise

Please check out our range of high quality cotton tote bags in sky blue or red, embroidered with the 550 insignia in full colour and available at £11.00. They will be available on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon after the Church Service and after dinner Saturday evening. See Val Kentish for details.

Other 550 merchandise will be for sale in the Village Hall on Saturday morning. Phantom of the Ruhr prints are available in two different sizes at £3.50 and £5.50, ties are £10, badges (£3-£5) and pens (£2 with refill).

A Motley Crew

“A Motley Crew” is an affectionate and irreverent set of “derogatory ditties” about the seven members of a Lancaster crew that was written by Alan Gall, a Navigator with 550 Squadron. Jack Harris unearthed it recently in his archive and we are making it available for sale at £2 per copy to cover the cost of production and a contribution to Association funds. Val Kentish will be selling copies on Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening.

Message Board

The Association receives many apologies and messages of goodwill from members and their families prior to the reunion. Mike Leeman has created a notice board where some of these messages are displayed.

Operation Manna Display

Operation Manna was the name given to humanitarian food drops made to the population of Holland in late April and May 1945. The Association has a

significant archive of material related to Operation Manna and some of it has been reproduced for a display that will be available in St. Denys' Church on Saturday afternoon and the Ashbourne on Saturday evening.

Programme Details...

Friday Evening Meal

There is the option of either a two or three course Friday evening meal (with tea/coffee and mints) that will be served in the Dining Room at 8.00pm. There is no dress code or seating plan but please take the place card with your name on it from the table near the entrance in order to assist staff with serving your food. The hotel has requested that we ensure tables are full wherever possible as it speeds up service. Members attending the Friday evening dinner are:

Keith Allen	Margaret Leeman
Jeremy Bover	Mike Leeman
Guy De Braecheleer (Belgium)	Margaret Noonan
Marie-Claire De Braecheleer (Belgium)	Mike Noonan
Wilfred Burie (Belgium)	Chris Parker
Barry Clark	Steve Parker
Peter Coulter	Vic Parker
Sally Coulter	Jane Pritchard
Andrew Etherington	Katy Pritchard
Sue Etherington	Mark Pritchard
Anne Harris	Debbie Phyliss
Jack Harris	Mick Phyliss
Geoff Hatfield	Honor Redshaw
Muriel Hatfield	Dave Robinson
Don Hellings	Kath Robinson
John Hellings	Patricia Rydeheard
Margaret Hellings	Robert Rydeheard
Don Kentish	Ole Seberg (Denmark)
Val Kentish	Gerry Taylor
	Angela Tompson

Saturday - The Amethyst, Church and Village Hall

The Association has received 35 applications for lunch at the Amethyst and 78 for the Church and Village Hall although attendance at the latter in particular is likely to be higher. Lunch will be served at the Amethyst from 12.00pm. If you have booked, please ensure you attend.

We extend a warm welcome to the Reverend Mary Vickers who will be conducting our Services. Mary presided over our Remembrance Weekend activities in 2014 and has kindly agreed to support us at the Annual Reunion.

Saturday Evening Meal

The formal Reunion Dinner will be served in the Dining Room at 7.30pm. A Seating Plan will be located near the entrance which will show your table number. At each table place cards with names and menu selections will indicate seating positions.

At the end of the Reunion Dinner there will be 550 photographs projected onto the wall at the end of the Dining Room and a number of display boards. Our thanks go to Mike Leeman and George Turner for preparing the display boards and Peter Coulter for the electronic presentations. Members attending the Saturday evening Reunion Dinner are:

William Albertyn (Belgium)	Margaret Leeman
Keith Allen	Mike Leeman
Gordon Bell	Alison Lewis
Liz Broddley	Martin Lewis
Paul Broddley	Pam Lipfriend
Jeremy Bover	Louis Michiels (Belgium)
Guy De Braeckelee (Belgium)	Margaret Noonan
Marie-Claire De Braeckelee (Belgium)	Mike Noonan
Wilfred Burie (Belgium)	Elizabeth Norton
Barry Clark	Phillip Norton
Peter Coulter	Chris Parker
Sally Coulter	Steve Parker
Sarah Craddock	Vic Parker
Mike Cross	Len Pexman
Kathleen Dove	Sylvia Pexman
Mervin Dove	Jane Pritchard
Christine Dunlavy	Katy Pritchard
Ildiko Van Dyk (Belgium)	Mark Pritchard
Ildiko Elbert (Belgium)	Charlie Quinn
Andrew Etherington	Josie Quinn
Sue Etherington	Denise Rammeloo (Belgium)
Fred Fisk	Honor Redshaw
Joan Fisk	Dave Robinson
Keith Fitch	Kath Robinson
Wally Fitch	Patricia Rydeheard
Anne Harris	Robert Rydeheard
Jack Harris	Jos De Ryck (Belgium)
Don Hellings	Ole Seberg (Denmark)
John Hellings	Maurice Snowball
Margaret Hellings	Gerry Taylor
Barbara Hercliffe	Alan Turner
Don Kentish	Beatrice Turner
Val Kentish	George Turner
	Ruth Turner

Sunday – Airfield Tour

There are 25 people booked for the tour of the airfield by car that George Turner is organising. Please meet him at 11.00am outside Reception at the Ashbourne.

Sunday – Visit to the Elsham Wolds Museum

There are 14 people booked for this visit to the museum that has been created on the site of the former airfield at Elsham Wolds. We would like to thank Robin Lingard and his colleagues for enabling us to visit. Meet Kath and Dave Robinson at 3.00pm outside Reception at the Ashbourne.

When Leaving - room rates

Please remember that the 550 rates for the 2015 reunion are unchanged from last year:

Comfort and **Executive** rooms (twin or double) £73 bed and breakfast **per room** per night

Single occupancy - £63 bed and breakfast per night.

A limited number of **Family** and **Exclusive** rooms are available and you will receive a 550 discount on the usual price.

Dates for your Diary...

Remembrance Weekend 2015

Remembrance Sunday is on 8th November 2015. There will be an informal dinner at the Ashbourne Hotel at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday 7th November and an opportunity to visit the 550 Museum on the Sunday morning. Services will be held as usual at the 550 Memorial Stone and St. Denys' Church. A three course carvery lunch with coffee and mints will be served at the Amethyst Hotel in East Halton.

The Association has provisionally reserved four rooms for 550 members at the Ashbourne for the Saturday night and these can be booked now. Rooms are cancellable until 2.00pm on the day before arrival at no charge. More details will appear in the autumn newsletter.

And finally...

Next year's reunion is planned for Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd July 2016.

Timetable of Events - Saturday 4th July 2015

9.30 am - 550 Squadron Museum open

11.30 am – Museum closes

11.30 a.m. - Bar opens at Amethyst Hotel, East Halton.

12.00 p.m. - Buffet lunch at Amethyst Hotel. Pay £9.00 per head at the hotel.

1.30 p.m. – Leave Amethyst Hotel for North Killingholme. Medals can be worn.

1.45 p.m. – Form up behind Immingham Air Training Corps Band and march to 550 Squadron Memorial Stone.

2.00 p.m. – Memorial Stone Service begins.

2.10 p.m. – Service ends. Photo opportunity.

2.25 p.m. – March back to Village Hall behind Air Training Corps Band.

3.00 p.m. – Service in St. Denys' Church begins.

4.00 p.m. – Service ends.

4.15 p.m. – Tea in Village Hall. 550 Squadron Museum open.

5.00 p.m. – People disperse except for those staying Saturday night.

7.30 p.m. – Dinner at Ashbourne Hotel. Pay on departure if non-resident.