

550 Squadron & RAF North Killingholme Association

Remembrance Weekend – Summary

(Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th November 2012)

Saturday 10th November 2012

Evening meal at the Ashbourne – Twelve people met in the Bistro from 7.45, ordering at approximately 8.00pm. The section of the Bistro allocated to the group enabled a pleasant meal to be eaten away from other diners. The hotel was provided with a list of guests to facilitate billing.

Sunday 11th November 2012

Museum opening – This attracted a good attendance from members and local people.

Donation to the Museum 1 – Two members of J H Andrews family visited the museum and left items with Mike Leeman. They also attended Services at the Memorial Stone and St. Denys' Church.

Merchandise – Margaret Leeman sold items at the Museum and the Amethyst, reporting brisk business.

Services – The two services attracted approximately 25 people, Marjorie Gray attending with her daughter. At the Memorial Stone, we appreciated very much the actions of a lorry driver entering Lancaster Approach who stopped his vehicle, turned off the engine and waited for us to finish before proceeding. Mike Leeman has contacted the company to ask them to thank him.

There was no organist at St. Denys' Church in 2011 and Val Kentish, who had begun to learn in April 2102, played two hymns on her electronic keyboard.

Lunch at the Amethyst – Eighteen people attended a three course carvery lunch plus tea and coffee with mints. A late booking had been received from Dominic Gribbin and John Nicholas had added a third person to his party. The hotel was provided with a list of guests.

Messages and Apologies – Don Kentish passed on apologies from Jack and Bobbie Harris, Peter and Sally Coulter, Helen Kentish, Sarah Craddock, Mervin Dove (sign-writer), Maurice and Sheila Williamson and Gordon Bell. He reported that messages of goodwill had been received from Jack and Bobbie as well as Wilfred Burie in Rebecq. A ceremony had been organised in Rebecq at midday on 10/11/12 to remember the aircrew and villagers who had died.

Dominic Gribbin proposed a round of applause for the debutant keyboard player and this prompted an enthusiastic response from those present.

Remembrance Weekend Memento(s) – Mike Leeman had produced a menu card using the Association template and also distributed commemorative postcard-sized photographs to those who had not attended the Annual Reunion.

Speeches and Presentation – Sam Lipfriend gave a short speech praising the work of Jack Harris. He then outlined the connection which guests at the dinner had with 550 and thanked them for attending.

Donation to the Museum 2 – Sam invited Norval Black to formally present a piece of the fuselage recovered from his father's aircraft (PD319) to the museum. Norval outlined events surrounding the crash and how the serial number was recovered. He also donated a photograph of his father and a framed illustration of a Lancaster in BQ-G livery which showed the location of the serial number. Norval made copies of the illustration available to all who attended.

Don Kentish – November 2012