



550 Squadron & RAF North Killingholme Association

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Reunion Weekend

The Ashbourne Hotel, North Killingholme

**Friday 4th July 2014
&
Saturday 5th July 2014**

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WELCOME INFORMATION



News and Reminders...

Lancaster Flypasts!!

Our flypast at the Memorial Stone when we remember all who served with 550 Squadron is now 14.40hrs on Saturday which means there is little disruption to our programme. The revised schedule is shown on the back page of this pack.

Congratulations to our friends at the Killingholme Full Bore Club (see item below) who have managed to secure a “last minute” flypast by the Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane on Sunday morning at approximately 11.30am.

North Killingholme Full Bore Club

The club is based at the former 550 firing range on the airfield and they are unveiling a plaque in honour of the Squadron on Sunday 6th July 2014 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of operations from North Killingholme. Jack Harris will unveil the plaque at 11.15am and all members are warmly invited to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. Travel directions are available from Reception at the Ashbourne or the Village Hall.

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. Blank badges and holders will also be available at the Amethyst Hotel.

Merchandise – Tote Bags

Please check out our new 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 and Saturday evening and at other times during the weekend.

We have a few of the commemorative mugs that were produced to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the formation of 550 Squadron and twenty years of reunions at North Killingholme (£12). Phantom of the Ruhr prints are available in two different sizes at £3.50 and £5.50 along with ties (£10), badges (£3-5) and pens (£2 with refill).

Sam Lipfriend - Bomber Command Memorial

The creation of the memorial and its ongoing maintenance was a cause with which Sam Lipfriend was closely involved. In his memory, the Ashbourne has

kindly offered to donate £1 per room, per night during our stay towards its upkeep. The manager of the Ashbourne, Andrew Smith, will present a cheque to us on Saturday evening and there will be a collection box on the Bar in the hotel if you would like to make a donation.

Royal Naval Air Service Display – First World War

An exhibition about the former Royal Naval Air Service base at Killingholme was staged in the Village Hall earlier this year. Some of the material will be displayed in the Ashbourne during the reunion.

Possible visit to RAF Cranwell in 2015

During the course of the weekend we would like to establish potential interest in a visit to RAF Cranwell next year. Opened in 1915 as a Royal Naval Air Service base, Cranwell became the home of the RAF's officer training programme between the wars and played an important part in establishing it as an independent service. College Hall, was completed in 1933 and is a Grade II* listed building.

Please note that group visits can only be made by prior arrangement and part of the tour involves accessing first floor rooms. There is currently no lift. If you wish to register an interest please tell Don or Val Kentish.

Programme Details...

Friday Evening Meal

The three course Friday evening meal (with tea/coffee and mints) 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	Anne Harris
John Arnold (Australia)	Jack Harris
Peter Benger (Australia)	Don Hellings
Jeremy Bover	John Hellings
Liz Broddley	Margaret Hellings
Paul Broddley	Don Kentish
Barry Clark	Val Kentish
Peter Coulter	Margaret Leeman
Sally Coulter	Mike Leeman
Rosie Curran-Benger (Australia)	Pam Lipfriend
Andrew Etherington	Rowena Lipfriend
Sue Etherington	Stephen Lipfriend
Fred Fisk	Medora Muat
Joan Fisk	Margaret Noonan

Mike Noonan
Steve Parker
Vic Parker
Katy Pritchard
Honor Redshaw
Dave Robinson
Kath Robinson
Ole Seberg (Denmark)
Chris Taylor

Gerry Taylor
Brian Troath
George Turner
Ruth Turner
David Whyte
Elaine Whyte
Jane Williams
Ray Williams

Saturday - The Amethyst, Church and Village Hall

The Association has received 50 applications for lunch at the Amethyst and 75 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. We extend a warm welcome to the Reverend Steve Holt who will be conducting our Services. Steve presided over our Remembrance Weekend activities in 2013 and this is his first 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 in the Dining Room 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 display of memorabilia. 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:

John Arnold (Australia)
Gordon Bell
Peter Benger (Australia)
Dorothy Black
Norval Black
Jeremy Bover
Donna Brooks
Gary Brooks
George Bulman
Barry Clark
Peter Coulter
Sally Coulter
Diana Cross
Mike Cross
Rosie Curran-Benger (Australia)
Kathleen Dove
Mervin Dove
Christine Dunlavy

Andrew Etherington
Sue Etherington
Janice Farrell
Fred Fisk
Joan Fisk
Keith Fitch
Wally Fitch
Anne Harris
Jack Harris
Don Hellings
John Hellings
Margaret Hellings
Steve Holt
Don Kentish
Val Kentish
Margaret Leeman
Mike Leeman
Pam Lipfriend

Rowena Lipfriend
Stephen Lipfriend
Margaret Noonan
Mike Noonan
Elizabeth Norton
Phillip Norton
Chris Parker
Steve Parker
Vic Parker
Len Pexman
Sylvia Pexman
Katy Pritchard
Dave Robinson

Kath Robinson
Patricia Rydeheard
Robert Rydeheard
Ole Seberg (Denmark)
Maurice Snowball
Chris Taylor
Gerry Taylor
Brian Troath
Alan Turner
Beatrice Turner
George Turner
Ruth Turner

Sunday – Airfield Tour

There are 23 people booked for the tour of the airfield by car that George Turner is organising. Please meet him at 10.45am outside Reception at the Ashbourne.

Sunday – Visit to the Elsham Wolds Museum

There are a considerable number of interesting items on display at this museum on the site of the former airfield at Elsham Wolds and we would like to thank Robin Lingard and his colleagues for enabling us to visit. Meet Mike Leeman at 3.30pm outside Reception at the Ashbourne.

Monday – Visit to the BBMF

Our “red carpet” tour of Coningsby on Monday with Arthur Punched is booked for 11.00am and we suggest leaving the Ashbourne no later than 9.30am. Please speak to Don or Val Kentish if you would like a copy of the travel directions from North Killingholme. There is the option of a light lunch at the Leagate Inn pub in Coningsby village after the visit.

When Leaving - room rates

Please remember that the 550 rates for the 2014 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 2014

Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November 2014. There will be an informal dinner at the Ashbourne Hotel at 7.45 p.m. on Saturday 8th 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.

Annual Reunion 2015

Next year's reunion is planned for Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th July 2015.

Timetable of Events - Saturday 5th July 2014

- 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.
- 1.20 p.m. – Leave Amethyst Hotel for North Killingholme. Medals can be worn.
- 1.35 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.
- 2.25 p.m. – Service ends with wreaths, crosses and other tributes being laid. photo opportunity.
- 2.40 p.m. - Lancaster flypast.
- 2.50 p.m. – March back to Village Hall behind Air Training Corps Band.
- 3.15 p.m. – Service in St. Denys' Church begins.
- 4.15 p.m. – Service ends.
- 4.30 p.m. – Tea in Village Hall. 550 Squadron Museum open.
- 5.15p.m. – People disperse except for those staying Saturday night.
- 7.30 p.m. – Dinner at Ashbourne Hotel. Pay on departure if non-resident.

*****Please note that our afternoon events are scheduled around the Lancaster flypast and times may change on the day*****