

DRAFT

Vintage 1940's Commemorative Weekend in Lavenham 17th – 20th May 2019



FRIENDS OF
LAVENHAM AIRFIELD
COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF
THE 487TH BG, 8TH USAAF



This event has been organised by the 'Friends of Lavenham Airfield' Committee

Programmes will be available to purchase from outlets across the village from **Fri 17 May** onwards

The shops and businesses in Lavenham will be setting up special Vintage Weekend window displays and offering special products etc. during the weekend

Date	Time	Details
FRIDAY		
Fri 17 May	1100hrs onwards	Meet for a drink after the church service, in the Airmen's Bar at The Swan <u>The Airmen's Bar</u> View the collection of WW2 memorabilia and US & UK servicemen's signatures (over 1000 of them), many of which date back to the Second World War
Fri 17 May	1000hrs – 1600hrs	<u>Wartime Memorabilia Display - The McCallum Room – The Swan at Lavenham</u> Mike Warner will be providing a wartime memorabilia display in the McCallum Room, at The Swan at Lavenham – free entry, although we would ask for a small donation towards 'Friends of Lavenham Airfield' if you're able to support them please East Anglian Books will be selling their military aviation books, many of which focus on the 8 th USAAF
Fri 17 May	0900-1700hrs	<u>Wartime Memorabilia Display - Sudbury Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Sudbury CO10 1TL</u> The 486 th Bombardment Group 8 th USAAF, based at RAF Sudbury were a sister unit to the 487 th at Lavenham. Visit Sudbury Heritage Centre behind the Town Hall to see their impressive display on the history of the 486 th . (And there is much else of interest in this ancient market town.)_Contact David Burnett 01787 371880 for any further information. Email: david.burnett@uwclub.net
Fri 17 May	1000hrs-1645hrs	<u>Lavenham Tourist Information Centre</u> , located in Lady Street, have a photographic display of 487 th Bombardment Group & Lavenham Airfield, photos that veterans have sent them. Airfield books are also on sale and 487 th memorabilia

Fri 17 May	1200hrs onwards	<u>Sing-a-long 1940s Vintage Afternoon Tea - The Swan at Lavenham</u> Vintage Afternoon Tea at The Swan at Lavenham. £23.50 per person, including a £1 donation to Friends of Lavenham Airfield. You'll be entertained by our pianist Peter Durrent, playing 1940s music and if you'd like to dress in 1940s vintage attire, please do so, but this is of course not compulsory. There will be song sheets supplied, so that you can sing-a-long (if you wish) to five of the songs that will be played during the afternoon. To book, call 01787 247477 – full pre-payment required upon booking please.
Fri 17 May ★ 4	1300-1600hrs	<u>A little of the Home Front at Little Hall</u> – Little Hall was an evacuee centre during WW2. This exhibition will focus on the evacuees who came to Lavenham from a school in Bethnal Green in East London, during the Second World War. The entry fee will be £4.00 gift aided and £3.50 standard rate. This goes towards the upkeep of this ancient timber building. A donation will be made to the Friends of Lavenham Airfield.
Fri 17 May	1915hrs for a 1930hrs start	<u>History Talk – Lavenham Village Hall</u> Details TBC
SATURDAY		
Sat 18 May	1015hrs	<u>'Wartime Lavenham' guided walk – meet at The Swan at Lavenham</u> Guided walk of 'Wartime Lavenham' £5 per person. Walk starts at The Swan at 1030hrs (please meet there by 1015hrs). It will last for approx. 60 mins and end near to Lavenham Church/ Village Hall Car Park. Numbers are limited, so please call 01787 248207 to book in advance.
Sat 18 May	1100-1600hrs	<u>Vintage Fair - Lavenham Village Hall</u> Visit Lavenham Village Hall to see the Vintage Fair stalls on display, selling vintage items. And buy your tickets here for the Raffle, which will be drawn at the Swing Dance on Sat night. To pre-book a stall for 2019, please call 01787 248599.
Sat 18 May	All day	<u>Vintage Vehicle Display - Market Place, Lavenham.</u> Come and see the vintage vehicle display in the Market Place.
Sat 18 May	1000hrs-1645hrs	<u>Lavenham TIC WW2 photographic display</u> – please see ★ 3 further details
Sat 18 May ★ 5	1100-2300hrs	<u>View Collection of 487th Bombardment Group, 8th US Army Air Force (USAAF) Memorabilia and Signatures – The Airmen's Bar at The Swan</u> View the collection of cap badges, shoulder titles, photos and US & UK servicemen's signatures (over 850 of them), many of which date back to the Second World War
Sat 18 May	1100-1500hrs	<u>The Swan at Lavenham</u> Peter Durrent will be playing 1940s swing music in the lounge, so please pop in
Sat 18 May	1000hrs – 1600hrs	<u>Wartime Memorabilia Display - The McCallum Room – The Swan at Lavenham</u> Please see item marked ★ 1 for details

Sat 18 May	1000hrs-1600hrs	<u>A little of the Home Front at Little Hall</u> – Little Hall was an evacuee centre during WW2. This exhibition will focus on the evacuees who came to Lavenham from a school in Bethnal Green in East London, during the Second World War. Please see ★ 4 for details
Sat 18 May	1200-1600hrs	<u>Wartime Food Stall - Lavenham Guildhall National Trust</u> Lavenham Guildhall was a British Restaurant during the Second World War, serving meals to key workers. In recognition of this, Lavenham Guildhall will have a Wartime Food Stall available during the weekend
Sat 18 May	1200hrs onwards	<u>Vintage Afternoon Tea - The Swan at Lavenham</u> Enjoy Afternoon Tea, whilst being entertained by the pianist playing 1940s music. £23.50 per person, including a £1 donation to Friends of Lavenham Airfield. To book, call 01787 247477
Sat 18 May	1000-1600hrs	<u>Wartime Memorabilia Display - Sudbury Heritage Centre</u> Please see ★ 2 for details
Sat 18 May	2000-2300hrs	<u>Commemorative Concert - Lavenham Church</u> Featuring Wattisham Military Wives' Choir Details TBC
SUNDAY		
Sun 19 May	Until noon	<u>Vintage Vehicle Display - Market Place, Lavenham</u> Come and see the vintage vehicle display in the Market Place
Sun 19 May	1130hrs	<u>'In Gratitude Gathering', Market Place, Lavenham</u> Join relatives of the 487th Bombardment Group veterans for an 'In Gratitude Gathering' in front of the 487th BG memorial plaque 1130hrs – In Gratitude Gathering Stour Valley Hand Bell ringers, will be providing the musical accompaniment for our event 1200-1215hrs Watch the vintage vehicle convoy depart along the High Street. (The vehicles, will be travelling to the airfield)
Sun 19 May	Depart Lavenham: 1230hrs Depart Airfield: 1530hrs	Vintage Bus Trip with Felix Coaches of Long Melford. Travel to Lavenham Airfield on a vintage bus (places limited). Places cost £5 each. Available from Lavenham TIC on 01787 248207
Sun 19 May	1300hrs	<u>Operation Gocart' - Lavenham Airfield Visit</u> <i>NB: 'Gocart' was the call sign for the 92nd Combat Wing (486th Bombardment Group (Sudbury) and 487th Bombardment Group (Lavenham), 8th USAAF flying together)</i> To obtain a map and directions to Lavenham Airfield, please visit Lavenham Tourist Information Centre, in Lady Street.

		<p>Meet at the Control Tower at Lavenham Airfield</p> <p>1300-1330hrs Plaque rededication ceremony at the Control Tower</p> <p>1330-1345hrs Fly past</p> <p>13.45 - 14.30 'From Beet to Bombers' talk at control tower.</p> <p>14.30 - 15.15. Informal airfield walk.</p> <p>1530hrs - Close</p> <p>^ No charge, but donations to the 'Friends of Lavenham Airfield (FOLA)' memorial project, will be much appreciated</p> <p>Please bring a picnic, however refreshments and snacks will also be available to purchase from Paul Jolly of The Good Food Army/Sweetmeats of Lavenham, at the airfield. Paul will be serenading us with his saxophone! And a portable toilet will be available for your comfort.</p> <p>Lavenham Airfield is private property, so please keep to the areas indicated to you by 'FOLA' guides. Paths and roads at Lavenham Airfield are unmade or date back to WW2, so visits to the airfield are conducted at your own risk</p>
Sun 19 May	1000hrs – 1600hrs	<p><u>Wartime Memorabilia Display - The McCallum Room – The Swan at Lavenham</u> Please see item ★ 1 for details</p>
Sun 19 May	1000hrs-1645hrs	<p><u>Lavenham TIC WW2 photographic display</u> – please see ★ 3 for details</p>
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MONDAY		
Mon 20 May	1000-1645hrs	<p><u>Lavenham TIC WW2 photographic display</u> – please see ★ 3 for details</p>
Mon 20 May	1000 - 1300hrs	<p><u>A little of the Home Front at Little Hall</u> – Little Hall was an evacuee centre during WW2. This exhibition will focus on the evacuees who came to Lavenham from a school in</p>

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Mon 20 May	1000-1700hrs	<u>Wartime Memorabilia Display - Sudbury Heritage Centre</u> Please see ★ 2 for details
Mon 20 May	1000-1600hrs	Imperial War Museum Duxford: https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford On the Monday, you may like to visit IWM Duxford, who have a separate American Air Museum section
Mon 20 May	0900-1700hrs	Maddingly American Cemetery and Memorial https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/cambridge-american-cemetery#.WqVdt-fLfIU On the Monday, you may like to visit Maddingly near Cambridge, where some of the fallen members of the 487 th Bombardment Group are buried

This weekend of events has been organised by a local community group of volunteers, who are known as FOLA - 'Friends of Lavenham Airfield'. FOLA are raising funds to create a lasting memorial to the 487th Bombardment Group, 8th United States Army Air Force, who were stationed at RAF Lavenham (AAF Station 137) during the Second World War. The aim of FOLA, is for the planned memorial to be located at Lavenham Airfield, in time for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, on 8th May 2020

Please join us again next year for our Vintage 1940s Commemorative Weekend in Lavenham: 8-11 May 2020 - 75th Anniversary of VE Day

Dress Code: There will be lots of people dressed in Vintage 1940's attire in Lavenham during this weekend, so if you'd like to dress up, please do so, but only if you wish.

For general enquiries about the entire event, please contact: Jane Larcombe Tel: 01787 247477. Email: info@theswanatlaveham.co.uk