



AFAITC REUNION - St Ives UK - 18 - 21 September 2014

As we move into the New Year we look forward to making vacation plans to visit those places that have long been on the, dare I say it, 'the Bucket List'. Yes, for those across the 'Pond' in the US it is time to visit the UK again for the biennial AFAITC Reunion. This is the 12th such Reunion and the third to be held in the UK. This year we have chosen St Ives Cambridgeshire (note that there is also a St Ives in Cornwall). Cambridgeshire was the home to many US bases in the UK that served with a proud tradition during WWII and the following Cold-War years. There are close ties between our two nations in this area and I am sure that many US AFAITC members will have interesting recce/imagery connections or indeed served in East Anglia.

A group booking with the Dolphin Hotel in St Ives has been secured at the following rates; Quote AFAITC

Thursday 18th Sep and days prior - £40 per person per day inc English Breakfast
Friday 19th and Saturday 20th - £118 per person for two days inc Dinner each day, B&B

Sunday 21st Sep and days after - £40 per person per day inc English Breakfast

The hotel has plenty of room and can easily accommodate our size of reunion. See Website www.dolphinhotelcambs.co.uk - the hotel is not in the same league as the Renaissance Hotel in St Petersburg (nor are the prices) but it is in the middle of a small town and there are some local typical English hostelrys to frequent. A guided bus service also runs regularly direct from St Ives to Cambridge.

It is still a little early but we have contacted the local military organizations appropriate to such a visit and 'put a marker down' at this early stage for a group visit - The units are both operational imagery intelligence related (DGIFC at RAF Wyton + The Pathfinder Museum and the JIOCEUR Analytical Center at RAF Molesworth). Hopefully we can arrange a visit to at least one of these units. There are security issues etc but I am sure that these can be overcome.

Other local visits being considered include; a visit to Duxford Imperial War Air Museum, www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford perhaps a lunch at the Shuttleworth Collection Old Warden airfield www.shuttleworth.org/visitor-information.asp the Cambridge Colleges, www.visitcambridge.org/.../colleges-and-university-buildings US Military Cemetery, madingleyamericancemetery.info Wimpole House - a nearby stately home, www.wimpole.org/hall_gardens.htm the majestic Ely Cathedral www.elycathedral.org/visitors/ and not forgetting St Ives and the local area www.stives-town.info

As always, it is difficult to anticipate the number of attendees at this stage but we currently have some 22 members who have expressed an interest, some have already made accommodation reservations and also paid the \$30 Reunion fee.

A number have asked how to get to St Ives from London - the easiest way is by rail - Kings Cross station, London to Huntingdon. From Huntingdon to St Ives it is about 10 miles and there is a frequent bus service, alternatively, there are taxis at the station and cost about \$25 to the hotel.

For those staying longer or arriving early, it is worth noting that the train service to London from Huntingdon takes less than one hour and that St Ives has a relatively new guided bus service direct to Cambridge city - cost very reasonable at about \$10 each way.

As we get near the date we will firm up the visit programme and provide more details of costs etc

If you need any further information please contact me on john.barry10@ntlworld.com or by mail (after mid April) to; J S Barry, Woodlands, 10 Church Road, Brampton, Huntingdon Cambs PE29 4PW