



Bishopsteignton Heritage

The Story of Bishopsteignton: A Project for the Whole Community



VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

in

Bishopsteignton

VE Day 75th Anniversary in Bishopsteignton

Edited by Imogen Smith

Bishopsteignton Heritage, November 2020

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Introduction

The purpose of this book is to serve as a physical version of our web-based VE75 celebrations which took place throughout May 2020. This book will also stand as a permanent record of part of our village's response to the circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that you will also enjoy all the material on our website that builds upon the contents of this book, from videos and interviews to written histories, there is so much to discover at **www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk**. We hope that this book will encourage you to share your memories of Bishopsteignton with your friends and neighbours and with our organisation. Bishopsteignton Heritage has been established to preserve the stories of the people, places, events and environments that make up our vibrant Devon village and we want to hear your stories.

Bishopsteignton Heritage received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant in January 2020 for the creation of a project to bring the local community together by celebrating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. Many of the events we planned early in 2020 could not be carried out due to Coronavirus Lockdown measures. We quickly set up a digital 'Coronavirus Lockdown Diary' on our website to help collect Bishopsteignton's thoughts, feelings and responses to the ever-changing circumstances during the pandemic.

To replace some of the celebrations arranged for the community throughout May 2020, Bishopsteignton Heritage created an online 'Countdown to VE Day' to encourage the village to celebrate safely. This book features our online content relating to celebrating VE Day, 2020, including our 'Countdown to VE Day', some village histories and a gallery of photographs and memories from the day itself, 8th May 2020.

If you have any contribution you wish to make to Bishopsteignton Heritage, be it your own memories and stories of life in the village, archive material from a family collection, volunteer hours, feedback, inquiries or questions, please get in touch. For the convenience of the reader, a feedback slip has been enclosed in each new copy of this publication.

Countdown to VE Day

To help the village of Bishopsteignton celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day while in Lockdown, Bishopsteignton Heritage created a 10-day Countdown series of publications online. Led by Bishopsteignton Heritage's Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs and helped by various volunteers, the Countdown to VE Day was a safe and informative way to encourage the local community to join in with celebrations while at home.

This section of the book is a re-publication of the online Countdown to VE Day with some abridgements and additions including Bishopsteignton Heritage Collection items. You can still read and enjoy the full and original series on our website:

www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our 'Countdown to VE Day' series and that it can be used to prompt good memories, interesting stories and perhaps even teach the reader something new about Bishopsteignton during the Second World War.

The pages of this section at the end of each 'Countdown' day, surrounded by a blue border, are intended to enhance the information and stories recorded throughout the series, and give the reader a taste of how Bishopsteignton has continued remembrance and celebration beyond 8th May 2020 whilst still in Lockdown. Bringing the reader up to date, these sections also act as a further invitation to contribute to and join in with our activities in the village in any way you can!

Countdown to VE Day: 10 days to go – Celebrations

Published 28th April, 2020 by Jess Gibby

Ten days to go until the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day! This is the first of our Countdown to VE Day articles.



Well, if we were not all in this Lockdown situation right now, we would be part way through a long list of events that Bishopsteignton Heritage were busy organising for the Celebration of VE Day 75 on May 8th, 2020. We had a programme of talks, a street party, theatre and music, a WWII exhibition, film shows, a themed Lunch and Big Breakfast, a Lindy Hop dance and demonstration and many more entertainments being organised by lots of the groups active in the village.

Well, we might be in Lockdown but that isn't going to stop us celebrating! A Programme of celebratory music and speeches is planned for the day itself, to be broadcast around the village. All we ask is that you decorate your homes and gardens, get your picnics ready, dress up and party like it's 1945!

For the next ten days, leading up to May 8th, we shall be publishing daily articles to help you have fun and celebrate the day. We will be bringing you ideas for WWII recipes to try, hints on making bunting, printable colouring-in flags and table mats, song sheets so you can sing along on the Day, ideas and videos on how to get you and your family costumed for the Day and lots more.

Most importantly, for all you parents-turned-home-school-teachers, articles and videos, games and poems, to explain to your younger generations the significance of Victory in Europe Day, and what happened during WWII, starting today with 'What is VE Day?'

What is VE Day?

May 8th, 2020 is a very special day. Exactly 75 years ago, peace came to a troubled Europe and was celebrated. It is known as Victory in Europe Day or VE Day.

After 6 years of a war, where there was fighting and bombing in many countries, where fathers, brothers and sons were sent overseas, women worked on the land and in factories and children were evacuated and separated from their parents, peace finally came to Europe.

May 8th, 1945 was announced as Victory in Europe and communities could finally celebrate the end of a very difficult time. It was a day of parties, flag waving and celebration in towns and villages throughout Britain. A day of relief and joy that the Second World War was finally over in Europe.

Did you know that 12 village men and 1 woman who lost their lives during this conflict are remembered on our village War Memorial? They were:

J.W. Beer	F.C. Paget
H. Biffen	T.H. Saunders
J.M. Dixon	R.A. Slater
R.G. Dyer	S.A. Treen
R. Evans	G. Valentine
G.T. Garratt	J.H. McGregor
J.E. Hulland	

Right: The Bishopsteignton War Memorial in 2018 showing the Second World War memorial stone.



How much do you know about the Second World War?

Why not take a look and see if you can find the answers to our quick quiz below?

- 1. What year did the Second World War start?
- 2. Who was Britain’s longest serving Prime Minister during the War Years?
- 3. Who were the Axis Countries and who were the Allied Countries?
- 4. What was the name of the man that led the German Military?
- 5. Where did the Blitz take place and what happened?
- 6. What was the Battle of Britain?
- 7. What two British fighter planes were involved in the Battle of Britain?
- 8. What was D Day and where did it take place?
- 9. When was D Day?
- 10. Did children have sweets during the war?



Turn the book upside-down for the Quiz Answers



- Quiz Answers
- 1. 1939
 - 2. Winston Churchill
 - 3. The principle Axis powers were Germany, Italy and Japan
 - 4. Adolf Hitler
 - 5. Blitz means lightning in German and refers to the bombing of the UK during 1940 and 1941
 - 6. The Battle of Britain was fought between the German Luftwaffe and the British Royal Air Force in 1940
 - 7. Hurricane and Spitfire
 - 8. D Day is also known as The Normandy Landings when Allied forces invaded Normandy
 - 9. 6th June 1944
 - 10. Yes, but they were rationed until 1953!

Bishopsteignton War Memorial

Many were able to enjoy the VE Day service at the village War Memorial from home as the service was recorded and published online. Due to a second Lockdown in England beginning Thursday 5th November 2020, we will not be able to enjoy a service at the War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday on 8th or Remembrance day on 11th November.

Right: VE Day service at the Bishopsteignton War Memorial.



If you have any information about the Bishopsteignton War Memorial, any events that have taken place there, or the people who's names are recorded upon it, please get in touch and share your knowledge!

Left: This postcard from the Bishopsteignton Heritage Archive Collection shows The Bishopsteignton War Memorial some time before the Second World War. The Memorial was erected on Fore Street in 1920.

Countdown to VE Day: 9 days to go – Decorations

Published 29th April, 2020 by Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs

Just nine days to go until our great 'at home' VE75!



With only nine days left to get ready for your VE Day party at home, we thought we would give you some hints on getting your house decorated. Union jack flags would seem to be the order of the day, along with balloons and bunting in any colours but particularly in red, white and blue!

If any of you have the skills and a spare bit of wool hanging around, you could try your hand at knitting some bunting! You all saw the knitted bunting and poppies on the railings in Bishopsteignton in November 2018 for the Remembrance Day celebrations. That amazing display was coordinated by Caroline Early and she has kindly offered a pattern that you can follow to make your own for this party.

How to knit VE Day Bunting

Materials Required:

- Size 4mm Needles
- DK wool -odds and ends of red, white and blue yarn
- String, cord or ribbon to thread through the flags

Abbreviations:

K = knit stitch. K10 = knit 10 stitches. P = purl stitch. YO = yarn over. CO= cast off. S1, K1, PSSO = slip 1 stitch, knit 1 stitch, pass slip stitch over last stitch knitted.

K2tog.= knit 2 stitches together

Cast on 25 stitches-using any double knitting wool in red white or blue

Making the threading holes:

Row 1: Knit

Row 2: [K2tog, YO] repeat 11 times until the last 3 stitches, k2tog, K1 (24 stitches)

Row 3: Knit

Row 4: Knit

Knitting the triangle:

Row 5: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, Knit until 4 stitches remain, K2tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches (22 stitches)

Row 6: P2, knit to last 2 stitches, P2

Row 7: Knit

Row 8: P2, knit to last 2 stitches, P2

Row 9: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, Knit until 4 stitches remain, K2tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches (20 stitches)

Row 10: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 11: Knit

Row 12: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 13: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, Knit until 4 stitches remain, K2tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches (18 stitches)

Row 14: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 15: Knit

Row 16: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 17: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, Knit until 4 stitches remain, K2tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches (16 stitches)

Row 18: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 19: Knit

Row 20: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 21: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, Knit until 4 stitches remain, K2tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches (14 stitches)

Row 22: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 23: Knit

Row 24: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 25: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, Knit until 4 stitches remain, K2tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches (12 stitches)

Row 26: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 27: Knit

Row 28: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 29: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, Knit until 4 stitches remain, K2tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches (10 stitches)

Row 30: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 31: Knit

Row 32: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 33: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, Knit until 4 stitches remain, K2tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches (8 stitches)

Row 34: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Row 35: Knit

Row 36: P2, knit to last two stitches, P2

Finishing the point:

Row 37: Knit 2, S1, K1, PSSO, K2 tog, Knit remaining 2 stitches. (6 stitches)

Row 38: P2, K2, P2

Row 39: K1, S1, K1, PSSO, K2tog, K1 (4 stitches)

Row 40: P1, K2, P1

Row 41: K1, S1, PSSO, K2tog (2 stitches)

Row 42: K2tog(1 stitch)

Cut yarn and pull through last stitch. Make yarn secure and weave yarn tails into knitting to finish.

Continue to make as many flags as you require in any combination of red, white and blue, and thread on a string, cord or ribbon in your window or garden!

Bishopsteignton Village Show

Due to coronavirus Lockdown measures, the Bishopsteignton Village Show took a digital form this year. As usual, the Show featured beautiful art, crafts and home-grown produce. This year's show was yet another event that demonstrated our adaptability and resilience against hard times. Some wonderful artworks were produced at homes in the village and shared online, including this piece of stitching created in contemplation on VE Day 2020 by Monika Cann of Bishopsteignton. The piece features a photo of the late, great Vera Lynn during the second world war. Lynn passed away just a few weeks later on 18th June at 103 years of age.



A history of the village show has been recently compiled and can be read on our website: www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk.

Countdown to VE Day: 8 days to go – Fashion

Published 30th April, 2020 by Yvonee Hellin-Hobbs

How to look the part for VE75 celebrations in your own home.



A c.1942 Utility 'Afternoon Dress' in printed Rayon from the collection of Totnes Fashion and Textiles Museum.

So here we are at 8 days and counting until we all dress up and party in our homes to celebrate VE Day. This article will give you some hints and tips on how you can adapt your existing wardrobe to look the part, or dress the kids up in red, white and blue for the celebration!

Women's Fashion

1940s women's fashion was all about creating an hourglass silhouette with masculine details: padded shoulders nipped in high waist tops, and A-line skirts that came down to the knee. This was the everyday shape for clothing, from suits to dresses. Even trousers had a similar high waisted, wide leg shape.

If you're dealing with food, children and housework though, you may well be wearing an apron, or a 'pinny' as they were known then.

Pictured on the right is one you can make for yourself! Please let us know if you would like a pattern delivered to you.



Another popular item was headwear: hats, scarves and turbans were worn everywhere. Women came up with lots of innovative ways to keep their hair out of the way of dangerous machinery while working in factories or on farms. This hat was made from a recycled Canadian Airman's jacket!



A c.1945 hat from the collection of Totnes Fashion and Textiles Museum.

Gentlemen's Fashion

The biggest influence wartime restrictions had on men was further introduction of casualness. Men were tired of scratchy uniforms and confining suits and so looser-fitting, more comfortable Demob-suits were issued to servicemen when they left the forces. Knitted sweaters were very popular along with loose trousers, braces and waistcoats; quite a few looks that are trending now! Hats were very popular with both men and women, both for style and practicality: Straw Boaters, Homburgs, Panama Hats and Caps were all worn in the 1940s. Find something in your wardrobe that will work!

Here are the Gibbys, dressed up for the 75th Anniversary of D Day in Normandy, accompanied by a Winston Churchill look-alike! "At Arromanches, standing on the sand with the remaining Mulberry harbours in view, we watched the military parade of vehicles move quickly off the beach as the tide rose. Hundreds of people were dressed in 1940s civilian and military costumes allowing us all to embrace fully the atmosphere of the day." - Jess Gibby, June 2019.



*Jess and Richard Gibby (left and right)
on 6th June 2019.*

In the midst of the food and clothing rationing of WWII, children's clothes were very much a 'make do and mend' affair as it was hard for families to buy new garments for growing youngsters.

Spotted - VE Day 2020 best outfits!

After encouraging everyone to dress up for VE Day, we were very pleased to see some brilliant outfits on 8th May 2020. Here are some of the best ones spotted!



The Edwards family.



Richard and Jess Gibby.



Ian Roberts and Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs.



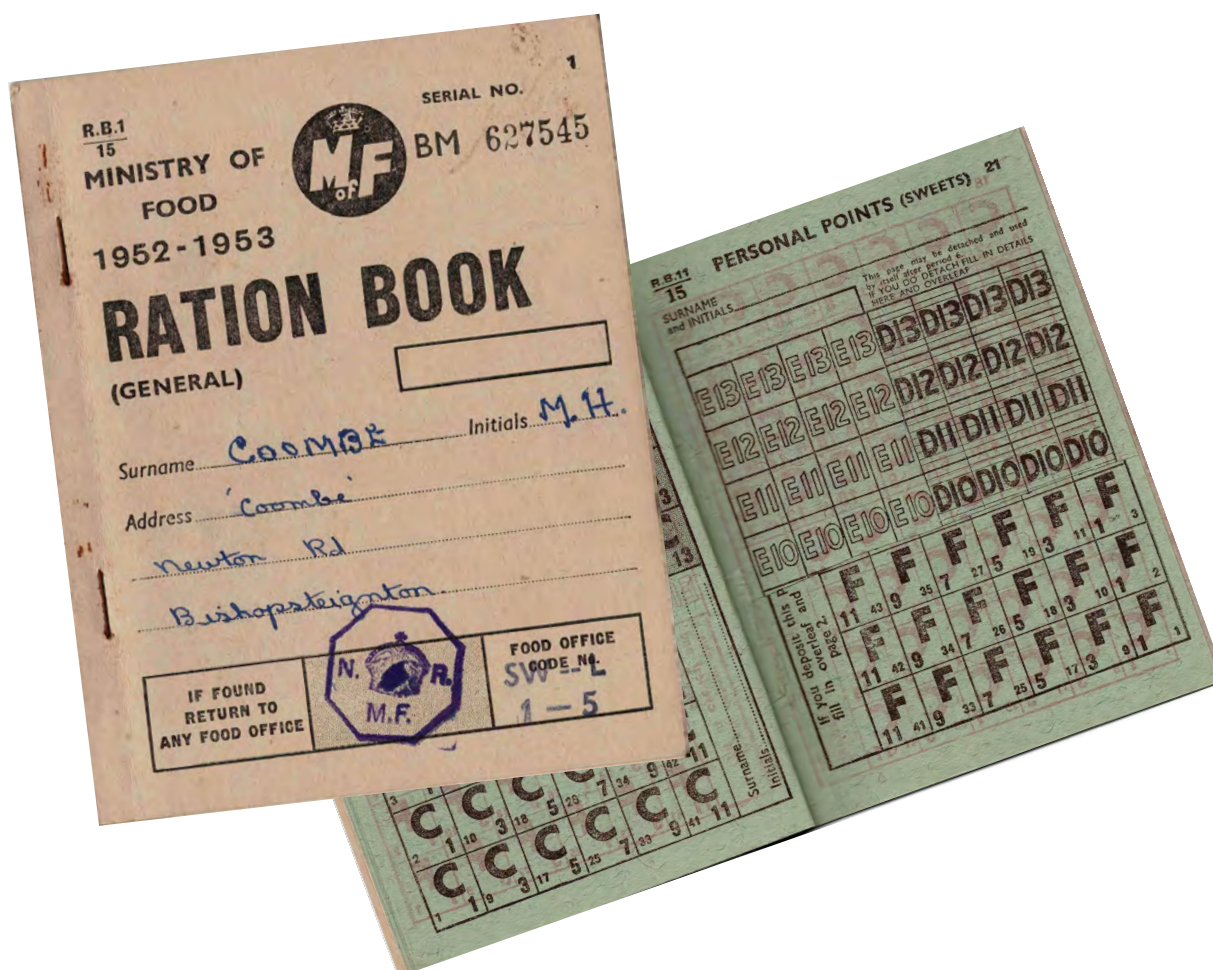
James Day (left) and Michael Smith.

Countdown to VE Day: 7 days to go – ‘Cook for Victory’

Published 1st May 2020 by Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs

With 7 days to go in our VE Day Countdown, we celebrate food!

We have reached Day 4 of our VE Day countdown, and today we are going to make some suggestions as to what you can eat to celebrate the day in 1940s style. In a strange way, the shortages of availability of some products during Lockdown are similar to the deprivations that people were experiencing during WWII, though nothing like as rigorous and not enforced by law.



From the Bishopsteignton Heritage Archive Collection: A 1952-1953 ration book which belonged to Molly Coombe of Bishopsteignton. Rationing continued after the end of the Second World War until 1954.

Food Rations

On 8th January 1940, bacon, butter and sugar were rationed. Meat, tea, jam, biscuits, breakfast cereals, cheese, eggs, lard, milk, canned and dried fruit were rationed subsequently but not all at once. Despite the rationing, people were inventive in their recipes and used much more basic ingredients to feed their families. They rarely had fresh eggs but cooked mainly with dried eggs. Fresh food was at a premium and housewives did their best with what they had, but to get anything at all they had to queue!

Here are some of the popular foods eaten during the Second World War and the sort of dishes that could feature in your VE-Day celebrations:

Dripping sandwiches	Homity pie
Lord Woolton pie	Corned beef hash
Pork faggots with onion	Liver casserole
Gravy and mash	Eggless fruit cake

Before the Lockdown, Bishopsteignton Heritage had a whole programme of events planned around VE Day. One of them was a WWII themed Lunch Club at the Community Centre where guests would be encouraged to dress for the period and listen to 1940s music while they ate. If we are lucky the event might still happen when we are out of Lockdown, but meanwhile, one of the organisers, Mal Worrall has given us this recipe for Homity Pie, give it a try!

Homity Pie

You will need a 9" (23cm) loose-bottomed pie dish, buttered.

Oven: 180 C fan.

250g plain flour	2 leeks, thinly sliced
125g butter, softened	2 garlic cloves, chopped or crushed.
100ml cold water	Pinch salt
1/2 tsp salt.	1 tsp chopped thyme or 1/2 tsp dried
500 gm potatoes	125g cheddar cheese, grated

Method on the next page...

Sieve flour and salt into mixing bowl and rub in butter until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in water and pull together to form a ball. Wrap in cling film and refrigerate for 15 – 30 mins. Peel and thickly slice potatoes, put into pan of salted water, bring to boil and simmer for 5 – 10 mins until just soft.

In large frying pan, cook leeks in butter until softened, add salt, garlic, thyme and drained potatoes. Mix thoroughly, breaking up potatoes to size. Stir in cheese, retaining some for topping. Allow to cool.

Roll out pastry to overlap tin, using a pad of pastry push into sides of tin and trim edges to overhang slightly to allow for shrinkage. Place a piece of greaseproof paper inside and fill with dried beans or rice. Cook for 10 mins. Remove beans and paper, prick base of pie with a fork, trim edges and cook for 15 mins. Add filling and smooth over evenly, top with remaining cheese and cook for 20 – 30 mins until browned.

Allow to cool for a few mins and remove from tin.

Can be eaten warm or cold. Will serve 8.



© Imperial War Museums (V 157) - A 1944 vegetable pie 'from a series of meals developed by the Ministry of Food to encourage people to make the best use of available home-grown produce.'

Bishopsteignton Allotment Growers Dig for Victory!

Our very own land-girl, Dawn Rogers has been encouraging the Bishopsteignton village community to grow their own food. Down on the community allotment at Michael's Field, the Dig for Victory plot is looking healthy and fruitful thanks to Dawn's hard work and the help of volunteers like Barbara Long.



Dawn Rogers (left) and Barbara Long at the Community Allotment earlier this year.

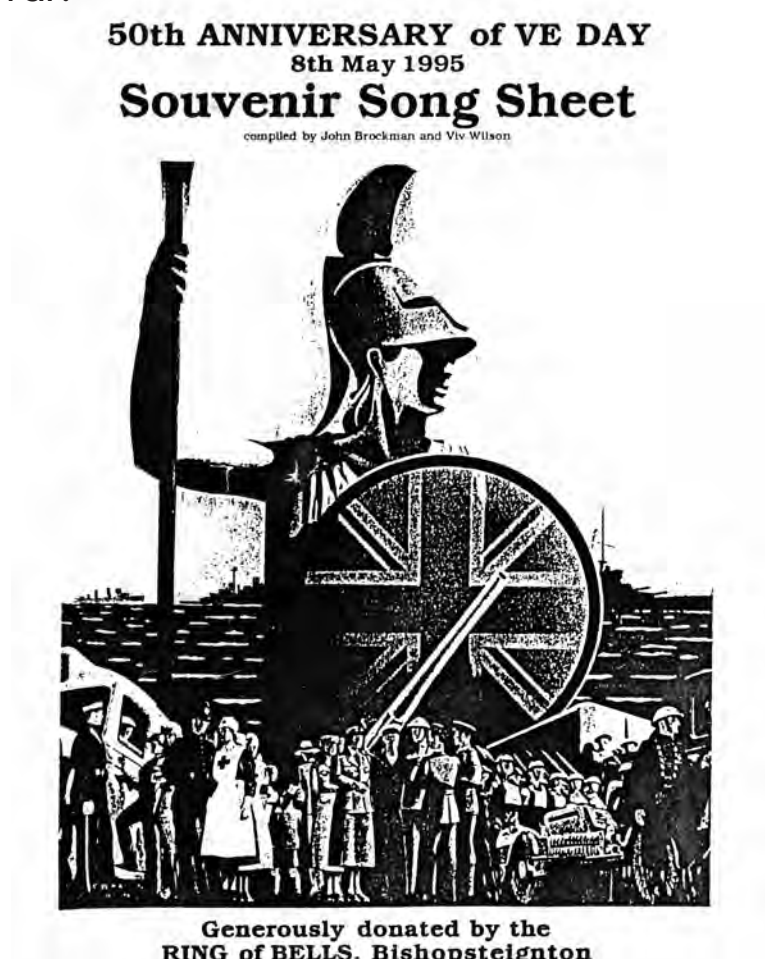


The plot was looking very fruitful this August, with potatoes, onions, beans, and more!

Countdown to VE Day: 6 days to go – ‘Sing for Victory’

Published 2nd May 2020 by Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs

How much do you know about the music that was around during the Second World War?



The Souvenir Song Sheet from the 50th anniversary of VE Day, from the Bishopsteignton Heritage Archive Collection.

Welcome to Day 5 of our VE Day countdown, and today we want to share lots of wonderful wartime music with you. Had we not been in Lockdown, the lovely ladies that organise the ‘Singing for Fun’ sessions at the Community Centre would have been holding a ‘Singing for Victory’ day on Wednesday next. So, as we are all celebrating from home, we want to share the tunes they would have played and the words, so you can sing along with the music that will be broadcast all over the village on the afternoon of May 8th.

Music during the Second World War

The use of music during World War II changed dramatically from previous wars. This time around, it was used as an instrument of propaganda, not just entertainment. Still, in army camps, factories and hospitals, music blaring from the radio helped lift the spirits of soldiers and workers every day. This war was the first conflict to take place in the age of electronically mass-distributed music. Music was also used to send words of encouragement, frustration and resistance to soldiers who were fighting the war. Entertainers toured the conflict zones and played to the troops to lift their morale. Many English entertainers became enormously popular during the war years; well-known names like Vera Lynn, Gracie Fields, Anne Shelton, George Formby, Arthur Askey, Flanagan and Allen. And it was the age of the big band as dances were popular. Bandleaders like Jimmy Dorsey, Joe Loss, John Dankworth, Jack Parnell, and many more, kept up the spirits of the British people.

In 1942, Vera Lynn recorded “(There’ll Be Bluebirds Over) The White Cliffs of Dover.” The song was written by Walter Kent and Nat Burton before the United States entered the war. Germany had been bombing Great Britain in 1940 — the Battle of Britain — and the song looked forward to a time when peace would reign again in the skies over the Cliffs of Dover. Another song that Vera Lynn made famous was ‘We’ll Meet Again’ which possesses added poignancy for us during this period of Lockdown.

When the United States entered the war in 1941, swing music went to war too. Jazz music provided comfort for families at home and soldiers abroad. Many musicians were drafted into the military and took their music with them. Some of them led military jazz bands that travelled the world to boost the morale of troops. Bing Crosby and Glen Miller were hugely popular, as were Benny Goodman, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, and, of course, The Andrews Sisters. The Andrews Sisters were an American close harmony singing group of the swing and boogie-woogie eras. The group consisted of three sisters: contralto Laverne Sophia, soprano Maxene Anglyn, and mezzo-soprano Patricia Marie “Patty”. Most people still listened to music on the radio and were captivated by this new jazz and swing influence. The very upbeat music gave them a reason to dance and sing along and lift their mood. Local to Bishopsteignton, we are lucky enough to have our very own close harmony group, The Liberty Sisters, who sing many of The Andrews Sisters’ songs.

This playlist will be broadcast throughout the village from 3pm on VE Day:

1. Wish me Luck
2. A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square
3. We're Going To Hang Out The Washing on the Siegfried Line
4. Underneath the Arches
5. Who do you think you are kidding Mr Hitler
6. Bless 'Em All
7. Lambeth Walk
8. We'll Meet Again
9. Goodnight Sweetheart
10. There'll Always Be an England
11. The White Cliffs of Dover
12. Kiss Me Goodnight, Sergeant Major
13. Run Rabbit Run
14. Chattanooga Choo Choo
15. Whispering Grass (Don't Tell the Trees)
16. Leaning on a lamppost
17. Don't sit under the Apple Tree
18. Fools Rush in
19. On the Sunny Side of the street
20. You are my Sunshine

Keep listening on VE-Day and sing along with the songs you know!

This 1946 Cassor 'Melodymaker' Wireless radio set from the Bishopsteignton Heritage Collection was used by the Polish refugees at Ilford Park Camp, near Newton Abbot. It would have been perfect for singing along to after the end of the war.



Singing for Fun

Bishopsteignton benefits from a group dedicated to 'Singing for Fun'. Group organiser, Helen Garratt had arranged a special wartime-themed singing session to celebrate VE Day, 2020. The session had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions. Here are a few words from Helen about her wonderful group:

"Singing for fun is a community group that has been active for at least 10 years. Everyone is welcome to come to our monthly sessions in the Community Centre and the aim of our group is to provide a relaxed and inclusive atmosphere where anyone who enjoys singing can get involved. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we are unable to have our sessions at the moment. We had planned to join in the village VE75 celebrations with an afternoon tea party and a 'Wartime' sing-song. The idea of this event was enthusiastically supported by our members and everyone had volunteered to make cakes – it would have been such a feast, a lively event, in-keeping with all the activities in Bishopsteignton! Hopefully we'll be up and running again as soon as it is safe to do so and maybe we'll even have the VE75 event we had all been looking forward to!"



Countdown to VE Day: 5 days to go – Evacuees

Published 3rd May 2020 by Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs

Only 5 days to go until VE Day. Today we want to tell you about Evacuees, several of whom landed in Bishopsteignton during WWII.



From the Bishopsteignton Heritage Archive Collection: The Hope family evacuees in the garden of Cross Gate, Bishopsteignton.

With the start of the Second World War came 'Operation Pied Piper'. This was the plan to evacuate civilians from cities and other areas that were at high risk of being bombed or becoming a battlefield in the event of an invasion.

1.5 million children, pregnant women and other vulnerable people such as the disabled were evacuated to safer countryside locations in just two days. There were no big bombing raids on Britain in the first months of the war (known as The Phoney War) and as a result, by early 1940, many children had returned home.

The country was split into three types of areas: Evacuation, Neutral and Reception, with the first Evacuation areas including places like Greater London, Birmingham and Glasgow, and Reception areas being rural such as Kent, East Anglia, Devon and Wales. Neutral areas were places that would neither send nor receive evacuees. Evacuees were all given a gas mask and they had food for the journey to the countryside. Every child had a label pinned to their clothing. This label stated the child's name, home address, school and destination. Evacuees and their parents would keep in touch by writing letters to each other. The gas masks were carried in small cardboard boxes and all the children were trained in putting them on in case of a gas attack.

Bishopsteignton Evacuees

Many children had pleasurable experiences of their new homes in the countryside, but some were not so happy, and they all missed their parents terribly.

Bishopsteignton had quite a few evacuees staying with local families. The lucky ones had one or both parents staying with them, but many took up their temporary homes with new carers.

Many evacuees stayed in touch with their wartime mums and dads for years afterwards. Some lost their parents in the conflict and had no homes to return to. In the Bishopsteignton Millennium Video released in 2000, there is a short re-enactment of evacuees coming to Bishopsteignton in 1940. You can view this film on our website and read all about the village-wide millennium celebrations.

For our party at home on May 8th, your kids might fancy dressing up as evacuees. The classic look is the identity label and a cardboard box on a string!

Some of the people evacuated to Bishopsteignton have had their stories recorded on our website, among them are:

The Blogg Family:

When Phyllis Blogg's children were evacuated to Bishopsteignton from London, she came to visit them and ended up staying on. They were billeted with Kit and Jack Ward, who ran the butcher's shop in Fore Street, opposite the Manor Inn.

The Ward Family:

Kit and Jack Ward were very popular in the village, taking in Phyllis Blogg and her family as evacuees during World War Two. They still have relatives living in the village, who have kindly filled in some gaps in their story.

The Heathman Family

The Hope Family:

Just after Bishopsteignton Heritage opened its doors to visitors at the Hub in the Community Centre, we were visited by a gentleman who, it turned out, had been evacuated to the village in 1941. His name is John Hope, and he was the nephew of Phyllis Blogg.

The Cross Family:

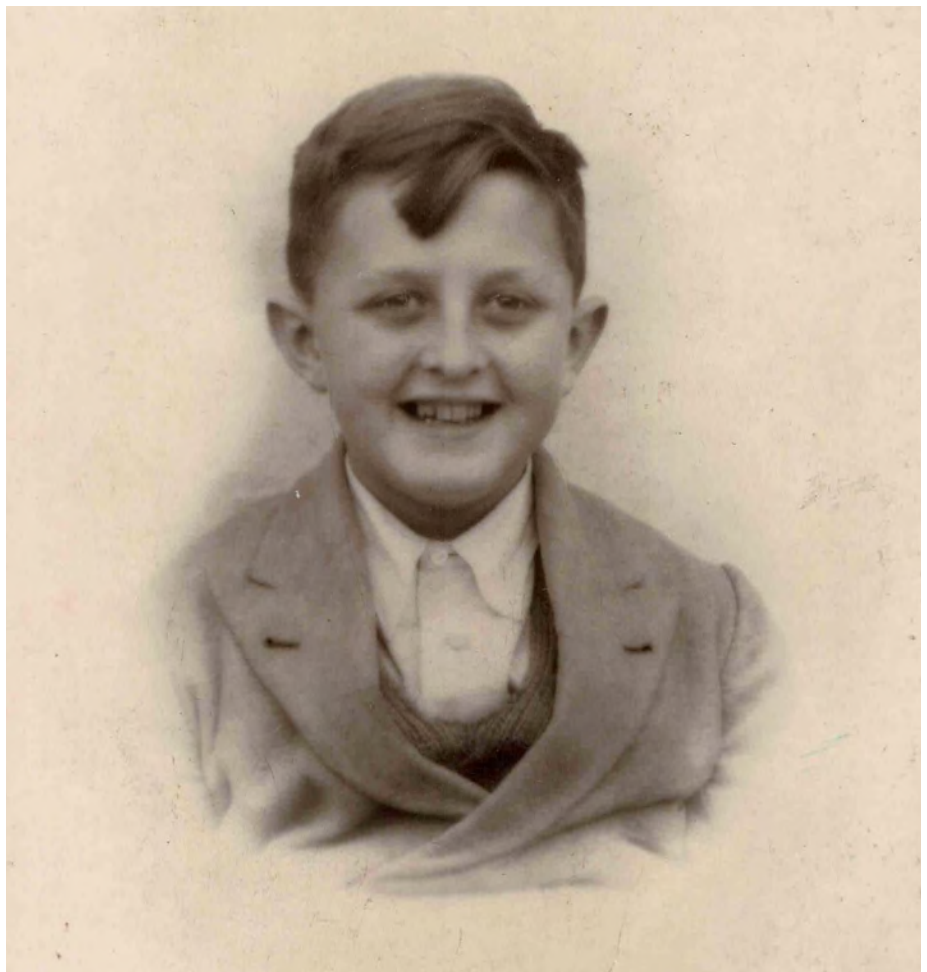
David, Pat and Ted Cross were London evacuees staying in Bishopsteignton from June 1940 – January 1942.

Norman P. Barnett:

Norman Barnett was an evacuee billeted with Mr and Mrs Garland at the Bakery, Fore Street, Bishopsteignton from 1940-41. We discovered his story in our archive.

The McGregor Family:

John Harvey McGregor (known as Jack) and his wife Audrey lived mainly in Surrey with their two sons John and Richard. In September 1940 they all moved down to Devon to escape the blitz.



Norman P. Barnett in around 1940, from the Bishopsteignton Heritage Archive Collection.

Heritage Hub

We found out about some of these Evacuee stories through our Heritage Hub at the Community Centre on Shute Hill, Bishopsteignton. While pandemic circumstances and Lockdown measures have prevented us from welcoming visitors into our wonderful space, we hope you will still feel excited to share your memories and stories with us.

The Heritage Hub is both a store for our incredible village archives and a work space for visitors and volunteers to spend time discovering more about the history of our village. The archives contain every form of record from photographs and videos to letters and deeds. The workspace provides seating and desks for researchers to spread out and get absorbed in the stories told by our collections. We also have facilities for creating digital versions of documents and photographs as well as tablets for visitors to use for online research.



We hope to once again be able to welcome visitors and researchers into our Heritage Hub. We are always looking for people who are passionate about history and heritage with some time to spare to help us with our projects. If you are interested in any of the subjects or projects discussed in this book or on our website and think you would like to become a volunteer, please get in touch!

Countdown to VE Day: 4 days to go – Women at War

Published 4th May 2020 by Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs

Though most women were left at home when WWII started, as their men went off to fight, a large number enlisted for the services or did vital war work, several of whom landed in Bishopsteignton during WWII.



A Women's Voluntary Service Uniform Armband from the collection of Totnes Fashion and Textiles Museum.

Mary Overill - Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF)

Mary Overill joined the Royal Air Force as a WAAF. Mary now lives in Fore Street, Bishopsteignton. This is the story she has passed on to her great grandchildren: Mary was born Mary Bovey, in Buckfastleigh, Devon in 1922. By the age of 20 she was working for an accountant in Totnes and it was at this stage that she was called up and joined the RAF as a WAAF, Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

Mary was sent to Plymouth RAF station at Mount Wise then on to St Eval in Cornwall working for Squadron Leader Shackleton, son of the famous explorer Ernest Shackleton. From there she was posted to the Air Ministry in the War Office in Whitehall. She worked as a typist for the Cypher Office which dealt with secret messages from various war centres, such as on the floor below where Winston Churchill held his Cabinet meetings!

On VE-Day she was told that the war was over and, arm in arm with her friend, she left her office. She couldn't believe her eyes, there were people everywhere, cheering, shouting and dancing in the street! She did feel slightly scared at being in such huge crowds. She and her friend joined the thousands who gathered outside Buckingham Palace to cheer the Royal family.

Mary is one of our wonderful Bishopsteignton residents with a history that her friends and neighbours could probably never guess!



Mary Overill, 1942, aged 20.

Lillian Green - Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)

Lillian Green has lived in Bishopsteignton since 1984; she will be 99 years of age in May 2020. Lillian was born in Vera Cruz, the third child of Henry and Annie Payne. The family returned to England in 1932, eventually settling in Exmouth. Lillian's first bit of rebellion was signing up before she turned 21, without her parents permission! As her brother was also in the Army, she signed up as a volunteer. She started in the ATS Feb 24th, 1941, initially based in Honiton. Lillian trained as a Mechanic, then Driver and finally Driving instructor. Her neice, Patricia Hewitson, has told us her story:

"She has lots of stories, the most poignant to me is of when the new recruits were in their new dormitory, trying on their new uniforms. There were girls from all classes, but one girl sat on the floor, surrounded by her new clothes, crying her eyes out.

When asked why she was crying, she told them that it was the first time she had ever had her own vest, not only one but 3. Apparently the one family vest was shared among the siblings. Other girls had to be shown how to dress themselves and to tie shoe laces, as they had always had a maid do it for them. One time Lillian saw one of the test vehicles being driven in the sea, and being told that "you ain't seen owt!" She remembers her shock at seeing Plymouth post-blitz. On the whole she had a wonderful time, making several life long friends. She also knew sadness, as when losing her brother Harry in Mayamar in 1944."



Lillian Green, 1945.

The Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS)

The Women's Royal Naval Service, known as Wrens, was the women's branch of the United Kingdom's Royal Navy. First formed in 1917 for the First World War, it was disbanded in 1919, then revived in 1939 at the beginning of the Second World War, remaining active until integrated into the Royal Navy in 1993. Wrens were initially recruited to release men to serve at sea. This was reflected in the recruiting slogan: 'Join the Wrens today and free a man to join the Fleet.' Just such a Wren was based in Bishopsteignton during WWII, Dorothy Enever. Dorothy's daughter, Sandra Ridley, has told us her mother's story:

"My mum was Dorothy Enever during the war, became Dot Churchill when she married my dad and then Dot Williams. She was a Wren during WW2 and for a while around 1943 she was stationed at Bishopsteignton possibly staying at Kittoes. She was a Londoner but came back to Teignmouth, met and married my Dad and stayed for the rest of her life. She died in 2004 age 92. From her Naval records, she was stationed at HMS Heron (Haldon) from 15th September 1943 until 27th July 1944, first as a Leading Wren Cook, then as Petty Officer Wren Cook. She used to talk about living at Kittoes.

She was demobbed on 18th March 1946 and came back to Teignmouth. Her brother, Harry Harper, had been a PoW and came with his wife and child to the Turf Locks on the Exe to be the landlord, but not sure who came first. Mum's first job here was at the Mordref Hotel, owned by the Wills family (where the Teignmouth Lido is now). At sometime during the 70s she was the cook at Huntley. My cousin Jean Churchill was married to Fred Sharland in 1956 and they lived in Fore Street. Her father, my uncle, was George Churchill who built the original and lived at Rockstone on the main road. I was one of Fred and Jean's bridesmaids age 6! I remember going across the road from the Village Hall reception with my mum, aunts and cousins to their cottage and making an apple pie bed!"



*Dorothy Enever and her brother
Harry Harper in May 1945.*

Women's Land Army (WLA)

The Women's Land Army (WLA) was a British civilian organisation created during World War II so women could work in agriculture, replacing men called up to the military. The Women's Land Army made a significant contribution to boosting Britain's food production during the Second World War. Before the war, Britain had imported much of its food; when war broke out, it was necessary to grow more food at home and increase the amount of land in cultivation. The Land Girls, as they were known, did a wide range of jobs, including milking cows, lambing, managing poultry, ploughing, gathering crops, digging ditches, catching rats and carrying out farm maintenance work. Some 6,000 women worked in the Timber Corps, chopping down trees and running sawmills.

In Bishopsteignton many of the farmers and agricultural workers were considered as in reserved occupations, so weren't called up to the services. Therefore, there were fewer Land Army girls in the village than in some other areas of Devon but we believe there were landgirls at Murley Grange.

Nursing

In the National Register of 1939, several nurses are recorded as living in Bishopsteignton, and we can only presume that nurses continued serving the people of the village during the war years, delivering babies and tending to the sick of the village as well as caring for any members of the forces who may have been injured and returned to their village homes.

Nursing in Bishopsteignton at this time would have largely comprised of what we now think of as District or Community Nurses largely caring for people in their homes supported by family members. At the beginning of WWII so many nurses volunteered for active service that in 1943 the Control of Engagement Order was introduced to stop District Nurses from leaving their posts as it was, and still is considered, to be a vital role to make sure the local community is fit and well. The community would have comprised of farmers, tradespeople, professionals and their families so accidents and illness would have occurred. Whilst we know there was a doctor, Rosaleen Cooper, who is believed to have tended wounded troops billeted in the village between the wars, she does not appear to have lived in the village for the whole duration of WWII, so the nurse may well have been the first person called if there was a problem or accident.

Digging for Victory

As a fitting tribute to the Women's Land Army of the Second World War, the Bishopsteignton Community Allotment Dig for Victory Plot has been lovingly tended throughout Lockdown and yielded an excellent harvest this autumn.



Thanks to lots of hard work, this photograph from Kate Yeo of the Bishopsteignton Allotment Growers Society shows a fantastic harvest this October!

Happy Birthday, Lillian Green!

Lillian Green turned 99 years old on 21st May 2020 at Bishopsteignton House. On behalf of the village of Bishopsteignton, we wish you a very Happy Birthday and many happy returns!

Countdown to VE Day: 3 days to go – Dancing

Published 5th May 2020 by Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs

Local dances were extremely important to the occupants of towns and villages throughout Britain during WWII. It was a place to meet your friends and have fun!



© Imperial War Museums (D 23826) - This photograph shows 'New Style Dancing: The Introduction of The Jive into British Dance Halls, 1945'. "A couple at a British dance hall try out the new 'jive' steps, whilst the rest of the hall continue with 'old-style' ballroom dancing."

Dances during the Second World War

Local dances were extremely important to the occupants of towns and villages throughout Britain during WWII. It was a place to meet your friends and have fun.

‘It is not proposed to make total war total misery,’ said the Home Secretary Herbert Morrison in 1942, as he announced in the House of Commons that dancing was not to be included in the ‘recreations that are to be restricted to prevent interference with the war effort.’

Every town and village had a hall where dancing could take place. The bigger dance halls had orchestras, the smaller ones had a three piece band or records, sometimes only a piano. Early in the war the dances from previous decades were popular such as the Rumba, Foxtrot, Waltz and Quickstep.

When America entered the war, they brought with them the swing music and dancing styles of their homeland, like the Lindy Hop. The dance hall was also somewhere that people could meet members of the opposite sex, and for many servicemen, billeted a long way from home, it was an opportunity to enjoy a little female company. The G.I.s from America caused quite a stir when they arrived in British towns and villages and meeting them was another exciting reason for the girls to go to the dance halls.

One of the most innovative dances that came to Britain from America was the Lindy Hop. Lindy Hop combined a number of dances popular in the United States in the 1920s and earlier, many of which developed in African American communities. Just as jazz and swing music were evolving from similar sources, the dance crazes of Lindy Hop, Jive and Jitterbug are thought to have their roots in Harlem, New York in the 1920s and 30s.

If it were not for the Lockdown Bishopsteignton would have had its’ very own Lindy Hop dance and demonstration at the Community Centre on April 26th, with the great South West Lindy Hoppers. We still hope they will join us later in the year so the residents of Bishopsteignton can learn the dances.

Edith Quantick (1909-1997) - Memories of Bishopsteignton

Dances in Bishopsteignton

“During these years I was getting involved in affairs myself. My first friend was Lillian, Mr Gourd’s daughter. She took me to join the Young People’s Fellowship at the Church. We had no money, our weekly subs had to hire the hall. It was called the Parish Hall. After the First World War it was bought as an army Nissen hut. Many years ago a room built opposite Huntly in Forder Lane was used as a meeting place, it was derelict before I came here. Our hall was most uncomfortable. The heating was a ‘tortoise’ coke stove in the middle. You were cooked next to it and frozen at a distance.

To return to the Fellowship club, there were no helpful mums to raise funds with jumble sales. We must have been a tough lot because we arranged to hold dances at the Parish Hall. Two of our members, Jim Dawe and Daisy Perrett (who was organist at the church) played piano and banjo voluntarily for our dances and a bus load always came out from Teignmouth. The roof leaked on wet nights, and we stood tin baths round the room on dance nights, as the chalked floor would have been dangerous with the wet spots. My late husband, Fred was a member and we began our courtship.”

Memories of the Second World War

“Fred was rejected for the armed forces and joined the fire service. It was fortunate that no service was needed in the village, as the hosepipe they had wasn’t long enough to reach from the hydrant to the houses! I had my son David then and we shall never forget the frights we got in the hit and run days. One night we heard the plane coming and dived under our bed. The devastating crash of the falling bombs echoed around the valley and the air was full of cordite. Newcomers to the area don’t know that the passing place at the top of the road through Coombeway is where the bombs dropped that night. One Sunday afternoon we had a worse scare. After that night raid we were given a Morrison shelter, which almost filled our kitchen, we used the top for our meals. We were just going out for a walk when we heard the plane – the siren was hardly used in these raids – it was all over in a few seconds and the planes flew in low over the sea so they were not seen. We dived under the Morrison, his machine guns were chattering as he flew over our house. I looked out of the window and saw the enormous black plane just skimming over the roof of the house next door.”

Shall We Dance?

Bishopsteignton Heritage very much hope to be the host of a VE Day celebratory dance in the future. We had planned to offer local people a lesson in the Lindy Hop, from the talented South West Lindy Hoppers, as well as hold a dance in the village Community Centre in April of 2020.

Here are a few words from South West Lindy Hop dance teacher, Jane Narramore.:

“Derek and I just love to teach the Lindy Hop in Exeter and Totnes bringing the joy and fun of this awesome dance into people’s lives. It came over with American GI soldiers during the Second World War and became known as the Jitterbug. Dancing was the main thing that kept people going during those very bleak times and it’s what keeps us going now.”

While our village dance was not possible this summer, due to Coronavirus Lockdown restrictions, keep up to date with our plans for 2021 or get in touch via email, write to us, or use the Feedback Form enclosed in this book.



South West Lindy Hoppers Derek and Jane Narramore.

Countdown to VE Day: 2 days to go – Heroes

Published 6th May 2020 by Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs

Many people lost their lives fighting in WWII, some came back alive, and others stayed and did their bit at home. Today we would like to remind you of the men and women who were the heroes.



Jack Ward (left), of Bishopsteignton, with 2 unidentified servicemen. Mr Ward ran the Butcher's shop on Fore Street. If you know more about the men in this photo, please get in touch!

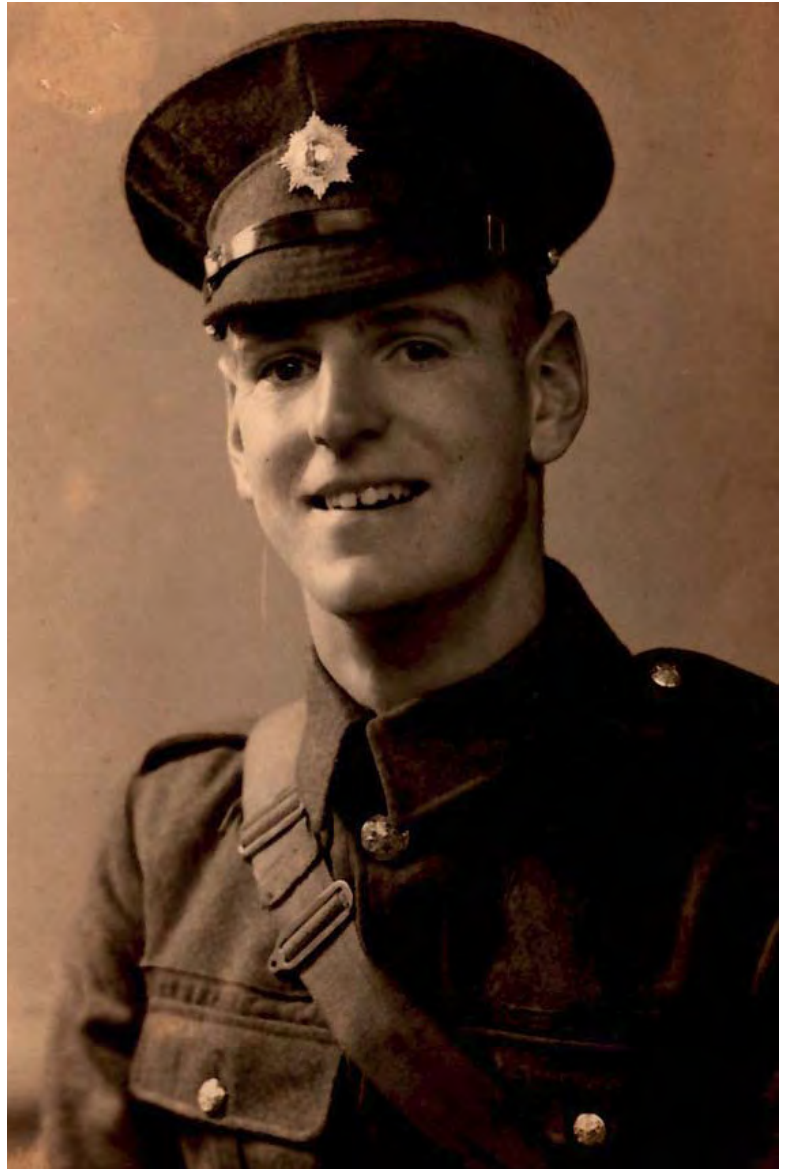
There are only two days left until we celebrate VE Day, when the war in Europe was finally over and servicemen and women could look forward to returning to their loved ones at home. Some were not so lucky and paid the ultimate price for victory, with their lives. The Bishopsteignton Memorial bears the names of those who came from the village who paid that price for the safety of us all and future generations. Some returned to the village, others helped on the Home Front, here are some of their stories.

Phillip Gourd

One of the best known characters of the village for most of his life was Philip Gourd. He was in the Coldstream Guards during WWII, and was an acknowledged hero, as he was first on the scene of a massacre by the German forces in Italy. Philip returned to the same Italian village every year after the war. Here are some of his memories:

“The war was to change all our lives radically. Newspapers advised us of what we might expect, including rationing, voluntary services, when folk were asked to put their names forward to take on such duties as night wardens to make sure no lights were showing at night. Retired army officers were on duty at the school-rooms to fit people with gas-masks. Cars had to be fitted with light-masks on the headlamps. This was like a sideways top hat, with slits, so that drivers could just see at night, with the minimum of beam showing. Brother George volunteered for the army, and went into the RASC, just as his father had done during the first world war.”

You can read more, and listen to Philip’s memories, on our website.



Philip Gourd in uniform, 1940.

Leonard Quantick

Leonard Quantick was the brother of Fred Quantick, son of Samuel Quantick and father of Irwin Quantick of West Street, Bishopsteignton. He served in Italy and Africa during WWII and came home to work in the building trade in the village. If you know any other details of Leonard Quantick’s military service please do let us know.

The Home Guard



The Bishopsteignton Home Guard in around 1942, from the Bishopsteignton Heritage Archive Collection. A list of the names of these men can be found on our website. If you would like to see a physical list, or know any names of or stories about these men, please get in touch.

As there were a lot of farmers and agricultural labourers in Bishopsteignton during WWII, which were classified as reserved occupations, the local Home Guard was quite a large contingent of men, most of them very young. Older soldiers who had fought in WWI were also included as Home Guard members, including Sgt Sidney Skinner, himself a hero of the First World War, who recruited and trained the Guard. His daughter, Sheila Robbins remembers his training sessions:

“I can remember leaning, looking out of the window here and Dad trying to teach them to slope arms out here in the road, it’s hard for you to imagine, but they were either very young or middle-aged elderly, because all the young men had gone. You know, you try teaching youngsters who were so full of beans, and then you get the ones that had perhaps come through the First World War and they were really old. There was a big Home Guard in the village.”

Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Wardens

Of course there were also the local ARP wardens who played their part on the home front. Air Raid Precautions (ARP) refers to a number of organisations and guidelines in the United Kingdom dedicated to the protection of civilians from the danger of air raids. From 1st September 1939, ARP wardens enforced the "blackout". Heavy curtains and shutters were required on all private residences, commercial premises and factories to prevent light escaping and so making them a possible target for enemy bombers to locate their targets. The ARP services were central in reporting and dealing with bombing incidents. They managed the air raid sirens and ensured people were directed to shelters. It wasn't just in London that the bombs fell. Teignmouth had its share of bombing raids and fatalities, and Bishopsteignton did not remain unscathed. One Bishopsteignton resident, Rosa Turpin, is noted in the parish death Register. Her husband Thomas was a retired plumber and a special constable according to the 1939 census. Rosa was one of those killed in Teignmouth during a raid on 2nd September, 1942 where eight people were killed, four severely injured and twenty-seven injured. Bishopsteignton had a near miss when a bomb dropped at the top end of Coombe Way.

Mon Oct 21 st		12.32 am	8.35 am
"		4.40 am	6.45 am
"	11.33 am		11.55 am
"	2.30 pm		2.58 pm
"	3.25 pm		4.10 pm
"	4.55 pm		5.7 pm
"		7.12 pm	12.58 am
Tues Oct 22 nd		3.56 am	5.25 am
"		8.0 pm	11.47 pm
"		12.0 pm	12.25 am
Wed Oct 23 rd		4.35 am	5.6 am
"	3.0 pm		3.11 pm
Thurs " 24 th	1.40 pm		2.18 pm
"	2.52 pm		3.5 pm
ES "	4.35 pm		4.50 pm
"		8.19 pm	11.25 pm
451 16 Redd			

Part of the Air Raid warning record kept by the local Warden in Bishopsteignton, from the Bishopsteignton Heritage Archive Collection. This page lists warnings for October 1940, including the bombing of Lindridge on the 22nd at 10:40pm, in the right margin.

The Luftwaffe Visit Bishopsteignton

Many people have memories of WWII, some awful and some not so bad. This is a memory from a local resident, Nigel Harris, that he left to us at the archive:

“I was talking to my mother, Edna Harris about her war experiences during the anniversary of the end of World War Two. She told me about the time she spent living at Park Farm Bishopsteignton. Edna was in the top field and could see and hear a plane strafing a passenger train on the Teign estuary.

The plane then turned towards her, she took cover under some trees and froze. She clearly saw the pilot's face and swastika on the wing as the plane manoeuvred over the farmhouse. Her brother Edward Perkin working in the lower field jumped into a scrub full of stinging nettles. Edward later served in the R.A.F. as an aircraft engine fitter.

The raider then carried out the next attack, dropped a bomb and missed the train. The enemy plane was engaged by the anti-aircraft battery sited at Coles Barn. One of the gun crew was Fred Pawlett known as “Scouty”; he was the scout master in Bishopsteignton for many years. The raider was eventually shot down by anti aircraft fire over Torbay. The pilot was seen to parachute into the sea.

By coincidence Edna's sister Sylvia was coming home on leave from nursing duties and waiting for a connection at Exeter St David's. Sylvia saw the train come into the station with many carriages shot up. I don't know of any casualties. I work as a Train Driver based at Exeter. I often drive between Teignmouth and Newton Abbot with, luckily, no enemy aircraft overhead, but I picture the scene every time I run the route.”

We shall remember our heroes on this VE Day, and celebrate their efforts to make the world a safer place.

Remembrance, November 2020

Despite not being able to gather for remembrance at the village War Memorial this year, we are still honouring our heroes. Villagers have decorated the Memorial with poppies and we have been looking back at the stories of Bishopsteignton's fallen from the Second World War researched and compiled by our volunteers. The full stories of the men are available on our website.



Bishopsteignton War Memorial, 10th November 2020.



Two houses on Fore Street had also decorated for Remembrance.

Countdown to VE Day: 1 day to go – Party!

Published 7th May 2020 by Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs

With only one more day to go until the VE Day 75th Anniversary, today we would like to remind you how you can celebrate in your own homes and gardens.



VE DAY
75TH ANNIVERSARY
FRIDAY MAY 8TH (VE DAY)

2:55pm The Last Post played by Charles Morgan from the balcony above the PO

3pm The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WWII, broadcast from the roof of the Ring of Bells
Followed by The Battle's O'er and VE 75 broadcast from the Ring of Bells.

5pm Singing throughout the village:
'We'll Meet Again' & 'White Cliffs of Dover'.

6:55pm The Cry for Peace Around the World, from the garden of the Village Hall
Followed by The National Anthem for all to join in.

SATURDAY MAY 9TH

7:30pm Virtual VE Day/ WWII themed Quiz hosted by the Ring of Bells.

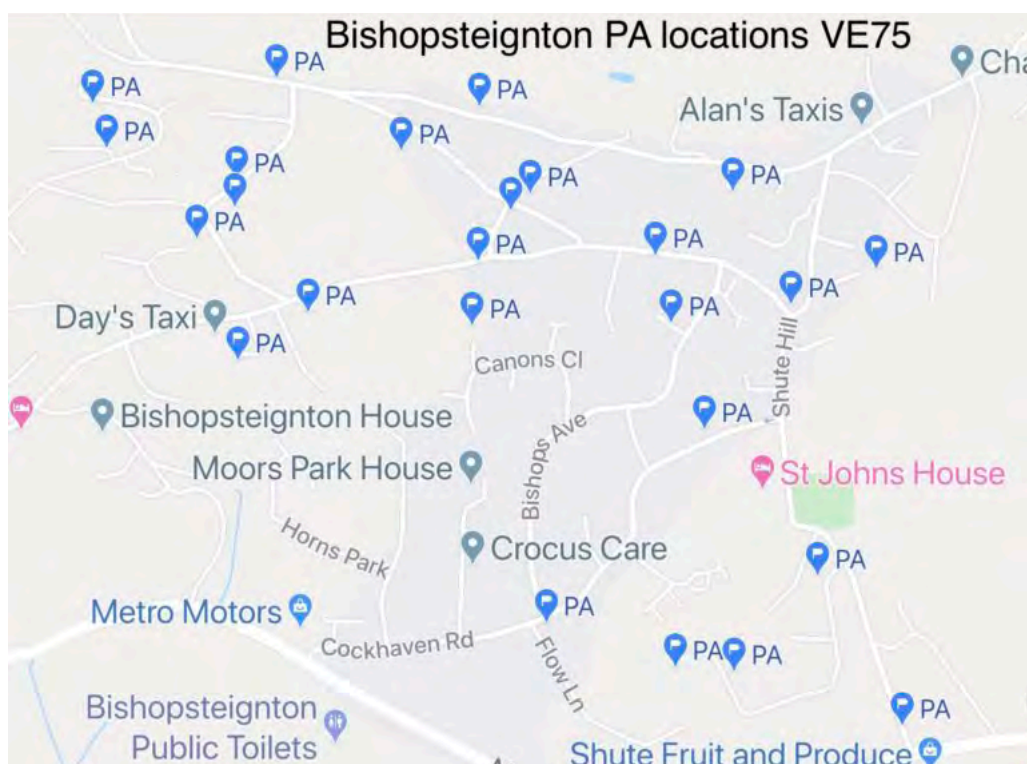
SUNDAY MAY 10TH

11am The Tribute to the Millions read from the roof of the Ring of Bells.

Bishopsteignton VE Day Programme

Along with speeches, a Toast to the Nation, and military pipes we shall be broadcasting two hours of 1940s music and songs from over 20 PA systems dotted around the village, finishing with a huge sing along of 'We'll Meet Again' and 'The White Cliffs of Dover' at 5pm which we want everyone to join in with.

As we had to postpone the 'Singing for Victory' session that would have happened this week, we have included those songs. In order to maintain social distancing and discourage people from gathering to listen to speeches, they are all included in the broadcast, so you should be able to hear them somewhere near your home. These are the locations where the broadcast can be heard from, hopefully everyone should be near enough to hear and join in:



So do listen out for those good old songs and sing your heart out!

And when the time comes to sing the National Anthem, here are the words;

1

God save our gracious
Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen!

2

O Lord our God arise,
Scatter our enemies,
And make them fall!
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish
tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix,
God save us all!

3

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign!
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and
voice,
God save the Queen!

Just because we are in Lockdown does not mean that we can't decorate our homes with flags and bunting, dress ourselves up, party in our homes and gardens and sing along with the music of the 1940s.

Over the past 10 days we have been giving you ideas about what you can do on Friday May 8th to celebrate this significant anniversary.

Bishopsteignton Heritage had organised a large programme of events to celebrate VE75, we even had the programmes printed to be distributed throughout the village, then the Lockdown came. So rather than waste them, our Archivist, Imogen has fashioned them into rosettes. To make your own, you can collect the materials and instructions free from the Supply Stores, Pharmacy and Old Commercial Bakery. Start making!



Party like it's 1945!

In 1945 people were so relieved about the end of WWII they celebrated all day and all night, particularly in the cities.

The BBC are intending to help the celebrations this year as we are all restricted to our homes.

We would especially like to record the village joining in with "We'll Meet Again" at 5 o'clock, but would love to record any other history our village may be making on the day.

So, the most important things of all: **remember** and **have fun!**



VE Day Long Weekend 2020: 8th - 10th May

Celebrations continued over the VE Day weekend, including a broadcast of 'The Tribute to the Millions' read by Roger Gallagher from the roof of the Ring of Bells. You can listen to this broadcast on our website or on our Youtube channel. This is the text that Roger read to the village:

The Tribute to the Millions

"Let us remember those who so selflessly gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us to enjoy the peace and freedom we have today.

Let us remember those who came home wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working lives after years of dreadful conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, sons and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen, merchant seamen, miners, brave civilians and others from Commonwealth and Allied countries who fought, suffered and died during four years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupation and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front - the doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded, the women and men who toiled in the fields, those who worked in the factories, who all played such a vital role in the war effort at home."



The Ring of Bells, Fore Street, and Landlord Roger Gallagher on 8th May 2020.

Other Stories

These stories were published by Bishopsteignton Heritage volunteers on our website **www.bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk**:

Bishopsteignton's Twin Town: La Roche-Maurice in World War Two
by Jess Gibby, published online 21st May 2020

'Jam And Jerusalem', a talk by Sarah Cockerton on the Bishopsteignton Women's
Institute during World War Two
by Sarah Cockerton, published online 30th April 2020

Bishopsteignton's Twin Town: La Roche-Maurice in World War Two

By Jess Gibby, 21st May 2020

During the Second World War France was occupied by German forces and Brittany was no exception. Close to the major port of Brest, La Roche Maurice, along with many French villages, has a very sad and difficult wartime history to relate. Our twin village of La Roche Maurice in Brittany suffered during World War Two as did many in France. Their war memorial carries the names of 18 people who died tragically for France.

The strategic site of La Roche-Maurice in Brittany explains the presence of French Alpine hunters in April 1940, then briefly English troops who were replaced during the invasion, in 1940, by German troops, as well as White Russians (in fact Georgians) of the Vlassov Army, who looted, among others, the Pontois farm. The Germans set up about 20 barracks in the Bois du Pontois located along the road to Landerneau.

Near this village lies a large manor house with grounds including woods known as the Pointois Wood. During the occupation of France this house and grounds were requisitioned by the Germans and sheltered 2 Nazi camps. To the east was a resting camp for the Kriegsmarine sailors whose battleships were based periodically at Brest and to the West an accommodation camp for 700 to 800 Dutch and Belgian workers. There were also civilians from Brest who had found refuge at La Roche, including 2 Jewish families: Menner and Haas. Including the owners of the land and Manor house itself, one could say that there were more people in the Pointois wood than in the community of La Roche itself.

On the 7th October 1942, the SS Sturmbannführer und Kommandeur, Dr. Heerdt gave out a general instruction to the Police Superintendent of the Rennes Prefecture district:

“On the 9th October 1942, the Jews mentioned on the following lists must be arrested by the police services placed under your orders and delivered before the 10th October or later to the camp situated on the Champ de Mars.

Over and above the persons indicated below on the list you are at liberty to arrest all members of their family regardless of age and sex including children and to deliver them to the same camp.”



The War Memorial at La Roche Maurice, France.

Jewish people in the Finistère region were 123 in total, 83 in the suburbs of Brest, of which 20 were tradespeople. A Jewish couple were arrested by the Police in Landernau at La Roche Maurice on the 10th October 1942; they were sent to Auschwitz and never returned. Some escaped arrest such as Blima Le Bris, who's story you can read more about on our website. Blima's escape was considered very annoying to the Germans as if she had been arrested, the success of the operation would have been total.

The monument to those killed in La Roche Maurice carries the names of 18 people who died for France during World War 2. Amongst the victims are the following: Jean Quéré, Maurice Léost, Ernest Émily, Émile Reungoat, Eugène L'Abbé and Vincent Madec, railwaymen, and Pierre Marzin and Marie Person, victims of shrapnel. You can read more about them on our website.

The town was liberated on August 9th, 1944 at around 1pm by an American patrol from Plounéventer via Lanneufret. Before fleeing, the Germans shot three people, including a 14-year-old child, Joseph Rosec.

The Massacre of Pontois Wood

Within the Pontois wood there lies a sombre monument which harmonises with the natural surroundings due to the skill of M. Maze, the marble sculptor of La Roche Maurice.

On the monument are engraved from top to bottom, the cross of Lorraine with the initials in the corner H.P. (Honour and Country) and the dedication “To the victims of Nazi barbarism” and the names of the victims.

Thomas Le Moan – Aspirant F.F.I. born 17.10.1914 in Ploaré, 30 years.

Joseph Boulic – Sergeant F.F.I. born 19.03.1922 in Kerlaz, 22 years.

Joseph Brouquel, born 21.12.1918 in Kerlaz, 26 years.

Alain Strullu, born 16.07.1916 in Kerlaz, 28 years.

Henri Gueguen, born 16.02.1915 in Ploaré, 29 years.

Pierre Lucas, born 29.05.1925 in Ploaré, 19 years.

Jean Francois Queau



The monument to the massacre at Pontois Wood.

Roger Bras, historian of La Roche-Maurice, reminds us of the events:

“After the landings of the 6th June 1944 the Germans in the woods headed towards the east and with anger in their hearts the Nazis carried out multiple massacres. Harassed by the Resistance network under the control of Lieutenant Noyon of Douarnenez, soldiers of a division of the German parachute regiment belonging to the Army Corp, under the command of General Ramke, captured a dozen resistance fighters led by Thomas le Moan of Ploare on the 25th July 1944.”

Later, the Sergeant Herwin Fritz publicly boasted of having punished terrorists during the night between the 30th July and the 1st August. Informed by a German soldier of the Wehrmacht, the inhabitants of La Roche Maurice discovered the bodies after the departure of the German parachutists on the 10th August. A witness account was reported by Joseph Abiven, a farmer and owner of the Pontois wood, and written down by Roger Bras. In summary Abiven reported the announcement by a German soldier that “there was a cemetery of terrorists in the Pontois wood.” When the Germans later retreated, the cemetery was searched out and the bodies of 6 patriots were found: “3 from the village of Kerlaz, 3 from Ploare near to Dournanez, piled one on top of the other” where a monument was later placed. The bodies were transferred to a place of burial where “inhabitants of La Roche Maurice assembled around to welcome the cortege”.

Abiven continued: “They all had belonged to a resistance network and one of them had, it seems, close links with an Alsacien mobilised in the Wermacht. He had denounced them. Two months later, another body was discovered in the Pontois wood: “an agricultural worker from Pleyber Christ, Jean Francois Queau, aged 62 years, had been requisitioned with his cart to assist moving the troops towards Brest. This man was killed by a bullet in the head” after refusing the Germans his cart.

The monument was inaugurated on the 7th April 1948 in the presence of various delegations representing the former resistance organisations. Captain Lambert posthumously awarded the Order of the Brigade to all those victims and pinned on the chests of their parents, who were standing in front of the memorial, the Croix de Guerre.

With thanks to Steve Giles for providing the original article by André Croguennec from which this translation was possible. André’s article and references are available online at **www.ouest-france.fr**.

Jam and Jerusalem

By Sarah Cockerton, 30th April 2020

The part played by Bishopsteignton Women's Institute during World War Two. Text in *italic* with **bold dates** is taken from minutes of Committee and Members meetings.



The creative Bishopsteignton WI at Dawlish Flower Show, 1975, with their 1st Prize award-winning '12 items' for a Co-operative exhibit.

On Friday 2nd December 1938 at 3pm a meeting was held at the Parish Hall, Bishopsteignton. This was a public meeting to discuss the formation of a Women's Institute. Miss Harris VCO who came to explain the workings of Women's Institute asked Mrs Benson to take the chair. 86 members gave their names as wishing to join. The following resolution was passed: "We the Country Women of Bishopsteignton, do resolve on this day, 2nd December 1938, that a Women's Institute be formed in our village".

A room at Huntly was offered for a meeting place and the first meeting took place on 9th December 1938. Mrs Lilian Benson was elected President for the year. In 1938-39 according to the National Federation of Women's Institutes Aims and Objectives the main purpose of the Institute "Is to improve and develop conditions of rural life". At the outbreak of the war in 1939 the WI in the United Kingdom had 328,000 members. The organisation was anti-war and therefore the WI found it difficult to know how to become involved. The Chairman at the time, Lady Denman, knew that the members would want to 'do their bit' and so the WI organised and took part in many schemes to help on the home front. In Bishopsteignton these

included helping with: evacuees, local troops and other service personnel, growing, foraging and preserving food, national savings, raising money and salvage.

Evacuees:

In 1939 the Government moved children, mothers and babies to rural areas to keep them safe. WI members were active in relocating evacuees and helping them to settle in.

20 June 1940 – *The President reported on the Government Evacuation Scheme and the children sent to Tapley Grange. She said that the children, 70 in number had been received by a matron, nurse, VAD worker and two mothers and for the time being the staffing was inadequate.*

Helpers were requested for: night duty, walks or occupying the children, sewing and mending, cleaning and kitchen work. Later in the year, Coles Barn Cottage was also equipped for housing evacuated children and mothers but throughout the year there remained a great need of voluntary helpers.

Local Troops:

Members volunteered to help at the canteen for troops which was based at Huntly. The WI worked alongside the Royal British Legion Women's Section to provide shirts, mending, laundry and hospitality.

16 July 1940 – *The Army chaplain explained the needs of the men at the Cockhaven and in the village.*

Their needs were summarised as canteen and accommodation, sewing and mending, laundry, hospitality and entertainment and cigarettes. These needs were mostly met with great generosity and on **19th September 1940**, *The President reported that the workers at Huntly were very satisfactory and that a meeting held on 9 September at Murley Grange showed that the helpers wished to continue and were anxious to assist Mr Fedden in every way.* Members helped at the Canteen until the end of 1941:

20 November 1941 – *Mrs Fedden reported that the Canteen was now recognised as a Women's Voluntary Service Canteen by the Southern Command and that all the helpers were now WVS members.*

The WI continued to help in the form of monetary donations such as £2 given from the Salvage Fund towards the 1941 Christmas party for soldiers at Huntly.

Knitting and Sewing:

In late 1939, to raise funds to buy knitting and sewing materials, a concert was held at Huntly over two nights, by kind permission of Mr Fedden. Members all over the country knitted for service personnel and in September 1944 the Government organised a knit for Europe campaign where 150,000 items were made nationally. In Bishopsteignton, on **15 February 1940**, *letters of warm appreciation were read from the WVS depot at Exeter and from the commander of a mine sweeper for the various comforts that had been sent by the Institute*. By April 1940, the Bishopsteignton WI had made 490 articles including socks, scarves, gloves, pullovers, blankets and even 1 pair of drawers. These women also made garments for the evacuees at Tapley. Wool was provided from the Institute Comfort Fund or was often sent to the Institute free of charge. The minutes also mention the mending of socks for the Search Light Unit at Coles Barn. Lessons on dressmaking were successful and members were encouraged to “make do and mend” clothes for themselves and their children. Dressmaking patterns were loaned between members.



The Bishopsteignton WI's Lockdown sewing project. Passed around from member to member, the piece was constructed of squares all stitched in different ways from crochet to applique!

Food and Medical Supplies:

At the monthly meetings a speaker would be invited to talk on topics of interest to members. During the war years talks included subjects such as “Vegetables to feed the family”, “Bottling fruit” and “Back yard hens” often given by a speaker from the County Agricultural Committee. All members were encouraged to grow vegetables, particularly onions and carrots. Seeds were provided by the County Secretary and seeds and potatoes were also sent from Canada.

20 February 1941 - *Mrs Keen said that she had distributed the seeds especially packed by Suttons. 28 packets of mixed varieties and 6 of French beans having been allotted to the Institute.*

The WI were to play an important part in the preservation and production of food. As much of the country's food was imported it was necessary to increase production at home. WI members were very knowledgeable about bottling and preserving and so this expertise was built upon. Jam-making has always been a very important part of WI life and this was of tremendous importance in wartime. Surplus fruit was collected and made into jams and jellies for distribution.

16 January 1941 – *The classes for food preservation were to be held in March at 3.00pm.*

Following this, a Village Fruit Preservation Scheme was set up to include Institute and non-Institute members. Apparatus, money and surplus fruit were all offered for the scheme which was based at Murley Grange. Instructions and information were received from the Ministry of Food. Talks and demonstrations were given so that members could receive as much information as possible and a committee was formed. The centre at Murley Grange was staffed by volunteers who were not allowed to buy any goods for themselves. Jars were collected by Ministry Inspectors and taken to wholesale depots for distribution. Between 1940-1945 over 5,300 tons of fruit had been preserved by the nation's WI.

12 November 1942 – *One gross of 2lb Kilner jars and ½ gross of 3lb jars for fruit bottling were given to the Institute by Lady Benthall of Lindridge. Members then made 31lbs of jelly passed by the Federation jam examiner as being of excellent quality. 28lbs of marrow jam has also been made.*

Requests were made for the collection of rosehips, foxglove leaves, dandelion roots and nettles for medicinal purposes. Rosehips were made into syrup, a good source

of Vitamin C while oranges could no longer be imported. The collection of foxglove leaves, which were dried, continued throughout the war years as the leaves contain a compound called digitalin that acts on heart muscle. It was required by the medical profession to help with arrhythmia of the heart and atrial fibrillation. In 1941, 3lb 3oz of leaves were sent to Dartington for drying and further collections were carried out.

18 December 1941 – *With regard to the money obtained from the foxglove and rosehips collection, a sum of £2 4s 6d, it was unanimously approved that it be sent to the Rt Hon. A V Alexander for King George's Navy and Merchant Service War Relief Fund.*

Savings, Fundraising and Salvage:

In 1940 The National Savings Committee asked the WI to raise the profile of the National Savings Campaign. Each WI was asked to set up its own scheme and posters were sent out and Bishopsteignton joined in saving £688 in 17 months.

16 March 1944 – *Mrs Tull said she would be sending the half yearly returns to the National War Savings on 31st March and that up to date she had received £798 16s 0d since 30th September last year.*

In 1940, Bishopsteignton WI members decided to begin raising money for a Flying Ambulance by collecting old silver. In 1943 the Institute set themselves a target of £30 to raise for the "Wings for Victory Week" which eventually raised £330 16s 0d! Paper Salvage was a part of a programme launched by the British Government in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War to encourage the recycling of materials to aid the war effort, and which continued to be promoted until 1950. In Bishopsteignton, Mrs Edge Partington was appointed Parish organiser of salvage and formed her own committee of helpers. Aluminium for aeroplanes was collected in the village and taken to Newton Abbot by WI members. Alongside all this, the Bishopsteignton WI members attended their usual monthly meetings when there would be a competition, entertainment and a speaker. Films were sometimes shown to keep members up to date with events outside the village.

17 April 1941 – *The films sent by the ministry of Information were much appreciated. They included pictures illustrating the work of women in wartime as nurses and in engineering, of the elimination of waste and the saving of all scraps for pig feeding stuffs. In August another show would be given to include the colour film "A garden goes to War" if it could be obtained.*

The Bishopsteignton WI in 2018 and their impressive display of paper-flower arrangements. From left to right are Monica Sturgess, Pearl Kent, Sarah Cockerton, Glenda Sewell, Helen Tinley, Ruth Stoneham, Pauline Kinton, Tricia Stephenson, Lynda Luxton and Sheila Smirthwaite.



As the War progressed the WI turned its attention to post-war problems and how to adapt to them. On 8th May 1945 the Second World War ended in Europe but rationing continued in the UK until 4th July 1954. In 1947 Bishopsteignton WI started a correspondence with Greensville WI in Ontario, Canada and the first parcel of foodstuffs arrived from Canada in 1948 and thereafter at regular intervals.

15 January 1954 – *A parcel of food has been received from our link in Canada. It comprised the following: 2lbs of sugar, 10lbs cane sugar, 4lbs rice, 2lbs prunes, 2 pkts raisins, 2lbs creamy butter, 4lbs lard, 2 tins sliced bacon, 2 tins roast beef, 2 tins corned beef, 2 tins chopped beef, 2 tins pineapple, 2 tins peaches, 4 tins breakfast sausage, 2 tins margarine.*

In 1955 Greensville were sent a Union Jack in gratitude. To celebrate the 21st birthday of the Bishopsteignton WI in 1959, a piece of Honiton lace was commissioned and sent to Canada. It measured 14x14" and took 200 hours to make. A birthday cake was also sent to Canada which was the exact replica of the one eaten at the party here in Bishopsteignton. The link continued until the early 70s.

VE Day 75th Anniversary Gallery

A collection of photographs taken on 8th May 2020, the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. The photographs are accompanied by memories of VE75 from Bishopsteignton residents.

We would like to thank all the wonderful members of the community who have kindly allowed Bishopsteignton Heritage to share with you their memories and photographs from VE Day including:

Tony & Caroline Early

Deane Hitchins

Hilary Smith

Carol Houle

Jess Gibby

Linda Brannan

Jason McMurray

Yvone Hellin-Hobbs

Kirstyn & John Watson

Liz Kirkland

Mary Murphy-Ford



Hilary Smith, outside her home, The Old Forge, Radway Sreet.

Memories of VE75 - Hilary Smith

“Three weeks before VE Day I decided I wanted to celebrate, so I started by making the bunting. One friend who was shielding gave me yards of white tape, which she left at the bottom of her drive for me to collect. Then I raided my airing cupboard and found one red and one blue pillowcase and a white sheet. The next thing was to have a table with memorabilia on display. My neighbour knew what I was doing and said she had quite a lot of things like buttons from armed forces and photos and travel passes from a relative. I had cookery books, photos, a teddy bear, tools and more from the ‘40s. Another friend sent me a copy of a newspaper cutting about Adolf Hitler. The next job was to get some music together. A gentleman in the village very kindly made me a CD of Vera Lynn. Stage 4 was dressing-up with dungarees and a hair scarf to represent a Land-girl . I made some flyers with the help of my neighbour and took them around the village, as I felt during lockdown people hadn’t walked very far and wouldn’t necessarily walk past The Old Forge. The last thing I did was to paint white stones and place them at 2-3 metres apart so that people could social-distance and view what was now quite a display! On the day, I did whiz round the village to see what everyone was doing. During the day people came by and chatted and stopped and some people remembered some of the items, like butter pats and Tate and Lyle syrup tins. It was a lovely day and I am glad I made the effort with the help of neighbours and friends.”



Inspecting the accuracy of Knit & tinK's knitted Spitfire, Fore Street.



Shute Hill, Bishopsteignton, showing the Community Centre (left) and the Ring of Bells pub (right) decorated for VE75.

Memories of VE75 - Caroline Early and Knit & tinK

“Knit & tinK are a group who enjoy knitting and crochet and get together once a month in a local hostelry to stitch, talk, swap patterns, enjoy each other’s company and maybe have a drink or two! “tinK” is “Knit” written backwards, to describe unravelling our sometimes wrongly knitted stitches! Knit & tinK’s contribution to the village VE75 celebrations needed to be really good as the group has previously been responsible for over 2000 knitted and crocheted poppies attached to the Fore Street railings commemorating the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day in 2018.

*Caroline Early
of Manor Road,
Bishopsteignton,
with her amazing
knitted Spitfire,
made to help
all the village
celebrate VE75!
The Spitfire was
exhibited in the
front garden
of Causeway
Cottage by kind
permission of the
Bannons.*

The plane was given a super reception. It was on display by the Millennium stone and is now ‘flying’ permanently in the Heritage Hub.



When discussing ideas, the response from one of our members, Jill Gledhill, was inspirational! “You’re not going to knit a Spitfire, are you?” Our response was “Brilliant idea! Yes, we are!” Secret plans were made, and two of our wonderful husbands said they’d be delighted to create the form of the Spitfire for us to cover, Rob Garratt and Tony Early spent three days in our garage working on it, recalling boyhood memories of making model-planes and emerged with a 5’x6’ pro-forma of the iconic lines of the Spitfire from foam insulation board. From this model, paper patterns were made of the fuselage and wings in camouflage colours, 6 RAF roundels, a nose cone, propellers, and cockpit cover. After Lockdown was declared the patterns were cut up and shared out to group members to make at home which meant that only one person could sew it all together and as I had the Spitfire on my living room table, I accepted the mission! The jigsaw pieces were fitted and sewn around the the plane, the crocheted roundels and propeller shafts were sewn on and finally the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight markings ‘RFD’ were embroidered. After 12 weeks, the Spitfire was ready to fly and commenced its flight on 7th May. Having circumnavigated the village to Fore Street, there it was fixed on a pole so it could be seen from Fore Street and Bishop’s Avenue.

My thanks go to Caroline Teall, Elaine Russum, Jill Gledhill, Janet Greig, and Helen Garratt, for all their beautiful handiwork, and to Rob Garratt and my long suffering husband Tony Early, for their enthusiastic and meticulous model-making, and of course thank you to Terry and Marilyn Bannon who allowed us to display the Spitfire in their front garden.”



Caroline and her neighbours enjoying the sunshine.



Trish Donohue and Claude the dog, of Rose Cottage, Radway Street.



Kate, Dunstan, and Reg the dog, West Street, celebrating in style!

Memories of VE75 - Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs, Bishopsteignton Heritage Creative Consultant

“On the day, we were blessed with the weather. We spent the morning decorating our gates with bunting and setting up the speakers and keyboard outside. I did a round of the village taking photos, then my partner and I had lunch in the garden and looked at photographs of his father in his naval uniform, and his medals. His father died when he was 14 so this was a poignant celebration of his service. Then we did the same with photos of my father who was in the RAF. That was a lovely part of the day. Next, we got into our 1940s garb and when the music started we stationed ourselves outside the gates and took lots of photos of passers-by in 40s dress, some of them dancing together along the road: wonderful! We took it in turns to do a walkabout to the Old Commercial and down Fore St to see how everyone was celebrating. Just before 5pm we went back to the microphones and sang along to ‘We’ll Meet Again’ and ‘White Cliffs of Dover’. I was so thrilled that so many people joined in and made it a special day. We needed something to lift the spirits and I’m proud to have been part of organising it.”



Yvonne Hellin-Hobbs (right), of Bishopsteignton Heritage, wishing Mary Overill (centre) and her daughter, Di Ewing (left) a Happy VE Day!



Cross Gate, Shute Hill, adorned with bunting and flags.



Landlady Jayne Gallagher (right) and family at The Ring of Bells, Fore Street.



The Old Commercial Inn, Clanage Street, with Landlord Michael busily decorating.

Memories of VE75 - Jason McMurry, VE75 Broadcast Organiser

“When my neighbour told me that the VE Day celebrations were all cancelled due to the pandemic, I thought “this can’t be right!” After our village ‘Over the Rainbow’ shout out to the NHS in April, I had plenty of support with 20 PA systems set up all around the village. Both the Ring of Bells and The Old Commercial had PAs with Michael fixing horns to his large conifer! To help get the music across, I built a scaffold tower in my back garden to house my band’s huge speakers. All we needed now was a soundtrack for the day so i spent 3 days in the studio knitting clips and recordings from different sources together into a seamless 2 hour broadcast and a digital copy was sent to all PA operators. All we needed was everyone to press play at the same time! It worked. The whole village could now sit back and celebrate united by music and a slight feeling of normality that day in the middle of the pandemic. I sat at the end of my drive watching the odd person walking by with my wife Michaela and son Sam. We had a lovely picnic and drinks. Our neighbours all dressed up and we all came together at the end to sing the final two songs. We were lucky enough to have Claire from the Liberty Sisters come past; wasn’t it lucky we had a spare microphone set up? A great ending to a fabulous day.”



Deane and Rachel Hitchins-Orr are talented swing dancers! You can watch a video of them dancing together on VE Day, 2020 on our website.



Liz Kirkland (right), and family, enjoying the sun on VE Day at Lindridge.



Trinity Cottage, Radway Street, beautifully decorated!



Tony Early, Manor Road, serenading the neighbours in full 1940s garb.



Chris Alton and her father, Frank Baldock of Manor Road.



Kirstyn and Henry Watson photographed by husband and father Jon Watson, outside their home on Fore Street.



Albert 'Bertie' Springfield enjoying Hilary's display at The Old Forge, Radway Street.

Looking Forward

In this section, some of Bishopsteignton Heritage's Trustees thank the village for their comradery during hard times and recall their memories of VE Day 2020. At Bishopsteignton Heritage, we are proud to know that we are here to preserve the history that the wonderful people of the village are making every day.

This section looks to the future and outlines the ways in which Bishopsteignton Heritage plans to bring the community together through the celebration of the village's rich history following VE75 and the Coronavirus pandemic.

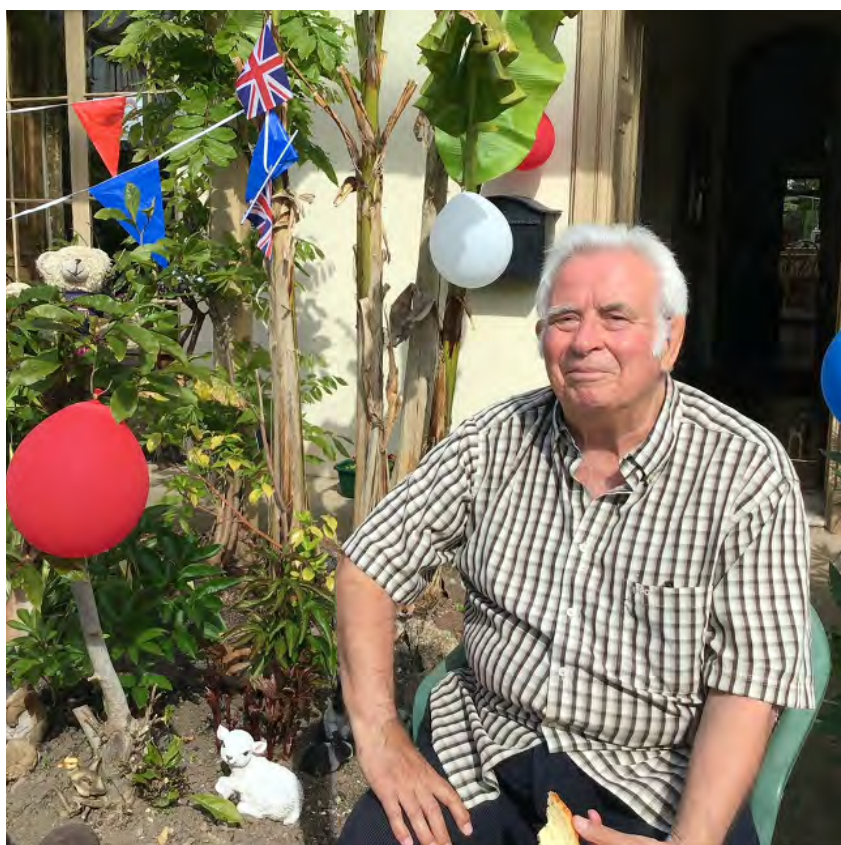
Memories of VE Day 2020, Bishopsteignton Heritage Trustees

Jess Gibby, Bishopsteignton Heritage Trustee:

“In the midst of Lockdown, after weeks of isolation at home, the VE75 celebration day provided a much-needed morale boost for me and my family. We were not able to commemorate this day as we had planned with a village street party, a garden fete and fireworks, but there was fun to be had in dressing up, decorating, making some scones and walking around the village to see the effort made by other villagers. The simple pleasure of being out: chatting to others over the fence or in a driveway, seeing smiling faces and appreciating all the decorations - including the knitted Spitfire - gave us a real tonic. 75 year ago, the happiness and joy of the Bishopsteignton community spirit would have been strong on VE Day. That spirit was still alive and very much appreciated in 2020. Thank you Bishopsteignton!”

Nigel Edwards, Bishopsteignton Heritage Trustee:

“A thing that struck me on the day, when talking to villagers, (some of whom I was meeting for the first time) was the sense of ‘togetherness’ that the event had brought. This ‘togetherness’ was well demonstrated by the way people joined in by dressing up or just chatting as they passed our gate. Bishopsteignton Heritage will have a great deal to record concerning this day so that future generations can benefit.



So much work and research has already been undertaken in contribution to Bishopsteignton Heritage’s vision for the future, and VE Day 2020 will in due course become history. I consider myself very lucky to live in this wonderful village with all the lovely people and great camaraderie.”

Bishopsteignton Heritage - What's next?

Ken Irvin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees sets out our aims for the future of the project following VE75 and the Coronavirus pandemic:

Bishopsteignton Heritage began in 2020 with great plans for the year ahead. We were well established in our new home at the Community Centre and our vision of creating a heritage facility in the village to record and preserve the story of Bishopsteignton was becoming a reality. Led by our Creative Consultant, Archivist, and Digital Assets Manager, we had over 50 volunteers engaged in recording details of people, places, events and environments that tell the story of Bishopsteignton.

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day and a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund enabled us to plan a whole series of community events throughout the year to celebrate. Despite the Coronavirus pandemic Lockdown measures, we were determined to lead the village in commemorating the anniversary of the end of the Second World War as well as to record the ways in which the village responded to the pandemic situation. I would also like to thank our team of talented professionals as well as my fellow Trustees and all those who have contributed to the project for their dedication during this difficult year.

While our Heritage Hub has remained closed to the public, our Project Team and Trustees have worked hard throughout the year to plan celebrations for VE Day and continue working towards our vision of creating a record of Bishopsteignton as it is now and throughout its history. We see Bishopsteignton Heritage as a project for the whole community and we are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help preserve and grow our collection and make it as accessible as possible.

In 2021, we hope to continue with our programme of growing our collection and making it accessible online as well as expanding our team of volunteers, researchers and other supporters. We aim to nourish educational relationships with local schools, colleges and universities and engage young people with their heritage while learning new digital and research skills. We will also be installing more information boards around the village to help tell the stories of places like the Bishop's Palace, the Community Centre and Fore Street and giving more talks and lectures both online and in person when it is again safe for us to gather together.

Acknowledgements

This book was compiled by Bishopsteignton Heritage Archivist, Imogen Smith with grateful thanks to the following organisations, individuals and families who provided or helped to provide objects, images and text for use in this book:

All images of Totnes Fashion and Textiles Museum (TotFTM) collection items are courtesy of TotFTM, view their online exhibitions at **totftm.org**

Imperial War Museums

Steve Giles and André Croguennec at **www.ouest-france.fr**

South West Lindy Hoppers

Bishopsteignton Women's Institute

'Knit and tinK', Bishopsteignton

'Singing For Fun', Bishopsteignton

Bishopsteignton Community Allotment

Bishopsteignton Allotment Growers Society

Tony & Caroline Early

Sally Grant

Deane Hitchins

Carol Houle

Linda Brannan

Jason McMurray

Kirstyn & Jon Watson

Mary Murphy-Ford

Dawn Rogers

Kate Yeo

Monika Cann

Jess Moore

VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

in

Bishopsteignton



A physical version of our web-based VE75 celebrations which took place in May 2020, this book stands as a permanent record of part of our village's response to the circumstances caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Bishopsteignton Heritage received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant in January 2020 to create a project to bring the community together by celebrating 75 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe. Many of the events planned for 2020 could not be carried out due to lockdown measures and were replaced by web-based celebrations. This book features our online content including our 'Countdown to VE Day', some village histories, Bishopsteignton Heritage Archive and Museum Collection items and a gallery of photographs and memories from 8th May 2020.

Bishopsteignton Heritage
The Hub
Community Centre
Shute Hill
Bishopsteignton
TQ14 9QL



info@bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk



bishopsteigntonheritage.co.uk

Registered Charity Commission No. 1169410

