

# A Celebration *of two wonderful ladies*



From an original painting by Doug Cresswell

## **Violette Szabó GC**

Violette lost her precious young life at 23 years old at Ravensbrück in January 1945, trying to defend and ensure freedom for our country. Such a great sacrifice. R.I.P.

*A very sincere welcome  
to everyone to celebrate  
Violette's Twelfth Annual  
Memorial Gathering.*

*May the afternoon be blest with Friendship, Happiness and  
Sunshine on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 at 2.30pm*



## **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

This year celebrating her  
Diamond Jubilee!

Our gracious Queen having  
dedicated the whole of her life to  
the care and well being of her  
People and our Country.

# Order of Service

Directed by the Revd. John Wilson

Music – Shirley Coates

Parade Marshall – Mr Mick Manton

The Parade to leave Park Hall, Wormelow at 1.45pm

**One minute's silence —**

— for past friends now with Violette, R.I.P., and also for friends too frail to make the journey, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

With us D.V. today we have Mr Ian Hempenstall, who was an extra in Violette's film *Carve Her Name with Pride*. He played a German officer who led a group of soldiers chasing Violette (Virginia McKenna) across some fields. I believe this wonderful gentleman is now 95!! and has travelled a long way to be with us.

**Hymn – Praise my soul the King of Heaven**

(From the Queen's Golden Jubilee Service)

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,  
To his feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransom'd, heal'd, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing;  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless;  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father like, He tends and spares us,  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands he gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes;  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels in the height, adore Him;  
Ye behold him face to face;  
Saints triumphant, bow before Him,  
Gather'd in from every race;  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
Praise us with the God of grace.

*Amen*

## Happy Birthday To You

For Violette and those with birthdays among us.

### Welcome

*Rosemary E. Rigby MBE*

Presentation of a Harrods Bear to the new little Rosemary in our midst!

A message from *Roger and Anne Tobbell* – great supporters of Violette.

*Mr Geoff Pattison* to receive 1,000 of Violette's leaflets to deliver to Ravensbrück Memorial Museum c/o Dr Insa Eschebach, the Curator, where they will be available next to photos of the three friends.

*Geoff* also to present a photo of the 3 Hannie Schaft Girl Scouts of the Netherlands wearing their Violette Badges. He will also present a photo to our Girl Guide leader Susan Round.

### Hymn

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love,  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

*Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek  
so much to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness only light,  
and where there's sadness ever joy.

### Chorus

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
in giving to all men that we receive,  
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

**Dave Harris**, our special postman, presenting to the Museum a bottle of cider and also one of perry brewed by him and dedicated to Violette Szabó GC.

*Doug Cresswell* singing *I'll Be Around*.  
Doug will also be singing during the tea interval.

**An Address**

*by The Revd. John Wilson*

**The Poem**

*“The Life That I Have” – Virginia McKenna OBE*

Our Guest, **Bernard O'Connor**, speaking about Winston Churchill's  
most secret airfield – R.A.F. Tempsford

**People – The Lord's Prayer**

**Last Post – *Andy Hoare***

**Exhortations – *Mr Peter Davies***

**Silence**

**Reveille – *Andy Hoare***,  
*celebrating his birthday with Violette on 26th June.*

**The Blessing**

**The National Anthem**

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.

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.

A unique invitation to Virginia to unveil Violette's lovely sculpture entitled *Spring* standing in her rose garden. It is the wonderful work and great gift of Raymond Petit, the sculptor of Luxembourg.

Please support the raffle most generously – lots of prizes!  
Ablly organised by my cousin Ann, but unfortunately without Grace,  
her granddaughter.

Phyllis Smith, Violette's Lady Artist is very kindly giving a special  
donation from the sale of a painting to add to the total of the raffle.

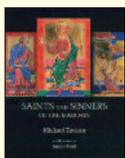
Also present Mrs Angie Johnson's daughter Deborah and Angie's special  
grandson Zach, with their Tombola Stall, do hope you may all be lucky  
winners!! Angie and her husband Mike are away on their honeymoon,  
we wish them great happiness.



## On Sale Here Today



Squadron Leader Beryl  
E. Escott's book *The  
Heroines of SOE  
F-Section – Britain's  
Secret Women in  
France.*



A new book *Saints and  
Sinners of the Marches*  
by Michael Tavinor,  
Dean of Hereford  
Cathedral.



A lovely greeting card of  
*Arisaig House,  
Invernesshire* – where  
Violette trained.



A beautiful card of *Wood  
Cottage, Wormelow,  
Herefordshire* printed  
specially to recognise that  
had Violette lived, she  
would have been 90 on  
26th June 2011.

**Special Limited Edition  
Bookmarks** courtesy of  
Mr Chas Long  
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**The Violette Szabó GC  
unique Cloth Badges**  
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Virginia McKenna's special  
book *The Life in My Years*  
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*Violets at Valencay, France*  
cards courtesy of Jan and  
Stephen Whitmore  
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Tania Szabó's new book about  
her mother Violette –  
*Young, Brave and Beautiful*  
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A great book by Peter Davies –  
*World War 2 and Me*  
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**Violette Szabó T-Shirts**

Grateful thanks to Mr Phillip Powell for so very generously donating the pretty flowers you see around you, and also to Jeanette and Michael Wardle for kindly planting the same!!

Please sign the Visitors Book in the green and white tent.

To the wonderful ladies organising the refreshment marquee,  
most special thanks!!

Many thanks to Mr Mel Williams, Master of the South Hereford Hunt,  
for kindly allowing Violette's guests to park in his lovely big field!!

"Violette's 2013 Memorial Gathering" will D.V. be on Saturday 29th June at  
2pm. I hope this will be another super Party for Violette.

Please make sure you all come!

I did attend the Vera Atkins Memorial Seat dedication on Saturday 24th  
September 2011 at 11.30am at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Many special thanks to Mr Ray Hill for his wonderful P.A. System.

To Mark Marendaz for all his special help in the garden and caring for  
Violette's Museum Door, Window, Seat etc.

And to my many wonderful friends for all the great help  
with the marquees!

Also the Kingstone Girl Guides helping with their pretty trays.

Please note my Diamond Jubilee cherry tree, very kindly given to me and  
planted for me by my niece Rachel and nephew Michael.

Thank you for attending – a happy and safe journey home.

*PS. Please forgive any weakness in the preparation of the garden or event,  
but before and after the operation I underwent this spring I have felt  
very poorly and very low.*

*Rosemary E. Rigby MBE*

The Violette Szabó GC Museum, Wormelow,  
Herefordshire HR2 8HN 01981-540477

[www.violetteszabomuseum.org.uk](http://www.violetteszabomuseum.org.uk)