

A Celebration *for Violette Szabó GC*

I too am Celebrating, having lived at *Cartref House* for 50 years!



From an original painting by Doug Cresswell

Violette's wonderful Black Walnut Tree

Please note that I have had to have this tree felled, because there was thought to be the danger of its roots undermining Violette's Museum.

I have kept the pile of fine logs until after today, in order to give you all the chance to take one – two – three? home with you, but I would ask for your special donations for the Museum!! They are perfect if you might know anyone who does wood-turning – the colours are superb!!!

The inspiration for this tree certainly came from my mother, and I planted it 50 years ago!

*A very sincere welcome to everyone to celebrate
Violette's Fourteenth Annual Memorial Gathering with
Happy Birthday Memories to Violette.*

*May the afternoon be blessed with Friendship, Happiness and
Sunshine on Sunday 29th June 2014 at 2.00pm*

**“War provokes pillage
Pillage brings ruin
Ruin brings patience
Patience implies peace.
Thus does war produce peace.
Peace provokes abundance
Abundance brings arrogance
Arrogance brings war;
Thus does peace produce war.”**

This verse was found chalked on a wall of a ruined house in a French village devastated in the 1914–1918 war.

Please note: in the museum I have a beautiful old pottery jug, now over 100 years old, which I brought from my home in Northamptonshire.

It carries almost exactly the same words! R.E.R.

Order of Service

Directed by the Revd Mark Johnson

Music – Christopher Powell

Parade Marshall – Mr Mick Manton

The Parade to leave Park Hall, Wormelow at 1.30pm

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.

Welcome

Rosemary E. Rigby MBE

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 99!!
and has travelled a long way to be with us.

The Golden Valley Singers, Director Barbara Hughston will sing a selection of songs from the first World War.

Happy Birthday To You

For Violette and those with birthdays among us.

Hymn

1. Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before.
Christ the royal Master
Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle,
See, his banners go!

*Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus
Going on before.*

2. At the sign of triumph
Satan's legions flee;
On then, Christian soldiers,
On to victory.
Hell's foundations quiver
At the shout of praise;
Brothers, lift your voices,
Loud your anthems raise.
Onward, etc.

3. Like a mighty army
Moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod;
We are not divided,
All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine,
One in charity.
Onward, etc.

4. Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.
Onward, etc.

5. Onward, then, ye people,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honour
Unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing.
Onward, etc.

Lieutenant Colonel I. A. Vere Nicoll, M.B.E.
will speak on behalf of the **Royal Artillery**.

The Poem

“The Life That I Have” – Virginia McKenna OBE

Mr Peter Davies will speak of his recent visit to the beaches in France
for the 70th Anniversary of D. Day, 6th June 2014.

An Address

by The Revd Mark Johnson

The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Len Tawn
will respond on behalf of Violette's guests

People – The Lord's Prayer

Last Post – *Bel Cook*

Exhortations – *Mr Peter Davies*

Silence

Reveille – *Bel Cook*

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.

Hymn

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see:
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy Cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

At 4pm, DV a 25PDR Field Artillery Gun which DV is to be fired, on the
Rosemary Rigby Millennium Green, courtesy of Gary Fowler and Pete Sosna.

Please note: *Carve Her Name with Pride* will be shows at 5.15pm, in Much Birch Community Centre, kindly sponsored by *Flicks in the Sticks*.

Please support the raffle most generously – lots of prizes! Ably organised by my good cousin Ann. I look forward to drawing the first two winning tickets, followed by the twins Rosemary and Elenor who will then take over, assisted by Mum Lorna!!

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 Angie and Mike Johnson and their special grandson Zach, with a super Tombola Stall, do hope you may all be lucky winners!!

They will also have a small bring and buy table.

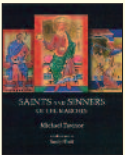
It is wonderful to know that Squadron Leader Beryl Escott is DV to be with us today!! Many thanks also to Roy Williams for so kindly bringing and caring for Beryl.



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*.

Special Limited Edition Bookmarks courtesy of ~ Mr Chas Long

The Violette Szabó GC unique Cloth Badge
and

Violette's new pin on brooch carrying her image.

Virginia McKenna's special book *The Life in My Years*

Violets at Valencay, France cards courtesy of Jan and Stephen Whitmore

Richard Dobson with his new book about Herefordshire *In My Own Time*

A great book by Peter Davies – *World War 2 and Me*

Violette Szabó T-Shirts

Please note – special points of interest

Stephen and Jan Whitmore with a most interesting exhibition of pictures from Ravensbrück.

Liz Hill with her exciting display of Heritage Country House Tours.

Photos from St George's Memorial Church at Ypres in Belgium

They were taken on Sunday, 4th May 2014, at 12pm Belgian time, when my father's plaque and one for Violette were dedicated and blessed by the Minister.

May I on behalf of Violette and myself thank the Guidian Angels, who came forward and volunteered following my desperate appeal in the press for help in my garden.

They all worked so very hard, to make it as pleasant as possible for your visits.

Please sign the Visitors Book in the Music tent, next to the Museum.

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 2015 Memorial Gathering" will D.V. be on Sunday 28th June
at 2pm. I hope this will be another super Party for Violette.

Please make sure you all come!

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

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

Also the Kingstone Girl Guides helping with their pretty trays.

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

Please remember Phyllis Smith in your prayers,

for during June she is to undergo an operation for a knee replacement,
so there is a great chance that she will not be with us on the 29th.

With her great help so limited, I have decided to only open the Museum from
1pm – 2pm and 3.30pm – 4.30pm, courtesy of my kind cousin Angela.

Please visit Annette's special stall, just under the Museum window!

Rosemary E. Rigby MBE

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

www.violetteszabomuseum.org.uk