



From an original painting by Doug Cresswell

A Celebration for *Violette Szabó* GC

Violette loves to welcome special new friends as well as her wonderful annual guests to celebrate her Fifteenth Annual Memorial Gathering.

Happy Birthday Memories to Violette!!

May the afternoon be blessed with Friendship, Happiness and Sunshine on Sunday 28th June 2015 at 2.00pm

Violette honoured in The Netherlands



• Geoff Pattison and three Hannie Schaft Girl Scouts of Almere, The Netherlands, lay three red roses for Violette, Denise and Lillian.

Mr Geoff Pattison, a Visiting Fellow at Northumbria University and a Violette Szabó G.C. Society member has established links between the Violette Szabó G.C. Museum in Wormelow and the Hannie Schaft Foundation in Holland.

At this year's ceremony the Hannie Schaft girl scouts from Almere, named in her honour, took part in the commemoration. Mr Pattison enlisted three young volunteers from the Girl Scouts to assist him in the laying of three red roses at the Memorial Sculpture designed by Truus Menger.

EVERY year at the end of November a memorial service is held in Haarlem in The Netherlands to remember Hannie Schaft, the World War II heroine of the Dutch Resistance and known as 'The Girl with the Red Hair'.

Hannie, a twenty-four year old law student from Haarlem, carried out armed reprisals against collaborators, together with sisters, Freddy and Truus Oversteegen. Hannie was captured at a check point, imprisoned and then executed three weeks before the end of the war. She is buried in Blümenfeld in the 'Field of Honour'.

Earlier in the morning Mr Pattison had laid three roses on Hannie's grave which is on the sand dunes near where she was shot. The Girl Scouts felt very honoured to be remembering Violette Szabó and her fellow agents Denise Bloch and Lillian Rolfe, all killed at Ravensbrück concentration camp. An important link has been established between the Violette Szabó G.C. Museum and the Hannie Schaft Foundation in Haarlem.

from The Ross Gazette, Wednesday December 30th, 2009.

Order of Service

Directed by the Revd Mark Johnson

Parade Marshall – Mr Steve Cole

The Parade to leave Park Hall, Wormelow at 1.30pm

It is 70 years since Violette and her two special friends,
Lillian and Denise were executed in Ravensbrück,
a very important time to remember them!

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.

Especially remembering **Major Robert Maloubier DSO**,
SOE agent who died on April 20th 2015 aged 92.
He was a great friend of Violette's.

Welcome

Rosemary E. Rigby MBE

Mr Tony Byrd was a serving officer on Motor Gun Boat 718
and will kindly recall his memories of the time, while serving
in the Royal Navy based at Dartmouth, when he helped to take
SOE agents into occupied Europe.

Happy Birthday To You

For Violette and those with birthdays among us.

Hymn

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Mr Ab van der Deure, Secretary of the *Foundation for the Commemoration of Hannie Schaft*, will be happy to tell us a little about the life of Hannie.

Lt. Cdr Nicolas Zanati, representing the French Embassy will gladly say a few words. He will be introduced by James Chappelow.

Christopher Fear and **Sue Roffe** will speak on the Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselle, on the Somme. The crater was blown on July 1st, 1916.

The Poem

“The Life That I Have” – Virginia McKenna OBE

A message from Ravensbrück from **Dr Ensa Eschebach**, The Director, will be introduced and read by **Dr Stephen Whitmore**.

An Address

by The Revd Mark Johnson

The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Charles Nicholls 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.

It is a pleasure to have **Roy Tebbutt**, the owner of the Harrington Museum in Northamptonshire with us, his father Bernard having founded it.

With grateful appreciation to **Barbara Philpott** for
Violette's super birthday cakes over the years.

It is good to know that D.V. we again have **Mr Ian Hempensall**
with us, now aged 100!!

Richard Hodders nephew **Philip Day** is to bring 12 of his friends –
The Blitz Buddies – in 1940s character to mix among us.

What a splendid idea!

**I have decided to only open the Museum today from
1pm – 2pm, and 4pm – 5pm, courtesy of my kind cousin Angela.**

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 and new baby Oliver.

I would like to ask little Edwin Tarry of Preston Capes in Northamptonshire to come forward with his mother Ann and father James just before we start to draw the raffle!

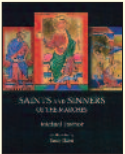
Also present Angie and Mike Johnson and their special grandson Zach, with a super Tombola Stall, do hope you may all be lucky winners!! They will also have a small bring and buy table.



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 great book
The Life in My Years
and her special book of poetry
Tonight the Moon is Red.

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

Lovely bookmarks carrying Violette's
picture by Doug Cresswell

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

Violette Szabó T-Shirts
generously donated by Jackie Watt.

Please note – special points of interest

Remembering Jocelyn M. Robinson, late of Ross, my very great friend and helper.
I have had a plaque made for her and it is on display here today!

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

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.
They are on the table of Rob Barnes, Violette's wonderful treasurer,
eagerly awaiting your extra special support.

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 visit.

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

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

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

"Violette's 2016 Memorial Gathering" will D.V. be on Sunday 26th June,
Violette's birthday 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!

To Virginia, special congratulations on *Born Free's* 30 year anniversary.

Thanks also to the Kingstone Girl Guides helping with their pretty trays.

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

Also Juliet Elizabeth Priddey Allarton's table selling *Born Free's* poetry book –
Wild about Animals. Note Juliet's winning poem is on page 82, written when she
was ten, now 11 years old. I feel sure if asked Juliet would sign her poem for you!!

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

Rosemary E. Rigby MBE

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

www.violetteszabomuseum.org.uk