

# A Very Special Celebration *for the life of* *Violette Szabó GC*

*Had she lived she would be 95 years old today,  
having been executed in Ravensbrück aged 23 in January 1945.*

*Violette served in the Royal Artillery.  
Her battery commander was Lt Col J. W. Naylor, who  
commanded a battery in 137 (Mixed) HAA Regt RA.*

*May our afternoon be blessed with friendship, happiness  
and sunshine on Sunday 26th June 2016 at 2.30pm.*



On the 29th December 2015,  
Violette sadly lost a true friend –  
Flight Lieutenant Bob Large.

It was Bob who bravely flew to  
France in a Lysanda plane and  
brought Violette home after her  
first mission!

Our most loyal good wishes to **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**  
on the occasion of her 90th Birthday

## **Order of Service**

**Directed by the Revd Mark Johnson**

**Parade Marshall – Mr Steve Cole**

**The Parade to leave The Park, Wormelow at 1.30pm**

**One minute's silence —**

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

I know Violette would especially wish to remember Derek Smith from Monmouth, who over many years worked so very hard to keep her garden and roses looking so beautiful. May God bless him for all his wonderful help. Derek also very kindly left a donation for the Museum.

**Welcome**

***Rosemary E. Rigby MBE***

I noticed Bob also chose the following Hymn

**Hymn**

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.  
*All things bright, etc.*

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset, and the morning  
That brightens up the sky:  
*All things bright, etc.*

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,

The ripe fruits in the garden,  
He made them every one.  
*All things bright, etc.*

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.  
*All things bright, etc.*

**Allan Rose**, of the *Royal Marines*, will say a few words  
about his life in the Marines.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

for Violette and those with birthdays among us.

### **Presentation of Legion d'Honneur Medals.**

**Mme Josette Lebrat**, French Honorary Consul for Bristol and South West  
England, has accepted an invitation from St Weonards & District Branch  
of the British Legion, to attend on this day to make the presentations.

The veterans from The Branch who have been awarded  
the Legion d'Honneur are as follows:

**Mr Peter Alfred Davies** – Branch President

**Mr Peter Harness**

**Mr Jim Kenneth Chance Jenkins**

**Miss Bea Morris**, Branch Secretary, will introduce the above special item.

I feel sure Violette will be delighted to know of these great awards  
being made in her garden.

**The Ladies of The Monday Choir of Clifford** - to sing  
several songs from the War time.

### **The History of the Royal Artillery**

**Major Fred Greenhow MBE** will tell us a little about their history.

This year they are commemorating their 300th birthday – (Ubique 300),  
the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, where my own father,  
Frederick John Rigby was fighting with the Regiment, is on the 1st July.

**Major Greenhow will now kindly unveil my father's plaque**

**The Poem**

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

**Presentation of a Cheque - *from the Waitrose store of Monmouth,  
by the deputy Manager Miss Hayley Leighton***

**The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Jim Kenyon**

will respond on behalf of Violette’s guests

**An Address**

*by The Revd Mark Johnson*

**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.

**The Countess of Wessex String Quintet will kindly play  
for Violette and her guests while tea is being served and enjoyed!**

**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!!

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

My great friend Ann of Monmouth here with a wonderful selection of beautiful plants!!

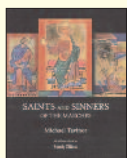
Competition: How many tea bags in the basket?



## 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.*



A DVD of *The Ravensbrück Reconciliation Address* inspired by Stephen Whitmore.

**Violette's delightful Armistice Clock and 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.*

Born Free's poetry book *Wild about Animals*

*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 my father Frederick John Rigby,  
late of Sulby Grange Farm, Welford, Northants. I have had  
a plaque made for him and it is on display here today!

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 and annual donations.

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!!

“Violette's 2017 Memorial Gathering” will D.V. be on Sunday 25th June,  
at 2pm. I hope this will be another super day for Violette.

Please make sure you all come and bring friends!

Most grateful and special thanks to Mr Ray Hill for his wonderful  
P.A. System, over so many, many long years.

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

To Virginia, special congratulations on her new film, Golden Years.

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

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

A secret to be shared with all of you: Queens Close, Wormelow! 2016

I have been invited, and have accepted, to join the Royal British Legion!  
and will now become a proud member of the famous St Weonards branch.

*Rosemary E. Rigby MBE*

Founder and Owner of The Violette Szabó GC Museum,  
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[www.violetteszabomuseum.org.uk](http://www.violetteszabomuseum.org.uk)