



From an original painting by Doug Cresswell

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

*May our afternoon be blessed  
with friendship, happiness  
and sunshine on Sunday  
25th June 2017 at 2.30pm.*



Rosemary E. Rigby M.B.E. *Founder and Owner of The Violette Szabó G.C. Museum* at the entrance to the New Store / Garage / Toilet (with facilities for the disabled) January 2017.

I feel sure Violette would wish to congratulate Dame Vera Lynn,  
who celebrated her 100th birthday on the 20th March.

## **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.

**Welcome**

***Rosemary E. Rigby MBE***

holder of the *Points of Light Award*

It is a very great pleasure to introduce Sean Rehling,  
Curator – Second World War Team at the Imperial War Museums,  
who will kindly address us.

**Hymn**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways!  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives thy service find,  
In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word  
Rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still small voice of calm!

**Tania Szabó**, will speak and answer several questions  
about the life of Violette – how super!

Please Note: following Violette's Memorial Gathering on Sunday 24th June  
2018 DV, Tania will give a talk with slides about Violette's life  
in Much Birch Community Hall at 5.30 pm – Tickets £5.

Please make sure you book with me early,  
remembering the Hall can only take a certain number!!

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

for Violette and those with birthdays among us.

What joy! Today we have Ruby Ann singing several very popular songs  
from the War years!!

Ruby will also continue to entertain us while tea is being enjoyed!!!

**Violette's Special Guest Speaker today is Mr Ray Mears**,  
whose visit I know is greatly anticipated by Violette and all her guests!

Ray came to visit me at the Museum about 18 months ago  
before he undertook a months tour of our country giving lectures,  
Violette having a starring rôle!

Violette that morning was so very excited with Ray's company  
and wanted him to know all her stories!!

That is why I feel they have such a special bond!!!

Please Note: at 5.30pm Ray has kindly accepted to cut the ribbon  
and declare The New Build open!

May I at this point thank the many Friends of The Violette Szabó G.C.  
Society who so very kindly sent me extra money to help with this great  
project. One truly wonderful anonymous person who with tremendous  
generosity gave £8,000. For this, I will be forever eternally grateful.

**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 Sharon Michael**

will respond on behalf of Violette’s guests

**An Address**

*by The Revd Mark Johnson*

**People – The Lord’s Prayer**

**Last Post**

**Exhortations – *Mr Peter Davies***

**Silence**

**Reveille**

**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.

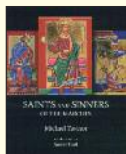
**I have decided to only open the Museum today from  
1pm – 2pm, and 4pm – 5pm, courtesy of my kind cousin Angela.**



# 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.



Christopher Rothery's wonderful new poem *Violette Szabo – 2017*

**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, also Knitted Poppies.**

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 and her special image on canvas

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

**Violette Szabó T-Shirts** generously donated by Jackie Watt.

Also a new postcard showing heart-shaped wreaths laid at Wormelow's new War Memorial at 11am on the 11th November 2016.



To Mr Phillip Powell all Violette's thanks for the super plants and great generosity.

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 baby Oliver.

So sorry, no Tombola Stall this year – Angie having just lost her beloved husband Mike. Our special prayers are with her. Most grateful thanks for a private donation.

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

My great friend Ann's daughters are, DV, here with a wonderful selection of beautiful plants!!

Competition: How many tea bags in the basket?

### **Please note – special points of interest**

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.

Another very special thank you to be expressed today is to Neil Mackay of Merseyside, nr Liverpool, a truly devoted admirer of Violette and ever since the New Build was mentioned Neil has always promised to tile the toilet!

This is being achieved while I write! So Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a case of – not '*watch this space*' but '*watch Violette's toilet*'!

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

To the wonderful ladies organising the refreshment marquee – led by my wonderful friend and neighbour Mrs Shirley Jones, most special thanks!!

“Violette's 2018 Memorial Gathering” will D.V. be on Sunday 24th June, at 2pm. I hope this will be another super day for Violette.

Please make sure you all come and bring friends!

Most special thanks to my and Violette's many wonderful friends for all the great help with the marquees/garden and trying to get everything ready for your comfort and happiness!!!

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

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

*Rosemary E. Rigby MBE*

Founder and Owner of The Violette Szabó GC Museum,  
Wormelow, Herefordshire HR2 8HN 01981-540477

P.S. Today we have with us Gordon Miller, the proprietor of our new Wormelow store *Carrot and Wine of Queen's Close*.