



From a pencil drawing by Mick Wharburton

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

*May our afternoon be blessed with friendship, happiness  
and sunshine on Sunday 24th June 2018 at 2.30pm.*



**Hortense Daman-Clewes  
on the occasion of the  
opening of Violette's  
Museum – Saturday  
24th June 2000**

While living in Stoke-on-Trent Hortense had the honour of receiving the Freedom of her city and also the City of London, for her special bravery during the War, when as a child of 14 years, she is credited with saving the lives of 20 British airmen, by taking food to them in their hiding places on her bicycle. What another tremendous spirit – RIP Hortense.

*I feel sure Violette would wish to recognise the following great events  
One hundred years since the end of World War One.*

*The Centenary of the Suffragette's Achievement  
and the Royal Air Force*

*The 150th Anniversary of the Royal National Institute for The Blind*

# 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.

This year I feel inspired to highlight a remarkable though fleeting friendship Violette had while in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp with a very young girl – Hortense Daman from Belgium. Hortense at the time was 16 years old and very ill. Violette was appalled to learn the only place this child had to sleep was on the earth!! Violette's reply was to give her bed to Hortense and to sleep on the floor herself!! Hortense felt that this was how her life was saved.

A special prayer also for Lewis Gilbert, the director and producer of her film *Carve Her Name With Pride* (1958) who died 27th February 2018 aged 97.

**Welcome**

***Rosemary E. Rigby MBE***

holder of the *Points of Light Award*

I would especially like to welcome

**Group Captain David Baron OBE RAF(Ret'd)**,  
chairman of the Tangmere Military Aviation Museum.

Following a 100% request for **Ruby Ann** to return again with several very popular songs from the War years!! How wonderful.

It is now with great pleasure I introduce **The Lord Mayor and Consort** of the City of Stoke-on-Trent (Councillor Lilian Dodd and Mr Alan Dodd), who have travelled so far to be with us to honour Violette and Hortense Daman.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

for Violette and those with birthdays among us!

**Violette's Special Guest Speaker today  
is Air Commodore V. L. Warrington OBE, RAF(Ret'd),**

The following words are taken from his letter to me.

*Thank you for calling yesterday and it was a great pleasure to talk with you about Hortense, the Comet Line and the Royal Air Forces Escaping Society. The plural "Air Forces" denotes both the RAF and the air forces of the Commonwealth nations who were involved in WWII and whose members were helped by the escape lines during that conflict.*

**Gwynneth Pickford**, of Stoke-on-Trent  
to present a special image of Hortense.

**Presentation of a Cheque for £435 -  
from the Waitrose store of Hereford by  
Dave Lewis A.T.M. also Seb and Adele.**

**Rosemary Rigby** with a special surprise!

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 little Oliver.

Also present again Mrs Angela Johnson and her special grandson Zach, with her Tombola Stall. Do hope you may all be lucky winners!!

Competition: Guess the weight of a super Birthday Cake.

Courtesy of Jackie Lowe of St Weonards British Legion Club.

Please note: at 5.30pm Tania will give a talk with slides about Violette's life, in Much Birch Community Hall. Tickets £6.

**The Museum will be open today from 1pm – 2pm, and  
4pm – 5pm, courtesy of my kind cousin Angela.**

**Ruby Ann** to sing again for us.

**The Poem**

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

**The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Sue Boulter**  
will speak 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.

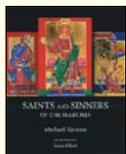
Thy choicest gifts in store  
On her be pleased to pour;  
Long may she reign;  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the Queen.



# On Sale Here Today



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



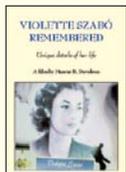
A new book *Saints and Sinners of the Marches* by Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford Cathedral.



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



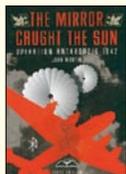
A beautiful card of *Wood Cottage, Wormelow, Herefordshire.*



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



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



John Martin's new book *The Mirror Caught The Sun. Signed copies!*

**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.



*Rêves d'Amour* CD. Easy to listen to!



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

**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.

Rob will also have a few nice plants at his table.

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 has now been completed! So many grateful thanks Neil!!

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 2019 Memorial Gathering” will D.V. be on **Sunday 14th July**, at 2pm. I hope this will be another super day for Violette.

Please make sure you all come and bring friends!

**12th July 2020 and 11th July 2021** – 100th year for Violette!

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.

Many grateful thanks to Mr Norman Smart of Swindon for all his super photos.

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. From today the ladies of Saudi Arabia are to be allowed to drive!  
An interesting thought!!!

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