

Celebrating —  
The Life of  
*Violette Szabó GC*  
*and special Friends*

Sunday 14th July 2019  
Bastille Day!

*May God Bless Them All.*



Denise Block



Lillian Rolfe

**The Cross of Lorraine**



Cecily Lefort

*We shall never forget*

**Sunday 14th July 2019 – Bastille Day!**  
**The Theme this Year is Friendship.**

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**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.

Please note a resident of the area – Tom Cook – has died,  
and it was he along with other local children that Violette taught  
to play Rounders – in my little field, which has now become the  
Rosemary E. Rigby MBE Millennium Green, now safe for  
a thousand years + – Thank God.

Also I am very heartbroken to say I have lost my darling “Tommy”  
tortoise, who for 53 years Violette has watched me caring for.  
R.I.P. “Tommy”.

I am sure Violette's special thoughts will have been on the terrible  
fire in The Cathedral of Notre Dame earlier this year.

**Welcome**

***Rosemary E. Rigby MBE***

holder of the *Points of Light Award*

**Mr Malcolm Rolfe**

will say a few special words about Lillian while in France.

**Ruby Ann** to sing – how wonderful.

Ruby is passionate in her continued desire to honour  
Violette and Friends in every way possible! Thank You!!

**Mr Geoff Pattison** remembering a truly great friendship between Hannie Schaft and two special sisters, the last one Freddie Oversteegen of Haalem in Holland – died on the 5th September 2018 aged 93. God bless her. Through the kindness of Geoff the Hannie Schaft Foundation and the Violette Szabó Museum are very much entwined!

**Group Captain David Baron O.B.E. RAF(Retd)**  
to say a few words about Friendship in the context of relations between SOE agents and the Lysander – ‘pick-up-pilots’ – most interesting.

We are very lucky to have **Tracy Watson** with us today. She is an RAF Veteran, and has just retired from the Royal Air Force after 30 years service and having received many, many medals! She will be speaking about her career and the great importance of Friendship.

A Poem “Lavender and Lace” to be read by **Roger Tobbell**.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

for Violette and those with birthdays among us!

Please support the raffle most generously – lots of prizes!

Ably organised by my good cousin Ann and great friend Bridget. 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.

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

**Paul McCue**, a Trustee of the Secret WW2 Learning Network,  
to say a few words about **Cecily Lefort**,  
who also perished in Ravensbrück.

A special Friendship Surprise for **Virginia McKenna OBE**.

The story of “**Crommie**”, one of outstanding friendships,  
told for him by **Roger Leivers**

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

### **The Poem**

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

**The Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Kath Hey**  
will speak in “Friendship” on behalf of Violette’s guests

### **An Address**

*by The Revd Mark Johnson*

**People – The Lord’s Prayer**

### **Last Post**

**Exhortations – Mr Peter Davies**

*President of St Weonards Royal British Legion Club.*

### **Silence**

### **Reveille**

### **The Blessing**

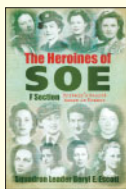
**The French National Anthem**

**Our National Anthem**

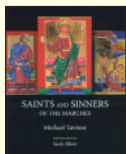
Followed by Tea, Friendship and Happiness!!



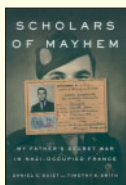
# On Sale Here Today



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



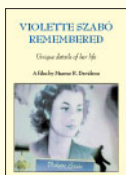
A new book *Saints and Sinners of the Marches* by Michael Tavinor, Dean of Hereford Cathedral.



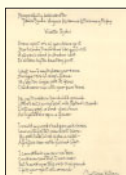
A new book *Scholars of Mayhem* by Daniel Guiet and Timothy Smith.



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 Szabó – 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**

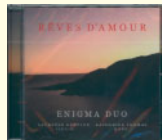
generously donated by Jackie Watt.

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 for the new Reading Room and annual donations.

Also on display – several most interesting photos+.

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 2020 Memorial Gathering” will D.V. be on **Sunday 12th July**, at 2pm. I hope this will be another special day for Violette!

Please make sure you come and bring friends!!

Please note the following most important date –

**Sunday 11th July 2021** – 100th year for Violette!

– and the 21st Birthday of her Museum!!

I have sent an official invitation to our Queen.

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

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