

MEET THE GROUP

PAGE 4 & 5

THE ROVING REPORTER

PAGE 2,3 & 6

DATES FOR THE DIARY

PAGE 7 & 8



NEWS OF THE



LETTER FROM THE BUNKER

Welcome to the June Newsletter. We've had a busy May, it started with a visit to Staveley Hall for the 1940s Weekend. It was our first time and it was lovely to see old friends and some new ones. If you haven't been before then it is worth a visit, its one of the smaller events but had lots a displays, some of our favourite traders and seemed to be very well organised.

Our next stop was RAF Cosford for the Vintage and Handmade Fair, there was some amazing Handmade items on offer and Vintage stalls, food vans offering foods from around the world, with entertainment from Paul Peaky Shelby , Aaron Whiteside and Lilli Moore.

The most exciting news this month is the 1940s Historical Extravaganza that we have been asked to help organise on the 1st-2nd October 2022. You can join the Facebook Group of the same name if you would like to keep up to date with the news.

We hope that everyone has a lovely Jubilee Weekend where ever you are spending it. The Admin team will be at Great Central Railway, if you are attending this event don't forget about us up in the traders area at Quorn Station, come along and say hello.

Lots of love, Marie x

THE ROVING REPORTER

Grantham Vintage Festival 2022

PHOTO CREDIT - MIKE HOPKINSON

The Grantham Vintage Festival was held for the first time in the stunningly beautiful grounds of Grantham House in Lincolnshire. The event was held over the 3 days of the May Day Bank Holiday.

The entertainment provided over the weekend was excellent for a first time event. This included Carradine's Cockney Singalong, Champagne Charlie, Dusty Limits, Melody Flyte, Johnny



Victory, Benjamin Wild Esq, Lila La Scala, Tricity Vogue and many others. There was also daily dance lessons provided by the Lincolnshire Lindy Hop Club.

On the Saturday evening there was a dance held in the grounds by the Kalamazoo Dance Band. The group completed 3 sets of music ranging from the 40's to the 60's. The evening ticket holders were treated to an outstanding evening of music and the dance floor was full. There are not many events where you can dance outside a stately home, overlooking a church in beautiful gardens.

There was a number of displays inside the house and in the walled garden including a number of home front items. This included a very comprehensive collection of ARP memorabilia.

A small number of military groups were on site including C Troop 1st Airborne Reconnaissance



Squadron, Cambs LHG and a number of others. There was also a number of military vehicles being displayed across the site.

In the marquee there was a number of traders on site which included Vintage Godmother, Ginger Doris, Seaside Vintage, Vintage Barn and Maggie



De May Vintage. You could also get a vintage hairstyle done by Edelweiss Hairstyling. A vintage tea room was also available serving tea and cakes.

On the Monday there was May Day Morris Dancing to entertain the public. This is quintessentially British as you can get.

There were also a number of vintage vehicles on site. These covered a number of different periods and styles. A number of vintage caravans were also in one of the display fields. These were part of the Period and Classic Caravan Club.

The event brought back the best of a bygone era and I hope the festival returns next year. This weekend has lots of potential and I would encourage more forties and vintage members to visit.

Melton Mowbray 1940s Weekend

PHOTO CREDIT - PAUL BULL, JEFF WHARTON, ANDREW HARRISON & WAYNE BROWNHILL

The 1940s event season continue with the Melton Mowbray 1940s weekend. The weather was sunny



across both days. This encouraged thousands of people to attend over the weekend. The event was mainly held in the Play Close

Park but music and dancing was happening all over the town.

On the Saturday morning a 1940s fashion parade was held in the main marquee. This was expertly managed by Shirley Rees with authentic period clothing styles being demonstrated. This was very well received by the public and the feedback was excellent.

The main entertainment in the park was provided by Miss Lily Lovejoy Vintage Vocalist who provided three sets of 1940s music across both days. The crowd was thoroughly

entertained by one of the best singers on the forties circuit. Her rendition of Nessun Dorma brought tears to people eyes.



The 40's Home Front provided additional music across the day. In the town centre more excellent singers were in attendance. These included the Blighty Belles, Paula Marie Vintage Vocalist and the Golden Age Songbird. And Saturday evening dance with the Rutland Big Band supported by DJ Howling Wolf brought the dancers in. The Battlepipes were playing regimental music and wartime tunes across the day.

A number of dignitaries were on site giving twice daily wartime speeches. This included Winston Churchill, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and Field Marshall Alan Francis Brooke.



There were a large number of re-enactment groups in the park covering German, British and American armies. These included the Blast from the Past Living History Society, Polish Erks 39-45, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire Home Guard, Afrika Korps 200 FG, The Fen Tigers LHG, In It Together 1940s, Spirit of the Homefront, Tastes through Time and many more.

The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry Re-enactment Group were in the main arena twice daily providing demonstrations to the public. These were really



interesting and a great addition to the weekend. Over by the river there were Air Raid Precautions and National Fire Service being conducted. It was great to see the kids getting involved.

A number of traders were across the park selling vintage fashions, memorabilia and other items. These were accompanied by a vintage tea room where could drink your favourite brew with a slice of cake.

A vintage funfair was in the park which attracted both the public and promenaders to have a go on the carousel horses, big wheel, swing boats and the miniature railway.



This was the best 1940s weekend so far in 2022. This is going to be one of the 1940s event to go to every year. The organisers Sharon and Shelagh have done an excellent job with this event and I can't wait to go back in 2023. Highly recommended.

MEET THE GROUP

THE BLAST FROM THE PAST LIVING HISTORY SOCIETY

The group had very humble beginnings. We started about 12 years ago with the Dodwick LDV (Dodwick is a fictional fenland village) with only 3 permanent members and our display consisted of a door, which could be propped up against any wall to turn into the Dodwick Village Hall, and a small tent. We now have the Dodwick LDV, the Dodwick Watchers and RAF Dodwick, these were added in this order, and a large display that has to be seen to be believed. This has just been natural growth, its has grown from people who have seen or heard us and have asked to join – we now have in excess of 15 members and the numbers keep going up. One thing we have in common is a love of history, especially the 1940s, and as we are like minded people we get on well together. Everything we do, or say, is historically correct as far as it can be but we don't just lecture people we bring out the light heartened side of the 40's as well – it wasn't all doom and gloom and stand to attention. We are proud of the fact that we are proactive, we 'drag' people into our displays to find out what it is all about. We don't just sit there and expect them to come to us.

The Local Defence Volunteers (LDV)

(At the start, this is all we portrayed).

On the evening of Tuesday 14 May 1940, the Government made an urgent appeal over the radio to all men aged between 17 and 65. They wanted all



men, not already serving in the armed forces, to become part-time soldiers. They a few thousand to answer this call but within 24 hours of the radio broadcast a quarter of a million men had volunteered. By the end of July this number had risen to over a million, the powers that be were overwhelmed and to start with could not cope.

The LDV and later the Home Guard (HG) battalions were attached, or affiliated to the local Territorial

Army Association and Regiment. The original organisation was on a company basis, but within a couple of months of the broadcast, the country was organised largely on a zone basis. But a number of units also came into being which involved personnel, whose civilian employment placed them on a different footing from the general service battalions, regardless of the fact that they lived and worked in a battalion area. Examples include government departments such as the Civil Service, and the Post Office, also some large factories had their own LDV/HG unit.

Many of the men who joined the Local Defence Volunteers were those who could not join the regular army because their day time jobs were necessary to keep the country running. They included farmers, railway and dock workers, bakers, teachers, grocers, bank staff and other such people. The other men who joined



were either too young or too old to join the regular army. Against all the rules some groups allowed women to join to help in a supporting role.

The men were given military style training and at first they had no uniforms, apart from an armband printed with the initials LDV, and very little equipment. The public were invited to give their shotguns and pistols to the new Local Defence Volunteers and within a few months over 20,000 weapons (some antiques) were handed in. That could never happen today as today's Firearms Laws severely restrict who may own such weapons. Many of the men made their own weapons as well, it was a time for ingenuity where everyone equipped themselves the best they could.

At night (dusk until 1 hour after dawn) they patrolled open areas in which enemy gliders or paratroopers might land and defended key targets

like factories, utilities and beaches. No one expected them to beat well-trained German soldiers; their job was to slow them down until the army arrived.

Other important tasks were the manning of road blocks and checkpoints to examine identity papers in order to catch spies and saboteurs and also to see that garages and the like followed the compulsory instruction that petrol pumps were immobilised at night.

At the end of July 1940, at the command of Winston Churchill, the name was changed from the Local Defence Volunteers to the Home Guard, a name with which we are all familiar.

The Dodwick Watchers

This was formed to make events more interesting for our lady members)

Officially, women were not allowed to join the Home Guard until 1943, and then only in a support role, but despite this rule many remained hugely defiant and had worked out intricate plans to defend Britain and their homes should the Germans invade.

One strategy that a few plumped for was to set up Women's Home Defence groups. These were



uniformed, private armies whose members trained in unarmed combat and learned how to fire a gun while using opera glasses to scan the skies for German paratroopers. Technically, these groups were illegal but there seems to have been no attempt to disband them – the govt was stuck, how

could they arrest women whose only crime was wanting to protect their country, there would have been an uproar, so they just tried to stop as much publicity as possible from getting out. I came across a mention of the Much Marcle Watchers purely by accident in the obituary of lady Gleichen

The Dodwick Watchers are based on such a group set up by Lady Helena Gleichen, a grand-niece of Queen Victoria, in Much Marcle in Herefordshire in 1940. Gleichen, who was then in her late 60s, had seen fighting at close quarters when she worked for the Red Cross in Italy and France during the First World War. Her army wore neatly trimmed calico armbands with the words, "Much Marcle Watcher" written in ink. They were lectured on military tactics, shooting and unarmed combat. She once

demanded that the Shropshire Light Infantry give her 80 rifles with ammunition, adding, "I could do with some machine guns, too, if you have any to spare." When her request was denied she resorted to issuing her own collection of shotguns and antique weapons to the Watchers. They were a formidable fighting group and I'm surprised a film hasn't been made about them.

RAF Dodwick (Our 3rd addition)

In October 2019 a couple of members decided to expand the Village to include a local RAF Station. As the group are based around July 1940 this meant we could portray a generic Battle of Britain Dispersal. A Squadron number was picked that hadn't been used by the RAF so we didn't offend or upset anyone that could have ties to real Stations/Squadrons or personnel. The fact Dodwick Village is fictitious and set in the Fens meant we would be part of Group 12. There are



currently 8 active members to the RAF side of the group, all of us had Grandfathers that served during WW2 and everything we do is in remembrance of them, they are actually included as Squadron members on our Station chalk boards.

The Display consists of tents, a Lewis Gun AA position, a Station Sentry hut and the amazing Dispersal hut which is fitted as best we can with



what would have been there during its service. This includes working Field Radios and Telephone system linking to the LDV Village Hall. It makes the display very interactive and adds to its realism making a call to Scramble something real for visitors to see. We have members with

various RAF vehicles that adds to the overall display and working with other groups such as 'The Erks' creates a fantastic Airfield experience.

THE ROVING REPORTER

Tilford Rural Life Museum Village at War

PHOTO CREDIT - PAUL BULL

A Saturday visit to the Rural Life Village Museum for their annual Village at War event. The museum is



located in Tilford in Surrey. The event depicted a village in run up today with soldiers, home guard and civilians and shops all across the museum.

A number of historical talks/demonstrations were held during

the day. These included Churchills top secret auxiliary unit, glider troops, ministry of food and the WVS advice bureau. These were very interesting and something different to the usual 1940s weekends activities. There were also a large number of home front displays ranging from LDV, WVS, and ARP plus many others.



There was also an excellent re-enactment of a air raid scenario in a 1940s village. The best I have ever seen at a 1940s event.



A number of top dignitaries were on site including Winston Churchill, De Gaulle and General Patten.

There were music playing all day b ay Glenn Miller band. The Now That's Jive dance troupe was on providing dance displays and lessons. They were accompanied by Stephanie Belle who sang 1940s songs throughout the day.

From a re-enactor group perspective there were a large number of them on site. These included the Screaming Eagle, Homefront to Frontline, 25th BD Coy Royal Engineers, Home of the Brave, Arte et Marte Reme, Warbike plus many others. There were over 400 reenactors on site across the weekend.



There were was a RAF station operations plotting display providing demonstrations over the weekend. These were really informative and expertly re-enacted.

An excellent event organised by Dave Allaway and his team in a brilliant museum. A really authentic 1940s weekend and well worth attending.



DIARY DATES

DATES FOR MAY & JUNE WHICH WERE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE TO SEE OF ANY CHANGES.

June

JUBILEE BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun - 2/3/4/5th - Platinum Jubilee Celebration (ME)

- Quorn and Woodhouse Station, Loughborough, LE12 8AG

Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun - 2/3/4/5th - Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee 1940s Weekend

- Lakeside Village Shopping Centre, White Rose Way, Doncaster, DN4 5PJ,

Thurs/Fri - 2/3rd - Lancs, Tanks and Military Machines

- Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, East Kirkby, Spilsby, PE23 4DE,

Fri/Sat/Sun - 3/4/5th - East Lancashire Railway Jubilee Weekend

- Bolton Street Station, Bolton Street, Bury, Greater Manchester, BL9 0EY

Fri/Sat/Sun - 3/4/5th - The Overlord Show (MP)

- The Lawns, Forest Road, Denmead, Hampshire,
- Sat Nav ~ PO7 6HS will get you to Little Mead, which is directly opposite the Show Entrance.

Fri/Sat/Sun - 3/4/5th - 1940s Weekend

- Fancott Miniature Railway, Luton Road, Toddington, Luton LU5 6HT

Sat - 4th - Woburn Sands 'A Vintage Jubilee' (ME)

- St Mary's Church, Aspley Hill, Woburn Sands, MK17 8NN

Sat - 4th - Newport Pagnell Vintage Event (Wartime Theme)

- Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK16

Sat - 4th - Sleaford 1940s Day

- William Alvey C of E School, Eastgate, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7EA

Sat/Sun - 4/5th - 1940s Weekend

- Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway, The Warren, Bredgar, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8AT

Sat/Sun - 4/5th - Brighouse 1940s Weekend

- Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6

Sat/Sun - 11/12th - Southwick Spirit of D-Day Revival

- Southwick Village, Southwick, Fareham, Hampshire, PO17 6BE

Sat/Sun - 11/12th - Hayfield Wartime

- Hayfield Lakes, Doncaster, DN9 3NP

Sat/Sun - 11/12th - Vintage by the Sea (ME)

- High Street, Sutton-on-Sea, LN12

Sat/Sun - 11/12th - Folkestone and Ashford Military Show (MP)

- Sellindge Showground, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6HH

Sun - 12th - Boston 1940s Day

- Central Park, Boston, PE21 6PH

Sun - 12th - Heywood 1940s Day

- Heywood, Manchester, OL10 1EH

Sun - 12th - Bridlington Platinum Jubilee 1940s - 1950s Event (ME)

- Bridlington Old Town, East Yorkshire, YO16

Sat - 18th - Stannington Parish Battle of Britain Event

- Stannington Parish, Morpeth, Northumberland. NE61

Sat/Sun - 18/19th - Bottisham at War

- Bottisham Airfield Museum, Wilbraham Road, Bottisham, CB25 9BU

Sat/Sun - 18/19th - The Romney Marsh Wartime Weekend

- Romney Marsh Wartime Collection, Ivychurch Road, Romney Marsh, TN29 0EE

Sat/Sun - 18/19th - Lotherton Hall 1940s Weekend

- Lotherton Lane, Aberford, Leeds, LS25 3EB

Sat/Sun - 18/19th - Wheaton Aston WW2 Event

- Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire

Sat/Sun - 18/19th - 1940s Weekend

- Keith & Dufftown Railway, Dufftown Station, Dufftown, Banffshire. AB55 4BA, Scotland
- Satnav Post Code for Dufftown Station is AB55 4BA

Fri/Sat/Sun - 24/25/26th - Springwell 1940s Weekend

- Springwell Village, Community Venue, Fell Rd, Springwell Village, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE9 7RP

Fri/Sat/Sun - 24/25/26th - Battle of Britain Airshow

- Headcorn Aerodrome, Shenley Road, Headcorn, Ashford, Kent TN27 9HX

Sat/Sun - 25/26th - Padiham on Parade

- Padiham, Lancashire, BB12

Sat/Sun - 25/26th - Crowland and Thornley 1940s Weekend

- Crowland, Peterborough PE6 OAY

Sat/Sun - 25/26th - Wartime in the Vale

- Ashdown Farm, Badsey, Nr Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 7PA.
- Use postcode WR11 7EN for entry to the show

Sat/Sun - 25/26th - A Blitz Weekend

- The Staffordshire Regiment Museum, DMS Whittington, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9PY

Sat/Sun - 25/26th - Cornwall at war Museum Armed Forces Weekend

- Davidstow Airfield and Cornwall at War Museum

July

Fri/Sat/Sun - 1/2/3rd - Ingleton 1940s Weekend

- Main Street, Ingleton, LA6 3EB

Sat/Sun - 2/3rd - Meltham Momories

- Meltham, Holmfirth

Sat/Sun - 2/3rd - 1940s Weekend

- Thorpe Camp Visitor Centre, Tattershall Thorpe, LN4 4PL

Sat/Sun - 2/3rd - Stapleford Salute to the 40s

- Stapleford Miniature Railway, Stapleford Park near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 2SF

Sat/Sun - 2/3rd - Capel Military Show (MP)

- Aldhurst Farm, Temple Lane, Capel, Surrey, RH5 5HJ
- SAT NAV ~ RH5 5HJ. This postcode will get you to the correct area; however, you will need to look out for Capel Military Show event signage to direct you to the correct entrance.

Sat/Sun - 2/3rd - The 1940s Experience

- Isle of Wight Steam Railway, The Railway Station, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight, PO33 4DS

Sun - 3rd - Lathalmond Wartime & Defend Fife

- Shed47 Railway Restoration Group, at SVBM M90 Commerce Park Lathalmond, by Dunfermline KY12 0SJ

Fri/Sat/Sun - 8/9/10th - Vintage for Victory - Vintage Festival (MP)

- Whitchurch Library Gardens, Park Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 7XA

Sat/Sun - 9/10th - Woodhall Spa 1940s Weekend

- Jubilee Park, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, LN10 6QH

Sat/Sun - 9/10th - 1940s Weekend

- Black Country Living Museum, Tipton Rd, Dudley DY1 4SQ

Sun - 10th - 1940s Day

- Heskin Hall, Wood Lane, Heskin, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 5PA

Fri/Sat/Sun - 15/16/17th - Market Rasen 1940s Event

- Rugby Ground, Willingham Road, Market Rasen, LN8 3RE

Sat/Sun - 16/17th - Battles for Victory (MP)

- Manston Road, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent

Sat/Sun - 16/17th - 1940s Weekend

- Lowestoft, London Road South,

Sat/Sun - 23/24th - Lincoln 1940s Weekend

- LINCOLN CATHEDRAL QUARTER, Bailgate and Steep Hill, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN1 3AA

Sat/Sun - 23/24th - Cherry Fair & 1940s Weekend

- Bewdley Museum Load Street, Bewdley, DY12 2AE

Sat/Sun ~ 30/31st ~ The Suffolk Military Show (MP)

- Trinity Park, Felixstowe Rd, Ipswich IP3 8UH

- For Sat Nav systems please enter our postcode IP3 8UH

Sat/Sun ~ 30/31st ~ Old Buckingham Airfield Airshow

- Old Buckenham Airfield, Abbey Road, Old Buckenham, NR17 1PU

Sat/Sun ~ 30/31st ~ 1940s Homefront Vintage Pop-Up Market

- M W Polymers Ltd The Sidings, Duffield Road Ind Estate Little Eaton, Derby DE21 5EG