

# *A Celebration for Violette Szabó GC*

*Sunday 7th July 2024 at 2pm*



**Violette Szabó – Croix de Guerre and Bronze Star**

Please say a special prayer for her, remembering it is 80 years since she was arrested.

*May the afternoon be blessed  
with lots of warm sunshine  
and friendships.*

***Please note – DV next year***

***Violette's Day –  
Sunday 13th July 2025.***

## **The American Air Crew**

who were stationed at the secret American air base at Harrington in Northamptonshire – from where they flew Violette and her two friends out to France. They parachuted in at 2.30am on the 7th June 1944.



B-24 Liberator Serial No 538 of the 36th Bombardment Squadron Station 179 Harrington, code name "The Carpetbaggers". The Aircrew are Top Row Left to Right: Pilot Fenster, Bombardier Yancey, Co-Pilot Warn, Navigator Davis. Bottom Row Left to Right: Dispatcher Hall, Engineer Thomas, Radio Operator Ringlesbach, Gunner Grey. The name of the Operation on the night of 7–8th June 1944 was Staioner 110B. The Aircraft took off at 22.24 Hours and returned at 05.20 Hours. Four Agents were dispatched, two at 01.49 Hours and two at 01.52 Hours. One of these was Violette Szabo. (C. Bassett - Harrington Aviation Museum)

# Order of Service

Directed by The Revd Mark Johnson

**Parade Marshall – Mr Steve Cole**

The Parade to leave The Park, Wormelow at 1.30pm

Led by **Simon Addison**, The Highland Piper.

**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*

Apologies for my hearing made much worse by the shingles.

**Patrick Wrixon, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire**

will speak and then read a message from

**Dame Virginia McKenna OBE**

Most grateful thanks to her – whose support never fails!

**Hymn – Jerusalem**

1. And did those feet in ancient time  
walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
on England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
among those dark satanic mills?
2. Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
till we have built Jerusalem  
in England's green and pleasant land.

**Ruby Ann** and her great friend **Racheal** to sing  
for us – how wonderful. Ruby for ever wants  
to honour Violette in every way.  
So many special thanks!

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

for Violette and those with birthdays among us!

Our guest speaker **Mrs Betty West** from Harrington Aviation  
Museum, Northamptonshire, from where Violette and her  
two colleagues Bob Maloubier of France and Jean-Claude Guiet  
of America flew from.

When **Ruby Ann** sings *Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree*  
Neil and Susan Smith will be dancing!

With much joy, **Professor Peter Lantos** of London is returning  
to speak a little of how he built his life after surviving Bergen-Belson.

**Ruby Ann** and **Racheal** will sing again.

**Tania** will speak to us and recite Violette's famous poem –  
*The Life That I Have.*

**Please support the raffle most generously – lots of prizes!**

Ably organised by my great friend Bridget.

The twins Rosemary and Elenor will draw the raffle, assisted  
by Mum Lorna my God daughter and brother 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.

**Please make sure you call at the Raffle Table  
before going home, to see if you are a lucky winner!**

We have another special lady in our midst –  
**Mrs Betty Webb MBE** who is now 101 years old!  
She worked at Bletchley Park throughout the war as  
a code breaker. She is very happy to say a  
few words – how lovely.

Betty was invited and attended the coronation of  
Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla  
on 6th May 2023.

**Councillor Kevin Tillett,**  
The Mayor of Hereford,  
will speak on behalf of Violette's guests  
with a surprise: Anthea MacIntyre.

**An Address**  
*by The Revd Mark Johnson*

**People – The Lord's Prayer**

**Last Post**  
played by John Strong

**Exhortations – Mr Roy Lowe**  
*President of Malvern and District REA.*

**Silence**

**Reveille**

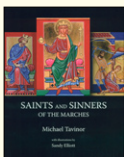
**The Blessing**

**The National Anthem**

*Followed by our Picnics,  
Friendship and Happiness!*



# On Sale Here Today



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.



*A Guide to In Memoriam - Violette Szabó* by Efosyni Hobbs of London.



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*.

Lovely bookmarks carrying Violette's picture by Doug Cresswell and her special image on canvas.

*Violets at Valencay, France* cards courtesy of Jan and Stephen Whitmore.

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



*Violette Szabó T-Shirts* generously donated by Jackie Watt. Also a *postcard* showing heart-shaped wreaths laid at Wormelow's War Memorial.



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



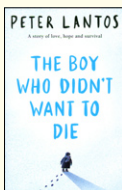
A DVD of a *personal tribute* by Rosemary E. Rigby MBE to Violette Szabó G.C. celebrating the 100th year of her birth and the 21st birthday of her Museum and the Rosemary E. Rigby Millennium Green on 26th June 2021.



A DVD of the 2022 Annual Gathering including the *100th Birthday Celebration* (postponed from 2021) and the *Opening of her new Reading Room*.



A new *Christmas Card*, from an original design by Linda Dore.



A new book *The Boy who Didn't Want to Die* by Professor Peter Lantos, memories of entering Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp aged 5.

Please visit the **Sale Table**, just in front of the Museum.

Mrs Georgina Jeyes of Northampton will kindly receive your annual subscriptions and donations for Violette.

Violette's lovely **Birthday Cake** has been donated by Georgina and David Jeyes – how wonderful! It will be cut and brought to you on trays.

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

To all Violette's most special and super friends,  
a Very Big Thank You for all the great help with the marquees/garden and everything!  
And to Pauline and The Hit Squad!!

Grateful thanks to my near neighbour Mark for all his wonderful help re parking and to Ben Booy.

To Mr Phillip Powell for his lovely plants and special generosity.

Thanks also to Mr Norman Smart for his wonderful photos.

*Thank you for coming to be with Violette,  
a happy and good journey home!*

*Rosemary E. Rigby MBE*

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

P.S. Please remember from 2025 forward urgently needed: help with organising Violette's special annual events – 2nd Sunday in July – and in great need of a good organiser and several fine helpers! Please telephone me at any time.

Remember – she now relies on us as we once relied on her.