

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

Portrait painted by
Doug Cresswell

Celebrating the Life of **Violette Szabó GC**

Sunday 13th July 2025 at 2pm



Eighty Wonderful Years!
8th May 1945 – 8th May 2025!!

Remembering Violette and so many, many others who gave their precious lives, that we might live and enjoy ours!

Please visit Violette's Peace Tree.

May we be blessed with an afternoon
of Friendship and Happiness!!

***Please note – Violette's special day next year –
DV – to be Sunday 12th July 2026.***

The Violette Szabó GC Museum

“Cartref House”, Tump Lane, Wormelow, Herefordshire HR2 8HN

Tel: (01981) 540477 • www.violetteszabomuseum.org.uk

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.

May we also give an extra prayer for the sad loss of
Geoff Paterson, a great friend of Violette.

Welcome

Rosemary E. Rigby MBE

holder of the *Points of Light Award*

Apologies for my bad mobility and hearing: please pray it may improve.

Glyn Morgan, 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 to sing for us and to honour Violette
on Ruby's special day, her birthday!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

for Violette and those with birthdays among us!

Major (Retd) Fred Greenhow MBE speaking about
the area in France where Violette worked.

We have a sincere apology from **Rachel** who cannot be here today,
but **Ruby Ann** will sing *Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree*.

With much joy, **Professor Peter Lantos** of London is returning
to be with us and speak a little about his new book for children.

Ruby Ann 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!**

Lt-Col Marc Laurenceau representing the French Embassy
will say a few words.

Paul McCue will speak of a new book about the life of Lillian Rolfe,
and then introduce Joan Munden neé Rolfe – Introduction –
Lilian Rolfe Remembarice in Six Fields
followed by A Poem for Lillian

Special – Margaret Paxton-Rolfe and family from Australia
are also to be with us!

Ruby Ann will sing.

Councillor Daniel Powell,
The Mayor of Hereford, will speak on behalf of Violette's guests.

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

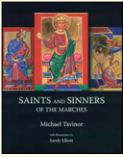
The French National Anthem
with Helen of Hay leading us in singing it!

The British 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.



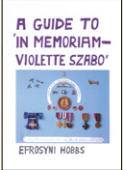
A new book *Scholars of Mayhem* by Daniel Guiet and Timothy Smith.



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 Szabo 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!



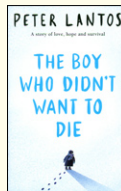
A DVD of a **personal tribute** by Rosemary E. Rigby MBE to Violette Szabó G.C. celebrating the 100th year of her birth and the 21st birthday of her Museum and the Rosemary E. Rigby Millennium Green on 26th June 2021.



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.



A card of a poem in memory of Violette by Maurice John Hart.

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

Angela Riddle will kindly receive
your annual subscriptions and donations for Violette.
Please check at the Sale Table.

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.
Also to my neighbour Michael for all his ongoing help!

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.