



## Home Fires

Berwick St John's Lockdown Companion

Edition 7. 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

You know what they say in Berwick. Never let a pandemic spoil a good party, even if it does have to be a socially distanced one. This one was without a drink in hand though, which has to be a first for the village. What a wonderful commemoration Berwick was able to put on for VE Day, with very many thanks in particular to Richard Pocock, Kevin Meade, Richard Sparkes and their many volunteers.



*Richard Pocock. By Ian Hall*

The day started with the two minute silence at 11am, marked by Kev's cannon. Villagers decorated their houses and enjoyed the sunshine from their gardens in the afternoon, then at 5pm, a number of vintage military and agricultural vehicles socially distanced on the Cross. The tractors would have been seen regularly around Wiltshire villages during WW2.



*By Ian Hall*

After Richard's poignant opening words, Alastair Campbell's bagpipes sounded magnificent on the bunting-strewn Cross. Margaret Montgomery treated us to a poem about VE Day when she and Bob first met – aged just 9. Bob then led us all in a rousing if not-quite-tuneful rendition of "We'll Meet Again".

As Richard said, it was not the event that we hoped for, but it was a fitting occasion: respectful, celebratory, and socially distanced, to commemorate the end of a six-year long war that had taken and changed for ever so many lives. Thank you Richard, and all your excellent team.



*Kevin Meade. By Grethe Wimbury*

### Results of Last week's Quiz Trees & Shrubs of Berwick

Thanks to Linda Smith, we were all poring over our Collins Guide to Trees this week – thank you so much. This week's winner(s) were Bunty Hall together with the Hall family.

- |                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Larch          | 14. Privet              |
| 2. Blackthorn     | 15. Elder               |
| 3. Gorse          | 16. Oak                 |
| 4. Sycamore       | 17. Horse Chestnut      |
| 5. Beech          | 18. Hawthorn            |
| 6. Ash            | 19. Yew                 |
| 7. Hornbeam       | 20. Silver birch        |
| 8. Guelder rose   | 21. Poplar              |
| 9. Wayfaring tree | 22. Cherry              |
| 10. Whitebeam     | 23. Willow              |
| 11. Common lime   | 24. Rowan/ Mountain Ash |
| 12. Hazel         | 25. Field Maple         |
| 13. Dogwood       |                         |



*Charlotte & Bunty Hall  
By Alison Ritchie*

### Photos from our Gardens & Walks

We're featuring VE Day photos this week, so we'll be publishing Photos from our Gardens and Walks again next week. Please keep sending them.



Thanks from the Trussell Trust/ Salisbury Food Bank

Jenny McVeigh sent this lovely note to pass on following the Trussell Trust/ Salisbury Food Bank collection on Tuesday.

*"I just wanted to send you an email to ask if you could say a huge thankyou to Berwick for their incredible generosity with the Salisbury Foodbank/Trussell Trust. We were blown away by their kindness and thoughtfulness. You are a village to be proud of."*

### This Week's Quiz Secret Glimpses of Berwick

This week's Quiz, thanks to Grethe Wimbush, makes us look a little more carefully at our village. See how many spots you recognise, or go hunting during your daily walks.

Please send your entries by 12.00 on Saturday.  
There may be prizes.

### After VE Day

While VE Day marked the end of the war in Europe, many families had to wait months, or even years to be reunited, including those who were fighting or prisoners of war in the Far East. The war also didn't finish for those on the home front. Rationing continued until 1954. Recruitment continued to the 80,000-strong Women's Land Army until 1948, and was not disbanded until 1950.

Anne Hall worked as a land girl for six years in and around this area. On VE Day, she was working at Enford Farm.

*"With the spring came that longed for day of delirious excitement for us all, May 8th, our day of Victory in Europe. That wonderful voice of Winston Churchill, which had kept us going through the long dark years, now declared that the Germans had surrendered and the war in Europe was over. I was working, at the time, with the Enford gang, and I rang Mr Hardy and was given permission to give the gang the day off to celebrate. Most of us at once made for home."*

*At Salisbury I was lucky to catch a Bournemouth bus, and the impatience I suffered while the driver and conductor left the bus for ten minutes in Fordingbridge quickly faded. They returned with lots of bunting and flags and we passengers were able to help them to dress up the bus for our triumphant ride home."*

### A Land Girl's Day



Sing a song of Land Girls,  
Up before it's light,  
With four-and-twenty jobs to do  
Before the breakfast bite;  
When the breakfast's over  
There's little to be done,  
Except to plough the furrow  
And let the harrows run  
And shear the sheep, and top the beet.  
And feed the squealing swine,  
And brush the hedge, and thatch the rick.  
And milk the gentle kine,  
And spread the muck, and sow the wheat,  
And clean and dress the land,  
And things like that which city folks  
Can never understand.

Dorothy Allen, Women's Land Army, 1942

### Keep Knitting!

Don't forget to keep knitting squares for our Berwick blankets. No.8 (44mm) needles, DK wool, Any colour, pattern or stitch, 6"/ 15cms – about 30 stitches, 46 rows. Or crochet granny squares – DK wool, 4mm hook. Please drop off squares in clean plastic to Julie at 2, Hop Gardens. 828024

### Shopping News

Greenford Farm Shop in Ludwell has revised opening hours as follows:

Monday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Wed, Thurs	Closed
Friday	9.00am – 6.00pm
Saturday	9.00am – 2.00pm
Sunday	10.00am – 2.00pm

### Finding Help

If you're struggling and need support, and don't feel you can talk to friends and family, you can contact:

**Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub** - 0300 003 4576  
Mon to Fri – 8am – 8pm; Sat – Sun – 10am – 4pm

**Samaritans** –116 123 - 24 hours a day

**Wiltshire Mind** – 01225 706532 - Mon to Fri – 9am – 3pm

If you have friends or neighbours in the village who may not be able to receive Home Fires digitally, perhaps you could print a copy for them?

Please keep sending any ideas, recipes, thoughts, podcasts, photos, competitions, book recommendations and things you think might entertain by

Saturday 16th May at 12.00

Helen Boyd

[helen.boyd@asymmetrix.co.uk](mailto:helen.boyd@asymmetrix.co.uk)

828992

## Berwick St John on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day



Welcome to Berwick!  
Louise Hall



Tractors on the Cross  
Richard Pocock



Sparkes' social distancing  
Louise Hall



Alastair Campbell  
By Grethe Wimbush



Margaret Montgomery, sharing VE Day memories  
By Ian Hall



VE Day Romance. By Grethe Wimbush

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



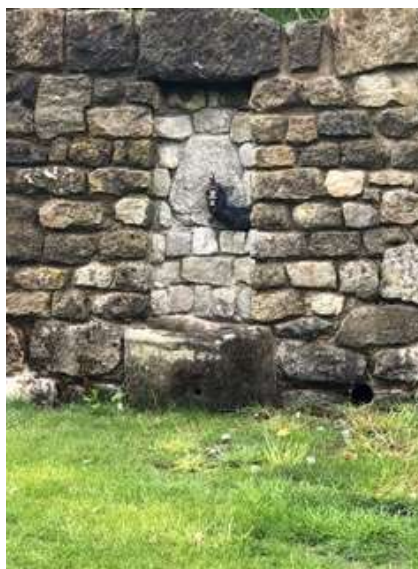
15.



16.



17.



18.



19.



20.



21.



22.



23.



24.



25.



These pictures were taken by Grethe Wimbush during lockdown around Berwick St John.  
Please state **what it is** and **the location**  
Please send replies via email to Helen with the picture number and name.