

VE Day 8th May 2020

May 11, 2020

VE Day 8th May 2020



75 years ago the masses descended on the City of London to hear Winston Churchill's victory speech given in Downing Street, declaring that after six long years, the war in Europe was over..... and so.. the partying began! However that was not true for everyone, and the war out of Europe continued until VJ Day on the 15th August, when the Japanese surrendered and World War II finally ended. Only then did the armed forces and prisoners of war finally return home to their loved ones.

For some of us VE day was very poignant, having had close family and relatives who had served in the war and who were not now alive to witness this special commemoration.



So how did Winsford commemorate the day?...with its usual enthusiasm!!!
Thursday saw the village being decorated, flags and bunting abounded, a great sight!









And the big day?

There was a small gathering at the War Memorial (social distancing respected) to commemorate those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, with the afternoon seeing toasts being made all over the village, to those remembered, with the odd glass of champagne being consumed no doubt!









At 7pm a lone bell was due to be rung but unfortunately due to circumstances out of Winsford's control this couldn't take place. However not to be thwarted, the hardy few once again returned to the memorial armed with hand bells and rang these for 75 rings, maybe not the most tuneful sound but definitely a spirited event in memory of those who had given their lives. Finally after the Queen's address, many villagers once again took to their doorsteps to join in the nationwide singalong of We'll Meet Again, a war time favourite. Music and the enthusiastic singing could be heard throughout the village!



So 75 years on, that is how we commemorated VE day, but in another 75 years how will how grandchildren and great grandchildren view the commemoration? With an element of bemusement I suspect! Given that history will show that we were in the midst of the biggest pandemic the world has ever seen, we still managed to decorate every immovable object with flags and bunting, dress up for the occasion in a variety of eclectic outfits, make the biggest scones ever seen, laden with cream and jam and drink copious amounts of tea from tea pots adorned in a variety of knitted cosies! It may seem strange to the outside world, however this is how this wonderful, spirited, eccentric nation gets through tough times and long may it continue!

So in remembrance,

'To those who gave so much we thank you'



Finally, this will undoubtedly be the last little piece of writing I will do for a while as there are exciting times ahead with the launch of the new Winsford Website, details to follow, but it will be easy to find at the same address.

So I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you especially to Gerry who has always been there over the last six years with his humorous writing and blogs and to everyone else that has used and contributed to the website.

Good luck to the new team, keep the blogs and photos coming!!

So what better way to say goodbye at this time, with a phrase much used in war films.....Over and Out!

Best wishes

Beverley

Winsford Helps the Injured Animals of Australia.

March 4, 2020

Several weeks ago, at the height of the fires in Australia, a small group of residents decided that they could no longer sit back and watch the terrible scenes of devastation to the wildlife population, constantly shown on the TV.

So a plan was hatched to have a fun afternoon of sewing to make as many pouches as possible for the injured Joey's and Koalas.

When the designated afternoon arrived, the Village Hall was a hive of activity with volunteers and sewing machines at the ready and the operation was faultless!

Sue Hayes had made the patterns in advance so the groups of cutters were off to a quick start, the cutout pouches were passed to the Ironers, then finally to the bank of sewing machines, which whirred into action, all helped along as is tradition, by tea and cake! Very quickly the piles of finished pouches were mounting up and thanks to everyone's material donations we could safely say the waiting Koalas and Joey's would have the most fashionable pouches available!









In all 160 pouches were produced, a great effort for a few hours of work and enjoyment, these were duly posted off and have now finally reached their destination.
So many thanks to everyone who contributed their help to this very worthwhile project, it is very much appreciated.



Thank you!

Press Release: Murder Investigation

February 25, 2020

You will all by now have seen the coverage in the TV news and press relating to the incident that occurred in Winsford over the weekend. The following is the press release from Avon and Somerset Police

From: [Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Sent: 25 February 2020 09:28

Subject: Alert: 25/02/20 9788 AW050/51 Press Release: Murder investigation launched after woman is shot in West Somerset.

We have launched a murder investigation after a woman was shot in a property near Minehead.

We were called to reports of what appeared to be the noise of a gunshot at a property in Winsford at about 2.30pm on Saturday.

A woman was seriously injured by a gunshot wound. Despite receiving treatment at the scene, she sadly died shortly afterwards.

A man is in police custody. He was also injured, suffering life threatening injuries and was airlifted to hospital. He remains in a critical but stable condition.

The area remains cordoned off by police officers, who are providing reassurance and support to people in the area.

Crime scene investigators are carrying out a detailed examination of the scene.

Enquiries into the incident – which is believed to be self-contained – are continuing as officers' piece together exactly what happened.

If you can help, please call 101 and give the call handler the reference number 5220043924

The All New Fun Quiz Night

February 9, 2020

The All New Fun Quiz Night



We'd been a bit short of Quizzes recently in Winsford but that gap was more than adequately filled by The Fun Charity Quiz created and run by Steve Pickard and Jane Orchiston on Friday 7th February in the fabulous, and pretty warm, surrounds of the Village Hall.

16 teams, and over 70 guests, participated in a 80 question and picture round quiz ,over the course of the evening with a superb Beef Goulash and Pasta a Veggie Shepherd's Pie/Garlic bread supper served like lightening during the interval. The buzz was deafening as Steve announced we were on the starting line, and this turned to a whispering hush as teams desperately tried to conceal their answers! We, of course, all knew most of the answers but just couldn't remember them!

"Yes, I'm only here for the fun" was the cry of those lagging and the concentration was palpable in those teams who were really there to compete and win!

Each 20 questions were marked and the countdown from 16th started....heck, we're 11th!The winners were All for One from Bridgetown, who scored a remarkable 111 (?) points.



After the quiz was over and the Raffle drawn , we participated in a final Heads and Tails round followed by a lot of clearing up etc...completed in about 30 mins and testimony to the Winsford Activities Team's excellent organisation and drills

So a big thank you to everyone who helped, participated and donated prizes for the raffle.

The evening raised near;ly £750 for the Exmoor Pony Centre, a sure fire winner!

Next event is an Elvis Tribute NIght on 25th April with JD King, who is recognised as not only the best Elvis tribute act but possibly the best tribute act in the world! Watch out for the posters.

Miss Ann Le Bas

1923- 2020

Ann's family came to this country originally in the 17th century as refugees from France and the persecution of the Protestants there. She was very proud of her Huguenot heritage and there was seldom a Sunday Service when she was not seen in her pew in Church. She was churchwarden for 25 years, up to 1985.

Ann was born in Camberley, but while she was still small the family went to India, where her father was sent to serve in the Army. They were back in England by the time she was six and from then on she was brought up by her father and grandparents in the house in Winsford which they had had built.

Of her 97 years she had spent 90 in that house, and only left it a few days before she died. Ann had a real Exmoor upbringing: riding and dancing and outdoor activities. She went to West Heath, a girls boarding school in Kent, followed by various art colleges in London after which she became a respected artist and printmaker. She belonged to several societies in her career; as an engraver and etcher she served on the Council of the Royal Society of Painter Printmakers and exhibited her paintings and prints with the New English Art Club in London. Her skills and commitment to her work as an artist gained much respect and admiration. She often exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition and many people on Exmoor have one or more of her works on their walls.

Following the death of her father, Ann shared the house with a friend of his, Peta Graham, but she sadly died of cancer, since when Ann has lived alone, always busy painting and printing in her lovely studio in Winsford. She gave land for the Cricket Club and the tennis courts and was President of the Cricket Club for many years, always attending the Annual Dinner and presenting the prizes. People with a problem would often consult Ann and she was a fund of information about Exmoor, always ready to help when she could, contributing generously to the happiness of others. We shall probably never know how many people she helped in one way or another, but she was respected and admired by all and her passing will leave a gap which can never be filled.

Other village have a squire, Sir or Lady someone, perhaps. We have had "Miss Anne". May she rest in peace.

Bridget Ryle

Charity Fun Quiz Night

January 12, 2020

WINSFORD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENTS

CHARITY FUN

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday February 7th

Winsford Village Hall 7:00pm



Teams of 4, £2.50 per head

BAR

Hot food available, £5.00

Raffle

All profits go to local funds



Space is limited, so to reserve a table either

- *Call Steve & Jane 01643 851329,*
- *email steve_pickard@hotmail.com or*
- *register your team at the Winsford shop*

*larger teams allowed if space permits,
but will not be allowed to win*



The Twelve Days of Christmas! Something to chase away the January blues!

January 8, 2020

A little late but put it down to some technical Christmas Gremlins!

!

A big thank you to Julia and David Green for organising this fun event and to everyone who took part and for overcoming any nerves they might have had, to make this memorable video. Winsford does have talent!

Happy New Year 2020

January 1, 2020



HAPPY NEW YEAR