

SUNDAY 7TH MAY 1995

2:30 FOR 3:00 PM

WICKHAMBROOK COMMUNITY ASSOC.

INVITES YOU TO A

CELEBRATION OF PEACE



AT THE MEMORIAL SOCIAL CENTRE
CELEBRATION TEA FOR ALL AT 5:30 PM
AN AFTERNOON OF NOSTALGIA AND REMINISCENCES
SONGS, READINGS AND SKETCHES OF THE PERIOD 1939-1945
ENDING WITH A SHORT INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICE
OF THANKSGIVING

Collection for the Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen's Assoc.
ADMISSION FREE

THE SOLDIER

If I should die, think only this of me :

That there's some corner of a foreign field

That is for ever England. There shall be

In that rich earth a richer dust concealed ;

A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,

Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,

A body of England's, breathing English air,

Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,

A pulse in the eternal mind, no less

Gives somewhere back the thoughts by Eng-
land given ;

Her sights and sounds ; dreams happy as her day ;

And laughter, learnt of friends ; and gentleness,

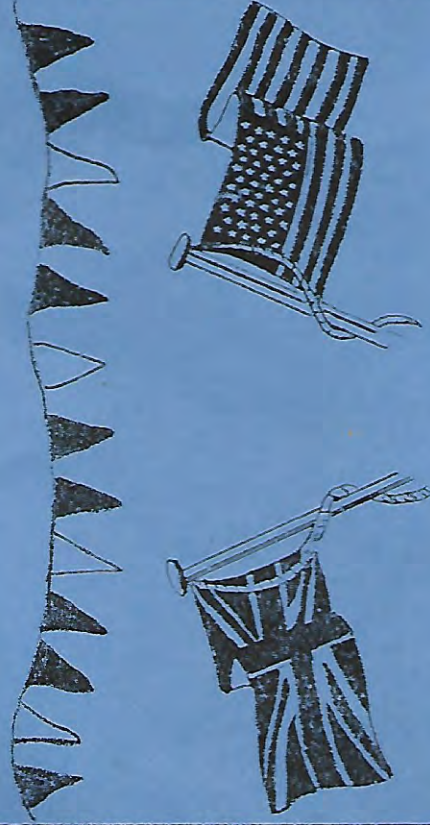
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brooke

CELEBRATION OF PEACE

WICKHAMBROOK

MEMORIAL SOCIAL CENTRE



SUNDAY 7TH MAY 1995

Welcome

Half a century ago, the six year struggle by Britain and her allies against the evil of Nazi Germany and the Axis, ended with the surrender of the Third Reich at Luneburg Heath.

Across the length and breadth of our country this weekend, cities, towns and villages like our own, are celebrating this momentous event in world history.

And celebrate is not an inappropriate word, because although millions of men and women had died at the hands of the Nazi's, and in the ensuing fight against Hitler's ambition of conquest and subjugation, it marked the end of the fear and the beginning of a new era of security for most of the peoples of Europe.

For some, and as so often happens in history, one tyranny was replaced by another, and it has only been in the present decade that many Eastern European countries have experienced their long awaited freedom.

War is not glamorous, it is an evil that devastates countries and inflicts unimaginable suffering on the innocent, but something good always emerges from evil, and it has been our aim to convey some of the humour, comradeship and unquenchable spirit of the time, as well as the darker side of war, in our V.E. Day celebration this afternoon.

But in celebrating the end of the war in Europe, we should be very conscious of the fact that the war in the Pacific still raged, and many thousands of allied servicemen were still suffering in Japanese prisoner of war camps in the far east. East Anglian regiments in particular were heavily engaged in this conflict, and we have included our own tribute to them in our programme.

Living in our comfortable society today, a good many of us never having experienced those far off war days, it is easy to underestimate the huge sacrifice that was made on our behalf by so many.

How important it is therefore that we continue to honour them, and pledge ourselves never to forget.

A nostalgic trip as we take a whistle-stop tour of the sights, sounds and atmosphere of war-torn Europe between 1939/1945 - A Tour Of Remembrance.

FIRST HALF

'Peace In Our Time'
Chamberlain's fatal mistake in appeasing Hitler over the Sudetenland.

The Nazi's invade Poland, and our country finds itself at war with Germany.

The unpreparedness of Britain, and grave doubts in our ability to repel an invasion should it come.

The evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and the surrender of France.

The Battle of Britain - the RAF defy the might of the Luftwaffe and thwart Goering's attempt to destroy our air defences.

'Never In The Field Of Human Conflict'

London burns, but the indomitable spirit of the people remains undimmed.

Germany invades the Soviet Union.

The Japanese bomb Pearl Harbour and the Americans enter the war.

The tide turns in North Africa - Rommel on the run.

The start of the retreat from the Soviet Union.

June 1944 the D-Day Landings - the final phase begins as the Allies invade France.

INTERMISSION

SECOND HALF

The Germans in full retreat on three fronts - from the British, American and Commonwealth forces in the west, the Russians in the east and the allies from Italy into Austria in the south.

The Burma Front - British and Commonwealth troops drive the Japanese back.

American and Russian forces link up on the river Elbe at Torgau.

4th May 1945, Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery accepts unconditional surrender of all the German armies in the West. Four days later on the 8th May, a formal surrender is signed in Berlin. The war in Europe is over.

CONTRIBUTORS & CAST

Derek Pope (Narrator)

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Jeff Goodacre

Colin Bird

Alan Cordy

Richard Wreathall

Colin Cordy

Pete Clark

and the many others who have helped to make this production possible.

UNITED SERVICE FOR A CELEBRATION OF PEACE

The Service will be led by the Ministers of our three Wickhambrook Churches:

Rev. Lyn Agew (United Reformed)
Rev. Jeffrey Bloomfield (Methodist)
Rev. Eric Crouchman (Anglican)

Please remain quietly seated while the Ministers walk to the platform.

Introduction and Prayer of Approach

All are invited to join in the Lord's Prayer.

HYMN 1 (Tune : St Peter)

1. Lord, while for all mankind we pray
Of every clime and coast,
Oh hear us for our native land,
The land we love the most.
2. Oh God our shores from every foe;
With peace our borders bless;
With prosperous times our cities crown;
Our fields with plenteousness.
3. Unite us in the aced love
Of knowledge, truth and Thee;
And let our hills and valleys shout
The songs of liberty.
4. Lord of the nations, thus to Thee
Our country we commend;
Be Thou her refuge and her trust,
Her everlasting friend.

(J R Wreford, 1800 - 81)

Bible Reading from the Old Testament.

Address

Bible Reading from the New Testament.

Hymn 2 (Tune : Westminster Abbey)

1. Lord of all : we come rejoicing,
Free from conflict, free from fear:
Thanking you for times of peace that
we've enjoyed for fifty years;
And may proof of our thanksgiving
in our daily lives appear.
2. Lord, accept our heartfelt thanks for
all the joys of rural ways;
Wickhambrook's communal spirit
that enriches all our days;
Peaceful living here in Suffolk;
Lord, for these we give you praise.
3. But remind us, Lord, of others;
Help us strive, with one accord,
For a just and equal sharing
of resources earth affords,
and for peace of every nation;
Lord, to this we pledge our word.
4. Unto God be praise and honour,
to the Father, to the Son,
to the mighty Spirit, glory -
ever Three and ever one;
power and glory in the highest
while eternal ages run.

(The compiler acknowledges the influence of Fred Kaan in verse three. Verse four is a translation by a W Wotherspoon of a mediaeval Latin Doxology.)

During the singing of this Hymn a collection will be taken for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmans Association.

Prayers

You are invited to join in the response:

- After "Be merciful, Lord"
All say "Oh Lord, forgive us and help us."
After "For all your blessings, Lord"
All say "We give you thanks and praise."

And we pray that your blessings may remain upon us all:
upon our Queen, our Parliament, our Councils and all who lead us;
upon all who devote to our care and protection;
and upon this village of Wickhambrook -
that we may be a community filled with the spirit of compassion,
mutual care and affection:
so may we bring glory to your name,
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

All sing the Doxology (Tune : Old 100th)

- Praise God from whom all blessing flow,
Praise him all people here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Blessing

Following the blessing, the Last Post will sound, we will observe one minutes silence for all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live in peace.

Followed by Reville.

LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY

Land of Hope and Glory,

Mother of the Free,

How shall we extol thee,

Who are born of thee?

Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set;

God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet,

God, who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet.

MEMORIAL SOCIAL CENTRE

A Brief History

It all began on 27th November 1944. A public meeting was called. Where it was held is not recorded, but the W.I. Hall is a likely venue. The instigator of this meeting was one William UNDERWOOD ably assisted by Mr Leonard HARBUTT. It was decided that a village hall was needed and that it could be called the Memorial Hall. The aid of the Suffolk Rural Community Council, yes it did exist in those days, was sought and a further public meeting was to be called as soon as possible.

The next meeting was held on 22nd January 1945. A committee was formed and the planning of the Memorial Hall began. The only surviving member of that committee is, of course, our good friend AIF HICKS.

It is interesting to note that at the next Public meeting some 80 to 100 people attended. The site was soon chosen. A corner of the Recreation Ground. The format of the committee was decided, all organisations in the village were invited to provide a committee member and did so. Soon fund raising began and grant applications were made.

In fact it took five years to raise the required funds and it was not until Friday 13th April 1951 that the Wickhambrook Memorial Village Hall was formerly opened. They were obviously not superstitious! I think their confidence was fully justified. They and we are proud of their achievement.

Since those early days the Hall has changed, it has been enlarged and improved. However, even now we have plans for further development of what is now known as the Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre. One item will never change, the word "Memorial" will always remain. Also the resolution made at the original opening, that the names of the Fallen in the two World Wars should be read at the commencement of the Annual General Meeting each year, will always take place. "We will remember them".

Acknowledgements.

The V E Committee would like to record their thanks to the following who have helped in this production in so many ways:

Production Team:

Colin Bird
Alan Cordy
Peter Bayman

Jane Owen

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Esme Jolland

Gesyns Workshop:
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Ivan Peacock

Dennis Blackler
David Nunn
Ron Corbyn

Parish Council
Community Association

Memorial Social Centre

The V E Committee - Ron Ellise, Anne Edwards, Esme Jolland,
David Turner, Chris Whitehead, Colin Bird, Peter Bayman and
Alan Cordy.

Writer and Director
Memorabilia Coordinator
Lighting Designer

Poster Design

Set production

Set painting

Memorabilia

Audio

Video Production

Flags, Party-Poppers and Bunting

Musical accompaniment

Printing Programme

Ration Book cooking and Memorabilia

Bugler

Union Jack and White Ensign Flags

R A F Flag

United Service production

Stage dressing and Lighting

Catering

Stage Dressing and Lighting

Stage Crew

For paying for this production

For free use of rooms and facilities