

## Teacher's Notes – WWII Home Front Horsham

The selection of activities in this topic are designed to support the exploration of the experiences of local people on the Home Front during WWII. The information and activities are aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils. The activities are supported by local resources in particular the Albery Poster Collection. The activities and worksheets link the topic to curriculum subjects such as; history, English, art and design, computing and citizenship.

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### Introduction Presentation

#### **Learning Objective**

Pupils will gain a basic understanding of how war broke out, who was involved and how it affected people at home in Britain.

#### **Age group**

Recommended for Key Stage 2

#### **Description**

A PDF version of an image only presentation and a PDF of the presentation notes.

#### **Curriculum Links**

The documents are linked to the history curriculum's overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- understand the connections between local, regional, national and international history

Specifically the Key stage 2 History requirement to study an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

#### **Teaching ideas**

It is recommended that the image only slides are used on a screen or whiteboard as a presentation with the notes. This will provide a useful introduction to the topic and the Home Front themes that are featured in our activities.

#### **Further information**

- The Classroom session delivered by our education officers will provide hands-on experiences about life on the Home Front. Details on the session are provided on the website.
- White, C. 1995. *Horsham Town and Country: 'When the Siren Sounded'* Cliff White Publications
- West Sussex County Council, *Wartime West Sussex 1939-1945*  
[http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/learning\\_resources/wartime\\_west\\_sussex\\_1939-45.aspx](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/learning_resources/wartime_west_sussex_1939-45.aspx)



## **Activity – Women at War**

### **Learning Objective**

Pupils will:

- Learn about women at war in WWII including real Horsham women.
- Use deductive skills to solve a puzzle

### **Age group**

Recommended for Key Stage 2

### **Description**

A background information sheet on women working during the war, activity instructions and list of jobs, silhouette character cards for the students, clues for the students and character answer cards for the teachers.

### **Curriculum Links**

#### *History*

This activity is linked to the history curriculum's overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- understand the connections between local, regional, national and international history

Specifically the Key stage 2 History requirement to study an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

### **Teaching ideas**

It is recommended to start by talking through the background information particularly with younger students. Copies could also be provided for the class for reference. They will need this information and the list of jobs to solve the puzzle. To start the activity the class needs to be split into at least three groups. Each group will need a silhouette card and the cut out clues for that card. Keep back the extra hint unless they get stuck. Give them time to discuss and solve the puzzle. This could be competitive. When they get it right their reward is the answer character card revealing a real Horsham woman who did this job.



## Worksheet 1 – Evacuation

### Learning Objective

Pupils will understand and be able to give examples of the experiences of evacuees during World War Two.

### Age group

Recommended for Key Stage 2 (activities 1 and 3 are more suitable for years 5-6)

### Description

A background information sheet on evacuation in World War Two and Horsham's experiences of evacuees. Followed by source based exercises, a jigsaw puzzle and an expressive writing exercise. There are 5 sources for printing out at the end of the document.

### Curriculum Links

#### *History*

This activity is linked to the history curriculum's overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- understand the connections between local, regional, national and international history
- understand the methods of historical enquiry

Specifically the Key stage 2 History requirement to study an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

#### *English*

This activity is linked to the overall aim to ensure that all pupils:

- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences

Specifically it will provide the opportunity to practice composition skills including:

- planning their writing: identifying the audience and purpose of their writing, selecting the appropriate form and drawing on reading and research for initial ideas.
- Draft and write: selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary to enhance meaning and use devices to build cohesion within and across passages.
- Evaluate and edit: assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing, proposing changes, checking the tense and grammar is correct and consistent.

### Teaching ideas

It is recommended to talk through the background information, perhaps even put it up on a whiteboard to make sure everyone understands. The five sources at the back of the document would be best used if printed out and copied for pupils to view individually or in groups to answer the source based questions in Activity 1. The written sources are quite challenging so reading them out loud to make sure they are understood by younger students could be worthwhile.

The suitcase and puzzle pieces should be printed separately and cut out. The pieces will fit into the suitcase template but there are two pieces that won't fit because they contain items not taken by evacuees. The other items were all listed on Source 5- the Horsham local government poster of instructions regarding evacuees.

There are suggestions for the length and subject of the diary entries for evacuees however please do encourage the pupils to draw on other information they may have gathered from lessons/books/TV shows or websites they have been using in class. The diary template pages provided in the document can be used for the creative writing or of course they can use their own notebooks. Pupils could also



potentially type up their diary entries to practice their computer skills and share the entries on the school website.

**Further ideas:** The book *Horsham Town and Country: 'When the siren sounded'* by Cliff White mentions several local schools and the London schools they merged with during the war. There is potential here if your school is one of those mentioned to recreate a link with the London school(s). For example writing letters or taking a school trip to the other school and thinking about today's differences between city and town life.

#### Further Information

- The Classroom session delivered by our education officers will provide hands-on experiences about life on the Home Front. Details on the session are provided on the website.
- West Sussex County Council, *Wartime West Sussex 1939-1945*  
[http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/learning\\_resources/wartime\\_west\\_sussex\\_1939-45.aspx](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/learning_resources/wartime_west_sussex_1939-45.aspx)
- Ernest Deiter Ball's correspondence in *Letters from a War Child* provide an insight into a German Jewish refugee's account of growing up in wartime Horsham.



## **Worksheet 2 – The war came home**

### **Learning Objective**

Pupils will learn about how the military aspects of the war affected people at home.

### **Age group**

Recommended for Key Stage 2

### **Description**

A background information sheet on 'Planes, tanks and gas', followed by 2 source based activities, a censorship exercise and copies of the sources.

### **Curriculum Links**

#### *History*

This activity is linked to the history curriculum's overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- understand the connections between local, regional, national and international history

And the Key stage 2 History requirement to study an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

### **Teaching ideas**

It is recommended that the background information is read through with the younger students to make sure everyone understands. For the first two activities the students will need print outs of the sources at the back of the document. They can work individually or in pairs/groups to find the answers.

It is recommended the passage for the censorship exercise is read through with the class (saying blank where appropriate) as some of the language is challenging. Also pupils could undertake this exercise in pairs/groups or even as a class if quite young. Once completed the whole story makes an amusing read which should be shared with the class.

### **Further information**

- There are more stories in the West Sussex County Times accessible on the West Sussex County Council website, *Wartime West Sussex 1939-1945*  
[http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/learning\\_resources/wartime\\_west\\_sussex\\_1939-45.aspx](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/learning/learning_resources/wartime_west_sussex_1939-45.aspx)
- The censorship exercise uses an extract from Cliff White's book '*Horsham Town and Country: When the siren sounded*', p 69-70. There is more to the story in the book which could be shared with the class.



### **Worksheet 3 – Horsham’s Spitfire**

#### **Learning Objective**

Pupils will learn about Horsham’s fundraising efforts during the war and produce a piece of creative writing.

#### **Age group**

Recommended for Key Stage 2 (years 5-6)

#### **Description**

A background information sheet on Horsham’s Spitfire followed by activity instructions and the source. A separate word document with a newspaper template which can be printed or used on laptops/computers.

#### **Curriculum Links**

##### *History*

This activity is linked to the history curriculum’s overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- understand the connections between local, regional, national and international history

Also the Key stage 2 History requirement to study an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

##### *English*

This activity is linked to the overall aim to ensure that all pupils:

- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences

Specifically it will provide the opportunity to practice composition skills including:

- planning their writing: identifying the audience and purpose of their writing, selecting the appropriate form and drawing on reading and research for initial ideas.
- Draft and write: selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary to enhance meaning and use devices to build cohesion within and across passages.
- Evaluate and edit: assessing the effectiveness of their own and others’ writing, proposing changes, checking the tense and grammar is correct and consistent.

#### **Teaching ideas**

The background sheet could be read through or copies shared out amongst the class. The pupils will need a copy of the Command Operational Diaries extract. The template word document could be printed out for them to fill in by hand or the pupils can put text boxes into the template on the computer although this is much more challenging. There is space for a picture, it is suggested this could be a map showing all the locations that Horsham’s Spitfire visited which would provide an opportunity to look at the geography of the Western arena of the war.

#### **Further information**

The full story of the Spitfire can be found in Clifford White’s ‘The Story of Stan’s Spitfire’ printed for Forest Community School, 1989. However there may no longer be copies in print easily accessible and much of the story is contained in his book *Horsham Town and Country: ‘When the siren sounded’*.



## **Worksheet 4 – Rationing and Salvage**

### **Learning Objective**

Pupils will learn about rationing and salvage in wartime Britain and about recycling today.

### **Age group**

Recommended for Key Stage 2

### **Description**

A background sheet followed by activity instructions and copies of two Horsham posters.

### **Curriculum Links**

#### *History*

This activity is linked to the history curriculum's overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- understand the connections between local, regional, national and international history

Also the Key stage 2 History requirement to study an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

#### *Citizenship*

This activity is linked to the citizenship curriculum's overall aim to ensure pupils develop an interest in, and commitment to, participation in volunteering as well as other forms of responsible activity, that they will take with them into adulthood.

#### *Art*

This activity is linked to the art curriculum's overall aim to produce creative work.

### **Teaching ideas**

It is recommended that the background information is read through with students as it helps set the scene. They will need copies of the posters at the back of the document to help them with Activity 1. This activity can be done individually or in pairs/groups. Activity 2 can be used to introduce and link to the important topic of recycling. The posters are just one example of a persuasive advert, it may be worth finding more modern examples of leaflets and other adverts.

### **Further ideas**

The website Recycle Now has some useful information for schools which could benefit this exercise. Check it out at <http://www.recyclenow.com/recycle/recycle-school>



## Explore the Archive – War Propaganda

### Learning Objective

Pupils will:

- Be able to understand and identify some methods of propaganda
- Use the website to search for posters

### Age group

Recommended for Upper Key Stage 2 (years 5-6)

### Description

A background information sheet on propaganda and activity instructions.

### Curriculum Links

#### *History*

This activity is linked to the history curriculum's overall aims to ensure all pupils:

- understand the connections between local, regional, national and international history

And the Key stage 2 History requirement to study an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

#### *Computing*

This activity is linked to the computing curriculum's overall purpose of ensuring that pupils become digitally literate – able to use and develop their ideas through information and communication technology.

Specifically linked to the Key Stage 2 aim of ensuring pupils use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and are discerning in evaluating digital content.

### Teaching ideas

Print off or go through the information on propaganda with the class.

Print off or go through the search techniques described in the search tips document available on the website at [www.horshamposters.com/Friends-Horsham-Museum/users\\_guide-16091.aspx](http://www.horshamposters.com/Friends-Horsham-Museum/users_guide-16091.aspx)

More advanced guidance is available on the website at [http://www.horshamposters.com/Friends-Horsham-Museum/search\\_hints-5086.aspx](http://www.horshamposters.com/Friends-Horsham-Museum/search_hints-5086.aspx)

Working in pairs/groups the students can look at the posters and discuss how the posters use propaganda and emphasise their message. The website:

[www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/second-world-war-posters](http://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/second-world-war-posters) gives some more great examples of national/famous WWII posters which could help illustrate the information on propaganda.

Discussion and opinions should be encouraged in this exercise.

N.B.1. As pupils are searching for a **subject** they need to use the **Select Posters** functions not the **Key words** search or it will not work

N.B.2. if students do use the **Key word** search for further research please be aware that the search is set to OR searches only and will not process AND searches. E.g. Broadbridge Heath will look for all poster descriptions using the words Broadbridge OR Heath.



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## Extension activities

Contact our education officers to book a school workshop where they will bring World War Two on the Home Front in Horsham to life with artefacts, role-play and a detailed look at other posters from the collection – their details are on the website [www.horshamposters.com](http://www.horshamposters.com).

## References

- **Brown, M.** 2000. *A child's war: growing up on the Home Front 1939-1945*, Sutton Publishing Limited.
- **Ernest Deiter Ball's** correspondence 1939-1941, *Letters from a War Child: A German Jewish refugee's account of growing up in wartime Horsham*, Horsham Museum.
- **White, C.** 1989. *The Story of Stan's Spitfire*, Forest Community School
- **White, C.** 1995. *Horsham Town and Country: 'When the siren sounded'*. Clifford White Publications.
- **West Sussex County Times** accessed via West Sussex County Council Library Service and Record Office, Horsham branch.
- **BBC Primary History**, *World War Two*, [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world\\_war2/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/world_war2/)
- **BBC History**, *World War Two*, [www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/)
- **Imperial War Museum**, *Evacuation*, [www.iwm.org.uk/history/evacuation](http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/evacuation)
- **Imperial War Museum**, *Women's Auxiliary Services during the Second World War*, <http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/womens-auxiliary-services-during-the-second-world-war#>
- **National Archives Education**, *Home Front 1939-1945: Evacuation* [apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/homefront/evacuation/](https://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/homefront/evacuation/)
- **National Archives Education**, *Home Front 1939-1945: Women* [apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/homefront/women/](https://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/homefront/women/)
- **National Archives Education Resources**, *Evacuation to Shropshire*, <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/evacuation-to-shropshire/#background>
- **National Archives**, *Women in World War II* [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/womeninuniform/wii\\_intro.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/womeninuniform/wii_intro.htm)

## Images

- **Posters** are from Horsham Museum's archive [www.horshamposters.com](http://www.horshamposters.com) unless otherwise stated.
- **All illustrations** by Gail Mackintosh
- **Photograph of Hitler** c.1933. Image by the German Federal Archive licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Germany](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/de/). Accessed via Wikimedia commons at: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adolf\\_Hitler-1933.jpg?uselang=en-gb](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adolf_Hitler-1933.jpg?uselang=en-gb)  
Last viewed: August 2014.
- **Photograph of Neville Chamberlain** following the Munich Agreement 1938. Imperial war Museum. This item is available to share and reuse under the terms of the [IWM Non Commercial Licence](https://www.iwm.org.uk/learn/our-licence/). Accessed via the Imperial War Museum website at <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205193839>  
Last viewed: August 2014.
- **Photograph of Evacuees** arriving at Horsham station, 8/9/1939. © West Sussex County Council Library Service and Record Office



- **Photograph of Tank traps** being removed from Horsham streets, 1945. © West Sussex County Council Library Service and Record Office
- **Photograph of Orchard Road**, Horsham after bombing. November 1940. © West Sussex County Council Library Service and Record Office
- **Photograph of Warnham Home Guard**. 1940's. © Horsham District Council's Horsham Museum and Art Gallery
- **Photograph of Royal Observer Corps** Horsham outside the Drill Hall. 1944. © Horsham District Council's Horsham Museum and Art Gallery
- **Photograph of children digging their own trench**, 29/9/39. © West Sussex County Council Library Service and Record Office
- **Photograph of troops under fire** on a beach in Normandy on D-day. 1944. Imperial war Museum. This item is available to share and reuse under the terms of the [IWM Non Commercial Licence](#). Accessed via the Imperial War Museum website at: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205193053>  
Last viewed August 2014.
- **Photograph of VE day celebrations** in London. 1945. . Imperial war Museum. This item is available to share and reuse under the terms of the [IWM Non Commercial Licence](#). Accessed via the Imperial War Museum website at: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205021981>  
Last viewed: August 2014
- **Photograph of Horsham War Memorial** 2014. © Gail Mackintosh
- **Advert about Evacuation** in the West Sussex County Times, 19/4/1940. © West Sussex County Council Library Service and Record Office
- **Photograph of air raid shelters** on East Street, Horsham being demolished. 1948. © Horsham District Council's Horsham Museum and Art Gallery
- **Advert for Messerschmitt** on display in Horsham, 1940. © West Sussex County Council Library Service and Record Office
- **Photograph of Horsham and District's Spitfire**. January 1942. © West Sussex County Council Library Service and Record Office. (The paper and the people of Horsham were that the spitfire had in fact been lost a few months before.)

