"What's past is prologue"

William Shakespeare
Coined by American broadcaster Tom Brokaw in 1998, ‘The Greatest Generation’ is often used to refer to men and women born in the first quarter of the 20th Century who went on to serve their countries both in the military, and on the home front during WW2.

Following on from last year’s successful ‘World War One Centenary Album’, local photographer Scott Wishart returned to Platt Primary School on the 70th anniversary of VE Day to capture current pupils holding photographs, medals and other memorabilia of their own family members who served their country between 1939 and 1945. The purpose of the shoot echoed that of last year’s project in that it was designed to encourage the children to learn about their own ancestors participation in the conflict, and help them bridge the gap between themselves and a key period in British history.

Although in many cases the people in the photographs were ‘new’ to the children, all were visibly very proud of their antecedents and the various roles they played in the war effort. One parent commented that his sons had established a true emotional link back to their relatives who were involved in the Second World War, whilst another said that the project provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to engage with and reflect on the war through a personal, family connection and that it had stimulated much conversation in their house.
Children from St. Mary's Platt celebrate VE Day in 1945
14589852 Pte. Marshall James Crayford, South Wales Borderers
(1909 – 1999)

Great Grandfather of Ayla & Zoe
Left
(Living)

Right
2615078 Gdsm Richard Henry Sutton, Grenadier Guards
(1918 - 1962)

Great Great Uncles of Freddie
JX393905 AB Timothy Patrick Lynch, HMS St. Angelo (Royal Navy)
(1924 – 2006)

Cissie May Lynch (née Breck), Womens Land Army
(1924 – 2014)

Great Grandparents of Ronnie
Standing Centre

Roy Kenneth Panting, HMT Empire Test (Merchant Navy)
(1911 – 1982)

Great Grandfather of Lydia, Sadie & Ned
Left
Maj William Frank Cooper MC, Royal Engineers (78th Division)
(1921 – 2002)
Capt Allen Cooper, 8th Bn Hampshire Regiment
(1882 – 1958)

Great Great Uncle and Great Great Grandfather of Kitty & Honor

Right
Lt. Col William Henry Jack Stehr OBE, Royal Army Service Corps
(1914 – 1981)

Great Grandfather of Kitty & Honor
Left
1100717 Sgt Andrew Horne Thomson, 159 Squadron RAF
(1911 – 1973)

Right
803588 Sgt Alexander Wishart, 603 (City of Edinburgh) Sqn RAAF
(1919 – 2002)

Great Grandfathers of Edith, Alexander & May
T/4456028 Dvr John Shaw Ashbridge

Durham Light Infantry

Royal Highlanders (Black Watch)

Royal Army Service Corps

(1921 – 1977)

Great Grandfather of Aaron
William Ernest Gillard, Merchant Navy
(1920 – 1971)

Great Grandfather of Sam & Scarlett
William Joseph Spellacey, Paratroop Regiment
(1919 – 1997)
Also pictured: Alma Spellacey (née Naylor), Jennifer & David Spellacey

Great Grandfather of Holly
Left

943147 Norman Gilbert Oliver, 102nd Anti-Tank Regiment, RA
(1919 – 2004)
&
Grace Elizabeth Oliver (née Smith), Munitions Worker
(1921 – 2002)

Right

JX268369 GL Robert Peter Thomas Hill, Royal Navy
(1920 – 1973)

Great Grandparents of Max & Lucy
Left

Lt Stanley Swain, Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve
(1920 – 2003)
&
Sgt Peggy Swain (née Flear), Women’s Royal Air Force
(1920 – 2012)

Right

278253 Capt Sidney Herbert Randall, Royal Artillery
(1911 – 1984)

Great Grandparents of Thomas
Pte. Albert John Vallance, 1/6th Bn Queen's Royal Regiment
(1915 – 1997)

Great Grandfather of Erin
Left

Ernest George Waugh, Royal Air Force
(1917 – 1985)

Centre

Leonard D Waugh, Royal Air Force
(1930 – )

Right

Frederick John Waugh, Royal Navy
(1924 – 1985)
Reginald W Waugh
(1919 – )

Great Grandfather & Great Great Uncles of Lenny, Elvie & Tommy
Harry Buckle, ARP Warden
(1894 – 1967)

Great Grandfather of Mollie
23515622 Cpl. David Henry Houghton, Royal Signal Corps

(Living)

(standing right)

Grandfather of Emma
Left
1087065 Sgt Leslie Ernest Austin, 12 Squadron, RAF
(1917 – 1943)
Great Uncle of Holly-Bea
&
Right
124582 ROI Alan David Stenning, TSS Ruahine (Merchant Navy)
(1912 – 1978)
Great Grandfather of Holly-Bea
Maj Humphrey Philip Lambert, Middlesex Regiment
(1901 – 1985)

&

Catherine Louise Lambert (née McShane)
Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps
(1907 – 1992)

Great Grandparents of Emma & William
Left

Henry Ernest Green, C Squadron, No.4 Wing, Royal Air Force
(1911 – 1963)

Right

James Williams, 47 Squadron, Royal Air Force
(1918 – 1996)

Great Grandfathers of George
1711997 Fg Off. Peter John Hazlewood, Royal Air Force
(1925 – 2005)

Grandfather of Tom & Alex
David Nicoll Lowe OBE
(1909 – 1999)
War Cabinet Secretariat
Secretary, Ministry of Production

Great Grandfather of Bryer & George
Left (Medals)

Harry Hilton
(1906 – 1983)

Right

992218 Reginald Norman Harding
(1915 – 1954)

Great Grandparents of Grace & Ben
1715173 Bdr Cyril Edward Riseley
(1909 – 1999)
417th Battery, 125th (Cameronians) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery

Great Grandfather of Jessica
Alfred Edward Lodge, 8th Army
(1911 – 1960)
(standing left)
&
Edward Lodge (VE Day Photograph)
(Living)

Great Grandfather & Grandfather of Ryan & Emma
Cpl. Albert Ernest Abnett, 13 Corps R.E.M.E.

(1914 – 1988)

Great Grandfather of Leo
Lt. Cdr William Henry Robins, HMS Rodney (Royal Navy)
(1906 – 1971)

Great Grandfather of Jordan
List of Abbreviations Used:

AB - Able Seaman
ARP - Air Raid Precaution
Bdr - Bombardier
Capt - Captain
Cpl. - Corporal
Dvr - Driver
Fg Off. - Flight Officer
Gdsm - Guardsman
GL - Gunlayer
HMT - His Majesty's Transport
Lt. - Lieutenant
Lt. Col - Lieutenant Colonel
Lt. Cdr - Lieutenant Commander
Maj - Major
Pte. - Private
RO1 - 1st Radio Officer
RAAF - Royal Auxiliary Air Force
R.E.M.E. - Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers