

Reader
friendly
font

Sutton
Heritage

Let's discover... Sutton at War



A Home Learning Activity Booklet for
Key Stage 2

Learn about the London
Borough of Sutton in World
War 2



This is part of the front page of the Sutton Times and Cheam Mail.

What date was it published?

How many days had we been at war when this was published?

A.R.P.
Black-Out Materials
and
Gas Mask Carriers
are arriving daily at
SHINNERS - SUTTON

Sutton Times and Cheam Mail

No. 722

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 1939

ONE PENNY

Business
MORE
than usual
AT
KENNARDS
OF COURSE

WAR'S ALARMS FOUND A.R.P. MEN READY, PUBLIC CALM

"With a Smile and a Song"—to the Shelters

HITLER COULD NOT STOP MORNING RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC

NINETY-YEARS-OLD Miss Julia Baker, of Manor-way, Wallington, calmly put on her gas mask when she heard the air raid warning which followed the declaration of war on Sunday morning. One of the district's oldest inhabitants, she had listened with the keenest attention to the news broadcasts throughout the crisis.

Her conduct is typical of the way in which the people have faced the reality of war. Growing confidence is apparent in the country's aerial defences and air raid warnings hold no terrors. As soon as the evacuation of children had been completed, rail services, which had been very little disorganised, were restored to normal. There are plenty of buses and trams—and the public have already got used to night travel in darkness.

THE first air raid warning resulted in a striking demonstration of the efficiency of the local A.R.P. services. Sunday morning's alarm signal, like that given in the early hours of Monday, was stated by the Ministry of Information to have been due to the sighting of a craft which could not at first be identified. But all branches of the A.R.P. services were ready to go into action. Warnings and all clear signals were given without a hitch, with perfect co-operation between volunteers and police.

The public were calm and unafraid. When the first warning was heard those who had shelters went quietly into them after picking up their gas masks. Those in the streets joked as they made their cover. Church services were broken off and congregations dispersed quietly. Regarding the first alarm as a dress rehearsal, the public Monday morning's warning even more calmly. Putting on coats and dressing gowns they went to their shelters or remained in downstairs rooms. Many made tea.

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FOOD CONTROL
There was a special emergency meeting of Beddington and Wallington Council in committee on Friday evening, presided over by the Mayor (Ald. H. B. Smalley), when the chief business was to set up a Food Control Committee. The Town Clerk (Mr. T. Booth) was appointed Fuel Overseer. A Technical Experts Committee was also set up for gas, electricity and coal distribution.

A large number of the staff of the Beddington and Wallington Council have been sleeping in the Town Hall every night.

The Council have appointed an Air Raid Precautions Emergency Committee of three members. The Food Control Committee is composed of fifteen.

All trenches in parks and open spaces have been completed. Trenches are also being made in other places. Some of these are at Messrs. Hepburn's premises at the corner of Woodcote-road and Beddington-gardens and Lorraine House, Acre-lane, and in parts of the borough where a large number of people might be expected to be walking in the streets.

The gates of parks in which there are public trenches will not be locked in order that use of the trenches can be made at any time.

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT
All places of entertainment have been temporarily closed in order that large numbers of people should not be congregated together during an air raid. Apart from concert halls, the only place affected in this district is the Odeon Cinema. Most of the halls are being used as casualty

stations and for Government work. Wallington Public Hall, which had already been booked up far into 1940 for amateur dramatic shows and operas, is being used for the former purpose. Many dramatic societies had decided on their first play of the season, and some producers had begun casting. Rehearsals normally began in September in most societies.

Carshalton Council met in committee on Monday evening and dealt with a number of emergency orders. A Food Control Committee was set up.

THIRD RAID ALARM
The people have accustomed themselves to air raid alarms with a growing degree of confidence. Many were getting used to the sirens when the Wednesday morning and before the "All Clear" signal had been given workers could be seen going along the streets. Shops opened at the usual time and business activities resembled normal times. The people of the district have confidence in the protection against air attacks. A local official went so far as to state on Monday that Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington are among the safest places in Britain.

TREASURES TO A.R.P.
Mr. G. Nutbeam, Beddington and Wallington's Chief Air Raid Warden, referring to the raid alarms, told our representative: "Our A.R.P. responded with immediate readiness. They are one and all acting magnificently. They were on the spot in full numbers."

He said that though practically every one had obeyed the black-out order there were a few lights showing through cracks and windows here and there. Residents on foot should walk to the front and back of their houses to make sure no light penetrates," said Mr. Nutbeam. The shopkeepers observed the order with a good effect.

When the first air raid alarm was given, many of the fifty children who had returned to the Royal Female Orphanage, Beddington, after the holidays, were sent back on Thursday. Others due to return on Friday remained on holiday, and most of their relatives had expressed the desire to keep them. Preparations for emergency had already been made at the Orphanage, however, the cellars had been specially fitted with asbestos coverings.

In accordance with the orders of the Board of Education, elementary and central schools, due to open on Monday, will remain closed for a week. Further details as to air raid opening will be announced by the B.B.C.

Private schools and secondary schools would normally have opened within two or three weeks. Some of the principals

Continued on page Two, Column One.



"Good-bye, Mum; good-bye, dad—see you soon"—a scene typical of the closing days of last week, when children were being evacuated.

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IDENTITY LABELS
You should carry about with you your full name and address clearly written. This should be on an envelope, card or luggage label, not on some odd piece of paper easily lost. In the case of children a label should be sewn on to their clothes in such a way that it cannot easily come off.

AIR RAID WARNINGS
Warnings of air raids will be given in towns and suburban areas by sirens or hooters. In some places the warning will be a series of short blasts and in other places a warbling or fluctuating signal which rises or falls every few seconds. The warning may also be given by police or air raid wardens blowing short blasts on whistles. Directly you hear any of these sounds you should take cover if you can. Stay in your place of shelter until you hear the "Raiders Passed" signal which will be given by sounding the sirens or hooters continuously for a period of two minutes on the same note.

If poison gas has been used, you will be warned by means of hand rattles. If

"I am Proud of the People"

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The Mayor of Beddington and Wallington (Ald. H. B. Smalley) sends the following message to the people of the borough:

"At this moment of crisis may I ask you to convey a message to the residents of this borough? War has been forced upon this peace-loving country, a war against which all our earnest efforts for peace have availed nothing. This country's repeated offers of impartial discussion, mediation, and of arbitration, have been refused or ignored; the plain and obvious reason being that no just and equitable settlement of the rival claims of Germany and Poland could be arrived at which would satisfy the 'senseless ambitions' of the former country, or more specifically its insane, unscrupulous and pagan leaders."

RIGHT VERSUS MIGHT
The issue is quite plainly might versus right, liberty versus brute force, and I submit that every man and woman who believes in liberty—liberty to work and play, to think and speak—yes even liberty to pray—must unite in fighting against the arrogant and wicked oppression of the Hitler regime until it is utterly destroyed.

Victory for the forces of Christian liberty, justice, and freedom is assured. Never doubt it. United we stand (and never was this country more united than it is to-day), and if everyone in this

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It should be remembered that the ordinary dwelling house offers a good deal of protection. The side walls, or one or two floors overhead, will stop most splinters. Remember that well constructed buildings are not easily brought down unless a big bomb falls very close indeed. People should not be upset by pictures of what happened to the poorer built houses

Sutton and Cheam United in the Challenge to Aggression

BRITAIN'S decision to fight the Nazi challenge of brutal aggression has united every man and woman in Sutton and Cheam in a common desire to see the victory of right over might, of liberty and peace over oppression and armed blackmail.

The Premier's momentous statement on Sunday morning that Britain was at war with Germany as from 11 a.m. that day was received with stoical calm in the borough. Several thousand people were at morning church service when the fateful news was broadcast to the Empire and, in most cases, there was an announcement from the pulpit. A minute or two later, the hushed congregations heard local air raid sirens shrieking their first war-time warning. There was utter calm and few people left the churches until the "All Clear" signal was given.

SUTTON and Cheam people's sense of loyalty and patriotism has never been in doubt. To-day, they are determined to serve King and country to their utmost in its war of liberation.

The borough has suspended normal social life in order to take its proper part in the noble task which now lies ahead. With all sections of the A.R.P. personnel manning their posts at full strength every minute of the day and night, the district is ready to deal with all eventualities. Preparations for safeguarding men, women and children in the borough have been perfected.

Volunteers of all kinds have responded by the thousand and all are now working in perfect harmony. Valuable co-operation is being received from the churches, who are placing their halls at the disposal of the borough A.R.P. authority for use as rest rooms, canteens, etc.

The borough's reaction to the first war-time air raid warning on Sunday morning was one of complete calm. People strolling in the streets hurried in orderly fashion to the nearest public shelter without the slightest trace of alarm. The same composure was shown by people at morning church service.

Some people left Sutton Congregational Church and made their way to public shelters, but the majority waited until the reassuring sound of the second signal was heard some twenty minutes later.

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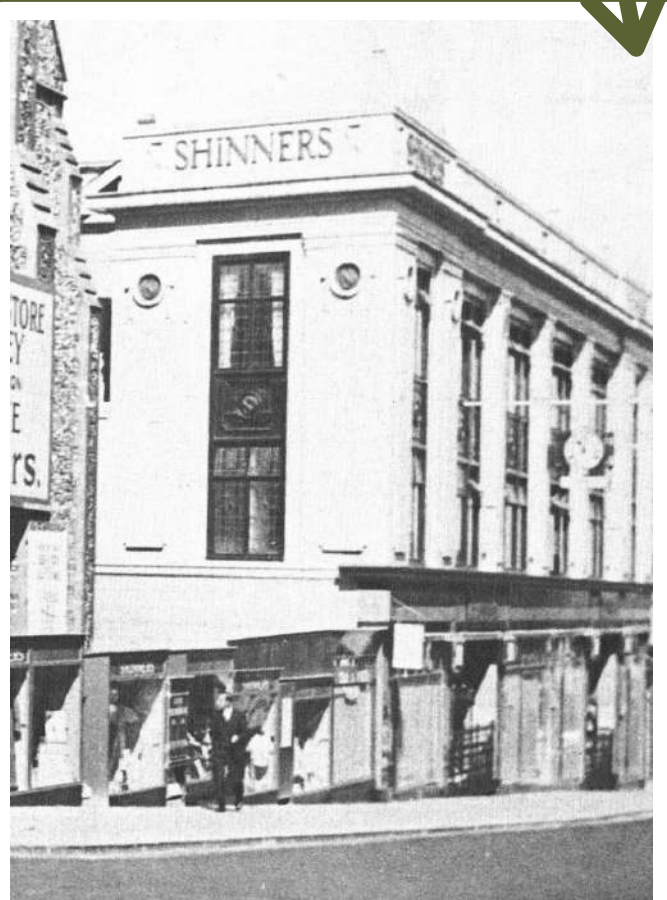
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Knocked down by a car on Tuesday evening near her home, Jean Chanter, Brooks-drive, Cheam, was detained in Sutton and Cheam Hospital suffering from multiple injuries.



'Shinnery's' was a large shop in Sutton. What was 'arriving daily'?

Why might people want to buy black-out materials?

Where were 'several thousand people' when war was declared?

How did people react when they heard the air raid sirens for the first time?

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If poison gas has been used, you will be warned by means of hand rattles. If

What were people told to write on their identity labels?

Where were children's labels supposed to be kept?

How were people going to know that an air raid was on the way?

How were people going to know that poison gas had been released?

2 Getting prepared



It was important for everyone to 'do their bit' at the start of the war. Even children!

Here are some Scouts filling sandbags.

What do you think the sandbags were going to be used for?

This photograph was taken on 24th September 1939. It shows some boys looking at a poster outside their school.

What did the poster tell them?

What do you think they might have been thinking when they looked at this poster?



How would YOU feel if you were in their position?

Air Raid Shelters

On 7th September 1940, London suffered its first air raid. Bombers from Germany would fly over to Britain with the aim of dropping flying bombs on British factories, airfields, businesses and homes.

The people of Sutton joined with others around the country in creating shelters that would offer them some protection if a bomb hit their home.

There were three main types of shelter in Sutton.

1. Morrison Shelter

This was named after Herbert Morrison, the Minister of Home Security. It was an indoor shelter which was made of a solid steel top and steel mesh on the sides. It was sold as a kit which could be bolted together inside the house. It was designed to stay on the ground floor of the house.

The shelter was designed specially so that it didn't take up too much space, ideal for small homes or those with small gardens. It allowed two adults and one child to sleep in it and had detachable sides so that it could double up as a table.

How was the Morrison shelter used here?



The Morrison Shelter at 19 Boundary Road, Wallington



Here is a Morrison shelter from Honeywood Museum.

How would YOU have used a Morrison shelter in YOUR house?

Draw a picture of where a Morrison shelter would have gone in YOUR home and how you could have used it.

2. Anderson Shelter

This was named after John Anderson, the Home Secretary at the time. He was put in charge of Air Raid Precautions in 1938.

The Anderson shelter was designed to be built in the garden. It was sold as a kit which was made from six, curved pieces of corrugated steel which were bolted together at the top. It would then be half buried underground.

Anderson shelters were very damp and cold and many people preferred to stay inside their homes during an air raid, despite the falling bombs!



The Anderson Shelter at 54 Melbourne Road, Wallington

The Anderson Shelter...in numbers!

It was designed to be buried **1 metre** underground.

Anyone who earned less than **£250** a year was given a FREE Anderson shelter.

1.5 million Anderson shelters were installed before war was even declared!

Up to **six** people could fit inside an Anderson shelter.

Anderson shelters were **6 feet** tall, **6.5 feet** long, and **4.5 feet** wide.

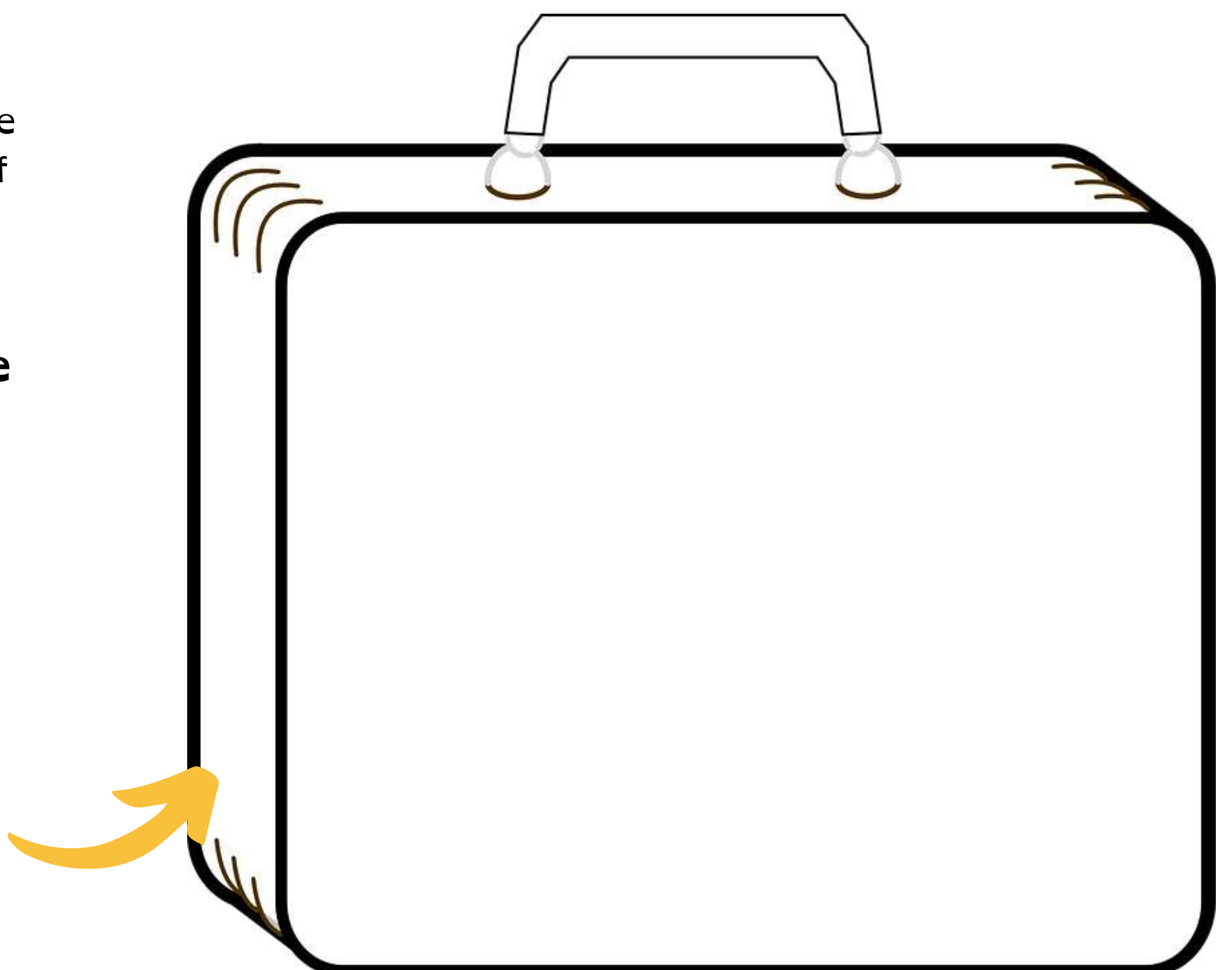
An Anderson shelter cost **£7.**

Imagine that the air raid siren has gone off. You are going to spend the rest of the night in the Anderson shelter.

What would you take with you?

Remember, it is cold, damp and dark in the shelter.

Draw what you would take with you in the suitcase.



3. Public Shelters

Of course, not everyone would be at home when an air raid began. Some people might be at work, some might be shopping, some might be at school!

This meant that large, communal, public shelters needed to be built too.

In March 1940, the government began building shelters so that members of the public could get to a shelter quickly.

Here is a painting of the public shelter in Grove Park in 1940. It was painted by the local artist and craftsman Frank R Dickinson.



Some of the people in the painting worked at Carshalton Food Office.

Can you match the name to the person?

The first one has been done for you.

Mr William Pugsley (in doorway facing left, carrying gas mask).

Mr Winkley (standing left of Mr Pugsley, facing front).

Mr Sidney Pride (standing in profile with trilby hat).

Mr Leese (standing to the left of Mr Pride).

Mrs Andrews (seated next to Mr Leese).



This photograph shows some ARP wardens from Cheam.

What do you think ARP stood for?

A: _____

R: _____

P: _____



4

The Home Front



Air raid wardens rescuing a woman from a bombed building.



Nurses at the Wallington First Aid Post



The Home Guard parading through Wallington



The AFS (Auxilliary Fire Service)

During World War 2, lots of ordinary people took on very special jobs to help the war effort. Some of them were paid but many of them would continue with their full time jobs as well as volunteering to save lives and defend the nation.

Can you match the wartime task to the group?
The first one has been done for you.

Home Guard		AFS (Auxiliary Fire Service)		ARP Wardens				
Make sure that everyone was keeping to the 'blackout'. This meant making sure that no lights were visible which could be used by enemy planes to help locate bombing targets.	Set up stations in local schools, garages and factories.	Defend important targets like factories, ports and explosive stores in case of an enemy invasion.	Check people's identity cards to make sure that they were not a spy.	Make sure that everyone got into shelters when the Air Raid siren sounded. This would often put them in great danger from bombs and pieces of shrapnel.	Be prepared to slow down the enemy if we were invaded.	Extinguish fires that were burning due to enemy bombing.	Arrive first at the scene of a bombing. They would be responsible for giving First Aid and organising the emergency response.	Patrol the fields where they thought enemy paratroopers might land in the event of an invasion.



The corner of Lavender Road and Bernard Road in Carshalton.



Two bombed houses on Croydon Road, Wallington



Wallington County Boys' School after a direct hit.



A boy in a bomb crater in Wallington Green.

5 'Wings for Victory' week



Wings for Victory parades in Sutton (top) and Cheam (bottom)

The Wings for Victory campaign was held in 1943, from March onwards, to raise money by encouraging civilians to save their money by buying 'War Bonds'. It saw week long events in towns and villages all across the country.

With the loss of 12,000 bomber aeroplanes during the course of the war, the government needed money to build replacements.

This was a huge fundraising effort which included parades through major towns.

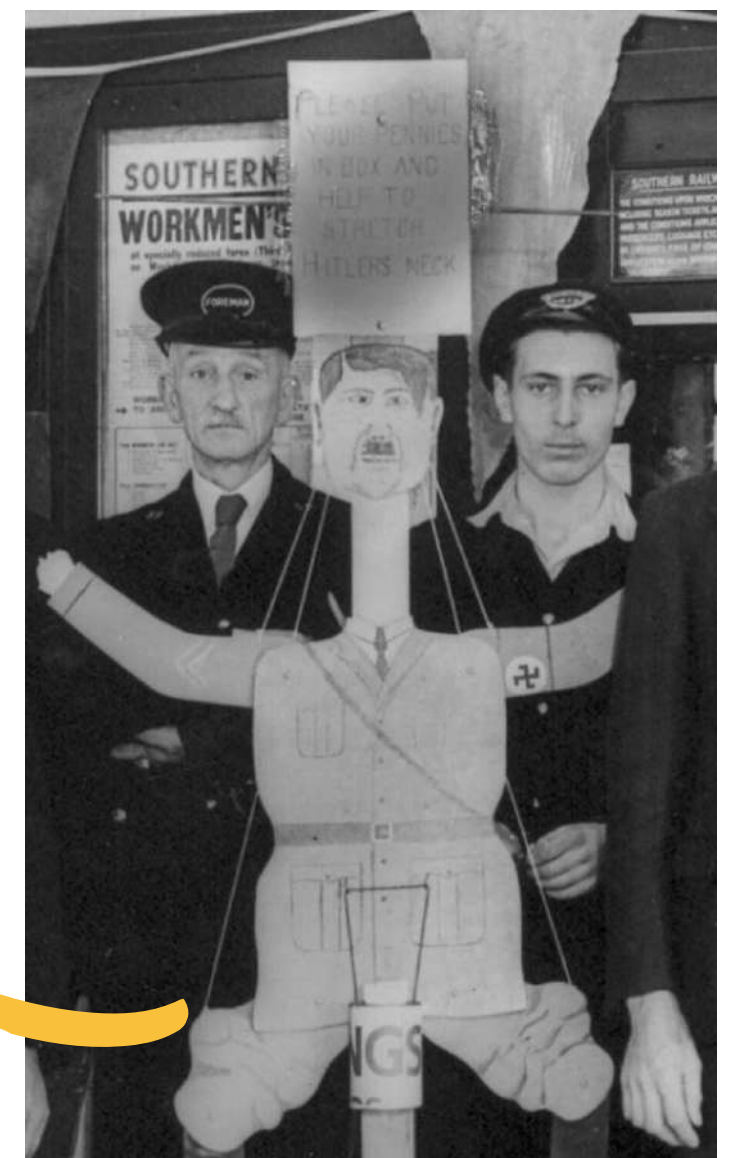
'Wings for Victory' came to Sutton in May 1943.



A model Spitfire in Carshalton Ponds.



A fundraising stall at Wallington Station with a game of 'Stretch Hitler's neck'.



Design a 'Wings for Victory' poster

Design a poster advertising 'War Bonds' to raise money for new planes for the RAF.

Use words and phrases like...

Bring victory nearer!

Buy a bomber!

They can't do it without you!

6 VE day celebrations



On 8th May 1945, Germany surrendered and the war came to an end. Peace was officially declared and VE (Victory in Europe) day was celebrated. It was declared a national holiday!

Residents from all over the borough rejoiced at the news and celebrated in style.



Elmwood School
VE day party



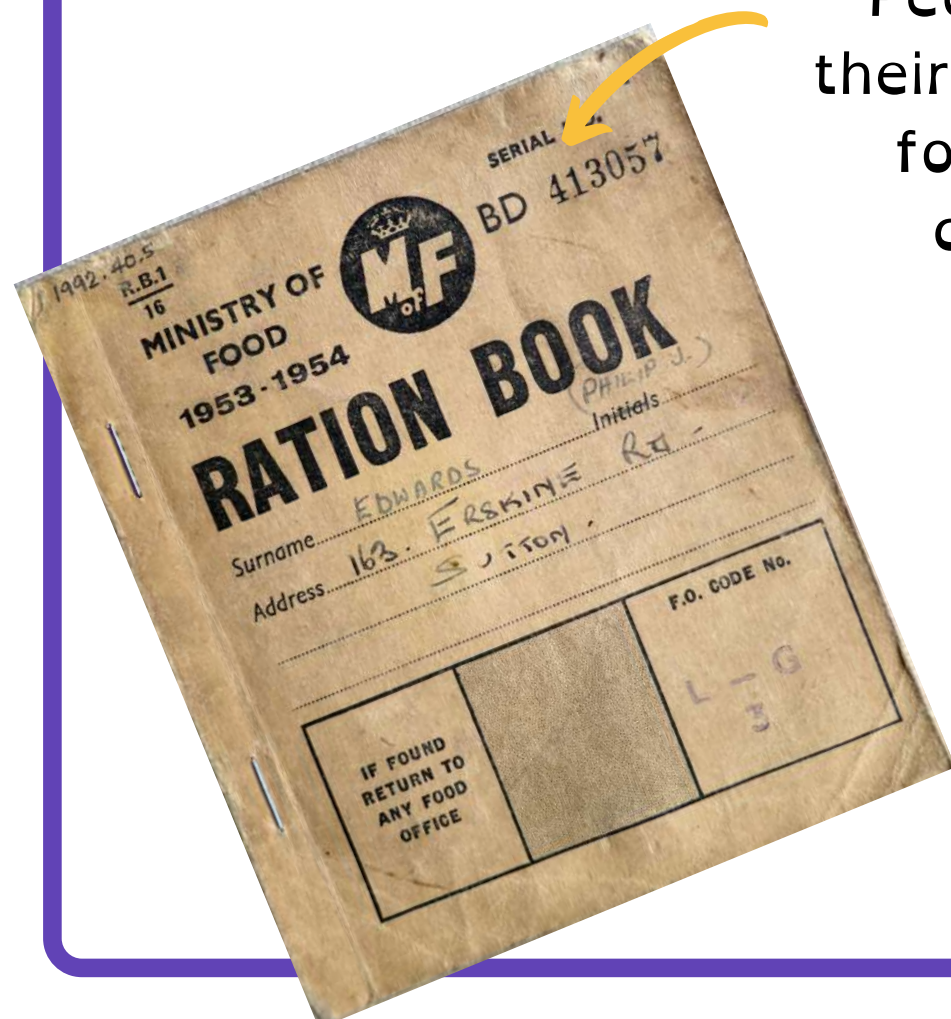
Elm Grove Street party



William Road Street party



Lots of people celebrated by having street parties with their neighbours. They made delicious party food like Eggless fruit cake and Potato scones.



People saved up their weekly rations for the VE day celebrations

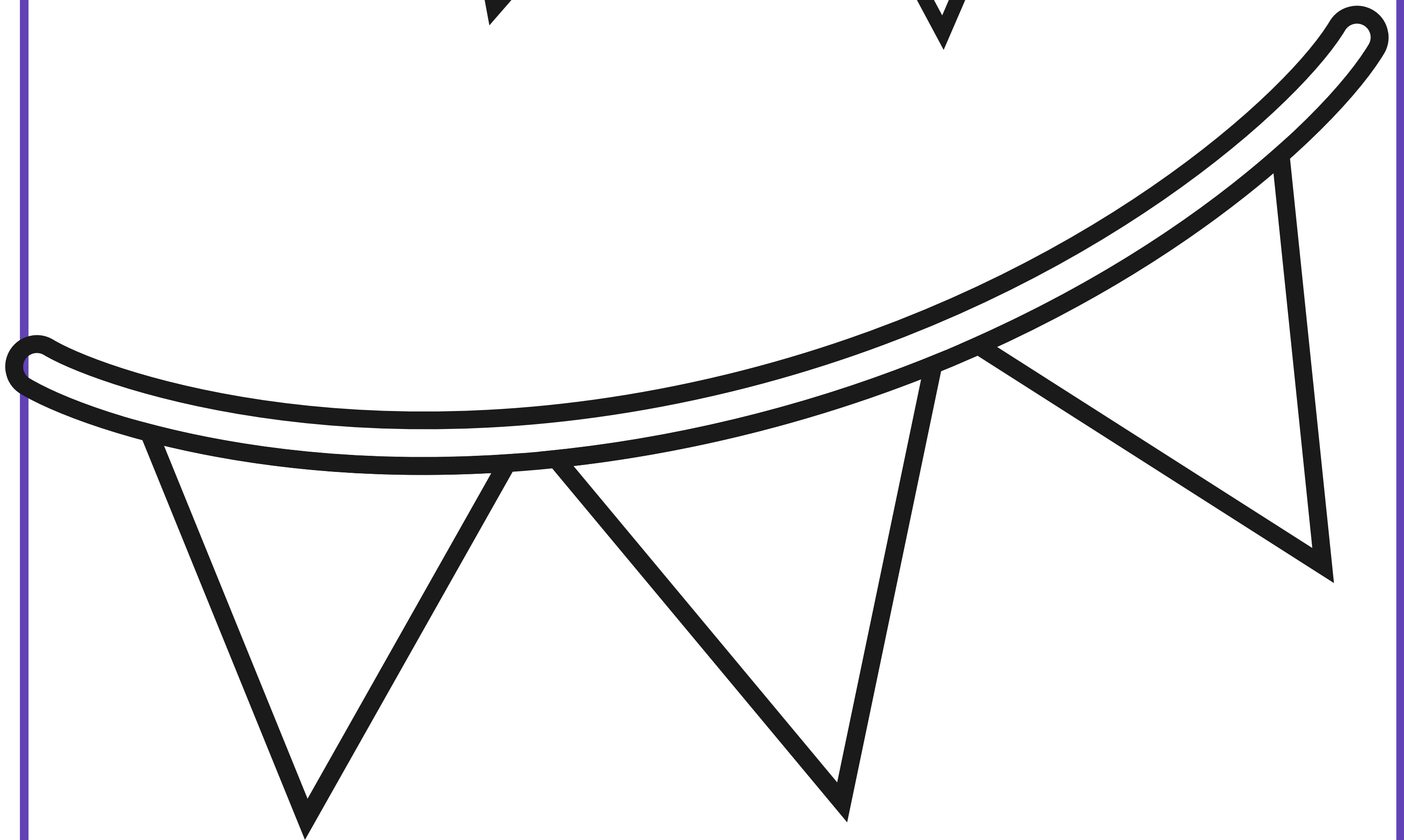
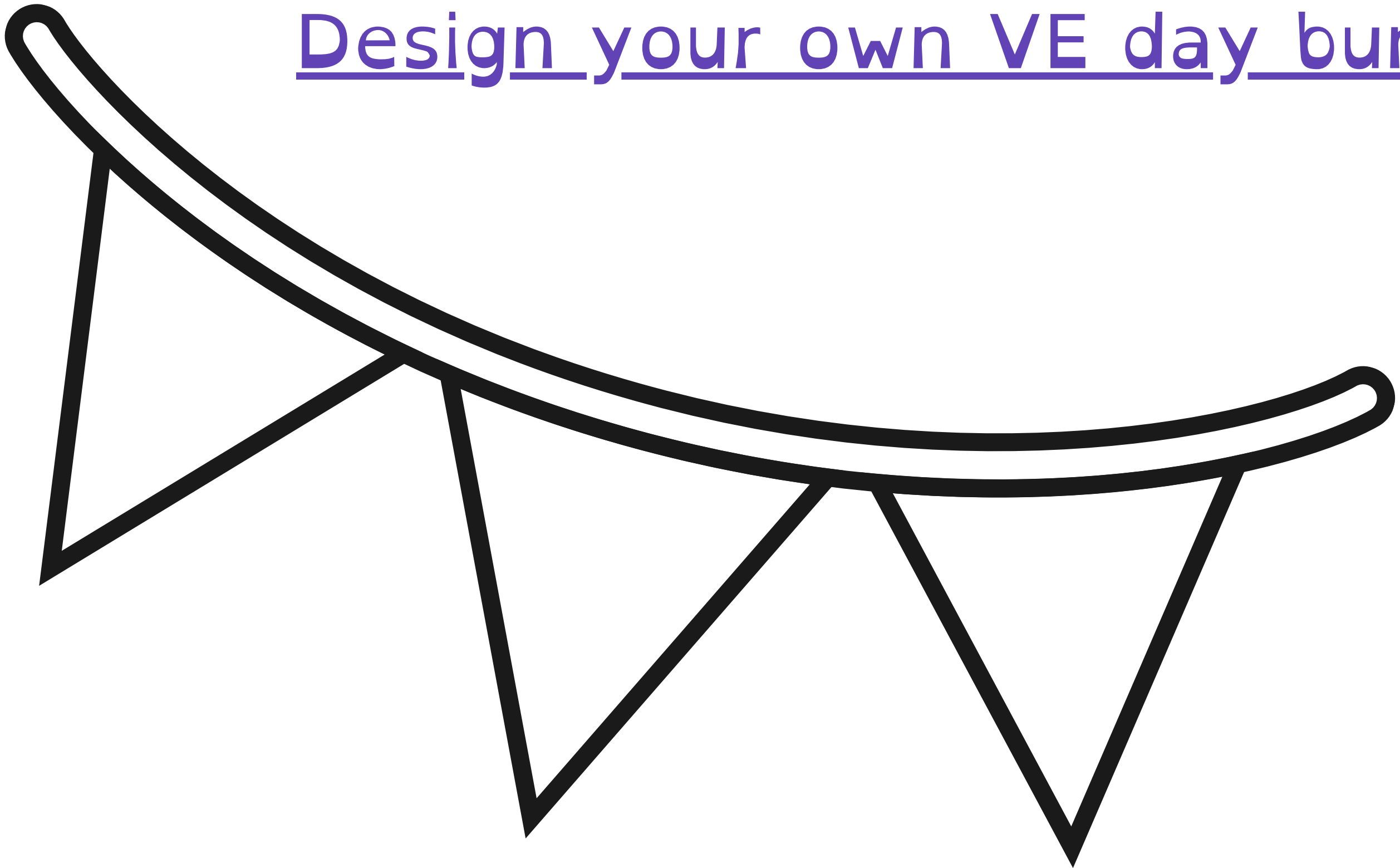


These children in Sutton built a huge bonfire to celebrate.

What can you spot on the bonfire?

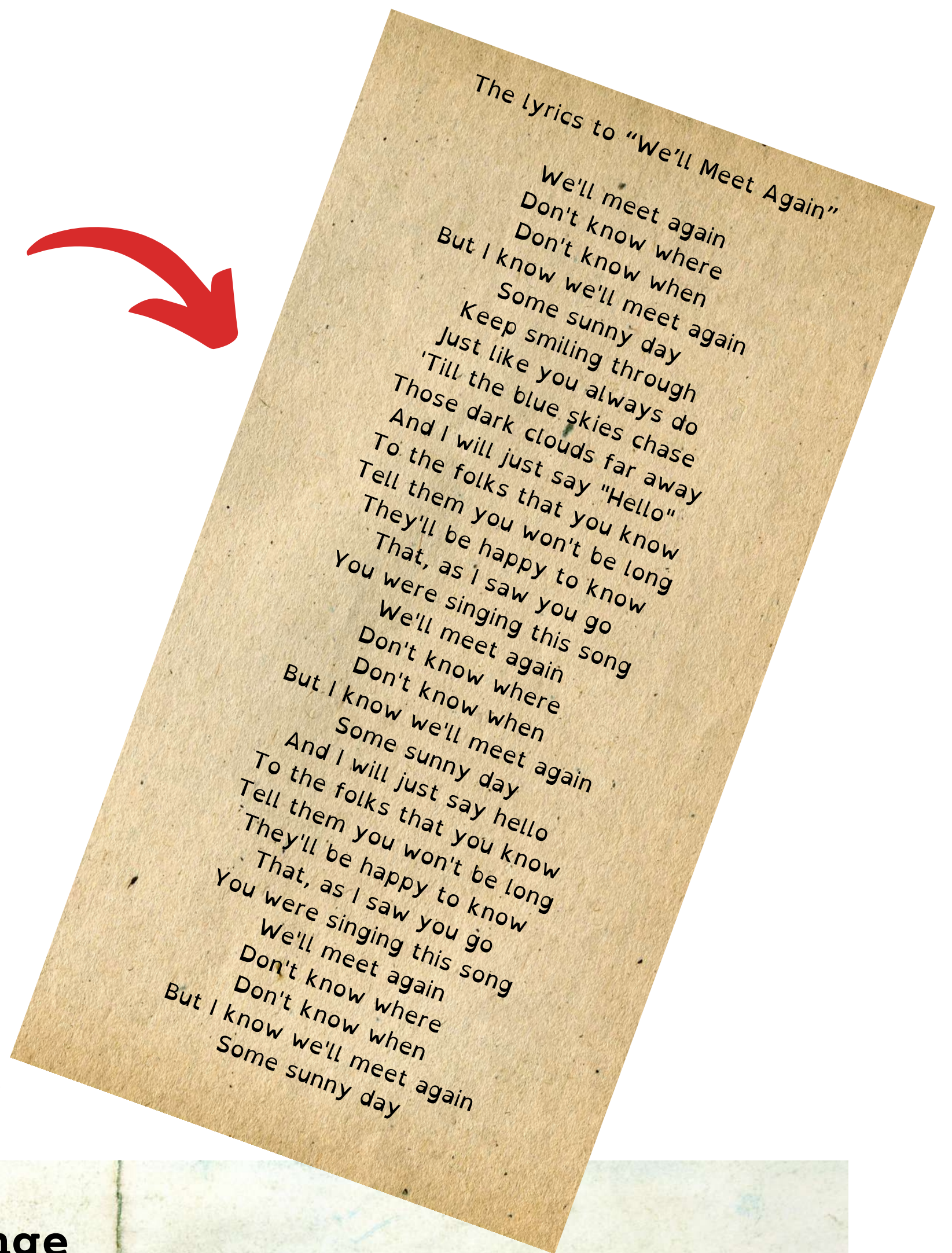


Design your own VE day bunting



Ways to celebrate VE day at home

Learn the words to
'We'll meet again' by Vera
Lynn and join in the
national sing-along at 9pm
(if your parents let you
stay up that late!)



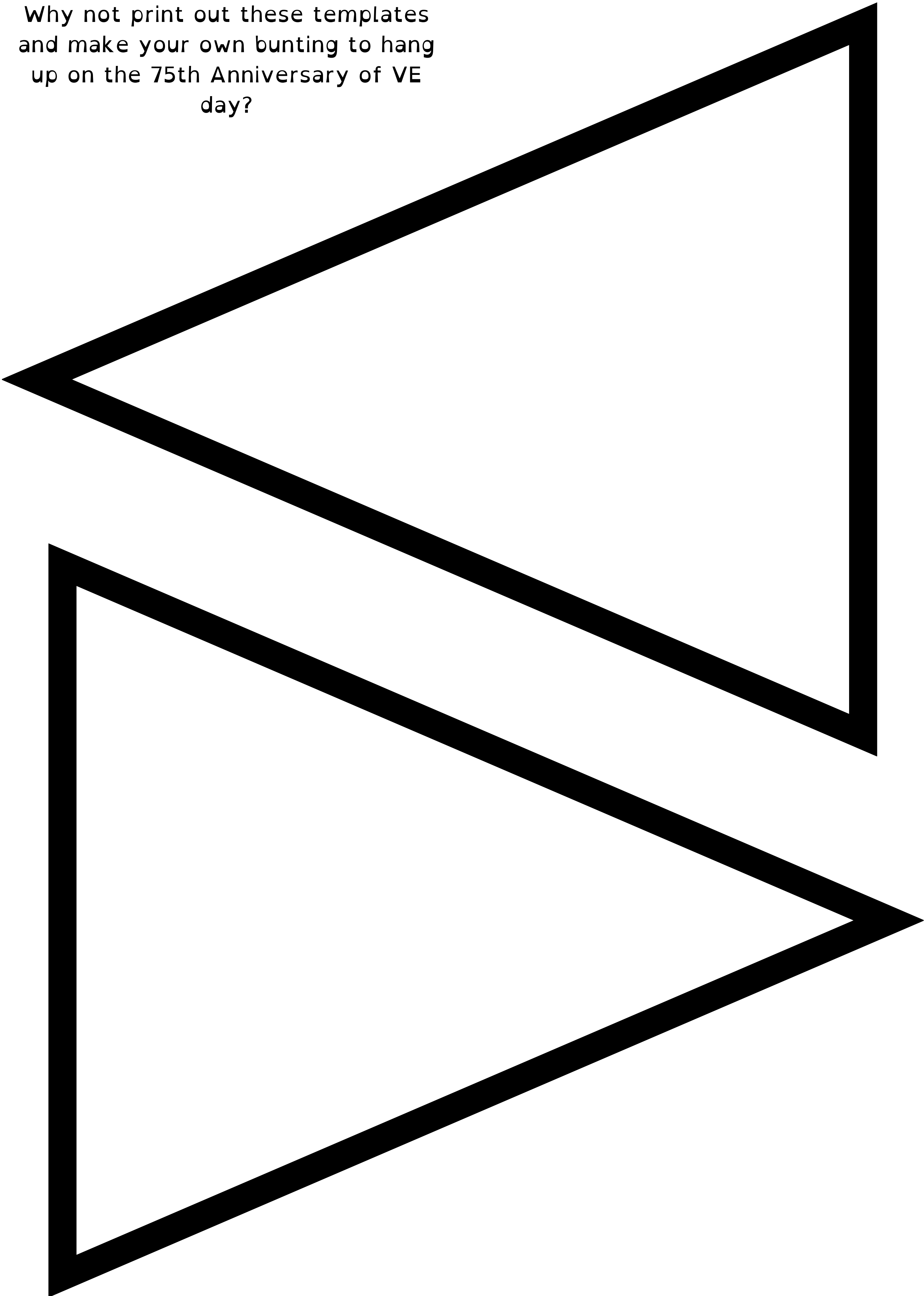
Bake an Eggless Sponge

Ingredients:

1/2 pint of cold tea (no
milk)
3oz butter
3oz sugar
3oz sultanas
10oz wholewheat flour
4 tsps of Baking powder
1 tsp of mixed spice
1 tsp of Cinnamon

- 1) Put the tea, sugar, butter and sultanas in a saucepan. Gently heat it until the butter melts.
- 2) Let the mixture cool down.
- 3) Mix in the dry ingredients.
- 4) Grease a 7 inch cake tin
- 5) Pour the mix into the tin and bake it in the oven for 45 mins at 180 degrees.

Why not print out these templates
and make your own bunting to hang
up on the 75th Anniversary of VE
day?



Answers

Mr William Pugsley (in doorway facing left, carrying gas mask).



Mr Winkley (standing left of Mr Pugsley, facing front).



Mr Sidney Pride (standing in profile with trilby hat).



Mr Leese (standing to the left of Mr Pride).



Mrs Andrews (seated next to Mr Leese).



A: Air
R: Raid
P: Precautions

