

## WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM THIS?

Overton was not unusual. It would have been much the same story in any other village.

What shines through is how the war disrupted everyone's lives, young and old. Many had to leave their homes and families to serve in the armed forces or to support the war effort. Those who remained served their village and their country in countless ways.

Many others found themselves in Overton when they would rather have been somewhere else. The village welcomed them all – the Bank of England, the Lordsfield Boys, other evacuees, the Land Girls, British and American troops and prisoners of war.

They all just got on with it, made the best of it and everyone 'did their bit'. They grumbled about all the restrictions, of course, but they knew what was at stake. Fascism had to be defeated, come what may. Some paid a heavy price and for others the war was a terrible experience best forgotten.

The war had the effect of improving the status of women in employment and loosening the old class structure. After the war, those who had contributed so much demanded a better way of life – better wages, better housing, better schools and better health care. The scope of the welfare state and the power of the unions increased. The way of life of the 1930's had gone forever. This was a new and very different world in an era of change.

Seventy years on, we remember the sacrifices they made with gratitude.



Some things do not change  
The Overton 'Olympic' torch  
bearers in Bridge Street, June  
2012

Photograph: John Hodge.

This exhibition is presented by

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If you have more information or photographs please contact me. Please also tell us if you think we have got something wrong.

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