

WILMSLOW IN WW2 : VE DAY

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WILMSLOW'S V E DAY BONFIRE

FLAG bedecked Village

"Wilmslow's Victory in Europe bonfire was lighted in The Carrs on Tuesday night, and it illuminated the sky brilliantly.

It was a well-set piece, seen at its best a few minutes before midnight. Several thousands of people stood round the burning mass with fireworks sending out sparks and bangs. It was the most articulate expression of the people's joy manifest during the day. Late as hour was even babies in perambulators were there in numbers, and it was great for youngsters of walking age and upwards. Popular songs were taken up by sections of the crowd, and there was a continual coming and going until after midnight.

Wilmslow received the victory news quickly. There was tension throughout Monday, an air of expectancy. With few exceptions the residents remained indoors to receive first-hand news over the wireless. Then came the "flash" of information, and on Tuesday reverted to the old scenes, queues, pedestrian and traffic hustle and bustle. Many of the shops remained open all day, but there was a more general holiday on Wednesday.

Never has more bunting and colour been seen in the village, New flags and old helped to adorn the village streets, and make up for the wartime lack of paint. Fairy lamps chiefly representing the letter “V” were arranged in various colours. Styal held a “spot” of flood lighting and decorations were more general.

On Tuesday the cinemas were filled, and thanksgiving services the Churches and Chapels in the area were very largely attended.

Mr Cunliffe and Mr Jones entertained children in the Moor Lane area to a bonfire and a display of fireworks on Tuesday night, in the course of which an effigy of Hitler was burnt. The youngsters received presents of sweets and ice cream. On Wednesday neighbours provided the children with a tea party.

Next Sunday evening there is to be thanksgiving service in The Carrs at three o’clock. The procession will set out from the Green Hall half an hour earlier as the service is sponsored by the civic authority.”

If you would like more details of Wilmslow History Society please contact 01625 540917

WILMSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY