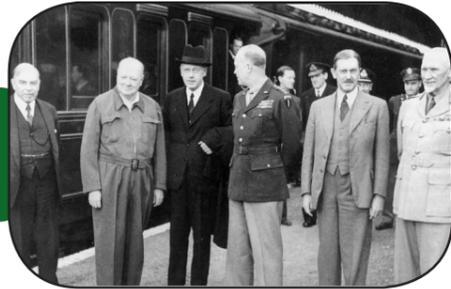


D-DAY AT



DROXFORD

70 years on, a solitary bench marks historic site where D-Day plans were finalised



TWO TEENAGERS sit on a bench beside a picturesque bridle path, oblivious of the drama played out there 70 years ago.

Now picture this scene 4 days before D-Day in 1944.

The muddy track on the left carried the Meon Valley railway line 26 miles from Fareham to Alton.

The one on the right was known simply as Up Siding No 1.

On June 2, 1944 Winston Churchill's wartime train arrived at the rural Droxford Station 200 yards back up the line with the Allied leaders on board.

The carriages in LMS livery were shunted into the siding and stood there for 48 hours, protected by trees and a deep cutting.

Then the train, codenamed 'Rugged', steamed back to Waterloo and Droxford's tiny station - now in private ownership and beautifully restored - returned to its bucolic slumber until the line was finally closed in 1962.

Today, only the bench marks the spot where the leaders conferred and put the final touches to the greatest invasion in military history that was to liberate Europe from Nazi tyranny.

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PRESS RELEASE

D-DAY AT



DROXFORD

- 2 -

We are planning a week of events to mark the 70th anniversary on June 6 and the organising committee invites you to join in and relive a unique part of our village's history.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Wednesday, May 28	Visit to D-Day Map Room at Southwick House, 1pm.
Friday, May 30	Churchill in Droxford - the decision which influenced D-Day. Talks by Lord Stoneham of Droxford and Tim King. Droxford Church, 7 for 7.30pm.
Thursday, June 5	History of Droxford Station and its role in D-Day. Presented by Tony Williams. Droxford Church, 7pm for 7.30pm.
Friday, June 6	Royal British Legion (Droxford & District Branch) Summer Drinks Party. Wallops Wood House.
Saturday, June 7	Displays, re-enactment etc (see below for full details).
Sunday, June 8	1940s Tea Dance. Droxford Village Hall, 3pm to 6pm.

Who says history is boring?

In conjunction with Droxford Country Fair, an exciting climax to the series of D-Day events will take place in and around the Parish Church on Saturday, June 7.

- Meet the D-Day leaders - Churchill, Eisenhower and de Gaulle - played by local people
- Watch them arrive in a convoy of WW2 Jeeps, trucks and a staff car to open the Fair
- Kids will love rides on carriages hauled by a LMS steam train as it puffs away from a replica of Droxford Station
- Look skywards and you'll see a flypast by a Dakota, gliders and other aircraft
- In the church, Fareham Model Railway Club will operate their 33ft long 00-gauge model of the Meon Valley Railway, there will be an exhibition of historic pictures associated with Droxford's part in D-Day and project work by children at Droxford Junior School

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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