

A Newton Abbot Resident Remembers World War II

Entertainment

Dances were held in St Mary's Hall, Highweek Road or the Courtenay Restaurant. There were tea dances at the Spa in Torquay. The music was the big band sounds, especially Glen Miller, the American band. Vera Lynn was the forces sweetheart and many songs were about the war, like "Run Rabbit Run" and "We'll Hang out the Washing on the Siegfried Line".

Music while you work started and was broadcast to factories making planes, bombs etc. to help the workers.

The Pavillion in Torquay had a concert hall and resident orchestra and we went to hear many famous concert pianists play there, such as Eileen Joyce, Maura Lympny, Dennis Matthews and Cyril Smith. Such plays as Shaw's "St Joan" and "Arsenic and Old Lace" were performed, plus many others.

The RAF cadets danced at the Spa ballroom and the arcades were once a very upmarket restaurant called Addisons, where anyone who was anyone went for tea! Travel was very restricted and buses and trains were always very full. You were not permitted to travel long distances without a permit. The Decoy bus ran about every two hours.