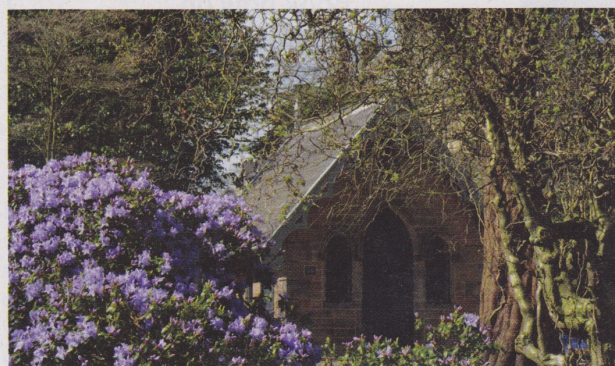




Danielle Parker with G.I.s



The restored magnesia well pump room



Wall plaque on the pump room

# Celebrating the wartime spirit

An annual 1940s fun day has helped restore a precious piece of Harrogate's history. Words and photographs: Roy Hampson

Entry was free and it was a chance to jump, jive, dress up, sing 'roll out the barrel' or simply listen to 1940s big band music with youngsters on stage, enthusiastically singing the morale boosting songs popular in war weary Britain.

Vintage and military vehicles were on display at the Valley Gardens 1940s day at Harrogate at the end of June along with memorabilia stalls and children's activities. No ration books required, there was plenty of hot food, beer and a Pimm's tent, plus teas, cakes and tombola. Locals and visitors were invited to 'do their bit' to capture

the wartime spirit by attending the event in 1940s garb. The annual event has developed into a major attraction in the Harrogate calendar. It was conceived five years ago by the Friends of the Valley Gardens to raise funds to restore an old gothic building located within the Valley Gardens known as the 'Old Magnesia Well' pump room. Work is now complete and the surrounding area has been cleared of dense undergrowth and beautifully landscaped with flowers and plants suited to thrive in the boggy ground. Visitors were able to see the Grade two listed building restored to its former glory.





A little lad who is a big wheel





Lubelle Rose posing for pictures





Leader of the band



Posing with members of the French Resistance



Dancing and flag waving

“The event has developed into a major attraction in the Harrogate calendar”

Until recently the structure went largely unnoticed and was barely visible because of the overgrown shrubbery. Built in 1858, this small, attractive building is the very reason the Valley Gardens exist today.

It was a popular destination for fashionable Victorians, who would spend hours queuing outside to sample its not very appealing ‘health giving’ spring water. Known as the ‘cure’ and claimed to cure everything from lumbago to gout, the water smelt of rotten eggs, and possibly left its patrons feeling rather sick afterwards. Nevertheless, its clients clamoured for more. With its woodland ►