**Their Finest Hour Project 6/23**

**What is it?**  A history project run by the University of Oxford to create an online digital archive of people’s experiences during WW2. It is to be completed by June 2024 and will be free to access.

The u3a has agreed to encourage members to contribute.

Artefacts will be photographed and stories typed.

**Who can contribute?**

Surviving children and anyone with family or other relevant stories.

**What is involved?**

If you are IT confident, you can put your data directly onto their website : **theirfinesthour.org**

There are national **Digital Collection Days** for those who need help. Our nearest will be held in Worthing in September.

**Preparing data for the Website**

Take clear photos of your items on a white background (eg paper) using your mobile phone or tablet. Label and put into a labelled folder.

Type out your story, label, save it and put into the folder

A friend or relative may be able to assist you with this.

Instructions and advice are on the website for uploading files.

The maximum upload is 1 GB

You will be asked for your contact details but these will be hidden on the website. Any enquiries from researchers will not come to you, the university will contact you first to see if you wish to accept any enquiries.

There is an optional questionnaire on modern attitudes to WW2.

**A Day to Remember Winifred aged 12**

On Saturday 18th May, 1940, Winifred was in Westminster, London. She was visiting London from her evacuated convent school in Kettering, Northants. Her family flat, behind the Tate Gallery, was ten minutes away from Westminster Cathedral, where her eldest brother was due to be ordained as a catholic priest that day.

The tenth child of eleven children, most of her older siblings, apart from a married sister, were also away from home, involved in the forces or vital war work. The family were very concerned that her brother Micheal was missing in France with the Expeditionary forces and the Dunkirk retreat was underway. His twin sister kept insisting that he was alright.

As the family were entering the cathedral, a neighbour came running up with a telegram that said Michael was back in England, to everyone’s relief. It didn’t mention that he was very ill with dysentry, having marched down to Cherbourg to get across the Channel. He lived to fight in India and become a civil servant in the Department of Education.

This parchment souvenir card is one of those given to family members who attended my uncle’s ordination that day

