



WAR AT STOKE BRUERNE

David Daines reporting:

The weekend of the 3rd and 4th of October saw Stoke Bruerne under strict military control, with recurrent air raid warnings and occasional checking of papers and passes. It was the **Village at War** event and a major part of the overall atmosphere was the presence of some 15 historic boats, any of which could easily have been present on a typical day during WWII.

The weekend really started on the Friday evening when David Lowe put us all truly in the spirit playing topical 1940s hits on the piano in The Boat Bistro for us all to sing along with. I find it amazing that David can just 'launch' into so many tunes, with just a list of song titles before him. The weekend was opened by the Prime Minister, Mr Winston Churchill with his personal detective Mr Walter Thompson in attendance. For the weekend, the school hall became 'Jo Lyons Tea Room', serving cakes and tea and shewing public information



films on how to cope with the emergency. At regular intervals over the weekend, Miss Lola Lamour beguiled us all with her singing, many of the hits most of us profess to be too young to remember, from a small stage just outside the air raid shelter. The well known 'cheese boat' did a roaring trade, claiming that none of its goods were 'black market', they sold out by Sunday afternoon. On the Sunday the airwaves rang to a very different sound as a Sea Hurricane 'buzzed' the village, the sound of a Merlin engine is so distinctive that many of us were alert and ready long before the aircraft actually appeared.

Clair and Iain represented the Club with our sales stand and our Christmas cards were

justifiably popular. Three previously 'lapsed' members re-joined us during the weekend, and one new member joined, you are all most welcome. We all look forward to next year's event, assuming of course the war is not won and finished by then, I understand the news from El Alamein is very encouraging.



Historic boats present were: **Aldgate, Angel, Barrow, Corona, Cyprus** (with my wonderful 'new' engine), **Dodona, Fulbourne, Gilbert, Planet, Plover, Nutfield, Raymond** and **Victoria**, plus boats that live at Stoke Bruerne, **Canis Major, Jubilee, Sculptor** and **Towcester**.

Photos: David Daines