

WSR 1940's Weekend on 15 & 16th September 2018

- If you want to take part and are a WW2 military vehicle owner, re-enactor, home front or 1940's civilian display, etc. you can book in for free and come along and take part by using the Trader & Participant Registration Form (below). Sorry no Axis/Russian forces as we are recreating what West Somerset was like in the 1940's.
- The 1940's dance on the Saturday night at Minehead Station under the canopy will cost £10 if you have booked in with a Participant Form and ordered in advance. If not its £15 on the gate. If you would like to travel to the dance by train it cost £5 both ways. The train runs from Bishops Lydeard at 6.45pm calling at all stations and arrives at Minehead at around 8pm. It will leave Minehead at 10.45pm again all stations to Bishops Lydeard.
- The Liberty Sisters will be singing at the dance, the Quantock Brewery is supplying the bar and the Café will be open as well. We are also working on a 'pop up' hair dressers in a carriage on the platform for the evening.
- Other singers will be there during the two days at various places including May Blossom & Ricky Hunter.
- The military freight train hauled by the WW2 USA S160 Freight loco 6046 will run from Minehead each day at 11.15am and then returning from Bishops Lydeard at 3.15pm. We plan for it to stop at Watchet for 10 mins or so, so the many people around the town get a chance to take photos, etc.
- Minehead will have a large military vehicle display including Home Guard, re-enactors and hopefully some larger vehicles including a large AA gun.
- Blue Anchor will be decked out and we are hoping to have the pill box manned with Home Guard.
- Washford will host the US 1 Division & US 29th Infantry Division re-enactment groups along with a US Field Hospital.
- Watchet will be busy with the town car park in front of the station, the Esplanade (harbour front) & Swain Street hosting civilian, home front & military displays of various types and more re-enactors. Many of the local shops are also entering into the spirit of things with 1940's themes.
- Stogumber will be home of a Land Girls display and if Mike can bring his AA gun along we can mount it on the newly cleared Cattle dock along with some re-enactors.
- Bishops Lydeard will be home of the RAF display with full size replica Spitfire, military vehicles and Trade Stalls.

- Its planned for all stations to be prepared for air raids with masking tape and sandbags (I'm just about to order a 1,000 !!!)
- Camping will be available at both Bishops Lydeard and Watchet so if you are going to the dance you can get to Minehead and back on the evening train and have a drink or two.
- Winston Churchill and King Edward will also be travelling around the WSR so they will pop as and when they want to inspect the event.
- We are still looking for military vehicles to travel on the freight train, if you have a vehicle you could lend us please let me know. We can cover your fuel to get to Minehead, get you a pass to travel on the freight train in a brake van with your vehicle or a footplate pass if you prefer to have the experience of being on a steam engine over the length of the line.
- For steam enthusiasts, SR Bullied Pacific, Braunton should be at Bishops Lydeard available to view on Saturday before its run out on the mainline on Sunday. It's currently in disguise as 34052 Lord Dowding so has a temporary military connection.

Of course everything is subject to availability