

80th Anniversary of VE Day - Box Primary School Homework

The 8th May 2025 is the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE Day). In assembly we looked at how the people of Box celebrated this day and Sycamore, Chestnut and Beech interviewed John Hunt who lived in Box during World War 2. For homework I would like you to explore what Box was like during the Second World War by going on a trail round Box.

The map shows Box in 1939, at the start of the War. You need to find the places circled in red on the map and then answer the question associated with each place. I would give yourself an hour to do questions 1-9. If you need help with the answers or want to know more, then please visit <https://www.clairedimondmills.co.uk/box-trail-answers>.

Children must be accompanied by an adult and please cross the road sensibly and safely.

1. Five German airmen were buried in Box Cemetery. There is a plaque and the cross that marked their grave in the chapel. How old was the youngest airman?
2. How many men from Box are recorded as losing their life in service during World War 2?
3. Bingham Hall was the centre of village life during the war. It was an emergency assembly point and an information centre as well as holding dances and concerts for keeping up morale. The Hall has been knocked down and replaced with Bingham House. Walk down the drive, what type of stone bird is watching the house?
4. 96 children were evacuated to Box in 1940. What do you think the Methodist Church was used for?
5. Box Home Guard (men too young or too old to serve who were responsible for the defence of the village) were based at the British Legion Club. What is the name of the family who built the house (look up)?
6. The school clock was silenced during the war and the windows were covered in tape. Why do you think this was done?
7. The village siren was located here. What was the purpose of the siren? Where in their house would people shelter?
8. On 6 August 1945 a Peace Commemoration Fete was held on the Old Fete Field. What is on the Old Fete Field now?
9. There is a pillbox (a concrete structure for military defence) next to the entrance of Box Tunnel (access through Millennium woods). Why did Box Tunnel need protecting?
10. Do you know anyone who was alive during the Second World War? What do they remember about life during the War? Do they remember VE Day 1945? How did they celebrate? If you can, write down their memories and share them with your class.

Disclaimer - Claire Dimond Mills and Box Primary School take no responsibility for any accident that may occur while you are taking part in the trail.