

# Villagers' tales are recorded

A COLD War submariner has helped preserve the memory of men and women from three Oxford villages who served their country in times of war.

Robert Forsyth was the CO of HMS Alliance – and consequently a trustee of the RN Submarine Museum – as well as being XO of HMS Repulse, CO of HMS Sceptre from launch and Teacher to the Perisher course.

But now, with Michael Allbrook, Robert has recorded the stories of some 600 men and women from Deddington, Clifton and Hempton, under the title *A Parish at War*.

The tales go back as far as Waterloo, and include the names and experiences of those who kept the home fires burning as well as those on the front line.

The Royal Navy is represented, an example being baker's lad Sid Berry, now deceased, who became a naval cook; he was sunk in the destroyer HMS Mashona, was involved in the raid on the Lofoten islands, the hunt for Bismarck, Malta and Arctic convoys – and applied for transfer to submarines to be safer...

*A Parish at War* is due to be published in Remembrance week, and is available at a price of £12.50 from Cdr R Forsyth RN at The Stile House, New Street, Deddington, Oxon OX15 0SR, or email [robert.a.forsyth@gmail.com](mailto:robert.a.forsyth@gmail.com)

Further information about the book – along with archived research material – and how to order it is available at [www.deddington.org.uk/history/worldwars](http://www.deddington.org.uk/history/worldwars)