

## **Didcot and District Archeologically and Historical Society**

### **Talk by Bill King November 2016**

#### **Dads Secret Underground Army**

Could you keep a secret?

Lie to your love ones?

Live underground for 2 weeks?

All this while you country is occupied by Nazi Germany.

A fascinating talk on a subject which up to now not a lot of information has been available to the general public possibly due to the official secrets act signed by the former members of the Auxiliary Units as they were known.

Bill set the scene by describing the build up to the start of the Second World War, with Adolf Hitler coming to power in Germany and his quest to recover all the land lost by Germany after the First World War in the Treaty of Versailles. As German forces swept across Europe by May 1940 the German Army had reached the English Channel and the UK was under treat.

Winston Churchill suggested a select band of people should be brought together to form a resistance movement that in the eventuality of the invasion taking place they could work behind enemy lines to slow down the enemy advance by blowing up bridges, railway lines and assassinating senior German Officers . The lifespan of these volunteers would be no more than 2 weeks.

As it was the invasion never took place and by November 1944 the allied victory was assured ,so the auxiliary units were stood down.

It has only been recently that we have learnt more about these brave people.

Both men and woman received their training at Coleshill house on the Oxfordshire /Wiltshire border.

I'm sure everyone present enjoyed such an informative talk.

You can find out more about this organisation by visiting [www.coleshillhouse.com](http://www.coleshillhouse.com) and [www.staybehind.com](http://www.staybehind.com)

David Taylor

Chairman