

**Redland Past Revisited for the Redland Directory - No. 18**

**Remember, Remember the twenty-fifth of November?** © Julian Lea-Jones 2008

For many of the younger temporary residents of Redland the 5<sup>th</sup> of November provides another opportunity to let off steam with the help of ever louder fireworks. However the resulting concussions that echo around Redland must remind older residents of another November anniversary, celebrated only by survival. I refer to the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1940, the second day of the first Blitz.

Miss Wensley of Zetland Road, writing for the Bristol Siren about her wartime experiences as a teacher told of her schoolchildren's reaction to one of the first raids. Before the raid her class of about thirty infant children had been practicing solo singing. Interrupted by an air-raid siren, Miss Wensley led her young charges to the safety of the Air-raid Shelter, deciding that perhaps community singing might help take their minds off the horrors outside. For nearly half an hour that seemed like a century, although terrified, (they were only six), no one cried and all put on a brave face and sang every song they knew until the 'all clear' was sounded. – That is true bravery. **I wonder if any of our readers was one of those children. If so we would love to hear from you.**

Read about other acts of wartime bravery in Chapter 12 of 'Bristol Curiosities', or book my illustrated talk "Bristol Underpins New York", (for details of at least Twenty-five talks go to the 'Services' button. on [www.history4u.info](http://www.history4u.info))

