

Volunteering for action

We have recently seen the way so many people have volunteered to help in the present situation.

There are so many roles to fill not only those on the front line but also behind the scenes aiding the work being carried out. It was no different during the Second World War.

The Civil Defence Service was a national scheme set up in 1938 and disbanded as the war ended in 1945. Due to the large numbers of the population enlisting or being evacuated, the Civil Defence posts were filled with the people who stayed behind and volunteered.



Bolton Civil Defence Service personnel c 1940s

Bolton was no different to any other British town, having its own system run from Bolton Town Hall where the main report centre and control room was located

There were nearly 2 million civil defenders around the country during World War Two. They played a vital role in protecting people and saving lives. Many volunteers

signed up as air raid wardens, first aid personnel or as stretcher bearers with fire and ambulance teams.



Training stretcher bearers. The exercise was probably part of preparations for World War II civil defence. unknown location.

You can find out more information about the Civil Defence Service by downloading *A Brief History of Civil Defence* (2005) by Tim Essex-Lopresti.

<http://www.civildefenceassociation.org.uk/HistCDWebA5V5.pdf>



1940's rescue personnel in uniform, possibly at Bumden Park, Bolton