

Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945

RATIONING

Remembering rationing in Harting

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At home, while coping with the terror of doodlebugs and such, people had to get used to rationing. Sugar, butter, eggs, sweets and chocolates were all in short supply as were Spam, dried egg and milk powder, which all came from America. Many Harting residents kept a pig from which they got an allowance of meat after slaughter, the rest went for rationing and Mrs Hill, in New Lane, made meat pies for sale in the shop. There were no bananas at all. The government opened restaurants with set menus and prices and you could get a simple but nourishing meal for one shilling. Portsmouth had one such restaurant as did Chichester in the Assembly rooms. Clothing coupons were in force and there were very strict rules about the style of clothes. For example: although turn-ups on men's trousers were very fashionable, they were not allowed as it wasted material.

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