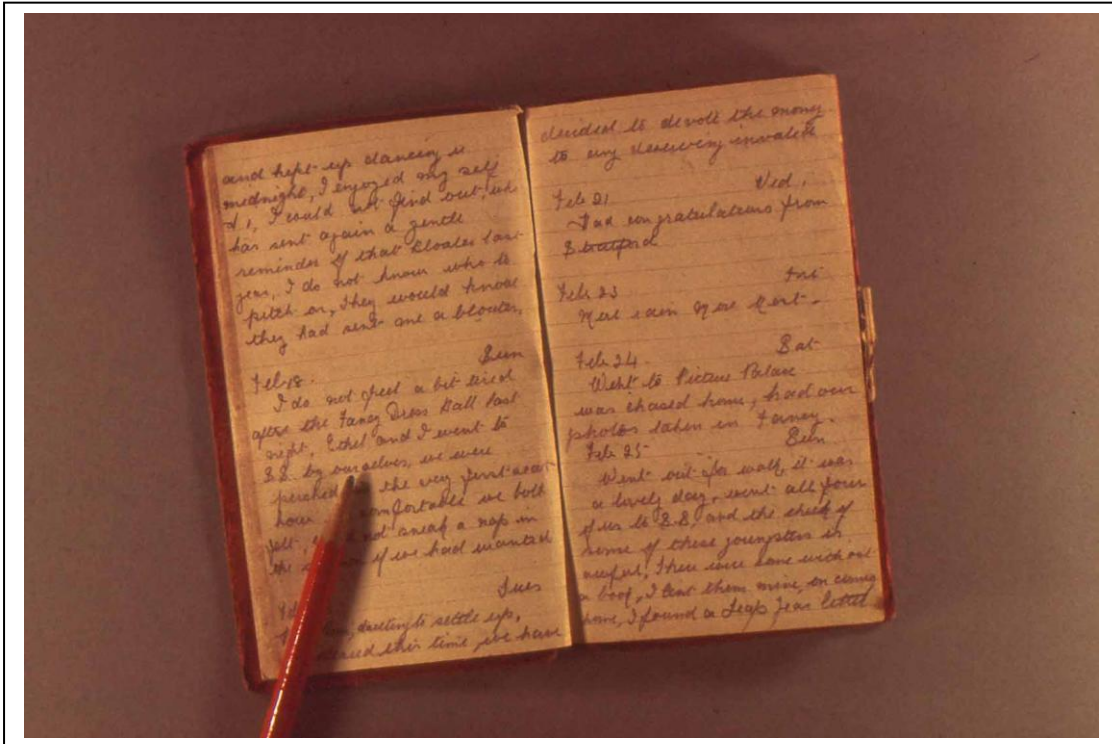




Nellie Smith's diary extracts

Nellie Smith worked in the Sewing Room at Wolverton Railway Works, but she lived for her concerts and pageants with Stantonbury Girls' Club. She kept a diary, and recorded the entertainments and her courtship by 'H', whom she later married.



Saturday 12th June 1915: Rose Day, fancy dress parade and concert

"At last our Rose Day has arrived. What a beautiful morn, up at 5.30 about fourteen of us met at 7.30 all dressed in white and dark red roses, we all flattered ourselves we looked "extra"! Met the workmen at 8.15 outside the [Wolverton Railway] Works Gates. Felt horribly confused at first but - what one can get used to! We all sold ours in a few moments. If only we had got thousands of roses!

Called for H. [Harry] and walked down with me. What a fix we were in: no roses had arrived. We were all busy counting the girls' money. Went down Rec. [Bradwell Recreation Ground], helped until 1pm with car. Procession started at 2.30. How fine our girls looked behind Britannia's Car with our Allies: France, Belgium, Russia and Italy. Had tea down Rec. Saw a little of concert. Ethel and I came home to prepare for ours.

6.00pm: our 'Grand Concert' came off, there were a great number of people there. Went off extra-specially so, after the struggle we had in preparing for it. Went back to W. [Wolverton] with H. still in the Club. At 10.30pm, called in school to hear results, but did not gain much news. So ended a very happy day."