



10 activity ideas using Alton Haypun At War

1. Stanley's Letter Home

Write a letter from Stanley to his parents in London describing what Alton Haypun is like (see Letter 2: 'The Evacuees' in the letters page of the Alton Haypun at War member's area to help with some clues as to how he might be feeling – you will need to login to the website for this).

2. Village Life or City Risk?

Compare and contrast Alton Haypun with a big city in wartime Britain. Use the following page to help you understand what Alton Haypun is like.

[The Village | Alton Haypun At War](#)

It is also worth reading some of the letters sent from and received by residents of Alton Haypun which will give further clues about what it is like to

live in the village. (You will need to login to the website for this)

How does Alton Haypun differ from the cities? What is it about the cities that made them unsafe for children to stay there? Think about specific uses of the cities in wartime. Why were they targeted by enemy aircraft?

3. Blackout Detectives!

Using cardboard boxes, create houses with windows and a front door. Cut the back of the houses out to allow a torch or desk lamp to be shone from behind. Cover the windows and door with different materials to test which work best in the Blackout. Try paper, bin liners, card, fabric etc. Which one performs best? Think about how you can record your results. Don't forget to make the room as dark as possible when testing each material.

4. Alton Haypun TV

Prepare a TV interview with one of the residents of Alton Haypun (see [The Village | Alton Haypun At War](#) if you need help choosing a character). Once the questions have been researched and written, choose someone to role-play that character and

another person as the TV presenter to record the interview. You could record a series of interviews with various characters from Alton Haypun.

5. **Shelter Builders.**

Alton Haypun's Chief A.R.P. Warden, Charles Richardson, built the first Anderson Shelter in Alton Haypun in his back garden as an example for the villagers to follow. Make a model of the Anderson Shelter Charles built.

You can watch how an Anderson Shelter was built here: [BUILDING ANDERSON SHELTER IN GARDEN IN RUISLIP, 1940 \[Allocated Title\] | Imperial War Museums](#)

Or look at example images of Anderson shelters by searching on the Internet.

Alternatively, create a kitchen scene at Margaret Hurst's cottage in Alton Haypun to include a model of a Morrison Shelter. You can find more information about the Morrison Shelter and how it came into use here: [Morrison "Table" Shelter | Imperial War Museums](#)

6. Blackout Guidance.

Design a Blackout poster or leaflet for the residents of Alton Haypun telling them what the Blackout is and what they need to do.

7. Night-time in Alton Haypun.

Create a night-time silhouette scene of one of the streets in Alton Haypun using black paper for buildings and other features, and a dark blue background for the sky. What else could you include in your scene? You might want a Spitfire plane flying over the street, or a person making their way home. There may be an air raid happening on the horizon. How else could you bring the sky to life? Think about the different materials you could use.

8. Ration Recipe Card.

Choose a wartime recipe and design a recipe card for the residents of Alton Haypun. It should show them what the finished food looks like and give them instructions on how to make it. Think about how you can make it look and sound attractive to the residents of Alton Haypun. Remember many food items were rationed and the wartime diet was

limited. Recreating or renaming meals made things more interesting. What will you call your meal or food item? You could create a series of recipe cards and create an Alton Haypun Wartime Recipe Book.

9. Put Your Stamp On It!

Martha Smith, the Alton Haypun Postmistress, sees a lot of stamps in her daily work as she sorts and delivers the mail in the village. Design a new stamp for letters sent out from Alton Haypun during the war. It must include the King's head but otherwise, consider anything else you think would show what Alton Haypun At War is like.

10. Land Army Fashion

Look at the uniform worn by members of the Women's Land Army. You can find out about it here: [Uniform - Women's Land Army](#)

Design an alternative uniform to be worn by Alton Haypun at War Land Girl, Samantha Grainger. It must be fit for purpose and comfortable. Consider where pockets should be (if you decide to include them), how big the pockets need to be, how thick the material might be for the different parts of the uniform and for the weather! What will the badge look like? What about headwear and footwear? You

could create a series of different designs and have a miniature fashion show by making the uniforms out of paper or other materials and sticking them on to a cut out figure.

We would love to see your finished pieces for any of the activities you do. Send them to us and we will share them on our gallery page on the website (with your permission, of course).

Email them to us at altonhaypunatwar@gmail.com

We would also love to see any other pieces of work you do related to Alton Haypun At War. Perhaps you have come up with a different activity idea that you think other people might enjoy doing? Share it with us and we will credit you with the idea on our resources page.