



VE DAY 75

VILLAGE HALLS PROVIDE THE PERFECT LOCATION FOR THE VE DAY 75 CELEBRATIONS

Village halls provide the communities of England with ideal locations for local people to take part in the VE Day 75 celebrations taking place over the weekend of the 8th - 10th May 2020, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Town, Parish and Community Councils are taking the lead throughout England in the organisation of local celebrations marking the 75th Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe on the 8th - 10th May 2020. After six years of fighting, the end of hostilities in Europe were officially announced on the 8th May 1945 by Prime Minister Winston Churchill. That date has since become enshrined in history as VE Day.

VE Day 75, on the weekend of 8th - 10th May 2020, will be an international celebration of peace – a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions who played such a vital part in achieving it. This includes the Armed Forces personnel from many countries who gave their lives or were physically and mentally injured; the hard-working women and men who kept the factories, mines, shipyards and farms operating throughout the years of turmoil; the ARP wardens, police officers, doctors, nurses, firemen, local defence volunteers and many others safeguarded the home front.

SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity - which has been supporting service personnel, veterans and their families since 1885 - are the charity partner for this series of VE Day 75 commemorative events.

The planned activities over the weekend are as follows, please go to the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org to see the complete overview for this anniversary:

- The Playing of Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years
- The 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2'
- The 'Cry for Peace, around the World'
- Churches & cathedrals 'Ring out for Peace'
- Street parties and parties in pubs, clubs, Hotels, on town and village greens and in halls etc
- Services of commemoration and celebration in churches, including the reading of the 'Tribute to the Millions' and the playing of the Last Post

The following pages have a run down of the timings and further details of these events.

BANK HOLIDAY FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020 (designated a bank holiday by HM Government so all can partake).

3pm – Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years

3pm is the time Winston Churchill officially announced the end of the War in Europe from the Cabinet Office, 10 Downing Street, London, and to mark this unique occasion, pipers from around the world will open **VE Day 75** by playing the traditional piper tune, Battle's O'er, and the specially commissioned piece, VE 75 Years, at 3pm local time in the country they are in, paying tribute to the millions from home and abroad.

Battle's O'er will be played by pipers from the top of the four highest peaks in the UK - Ben Nevis, SCOTLAND; Scafell Pike, ENGLAND; Mount Snowdon, WALES, and Slieve Donard, NORTHERN IRELAND – and also at the five furthest points in the UK. Other unique locations include the Bridge over the River Kwia, Thailand, and at a number of sites that previously held concentrations camps during WW2.

All local towns, parishes and community councils are encouraged to you try and source a local piper to play at a location of your choice at 3pm. All pipers taking part can register their involvement at the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

3pm – The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2

Civic leaders and Chairman of Councils are being encouraged to lead their local communities in the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW II' paying 'tribute' by raising a glass of refreshment of their choice and toast the millions at home and abroad that gave so much for our freedom. This could be undertaken during a celebration in their village hall, from the steps of the Town Hall, the centre of a village green or town square, or other locations of their choosing. (Please see attached 'toast'). Please register your toast on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org

6.55pm – A Cry for Peace Around the World

Town Criers and members of local communities will be undertaking 'A Cry for Peace Around the World,' and will be performed at 6.66pm local time in locations around the world, starting in New Zealand. Town Criers and others from local communities undertaking this 'Cry' can register their involvement and download the official 'Cry' from www.veday75.org

7pm – Ringing out for Peace

Bells in churches and cathedrals will ring out at 7pm in a collective celebration of VE Day 75. The sound of church bells is deeply rooted in British culture; providing the grand soundtrack to our historic moments. This aspect of VE Day 75 could not be more appropriate, ringing out around the world to celebrate the peace we share today. Please encourage your local church to take part, registering their participation on the VE day website – www.veday75.org

12 noon onwards – Parties and Celebration

Parties and celebrations to take place in pubs village and community halls, clubs and hotels, on town and village greens and in our streets, bringing the communities of the nation together in common celebration and friendship. Those town and cities twinned with others around the world are encouraged invite them to join in this joyous occasion. Please register your party on the VE day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2020

Parties and celebrations continue.

SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2020

10.30am – Church Services of Celebration and Commemoration

Services will take place in cathedrals and churches throughout the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to celebrate the peace we share today and remember those who lost their lives or returned home dreadfully wounded. The services will also recognise the sacrifices of those who kept the nation fed and functioning during years of

turmoil, so please encourage your local churches to participate, involving other faiths too. Churches wishing to take part should register their involvement on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org

Tribute to the Millions & the Last Post

Those planning services will be encouraged to ask a representative from their local community to read out the Tribute to the Millions, which can be obtained from the DOWNLOAD page at www.veday75.org, and involve a local bugler, trumpeter or cornet player, to play the Last Post and Reveille. Participation can also be registered on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

We do hope that you will join other Town, Parish and Community Councils and take part in **VE Day 75** and honour those from your communities who served at home and aboard. Please be kind enough to register your involvement in one or more of the events by going to the VE Day 75 Website – www.veday75.org as soon as possible or by no later than 1st May 2020. Registering enables us to keep in touch with you, update you on progress, and inform the media of your participation nearer the time, as well as letting local people know what is happening in their area. Please can you also promote VE Day 75 and the three days of commemorative celebrations on your own website, parish magazines, notice boards and social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Those that have already registered are being respectfully requested NOT to register again.

My warmest regards,

Bruno Peek

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR
Pageantmaster VE Day 75
Tel: + 44 (0) 7737 262 913
Email: brunopeek@mac.com
Website: www.veday75.org

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