LET THE MEMORY LIVE ON

VE DAY 70TH ANNIVERSARY
RECREATE THE SPIRIT OF

VE DAY

8-10 MAY 2015
ON 8 MAY 1945, BRITAIN ERUPTED INTO JOYFUL, EUPHORIC CELEBRATION. THE EAGERLY AWAITED NEWS HAD FINALLY ARRIVED – WAR WAS OVER. GERMANY HAD SURRENDERED AND VICTORY IN EUROPE WAS ASSURED.

The historic significance of this life-changing day can never be overstated. Years of austerity, fear and sacrifice were at an end. The untold suffering of millions could finally begin to lift.

To this day, the memory of VE Day lives on, and these 70th anniversary celebrations will once more bring our Second World War veterans together to relive a story that should never be forgotten. This is why VE 70 is such a historic, national event.

NATIONAL EVENTS

There will be a series of national events taking place over the weekend of 8-10 May commemorating the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

To find out more please visit: www.gov.uk/veday70

The Royal British Legion will be playing a pivotal role in national commemorative events throughout the country over the weekend of 8-10 May, and we will be doing all we can to encourage as many people as possible to get involved.

Across the UK, local communities will be celebrating, sharing, remembering and coming together to honour those who lived and fought through the war.

Pay your tribute to this heroic generation by bringing your friends, family and neighbours together to celebrate. Please join in to bring the spirit of VE Day to life, and to recapture an unforgettable moment in history.
BRINGING THE SPIRIT OF VE DAY TO LIFE.

If you remember VE Day, or know someone who does, you won’t need reminding just how extraordinary the atmosphere was.

Otherwise, perhaps you can remember how people lined the streets for the Royal Wedding in 2011, the carnival atmosphere of the Queen’s Silver and Diamond Jubilee celebrations, or the swell of national pride generated by the hugely successful London Olympics in 2012.

VE Day 1945 was all this and much more – and we are keen to bring that spirit back to life for VE 70.
“I CAN’T WAIT TO SEE MY NAN’S FACE WHEN WE START PLAYING THE MUSIC SHE LISTENED TO ON VE DAY – I KNOW SHE’LL WANT TO START DANCING!”

Sarah, 35
Sarah is organising a vintage tea party in her living room where her grandmother will be the VE Day ‘veteran’ guest of honour.
MAKE IT YOUR VERY OWN

HERE ARE JUST A FEW WAYS YOU CAN MAKE YOUR VE 70 CELEBRATION A DAY TO REMEMBER.
Organise a 1940s’ style tea dance and encourage vintage dress.

Hold a VE Day event in your local community hall, with music, songs and food from the 1940s. Everyone can bring along something to eat, drink or play.

Have a go at trying to recreate some hairstyles from the 1940s.

Organise a community singalong of wartime songs.

Invite local face painters to paint Union flags on children’s (and adults’!) faces.

Get everyone together in a local park to create the shape of a human ‘V’.

Eat for Victory! Use ration recipes to create food for your celebration.

Hold a VE Day street party – it’s really not that complicated to organise!

See the Government’s new quick guide (see page 09) that removes any red tape or burdens from your planned fantastic celebrations.

Organise a sports tournament.

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"WE HEARD THE NEWS ON THE RADIO, AND I REMEMBER CELEBRATING WITH MY COMRADES BY DRINKING A LOT OF WINE ON A BARGE!"

George Skipper, 92
George Skipper was in Hamburg in Germany when victory was declared. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1947.
GUESTS OF HONOUR

ANYONE WHO EXPERIENCED VE DAY 1945 FIRST-HAND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A GUEST OF HONOUR – INVITE THEM ALONG!

Welcoming people who lived through the Second World War, along with their friends and families, will help us show our appreciation for these special people. Make sure they know they are VIP guests for the day.

They might have been:

- In the Armed Forces or reserved services
- A shipyard worker
- A firefighter
- In the Land Army
- In the Home Guard
- A transport worker
- A nurse
- A doctor
- A policeman or woman
- Family of a member of the Armed Forces
- A young evacuee

“...IT WAS LIKE NO OTHER DAY THAT ANYONE CAN REMEMBER.”

Mollie Panter-Downes, New Yorker Magazine
THINKING OF HOLDING A STREET PARTY?
HELP YOUR CELEBRATIONS GO WITH A SWING

You might like to contact:
- Residents from the same street or block of flats
- Parish groups
- Sports teams
- Youth groups
- Faith groups
- Choirs
- Student groups
- Schools
- Women’s Institute Groups

You can also visit our online Poppy Shop for additional VE Day products, such as mugs and tea towels that can help your celebration go with a swing.

www.poppyshop.org.uk

You can order the following items for a suggested donation via www.veday.org.uk:
- Bunting, 10 metres – £3.00
- Balloons, pack of 25 – £2.50
- Flags, packs of 50 – £2.50
- A3 VE Day event posters pack of 5 – £1.00
- A2 VE Day event posters pack of 5 – £1.00
IT’S EASY TO ORGANISE!

Organising a street party for residents and neighbours is easy. Just remember to:

- Plan early
- Share jobs out among neighbours
- Contact your council at least four to six weeks in advance

Check out the following websites for helpful tips and guidance:

Streets Alive: www.streetparty.org.uk

The Big Lunch: www.thebiglunch.com


You DON’T need:

- A licence
- To pay fees
- A formal risk assessment
- Expensive insurance
- A food licence

Make it safe for everyone. Please do think about health and safety – but remember, it’s mainly common sense. Follow manufacturers’ guidelines when using any equipment and think about whether you need people supervising any aspect of your event.

You don’t need a formal risk assessment for a street party, but do make sure you have plans in place to keep people safe.

Visit the Health and Safety Executive website for more information:

www.hse.gov.uk

For more guidance on best practice, visit:

www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/managing-an-event
THERE’S NOTHING LIKE THE TASTE OF FAMILIAR FOOD TO BRING BACK MEMORIES.

“Me and my family, together with some of our neighbours, are creating a lunch buffet using ‘ration recipes’ that will feature all our veterans’ old favourites. I’m looking forward to hearing their stories.”

Jim, 55
Jim is organising a ‘ration lunch’ for the Afro Caribbean Veteran Association at his local community centre.
IF YOU AREN’T PLANNING TO ORGANISE AN EVENT YOURSELF, WHY NOT FIND OUT WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN YOUR LOCAL AREA AND FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OR GET INVOLVED?
HELP US ENSURE THE NATION’S VE DAY STORIES LIVE ON.

Please help us ensure their memory lives on! From 8 April, the Legion will be creating a huge online collection of memories and stories from VE Day to make sure these important moments are never lost or forgotten.

We want to hear from everyone who was there, and for you to share your story. So ask your neighbours, parents and grandparents what they remember from that incredible day, and upload their stories to our dedicated site so they can be shared with the nation.

Upload the story at:
www.veday.org.uk
SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion spends £1.4 million each week providing practical, emotional and financial support to the Armed Forces community.

Last year, John celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends at Galanos House in Warwickshire, a Legion care home for ex-Service people and their dependants, where he’s lived since 2009.

“The carers and accommodation are superb, and my family visit regularly.”

Whether it’s residential care for veterans, money and careers advice for Service leavers or helping families cope with the loss of a loved one, we are here to help.

If you plan to sell ration recipe cakes, charge for face-painting or a teadance, sponsor someone to dress up, or have an entrance fee for your local VE Day event, please consider donating funds to support the vital work of the Legion.

If you choose to raise funds to support the work of the Legion, please contact our supporter careline on 0845 845 1945 or your local Community Fundraising Manager via: www.britishlegion.org.uk

You can send donations to:
VE 70, The Royal British Legion, c/o, Valldata House, 2a Halifax Road, Melksham SN12 6YY or online at www.veday.org.uk

Warner Leisure Hotels will also be hosting VE Day celebration parties at their 13 country and coastal hotels across the UK.

A THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Coventry Building Society, Warner Leisure Hotels and Marks & Spencer have all kindly agreed to make VE Day pins available. A suggested donation of £2 would be much appreciated for the pins – with 100% of the proceeds going into Legion funds.

Westminster Collection will be launching a free VE Day medal, with £1.50 post, and packing, and will donate 50p to the Legion for each medal that’s claimed. Available from the end of April, for details visit www.freevedaymedal.co.uk
MODELS AND EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES USED THROUGHOUT ARE REPRESENTATIVE AND NOT ACTUAL.