

TOTTON AND ELING TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee	:	Amenities Committee
Date of Meeting	:	15 th January 2025
Subject	:	VE and VJ 80 th Anniversary Celebrations
Report from	:	Town Clerk

Members maybe aware that it is the 80th Anniversary of VE Day on 8th May this year and also that of VJ Day in August.

After initial meetings with the Royal British Legion they have indicated that they would very much like to mark both events but unfortunately have no funding available. The Council have been asked if they are able to facilitate and or financially support any commemorative events.

The Royal Pageantmaster has made some recommendations/suggestions for anniversary celebrations, as attached, and Members are asked to consider funding any suggested/recommended events discussed by an appointed Working Party, in conjunction with the RBL.

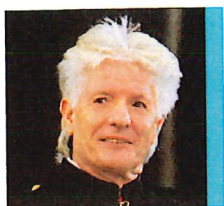
Any recommendations for events suggested by the Working Party would be brought back to Committee for approval. Budget approval would also be sought from the relevant Committee.

RECOMMENDED that

- (a) The Council appoint 5 Council Members for the formulation of a VE & VJ Celebratory Events Working Party.
- (b) Approve any funding for suggested/recommended events.
- (c) Suggestions for celebratory events, together with any funding budget from the Working Party be brought back to Committee for approval.

VE DAY 80, A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION, 8 MAY 2025

Beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace, flags of celebration, church bell ringing, theatre shows, garden and street parties



Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR – Pageantmaster, provides the latest update on the arrangements for the upcoming VE Day 80 anniversary celebrations on 8 May 2025, encouraging all town, parish and community councils to take part.

Thursday 8 May 2025 is the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, marking the end of WWII on 8 May 1945. To help celebrate this enormous event, I am encouraging the lighting of beacons and lamp lights of peace at 9.30pm, the raising of a unique VE Day flag at 9am, and, where possible, hosting parties throughout the day in the streets, gardens at home, churches, villages, town halls, pubs, clubs, hotels and all manner of locations throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories. I also encourage the eating of fish and chips in tribute to the fisherman that fished the seas, constantly avoiding mines and prowling German submarines; farmers and land girls who toiled the fields not knowing if loved ones would return, keeping the nation fed; and the millions that paid the ultimate sacrifice during these dreadful dark days of war.

VE Day 80 Flag of Celebration (9am)

The Nation will come together at 9am on 8 May, by raising the official VE Day 80 Flag, uniting the Nation in remembering the sacrifices made by the many millions throughout WWII. I encourage all town, parish, community, city, borough, and district councils, as well as other organisations to take part in this simple act of celebration.

Ringling of church bells (6:30pm)

I encourage all cathedrals and churches to take part in the Nation's bellringing at 6.30pm. Please can participants register their involvement by emailing me directly at brunopeek@mac.com, providing name of country, county, city/town/parish, cathedral/church, contact, and email address.

VE DAY 80 beacons (9.30pm)

There are four types of beacons being lit for the occasion (more information can be found on our website www.veday80.org.uk/beacons):

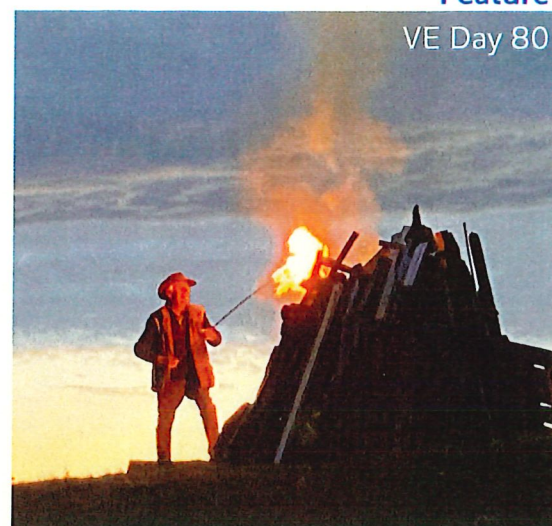
- Bonfire Beacon
- VE Day 80 Bishops Frome Strawman
- VE Day 80 Beacon Brazier
- VE Day Gas-Fuelled beacons

VE Day 80 Lamp Light of Peace (9.30pm)

The Lamp Light of Peace was conceived and created to pay tribute and remember the thousands of miners who left their families and loved ones, and the coalfields of the UK, to dig tunnels under the German lines on the Western Front. If you are lacking resources or land to light a beacon, then I encourage you to purchase one of these lamps, which is a cost-effective alternative and an ideal way for local councils and communities to take part. We would like the lamps to be lit at 9.30pm, coinciding with the lighting of the beacons. They can be re-lit again at 11am on 11 November in 'Remembrance' for many years thereafter. Please visit <https://lamplightofpeace.co.uk/> for more details.

VE Day 80 Tribute (9.30pm)

All those taking part are being encouraged to stop what they are doing at 9.30pm, as the beacons and lamp lights of peace are being lit, to read out the Nation's Tribute by a nominated individual. Also, for the first time in the history of our great Nation, to sing the wonderful, uplifting hymn - 'I Vow To Thee My Country'.



The Four Peaks - Mount Snowdon, Scafell Pike, Slieve Donard and Ben Nevis

Four Pipers will be playing 'Celebratum' from the top of the Four Peaks at 12pm, which has been especially written for this historic occasion by Stuart Liddell MBE.

Schools and theatres

During WWII theatres became bolder and much more popular. Many musical songs became great hits throughout the country, mostly comedies to lift the spirits of the audience. I encourage all schools and theatre groups to undertake theatre shows replicating what took place in theatres during WWII. Please can participants register their involvement by emailing me directly at brunopeek@mac.com, providing name of country, county, city/town/parish, school/theatre, contact, and email address.

VE Day 80 street and garden parties (throughout the day)

Even though Thursday 8 May 2025 is not a public holiday, we encourage you to hold street, garden and village hall parties, decked in flags and bunting, and dressing up in fancy dress or uniform. We also encourage care homes, pubs, hotels and restaurants to undertake similar.



VE Day 80 Empire Medal Pin Badge

Empire Medals has crafted a beautiful pin badge to celebrate VE Day 80, which can be purchased and worn by individuals during the build up to 8 May, on the day itself, and many days thereafter. More information is available at <https://www.empiremedals.com/>.

VE Day Celebration Cake

The Women's Institute (WI) have come up with a VE Day 80 orange and ginger celebration cake. It is a simple and classic bake. The recipe for this delicious cake can be found on our website www.VEday80.org.uk.

Promotional tips

- **Invitations:** Extend an invitation to your HM Lord Lieutenant, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, local dignitary, or a young person, to light your beacon or lamp.
- **Social media:** Use the power of social media channels to promote your involvement and post photographs of your beacon lighting and any other activities you're taking part in.
- **TV, radio and newsprint:** Contact your regional and local TV and radio stations and newspapers, informing them of your involvement.

Registration of events

Please register your involvement by providing the following by 30 April 2025 to brunopeek@mac.com.

- Name of country
- Name of county
- Name of city, borough, district, town, parish
- Name of organisation
- Name of organiser
- VE Day beacon – Yes/No
- VE Day Lamp Light of Peace – Yes/No
- VE Day Flag – Yes/No
- Street party – Yes/No
- Garden party – Yes/No
- Party elsewhere – Yes/No
- Email
- Public or private event

For more detailed information, and to view and download the full 'VE Day 80 Anniversary Guide', from where the above information is shared, please ensure you visit the official website www.VEday80.org.uk. To get expert guidance form Bruno, sign up to SLCC's webinar 'VE Day 80: A Shared Moment of the Celebration of 80 Years of Peace – 8th May 2025' on 22 January and 24 March. Visit www.slcc.co.uk/events/