



75

VE DAY



Get involved in VE Day

Every year, people who fought in the Second World War or were affected by it, pause to remember on 8 May, when WW2 came to an end in Europe. 2020 marks 75 years since VE Day, and to mark this special anniversary and pay tribute to the WW2 generation there are lots of ways you can get involved now and on 8 May.



At Home

Get creative with your kids:

- Download and colour in our **VE Day poster** and stick in your window for others to see
- Take part in Dan Snow's **VE Day Creative Challenge** by researching VE Day and telling its story in a creative way - from designing a newspaper front page to making a short film, writing a poem or short story
- **Research your family history.** Explore and re-discover your personal VE Day connections



On social media

Did someone in your family serve or play a role in WW2? **Share a photo and their story on social media** alongside the #VEDay75 hashtag



- On Instagram, look out for and use the dedicated #VEDay75 selfie filter



Family activities

We're encouraging everyone to mark VE Day in their own homes. From decorating your homes and windows with bunting, WW2 recipe ideas, to designing your own **thank-you messages and V for Victory window postcards** for others to see

Tune In



Stay tuned on 08 May for a full broadcast programme across **TV, Radio and Online**

Visit ve-vjday75.gov.uk for more ideas and information as well as a useful range of educational resources for all keystages

VE DAY 8TH MAY 1945

VE Day took place on 8 May 1945, the day after Nazi Germany surrendered.

It marked the end of nearly six years of conflict in Europe during which time many thousands of people had contributed to the war effort and served their country.

For many, VE-Day was a day of celebration. Bunting was hung in the streets and people danced with friends and neighbours. Many people gathered outside Buckingham Palace to catch a glimpse of King George VI, who gave a radio broadcast at 9.00pm, and the future Queen Elizabeth II.

However, for some it was a day of mixed emotions. Many people had lost friends or family members to the conflict and were grieving. Meanwhile, the conflict in the Far East continued and many people were still serving overseas. Japan did not surrender until 15 August 1945 when VJ-Day (Victory over Japan Day) was announced.

A black and white photograph of a crowd of people celebrating. In the foreground, a man in a suit is wearing a large, ornate medal around his neck. To his right, another man is holding a large American flag. The crowd in the background is diverse and appears to be cheering or celebrating. The overall atmosphere is one of joy and historical significance.

Celebrating VE Day at Home

Friday 8th May marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day - the official end of the Second World War in Europe. Original plans to Celebrate have had to change due to Coronavirus. However, there are still plenty of ways that you can celebrate and mark the anniversary whilst staying safe at home.

Decorate your homes and Party at home! - create your own decorations and party food.

There are also National activities you can take part in at home too!

11am — Two-minute national silence to remember the declaration of victory and the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: "Whilst we now need to celebrate VE 75 in our homes and on our doorsteps, rather than in parades and street parties, I know the nation will come together to mark this historic occasion.

"In these difficult times, acts of remembrance are even more poignant and I am sure that millions will want to join me to remember and give thanks to those who gave so much to secure peace, freedom and prosperity in Europe."



3PM- Toast to the Heroes of the Second World War

At 3.00pm on 8 May 1945, Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed the nation. Here is a couple of extracts from his iconic speech:

"God bless you all. This is your victory! It is the victory of the cause of freedom in every land. In all our long history we have never seen a greater day than this. Everyone, man or woman, has done their best. Everyone has tried. Neither the long years, nor the dangers, nor the fierce attacks of the enemy, have in any way weakened the independent resolve of the British nation. God bless you all.

"My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole."

Join in the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on the 8th May, raise a glass and making a 'Toast' - "To those who gave so much, we thank you,"

Listen to his speech:

<https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1941-1945-war-leader/to-v-e-crowds/>

BBC- 2.45pm - 3.45pm — The first of two special BBC One programmes to mark VE75, including extract from Sir Winston Churchill's victory speech delivered at 3pm on VE Day.



9PM -The Queens address to the Nation

Her Majesty The Queen will send a message to the nation at 9pm on BBC One, the exact moment her father, King George VI, gave a radio address in 1945.



9PM Vera Lynn We'll meet again SING-A-LONG!

The British Legion are inviting everyone to join in a doorstep sing along to wartime favourite 'We'll meet Again' at 9pm.

Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' was hugely popular during the war and its lyrics touched a lot of people.

Today, the song feels just as relevant as it did over 75 years ago and many people noticed the Queen's reference to its lyrics in her speech on 5 April 2020.



Party At Home! Create....

For VE-Day, red, white and blue bunting was available without ration coupons and was hung in the streets.

To mark 75 years since VE-Day, people will be decorating bunting and hanging it in their windows.

Decorate some bunting and hang it in your window for passers-by to see.

Your bunting doesn't need to be red, white and blue but could be inspired by other flags and symbols such as a rainbow or a poppy, or a message.



- <https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/plan-your-ve-day-party/>

Create....

- Or you could create a picnic set inspired by vintage 1940's tea sets for your picnic at home.
- You will need:
- paper plates and cups
- Colouring pencils or pens.
- Find out about tea and the war effort:

<http://www.thenma.org.uk/whats-here/exhibitions/tea-for-ii-online-exhibition>



Make Do and Mend

Fabrics were essential to the war effort so clothing was rationed from the summer of 1941. With clothing and fabrics in short supply, people had to come up with creative ways to make clothes and often used the fabric from old items to make new items of clothing. Even people's best clothes were often made from old items and many people would have been wearing clothes that they'd made on VE-Day.

Using items from around the house, such as magazines, buttons and pieces of fabric, collage a VE-Day outfit.

If you're skilled with a needle and thread then perhaps you could make a new item out of old pieces of fabric or clothing that you have lying around.

MAKE-DO AND MEND



says Mrs. Sew-and-Sew

Dig for Victory!

The 'Dig for Victory' campaign was set up during WWII by the British Ministry of Agriculture.

Men and women across the country were encouraged to grow their own food in times of harsh rationing.

Open spaces everywhere were transformed into allotments, from domestic gardens to public parks - even the lawns outside the Tower of London were turned into vegetable patches ensuring that people had enough to eat, and that morale was kept high.

What could you plant or grow to celebrate VE Day?



Party Music

Add a little [background music](#) from the era to get your guests in the mood. Artists of the time include Vera Lynn and Marlene Dietrich alongside classic wartime popular tunes of the time, such as Pack Up Your Troubles, We'll Meet Again, and The Siegfried Line. There's plenty of wartime music and dances online.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/58JWUmAMxkqVr0YcebXLv7>

May



Party Games:

Original VE Day celebrations saw bonfires, local dances, firework displays, and pubs full of festivities. Some traditional games that families would have played in the 1940's include:

- Hopscotch
- Statues
- Marbles
- Dominoes, tiddlywinks
- Charades
- Bingo
- Snakes and Ladders and other board games



Food and Drink:

On VE-Day many people celebrated in the streets with friends and neighbours. As with all good celebrations, food was at the heart of the festivities. However, rationing was still in place and people were only allowed a small amount of certain food types including sugar, eggs and butter.

Thankfully, over the years people had come up with creative recipes that did not require ingredients that were in short supply.

Food commonly eaten on VE-Day included: Dripping sandwiches. Sandwiches made with beef fat.

Pork faggots. Faggots were made from offal wrapped in fat and were served with gravy.

Homity pie. Potato, onion and leeks, topped with cheese.

Eggless fruit cake. Eggs were rationed, so people baked cakes without key ingredients.

Here are some recipes that you may want to try at home, to mark 75 years since the end of the war



Cheese and Marmite Swirls

12 oz / 340g plain white or wholemeal flour 4 oz / 115g margarine 4 oz / 115g strong cheddar cheese 2 eggs (or 7tbsp dried eggs) 1 teaspoon dried mustard powder Salt and pepper 3 teaspoons of quick rise dried yeast Marmite for spreading

METHOD

1. Mix together the flour, mustard powder, seasoning, yeast in a large bowl.
2. Break up the margarine and rub into the dry mixture, then add in the grated cheese.
3. Mix in the two beaten eggs and knead until a dough is formed.
4. Next, flour your work surface and rolling pin. Roll out the dough into an oblong shape about 1cm thick. You can make two smaller batches by breaking the dough in half.
5. Spread the Marmite across the dough sheet, then roll up into a long swiss roll shape and slice along with a sharp knife. This recipe makes about 30 swirls.
6. Place whirls on a greased baking tray, and brush with a little milk (optional) to glaze. 7. Place in the oven at gas mark 6 / 200 C for about 12-20 minutes.



Home made Lemonade

3 lemons 2 oz / 55g granulated sugar 2 pints / 1.2 litres water

METHOD

1. Peel the rind from the lemons and cut them into 1cm slices.
2. Place the lemon rinds in a bowl and sprinkle the sugar over them. Let this stand for about an hour.
3. Boil the water and then pour over the sugared lemon rinds. Allow this mixture to cool and then strain.
4. Squeeze the lemons into another bowl. Pour the juice through a sieve into the sugar mixture. Stir well, pour into a jug and pop it in the fridge. Serve with ice.



Berry Shortbread

Ingredients 250 grams of plain flour 115 grams margarine 115 grams sugar large handful of small berries

Method

1. Preheat the oven at 180 degrees Celsius
2. Melt the margarine
3. Add in the sifted flour and sugar and stir
4. Knead the mixture and flatten out with your hands
5. Sprinkle the berries evenly out over the top
6. Very gently fold the dough in and knead very gently
7. Press gently 18cm tin 8. Bake for 20 minutes until golden brown 9. Remove and cool in tin for 20 minutes, 10. Cut into slices and leave to cool on a wire rack



Get involved!

<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/>

<http://www.discovercarlisle.co.uk/Whats-On/ve-day-75th-anniversary-celebrations>

<https://www.cumbriasmuseumofmilitarylife.org/whats-on/virtual-wednesday-workshops/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/ve-day-quest-virtual-event/828715080968743/>

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ve-day-75-livestream>

<https://rbli.shop/collections/ve-day-may-8th-2020-commemorative-tommy-and-products>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/event/ve-day-2020>

<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/dan-snows-ve-day-challenge/>

VE DAY 8th MAY 2020

Prior to Coronavirus there had been 3 days of celebrations planned to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day; it is only the second time in history that the Bank holiday has been altered to a Friday to celebrate it. It seems even more important that this year we do what we can to remember those involved in the war effort, and those who are still performing heroic efforts in these times, including Colonel Tom Moore and all those in the NHS and other key workers.

"To those who gave so much, we thank you"
Winston Churchill

Some thoughts from war veterans:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/stories/ww2-veterans-on-coronavirus>

Have you/could you think of a way to raise money for charity?

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/events/the-2.6-challenge?bitsp-middle-box-2>

Stay home, stay safe , help the NHS and Party at Home!

