



**VE DAY**

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8-10 MAY 2020

## *Tribute to The Millions*

Let us remember those who so selflessly gave their lives at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us to enjoy the peace and freedom we have today.

Let us remember those who came home wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working lives after years of dreadful conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, sons and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen, merchant seamen, miners, brave civilians and others from Commonwealth and Allied countries who fought, suffered and died during several years of war.

Let us remember those in reserved occupation and the brave people who kept us safe on the home front - the doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded, the women and men who toiled in the fields, those who worked in the factories, who all played such a vital role in the war effort at home.



*Bruno Peek*

Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR

Pageantmaster

VE Day 75



**LOWESTOFT**  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Designed by Elle Crebbin of  
Lowestoft Sixth Form College

# WHAT'S IMPORTANT ABOUT MAY 8TH?

This year, the May Bank Holiday is being moved to mark the **75th Anniversary of VE Day.**

It is a day to remember the contribution of British, Commonwealth and Allied armed forces during WWII, including those on the Home Front.

It's also an opportunity to pay **tribute** to those who have served and continue to serve in the UK Armed Forces.



## The only raid on Barnstaple

- “We used to hear waves of German bombers on their way to South Wales. Heavy with their load, the beat of the engines (always easily distinguishable from the steady tone of British engines) was slow — oomph, oomph, oomph. Some time later they would return with a much more rapid pulse — empty. It seemed tragic and sinister.
- On one occasion a returning bomber dropped a single bomb, probably aiming for the gas works, which it missed, but took off the bay window of a house opposite. Next day the whole town, it seemed, turned out to view the damage. It was the only ‘raid’ that Barnstaple ever experienced”

# WHAT WAS VE DAY?

Press play



Victory  
in Europe  
1945



## Victory in Europe: 8th May 1945!

After six years of devastating war, Germany signed an unconditional surrender on **7th May 1945**. Finally, the war in Europe was at an end.

Interrupting its usual programming, the BBC broadcasted to the nation that the war in Europe was over and that the next day (8th May) would be a public holiday known as **VE Day**.

Huge crowds gathered in public spaces. This is Trafalgar Square, in London. There were more celebrations around the world, from the USA to Australia.



### Practice for D Day

North Devon played an important role in the preparations for [D Day](#). The coast from Branton Burrows through to Morte Point was secured by the Americans to enable troops to practice for D Day as the coastline closely resembled that of the Normandy coast. Between September 1943 and May 1944 Soldiers trained in attacking fixed defences to represent parts of the so-called “Atlantic Wall” and a special training facility the Assault Training Centre was established on Branton Burrows, with its headquarters at Woolacombe. Practice landings took place on nearby Woolacombe and Putsborough beaches. The Taw Torridge estuary became an important establishment for the US Navy, where much amphibious practice took place. A special unit was also set up, based in Bideford, charged with the task of waterproofing vehicles to help them get ashore from landing craft on D Day.

Few people realise the effect that the Second World War had on the coast of North Devon. This ranged from initial defence of the area in the 1940s, through the development of Radar and the important airbase at RAF Chivenor to the rehearsals for the D Day Invasion of the Normandy Coast in 1944. Its impact can be seen in the many remaining concrete structures left all along our coastal landscape which have left their mark on the area.

### Defence of the Realm

- In Europe in 1940, after the German occupation of France, thoughts turned to the invasion of Britain. Whilst not an obvious place for attack, areas such as Northam Burrows with its long sandy beaches and flat hinterland, were considered at risk from a seaborne invasion by the Germans. This was a new kind of war, where static defence had been abandoned by the development of new technology such as the aeroplane and tank.
- At Northam Burrows, on the Taw Torridge Estuary defences were hastily constructed, which included the placement of concrete sandbag emplacements, barbed wire, minefields and anti tank and glider ditches. Many of these features still remain on Northam Burrows today.

### The RAF in North Devon

- To counter the threat from the air a network of radar stations was developed along the North Devon Coast in 1941. This included the development of the Chain Home Station at RAF Northam and the Chain Home Low station at Hartland Point. In addition a third radar station was developed at Wrafton to assist in the protection of the new RAF airbase at Chivenor.
- RAF Chivenor was made operational in 1941 and fell under the control of RAF Coastal Command. During the war, many squadrons were based at Chivenor and they are known to have practiced along the North Devon Coast. At Putsborough, you can see the remains of the Morte Bay Practice Bombing Range, which was operational from 1942 until the middle of the 1950s., Many aircraft from Chivenor were to be used in anti submarine warfare during the Battle of the Atlantic and several crash site can be located along the North Devon Coast, where Allied aircraft crashed during operational flights or during practice sorties.

# THE WAR ENDED IN EUROPE, BUT NOT ELSEWHERE

VE Day marked the end of conflict in Europe, but not the end of hardship. People still had family members serving abroad or confined in prisoner of war camps.

Many servicemen were sent to the Pacific to continue to fight. The war in the Pacific would continue until August 1945. Rationing in Britain would continue until 1954.

However, VE Day marked the point that people across Europe could begin to rebuild their lives.



# VE DAY: HOW IT HAPPENED



## TELEGRAM - IMMEDIATE

**Victory in Europe: 8th May 1945!**

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# VE DAY: HOW IT HAPPENED

As the news spread around the country, people immediately began to celebrate, dancing in the street with joy.

On the 8th of May, communities all over Britain came together to celebrate VE Day with street parties, parades and religious services.



# VE DAY: HOW IT HAPPENED

During the war Princess Elizabeth enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, training as a mechanic and military truck driver. She was the first female royal to join the Armed Services as a full time member.

The King and Queen remained in London during the war and when Buckingham Palace was bombed the Queen famously said:

**"I am glad. I can now look the East End in the face."**

On VE day Princess Elizabeth proudly wore her uniform as the official Peace Declaration was announced by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in front of huge crowds.



**“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.”**

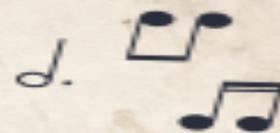
**Winston Churchill, VE Day, 8th May 1945**





1940s MUSIC AND DANCE

# SING-ALONG



## LAMBETH WALK

Any time you're Lambeth way  
Any evening, any day.  
You'll find us all,  
Doing the Lambeth Walk - oi!

Every little Lambeth gal,  
With her little Lambeth pal.  
You'll find 'em all  
Doin' the Lambeth Walk - oi!

Everything free and easy,  
Do as you darn well pleasy.  
Why don't you make your way there  
Go there, stay there.

Once you get down Lambeth way,  
Every evening, every day,  
You'll find yourself  
Doin' the Lambeth Walk - oi!

## WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER

There'll be bluebirds over,  
The white cliffs of Dover,  
Tomorrow, just you wait and see.

There'll be love and laughter,  
And peace ever after,  
Tomorrow when the world is free.

The shepherd will tend his sheep,  
The valley will bloom again.  
And Jimmy will go to sleep,  
In his own little room again.

There'll be blue birds over,  
The white cliffs of Dover,  
Tomorrow, just you wait and see

HOW TO DANCE THE LINDY HOP

# SWING



The 'Lindy Hop' is a swing dance that originated in New York in the late 1920s and early 1930s. It gained popularity in the UK in the 1940s thanks to the American servicemen stationed here during the Second World War.

## THE SWING OUT

The Swing Out is a cornerstone Lindy Hop move. It's danced in 8-counts and is a basic building block for other dance steps.

### STEP 1

Rock step - take a step back with your full weight, then transfer the weight to your front foot while keeping it in place.



### STEP 2

Triple step - take a step to your side. Bring your feet together. Take another step to your side.



### STEP 3

Walk

### STEP 4

Walk

### STEP 5

Triple step

## READY FOR MORE?

When you triple step, try to swing the rhythm three-a-four, or long-short-short



## DRINKS

### GINGER BEER

1 gallon / 4.5 litres of boiled water

1 lb / 450g sugar

½ oz / 14g yeast

1 level teaspoon ground ginger

1 level teaspoon cream of tartar

#### METHOD

1. Put the yeast in a basin with 280ml water and 1 tsp of sugar. Stir and leave to stand until the yeast rises.
2. Put the boiled water, sugar, ginger and cream of tartar into a large jug. Once the water is lukewarm warm, stir in the yeast.
3. Leave to stand until cool, then skim well and bottle carefully. It will be ready for use in two days.

## SAVOURY SNACKS

### CHEESE & 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

## 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 1 cm 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.

#### 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 1 cm 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.

## SWEET TREATS

### CARROT SCONES

12 tbsp self raising flour & 1 teaspoon baking powder – sifted together

2 tbsp butter (or margarine)

4 tbsp sugar

8 tbsp grated carrot

A few drops of vanilla essence

English Heritage Raspberry Preserve

#### METHOD

1. Pre-heat oven to gas mark 6 / 200°C. Grease a baking tray.
2. Leave the butter out so that it becomes nice and soft to work with - this makes it easier to mix in the sugar. Beat these until they are light and creamed.
3. Add in the grated carrot, a bit at a time. It won't look like the prettiest thing in the world – but stick with it. Add in the vanilla.
4. Slowly add the sifted flour. The more you beat, the more moisture the carrots will release to bind the mixture together. You will be left with a ball of sticky carrot-flecked dough.
5. Pinch and roll the desired amount between your hands. This recipe should make around 12 scones.
6. Place on baking tray and sprinkle with a little sugar (optional). Cook in the centre of the oven for about 20 minutes.
7. Once firm on top and at the sides, remove from the oven and cool. Remove from the oven and cool.

# FRIDAY, MAY 8

## The Nation Remembers

**BBC1, 11am**

Nationwide two-minute silence to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe, paying tribute to heroes past and present.

## The Announcement Of Victory

**BBC1, 2.45pm**

Tribute to the war generation including Churchill's radio address from Downing Street at 3pm on May 8, 1945, announcing the end of hostilities. Celebrities will read personal testimonies from the day's celebrations, there'll be music by military bands, and Prince Charles will read an extract from his grandfather George VI's diary for May 8.

## The One Show

**BBC1, 7pm**

Hour-long special.



## The People's Celebration

**BBC1, 8pm**

Hosted by Sophie Raworth, an evening's entertainment with some of Britain's top musical talent performing songs from the 1930s and 1940s, such as Bluebirds Over The White Cliffs Of Dover and When The Lights Go On Again. Artists include Katherine Jenkins, Adrian Lester, Anton Du Beke, Shane Richie and Helen George. Interviews with those who remember the day.

## The Queen

**BBC1, 9pm**

At the exact time of day that her father, George VI, spoke to the nation in 1945, Her Majesty makes her own address. Followed by the whole country joining a singalong of We'll Meet Again, led by Dame Vera Lynn, 103, from a window at her home in Sussex.

## REMEMBERING VICTORY

**BBC1, 9.10pm**

Sir David Attenborough, Patrick Stewart and June Whitfield, among others, share memories of the end of the conflict.

## CAPTAIN TOM'S WAR

**ITV, 8pm, ITV**

Documentary about former Army officer Captain Tom Moore, 100, just made an honorary colonel after raising more than £32 million for the NHS by doing laps of his garden. Features Tom's time serving in India and Burma.

## DAD'S ARMY

**ITV, 8.30pm**

Film remake from 2016 of the classic series, starring Toby Jones, Bill Nighy and Catherine Zeta-Jones.



Vera Lynn pictured in 1956 practising in London



# VE DAY

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A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 - 1 0   M A Y   2 0 2 0

## *Unmentioned in Despatches*

Some of them never come home to fanfares,  
they dump their kit-bags down at the door,  
kiss their wives and let their children  
wrestle them down to the kitchen floor,  
switch the telly on, pour out a whiskey,  
search for the local football score.

Some of them skip the quayside welcome,  
dodge the bunting and cannonade,  
make their landfall in silent harbours,  
nod to the coastguard, but evade  
the searchlight of public scrutiny  
like those engaged in the smuggling trade.

Some of them land at lonely airfields  
far removed from the celebration,  
hang their flying gear in a locker,  
cadge a lift to the railway station,  
make for home and take for granted  
the short-lived thanks of a grateful nation.

Some of them miss the royal salute,  
the victory parade along the Mall,  
the fly-past, the ships in formation passing  
the cheering crowds on the harbour wall.  
Remembered only by friends and relatives,  
some of them never come home at all.



*Poet: Peter Wyton*