

Brixham Town Council

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Title:	VE Day		
To:	Community Services	Date:	17.06.19
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Purpose of Report

To consider whether the Town Council should hold an event for VE Day in 2020.

Background

VE Day represents the end of WW11 in Europe and on 8th May 2020, it is the 75th Anniversary. The May Day bank holiday will be moved from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May to mark the 75th Anniversary. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is recommending that all Town and Parish Councils hold an event.

Recommended Programme by NALC

Friday 8th May 2020

2.55pm – The Last Post is played at the Four Peaks five other locations of the United Kingdom

Individual members of the Air Training Corps, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets and the Combined Cadet Force will play the Last Post at the top of the four highest peaks in the UK, a feat never undertaken before.

The Last Post will also be played at five of the most widespread locations of the UK – Land's End, Cornwall; Lowestoft, Suffolk; St David's, Pembrokeshire, Wales; the Scottish island of Unst, and Enniskillen Castle, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, and the Tan Hill Inn, Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Other communities are also being encouraged to take part in playing the Last Post.

3.00pm – The Playing of Battle's O'er and VE 75 Years

Thousands of pipers around the world will play Battle's O'er, a traditional air performed on the bagpipes at the end of a battle, and the specially composed tune VE 75 Years. It was at 3pm on 8th May 1945 that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that the war was over.

Individual pipers will play this haunting air at the top of the four highest peaks in the UK – Ben Nevis, Scotland; Scafell Pike, England; Mount Snowdon, Wales, and Slieve Donnard, Northern Ireland.

At the same time, thousands of other pipers will perform it at locations throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and in countries such as Australia, Canada, the USA, Germany, South Africa, Belgium, Holland, France, Spain and Denmark.

The tune will be played outside churches and cathedrals, in market squares and on high streets, in valleys, on town and village greens, in schools and colleges, in hospitals, on ships and in shops, hospitals, factories and offices.

3.00pm – The Nation’s Toast to the Heroes of World War 2

To coincide with the playing of Battle’s O’er, and in association with the British Beer and Pub Association and its members, thousands of pubs throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man will be asking their customers to raise a glass at 3pm and take part in The Nation’s Toast to the Heroes of World War 2. It will be a chance for the customers of more than 20,000 UK pubs to remember the sacrifice of those who died or were wounded.

6.55pm – A Cry for Peace Around the World

Town criers and other people around the world will be undertaking a special international Cry for Peace Around the World in all manner of locations, starting off in New Zealand. A copy of the text can be downloaded so that anyone can perform the cry at their workplace, school, community group, church, for example.

The many thousands of pubs throughout the United Kingdom will be encouraged to ring their pub bells and invite a member of their local community to undertake the Cry for Peace Around the World at this time too.

7.00pm – Ringing out for Peace

In association with the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, bells in cathedrals, churches and other locations will ring out at 7pm in a collective celebration of peace. The sound of bells is deeply rooted in British culture, providing the soundtrack to historic moments – calling us to pray, to work, to arms, to celebrate and, in times of crisis, to come together.

Church bells will be rung throughout our nation and around the world in celebration of the peace and friendships we share today.

7.00pm onwards – Parties and Celebration

In association with the National Association of Local Councils and One Voice Wales, town and parish councils and local communities are being encouraged to organise celebrations and parties in streets and neighbourhoods, on town and village greens, and in pubs, clubs and hotels.

Celebrations could take many forms. From street parties with a 1940s theme to barbecues and fireworks displays.

Saturday 9th May 2020

Enjoy a whole day of celebrations and parties. The weekend offers the chance to organise something really special to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

It is hoped that there will be parties in streets, neighbourhoods, schools and village halls, perhaps with food and dress reflecting the 1940s. Wartime loaf, eggless sponge cake, vegetable turnovers, curried carrots and Lord Woolton pie.

Sunday 10th May 2020

10.30am – Church Services of Celebration and Commemoration

Services will take place in cathedrals and churches throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man in celebration of the peace we share today. It will be a remembrance to those who lost their lives or returned home wounded and pay tribute to those who put their lives on hold at home to keep the nation fed and the factories, mines and hospitals working, many of them not knowing if their loved ones would return home safely.

Those planning services are encouraged to ask the Dean, Lord Mayor, Mayor, Lord Lieutenant, High Steward, Sheriff or other dignitary from their local community to read out the Tribute to the Millions, which can be downloaded.

It is also worth considering inviting a bugler or trumpeter from the local Air Training Corps, Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, Combined Cadet Force, Boys' Brigade, Scouts, Salvation Army or brass band to play the Last Post and Reveille during their service.

Town Council Event

It is feasible to consider that the Town Council ensures that a weekend event takes place.

This could be by:

- Working with the Royal British Legion to hold an event on Friday 8th May
- Organising an event / party on Saturday 9th May in the Scala Hall, for example
- Encouraging businesses to decorate the shops / offices in 1940's theme
- Encouraging other community groups to hold events in order to achieve a full weekend programme
- Encouraging schools to take part
- Produce a programme of events that will take place throughout the weekend

Recommendations

That the Community Services Committee agree to:

- organise the VE Day 75th Anniversary event by working with the Royal British Legion, local schools, businesses and community groups
- consider the type of event and budget before recommending to Full Council
- contact the Brixham Pirate Festival Committee to ensure they are aware of the changes to the Bank Holiday in 2020, which will affect their festival that normally takes place on the May Bank Holiday weekend