



17/04/2020

Dear Participants,

RE: VE DAY 75 & FURTHER 3-WEEK LOCKDOWN

I hope you and your families are well.

As you will know from the announcement made by HM Government on 16th April 2020, the Coronavirus lockdown has been extended by at least a further three weeks. This means that community events to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8th May can no longer go ahead as originally planned. This will be a great disappointment to all of you who have put so much hard work into planning your participation.

However, we still feel some aspects of this important anniversary could still take place on 8th May in ways that will allow us to celebrate the VE Day anniversary while following the essential social distancing advice that ensures that everyone remains safe.

FRIDAY 8th MAY - VE DAY 75

2.55pm: The playing of the Last Post

Buglers, trumpeters and cornet players might like to consider playing the Last Post from the safety of their front or back garden, outside their front door or from their balcony or window. We would ask you not to play in an area that could attract a group of people however.

3pm: The piping of Battle's O'er and VE 75 Years

As with playing the Last Post, individual pipers could play these two stirring marches from their front or back garden, at their front door or from their balcony or window. It is extremely

important to adhere to the Government's restrictions so bands will not be able to play together and individual pipers should not perform in areas that might attract people.

3pm: The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW II

We would very much like to encourage you all to still take part in the Nation's Toast from the safety of your homes to pay tribute to the many millions in the United Kingdom and overseas who sacrificed so much to secure the freedom we have today. We would invite you stand at 3pm and raise a glass or cup of refreshment of your choice and undertake the following toast: **"For those that gave so much, we thank you."** This will be the first time such a tribute has ever taken place so please encourage others to join in from their own homes.

6.55pm: The Cry for Peace Around the World.

Town criers and others who wish to take part can perform the Cry for Peace from their front or back garden, at their front door or from their balcony or window. The words can be found on the Download page of the VE Day 75 website - www.veday75.org. Please don't perform it from a place that might encourage people to gather.

7pm: Ringing out for Peace

Government restrictions mean that churches and cathedrals are closed until further notice, so I am afraid this aspect of VE Day 75 cannot now take place.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8th-10th MAY

Parties

The Government's rules on social isolation and social distancing are in place to keep us safe and well, and must be observed at all costs. This means that the parties you planned at home, in pubs, in your streets and in a host of other locations cannot now take place. When this terrible crisis has passed, we will be able to gather to remember not only those who sacrificed so much during WW2 but loved ones who lost their lives during this terrible pandemic. But for now, let us stay safe.

SUNDAY 10TH MAY

With churches and cathedrals temporarily closed due to the national lockdown, the planned services of remembrance for VE Day 75 cannot now take place. However, you could consider inviting a member of the clergy, your mayor or another leading citizen in your community to read out the Tribute to the Millions, the wording of which can be obtained from the Download page of the VE Day 75 website - www.veday75.org. This should, of course, be done from the safety of their own homes and shared through social media.

VJ DAY – 15TH AUGUST

We are not planning any activity for this occasion as we understand others will be doing so.

I know you will share my personal disappointment that VE Day 75 events, which we have been planning for nearly two years, will not go ahead as we had all hoped. But I am sure you will agree that the safety of our loved ones and friends comes before everything else and we all have a responsibility to abide by the advice that will help to see us through this emergency.

Thank you all for the hard work and dedication you have put into the VE Day 75 celebrations to date. I wish you well for the future.

Stay safe my friends.

My warmest regards,

Bruno Peek

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VE Day 75

