



Update for Full Council

Victory in Europe 80 Year Anniversary – Thursday 8 May 2025

2025 marks 80 years since the end of the Second World War, with Victory in Europe (VE) Day on 8 May 1945 and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on 15 August 1945. Victory in the Second World War would simply not have been possible without the combined efforts of all the Allied Forces, from the Commonwealth and beyond. Therefore, the veterans of our Second World War generation from across the UK, Commonwealth and Allied nations, will be at the very heart of all commemorations.

The Royal British Legion nationally is planning events to mark these momentous anniversaries to ensure that the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation is always remembered. As part of our well established joint working arrangements, Wroughton Parish Council will continue to work closely with our Wroughton RBL Branch (Ian and Jane Woodford) and will be publicising the Royal British Legion 'Lamp Light of Peace' initiative where a specially commissioned hurricane lamp will be lit once again this year at our War Memorial to commemorate Victory in Europe Day and also for Victory in Japan Day.

Wroughton Parish Council will also be laying a wreath at the War Memorial for both VE and VJ day. We are also in touch with Wroughton Parish Church regarding some possible bell ringing to coincide with the beacon lighting.

Residents or Parish Councillors wishing to join this tribute should attend the war memorial at 11am on the dates above or at 9.20pm on the same day for lighting of the lamp at 9.30pm. We will share information relating to this on our Wroughton Parish Council website, Wroughton Monthly and social media feeds. Our beacon lighting is also registered on a national map of events taking place to commemorate VE 80.

Extract from Bruno Peek, Pageantmaster for VE Day 80

'At 9:30pm, beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace will shine across the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and UK Overseas Territories—symbolising the enduring strength of our communities. From city squares to village greens, we will stand together in gratitude, honouring the sacrifices that secured our freedom.'

Our Community Projects Officer, Amanda Woodhead is exploring the possibility of some grant funded trees to be planted, potentially at Belmont Green, as a commemoration of VE Day 80 Year Anniversary. Working in partnership with Swindon Borough Council's Trees for Climate Team regarding this we have provisionally identified some sites which may be appropriate. More details will follow as they become available. Planting would need to take place during the winter dormancy period of November 2025-March 2026.

Please refer to www.VE80.com for more details of national commemorations and refer to the attached certificate we have received to acknowledge our participation in memorial events.



VE DAY[®]
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8 MAY 2025

*Certificate of Grateful Recognition
8th May 2025*

*With sincere thanks for your grateful contribution to VE Day 80,
the important, historic Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day
"Lest we forget the many sacrifices made by millions at home and abroad"*



Bruno Peek

Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR
Originator & Pageantmaster
VE Day 80

