



Dear Scottish Community Council,

VE DAY 75

ONE YEAR FROM TODAY, we will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day - 8th May 2020, marking 75 year's since the end of WW2, so have great pleasure in outlining plans for **VE Day 75**, being organised to celebrate and commemorate this importand Anniversary next year.

The 8th May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war, so the 75th anniversary on 8th May 2020 represents an important milestone in our history. I am sure you will agree that we cannot let this day pass without reflecting on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark period. Our celebration, **VE Day 75**, will cover the weekend of 8th - 10th May 2020, and will be an international celebration of peace – a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions who played such a vital part in achieving it.

This includes the Armed Forces personnel from many countries who gave their lives, and those who returned home injured in body and mind; the hard-working women and men who kept the factories, mines, shipyards and farms operating throughout the years of turmoil; the ARP wardens, police officers, doctors, nurses, firemen, local defence volunteers and many others who put their lives on hold to safeguard the home front.

The official, exclusive charity for VE Day 75 is SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, which also supports the Merchant Navy.

The planned activities over the weekend are as follows:

- The Playing of Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years
- The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2
- The Cry for Peace, around the World
- Churches & cathedrals Ringing out for Peace
- Street parties and parties in pubs, clubs, Hotels, on town and village greens and in halls etc
- Services of commemoration and celebration in churches, including the reading of the Tribute to the Millions and the playing of the Last Post

Registration for all participants will be solely through **www.veday75.org** as soon as possible over the next few months, or by no later than 1ST MAY 2020. As well as adding your details you will also be able to download important documents, including a commemorative certificate, and view messages of support from individuals and organisations.

FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020

3pm – Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years

3pm is the time Winston Churchill officially announced the end of WW2 from the Cabinet Office at 10 Downing Street, London.

Pipers from around the world will open **VE Day 75** by playing Battle's O'er and VE 75 Years at 3pm local time in the country they are in, paying tribute to the millions who gave so much to earn our freedom today. Battle's O'er is the traditional tune played by pipers at the end of a battle, and VE 75 Years has been specially written for this occasion by Pipe Major Roger Bayes of the City of Norwich Pipe Band.

Battle's O'er will be played by pipers from the top of the four highest Peaks in the UK - Ben Nevis, Scotland; Scafell Pike, England; Mount Snowdon, Wales, and Slieve Donnard, Northern Ireland – and also at the five furthest points in the UK. This has never been undertaken before.

In 'tribute' to the many brave Scotsman who fought and died for their country, we hope that every Scottish Community Council will source and involve a Piper at 3pm on 8th May 2020. We are also encouraging all pipers working that day too, to pause at 3pm to play the tune in their workplace. It will provide pipers throughout Scotland and the world the unique opportunity to participate without having to take time off work. We are already aware that a nurse will be playing the pipes on her hospital ward, and that others will be playing at a railway company, in a field and outside a bakery. Those pipers taking part can register their involvement at the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

3pm – The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2

Town and Parish Councils are being encouraged to play a leading role in the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW 2', especially as their communities are the 'heart of the nation' so they are being asked to choose an individual from their community to 'lead' them in undertaking the 'Toast' at 3pm on Friday 8th May 2020, using the words that can be downloaded from the VE Day 75 website. This could be their Mayor, Leader or Chairman of the council, the oldest or youngest resident from within their town or village, or a winner of a local competition etc. All those taking part in the 'Toast' are being asked to register their involvement on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

The thousands of pubs throughout the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man will also be encouraging customers to raise a glass at 3pm and take part in The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2. All pubs taking part can register their involvement too, on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

6.55pm – A Cry for Peace Around the World

Town Criers around the world will be undertaking A Cry for Peace Around the World, kindly written for this occasion by Crier Peter Taunton. The 'Cry', which can be downloaded from the website, will be performed at 7pm local time in locations around the world, starting in New Zealand. Those Town Criers and other individuals from within local communities undertaking this 'Cry' can register their involvement on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

7pm – Ringing out for Peace

Bells in churches and cathedrals will ring out at 7pm in a collective celebration of VE Day 75. The sound of church bells is deeply rooted in British culture. They provide the grand soundtrack to our historic moments, calling us to wake, to pray, to work, to arms, to feast, to celebrate and, in times of crisis, to come together. This aspect of VE Day 75 could not be more appropriate, ringing out around the world to celebrate the peace we share today. Those churches taking part can register their involvement on the VE day website – www.veday75.org.

7pm onwards – Parties and Celebration

Parties and celebrations will take place in pubs, clubs and hotels, on town and village greens and in our streets, bringing the communities of the nation together in common friendship. Those town and cities twinned with others around the world will be encouraged invite them to join in this joyous occasion. We know that many of those taking part will be organising firework displays over the weekend too. Those taking part in this celebratory element of the event can register their involvement on the VE day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

SATURDAY 9TH MAY 2020

Parties and celebrations continue.

SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2020

10.30am – Church Services of Celebration and Commemoration

Services will take place in cathedrals and churches throughout the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man to celebrate the peace we share today and remember those who lost their lives or returned home dreadfully wounded. The services will also recognise the sacrifices of those who kept the nation fed and the factories, mines and hospitals working during the most challenging of times. Churches wishing to take part should register their involvement on the VE Day 75 website – www.veday75.org.

Tribute to the Millions & the Last Post

Those planning services will be encouraged to ask a representative from their local community to read out the Tribute to the Millions, which can be downloaded at www.veday75.org, and involve a local bugler or trumpeter to play the Last Post and Reveille. Their participation can also be registered on the VE DAY 75 website – www.veday75.org.

We do hope therefore, that your Scottish Community Council will take part in **VE Day 75** and look forward to receiving your registration on the VE Day 75 Website - www.veday75.org to enable us to keep in touch with you, update you on progress as well as informing the media of your involvement nearer the time.

My warmest regards,

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