

VE Day Ideas: 8th May celebrations

When VE Day dawns on 8th May 2020, it will be 75 years since the guns fell silent at the end of the war in Europe. The 75th anniversary will provide our nation, and our friends around the world, with an opportunity to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark and terrifying period. So we thought you might like some ideas to help us to remember together, but from the safety of your own homes.



Stay at home party

Host a 'stay at home street party' - celebrate the date with socially distanced activities. Throughout the afternoon, Britons are encouraged to hold 1940s-style afternoon tea parties at home rather than street parties, including their homemade bunting and recipes from the era. For some great ideas and recipes, follow the links below:

<https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/plan-your-ve-day-party/>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/ve-day>

Decorate your home

Decorate your home in red, white and blue - and enjoy a picnic in your front garden.

One of the initiatives put forward in aid of VE Day is the **BBC's Make A Difference campaign**. Everyone is asked to show off their bunting displays on social media using the hashtags **#GreatBritishBunting** and **#VEDay75**.

The simplest method in this instance is track down the bunting template pack can be downloaded online at www.bbc.co.uk/makeadifference. To get started, you'll need some materials on hand, but these can be anything from paper, cereal boxes, string, ribbon, sweet wrappers, felt pens, poster paint or whatever you can find. "You can decorate your bunting with pictures of whatever inspires you," say the BBC, "whether it's those who fought on the frontline or worked hard on the Homefront, or whether it's a celebration of enduring peace or your own personal hero."

What else is happening to commemorate VE Day?

Despite the current restrictions, VE Day looks set to be a packed day of events and activities to honour the historical anniversary.

At 11am, a two-minute national silence will be held to remember the declaration of victory and the end of the Second World War in Europe.

We are also encouraging all those taking part to undertake the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on the 8th May, from the safety of their own home by standing up and raising a glass of refreshment of their choice and undertake the following 'Toast' -

"To those who gave so much, we thank you," using this unique opportunity to pay tribute to the many millions at home and abroad that gave so much to ensure we all enjoy and share the freedom we have today.

Between 2.45 and 3.45pm, the first of two special BBC One programmes to mark VE75 will be broadcast, an including extract from Sir Winston Churchill's victory speech.

The Queen will then address the nation at 9pm, followed by national doorstep rendition of Dame Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again'.