

HALLING VIEW





VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY
A SPECIAL MOMENT OF CELEBRATION



THE HALLING HUB

**Invites you to a *virtual* street party
on your own front doorstep**



- Decorate your house
- Bake a cake
- Get out your best china
- Dress up
- Put your kettle on and join your neighbours on their front door steps for afternoon tea at 1pm (2m apart!)



Friday 8th May 2020 at 1pm



BE RESPONSIBLE SOCIALLY DISTANCE STAY SAFE PROTECT OUR NHS

Halling View VE Day 2020 - Remembering VE Day

By Roger Knight Rector of Cuxton and Halling

Do you remember VE Day? If you do, you were probably a child at the time. Your memories of the war will be different from those of adults. Perhaps you were evacuated to somewhere supposedly safer and had to live with people you didn't know, far from home. Some evacuees (like my mother and uncle) were billeted with good people who remained friends long after the war, but some such children were very badly treated. You probably remember taking refuge from air raids in shelters or, in an emergency, anywhere you could get. There were public shelters (often very crowded) and shelters in people's own homes. Some children were more frightened of the spiders than the bombs in Anderson Shelters which people dug out in their gardens, mostly underground but with a topping of corrugated iron and the soil dug out in the process of construction. The sound of the air raid warning siren (Moaning Minnie or Wailing Winnie) still sends a shiver down the spines of those who remember the Blitz.

There was rationing - very few sweets, a limited range of fruit, not much dairy or meat. They say that people ate healthier then than we do now and they got more exercise. Even the few who had cars had to put up with petrol rationing. Public transport was overcrowded and unreliable. "Is your journey really necessary?" civilians were asked. Talk about recycling. It was make do and mend. Nothing could be thrown away if it was repairable. Wasting food was a criminal offence. The men of the Merchant Navy risked their lives to keep us fed and thousands died in the effort. There was even a limit on how much bath water you could use - I think because of the amount of fuel required to heat it.

You couldn't expect a lot of toys even at Christmas. New clothes were a rare treat. You dad might be away from home - perhaps for years - in the forces. Younger children might not even remember their fathers. And, of course, many dads never did come home or, when they did, were physically and mentally no longer the men they had been. Mum might be doing war work. Other adults you knew might be in the Home Guard or fire watching or in the ARP (Air Raid Precautions). Children generally used to have much more freedom than they do now and perhaps more so during the war when adults had less time to supervise them. Games included playing in bomb sites and picking up shrapnel and unexploded ammunition - sometimes with tragic results. Schools might be bombed, schoolmates' casualties of war. Children became experts in aircraft recognition. Is it one of ours or one of theirs? It was very exciting to observe troop movements, construction of defensive structures and (eventually) preparations for D Day, but it was all top secret and if you did find out or guess what was going on, you absolutely mustn't say anything. Careless talk costs lives. Walls have ears.

A diminishing number remembers. Those of us born in the fifties and sixties had parents who well remembered the war and grandparents who remembered two world wars, but, in my experience, they never spoke much of the real horrors. So even we don't really know, although the world we grew up in was unchanged in lots of ways since the war. There were still plenty of bomb sites and other evidences of conflict such as pill boxes (little brick buildings from which small guns could be fired) around the coast. School photographs from the fifties don't look so different from school photographs from the forties. Following the shared experience of the world war, there was a very strong determination to make the future better with a new Education Act in 1944, the establishment of the NHS in 1948, a comprehensive welfare state, and a programme of house building not only to replace what had been destroyed by the bombs but also to get rid of the slums which disfigured so many of our cities. There was still the Cold War. People worried about a third world war with Russia in which nuclear weapons would be used, perhaps annihilating humanity once and for all. They said that only rats and cockroaches would survive.

Memories fade. The sixties saw the beginning of the huge expansion of the motorway network. Personal computers arrived for ordinary people in the eighties. Then the mobile 'phone and the internet. We no longer fear war as something which could threaten our way of life. Instead, we worry about global warming - which, paradoxically, has been a result of our increasing prosperity over the last couple of hundred years.

what can VE Day mean to the different generations born since the war – my generation, my niece’s generation, their children’s generation? So much has changed.

These are the things I feel strongly about. We should never fail to honour the sacrifices made by the wartime generation. We should always be grateful for the defeat of Nazism and Fascism and work and pray for the elimination of belligerent, oppressive and cruel political systems throughout the world and in every generation. We should be absolutely committed to peace at home and abroad. We should look after our veterans and the families of military personnel properly – something we still haven’t got right. We should not lose sight of the vision the wartime generation had that it is not only a matter of defeating the evils which threaten our safety and security but also of building a better world in which all human beings can flourish in peace and prosperity with freedom and ample access to education, health care and decent housing. Finally, as a Christian I must point this out, that the sure and certain hope is that the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ.

VE Day in Halling



VE Day a day to remember

by Jeff Manning

The end of the war was not a total surprise as it had been anticipated for some time and most people in Britain were just waiting for Official confirmation before starting the celebrations. It was announced on the 7th May 1945 that the War had ended in Europe and the next day would be a public holiday.

Britain on Tuesday the 08th May 1945 was a very happy place for most of the population, the hardship of the last 6 years was forgotten briefly and as far as everyone in Britain was concerned the war was over and the celebrations could begin, but in fact the World War did not officially end until Japan surrendered on the 15th August 1945. Not everyone celebrated though, widows that the war had produced could not bring themselves to celebrate and the hardship of the last 6 years had taken their toll on many people, the strain of the air raids and rationing had a detrimental effect on a weary population.



Some people celebrated early after hearing the news war had ended

Various events were organised to celebrate VE Day including parades, thanksgiving services and street parties.

In London, St Paul's Cathedral had 10 consecutive Thanksgiving services, the services were attended by thousands of people. People all around the country took part in the parties, singing and dancing.



Dancing in the street.

Music was provided by gramophones, accordions and barrel organs and people sang and danced to popular songs and tunes of the day.

Popular Songs in 1945:

Anything by Vera Lynn

Sentimental Journey (Les Brown and Doris Day)

Rum & Coca-Cola (The Andrews Sisters)

Till the end of Time (Perry Como)

Bonfires and fireworks were lit to mark the occasion. Licensing hours were extended so that people could toast the end of the war with a drink (or two) and dance halls stayed open until midnight.



Street Parties were held all over Britain

The following is a list of the sort of dishes that featured in VE Day celebrations:

Dripping sandwiches (Beef Fat)

Lord Woolton Pie (Pastry dish of vegetables)

Pork Faggots with Onion Gravy and Mash

Homity Pie (Pastry shell, Potatoes, Onions, Leeks, Cheese)

Corned Beef Hash

Liver casserole

Eggless fruit cake

Although the war had ended clothes rationing would last until 1949 and food rationing would continue until 1954. The massive economic cost of the war resulted in post-war austerity in a practically bankrupt Britain.

A rather ironic postscript to VE Day was that Winston Churchill was heavily defeated in the July 1945 General Election and was replaced as Prime Minister by Clement Atlee.

Photos taken in the Lower Rec in Halling on VE Day



VE-DAY!

IT'S OVER IN EUROPE

3 p.m. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL CLINCH IT

TODAY is VE-Day—the day for which the British people have fought and endured five years, eight months and four days of war.

With unconditional surrender of Germany to all the Allies, the war in Europe is over except for the actions of fanatical Nazis in isolated pockets, such as Prague.

The Prime Minister will make an official announcement—in accordance with arrangements between Britain, Russia and the U.S.—at three o'clock this afternoon.

ALL TODAY AND TOMORROW ARE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN BRITAIN, IN CELEBRATION OF OUR VICTORY.

We also remember and salute with gratitude and pride the men and women who suffered and died to make triumph possible—and the men still battling in the East against another cruel enemy who is still in the field.

WAR WINNERS ON AIR TODAY

YOU will hear the voices of the King, Field-Marshal Montgomery and Alexander, and General Eisenhower on the B.B.C. Home service tonight.

After the King's speech at 9 p.m., and separated from it by the news bulletin, comes "Victory Report," a special programme which will contain the recorded voices of Ike and Monty, and other

famous personalities of the war.

This afternoon Mr. Churchill announces the end of the war to the House of Commons and then, at 3 p.m., broadcasts to the world.

There will be no speeches, no recitations in the House. The Prime Minister will read the official document, then at once ask that the House adjourn to St. Margaret's Chapel for a service of thanksgiving.

A procession will then be formed, headed by the Speaker and all members of the Cabinet, and will pass through Palace Yard and across Westminster-square to the chapel.

Holiday for M.P.s

There will be no further sitting of the House that day. M.P.s will meet again tomorrow. Additional features of the B.B.C. Home programme, which will end at 2 a.m. tomorrow, include, at 8 p.m., an address by the Archbishop of Canterbury at a Thanksgiving Service for Victory, and at 8.30, "Tribute to the King," in which 25000 people will take part.

They include representatives of the Dominions and Colonies, the three fighting Services, the Merchant Navy, the Royal Air Force and Civil Defence, Lord, K. Amis, and a London housewife.



*** VE-SCENE TRAFALGAR SQUARE ***

It was a high old time in Trafalgar-square last night. Everybody wanted to climb something. This party of Wrens and Allied soldiers celebrated by clambering on to the lions. Army policemen present—like Nelson on his column—turned a blind eye.

London's first V-hour

"Daily Mirror" Reporter

PROBABLY CIVICUS, VE-DAY.

THIERE are 18,000 of us here—at a conservative police estimate—in the first hour of this day of days to usher in VE with all the noise that 18,000 people can make when they are out to celebrate.

We had been waiting since two o'clock yesterday for this. We went home at six when it seemed that the news of VE-Day would never come—but we were back in strength for the first minute of VE-Day.

And for some time now we have been making the most of it.

We are dancing the Conga and the Jig and "Knees up,

Mother Brown," and we are singing and whistling, and blowing paper triangles.

The idea is to make a noise. We are. Even above the roar of the motors of low-flying bombers "sheeting up" the city.

We are darting around Eros in the black-out, but there is a glow from a bonfire up Shaftesbury-avenue and a brass band vicereine has lit its canopy lights for the first time in getting on for six years.

A huge V sign glares down over Leicester Square. And gangs of girls and soldiers of all the Allied nations are waving rattles and shouting and climbing lamp-posts and swarming over cars that have become bogged down in this

struggling, swirling mass of celebrating Londoners.

A paper-balled throng is trying to pull me out of this telephone box now, I hold the door tight, but the die from Piccadilly Circus is drowning my voice.

A group of men liberated from German prison camps are yelling—"Holl out the Barrel!"

We sang it when we went to France in 1939 and we sang it as we tried to get out in 1940," they told me. "Now we sing it for Victory."

And a terrible cheer as New Zealand sailor climbed on the bonnet of a bus and from there to the roof.

He stood there swaying above the crowds as the

American airmen swarmed up after him, but the police fought through the crowd and pulled them down.

Traffic tried to push through

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SURRENDER IN A FARMHOUSE

A Boyer message from Russia described how the surrender was signed at the little red farmhouse which is General Eisenhower's headquarters at 2.41 a.m.

General Jodl, now German Army C-in-C, signed for Germany.