



**VE DAY**  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION  
8 - 10 MAY 2020

**ssafa** | the  
Armed Forces  
charity

Dear Town and Parish Clerk,

### TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS - VE DAY 75

I have pleasure in outlining plans for **VE Day 75**, being organised to celebrate and commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day as mentioned in my last communication to you last year.

The 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 was the day peace emerged after nearly six years of war, so the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.veday75.org). 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 Donard, Northern Ireland – and also at the five furthest points in the UK. This has never been undertaken before.