

CELEBRATING VE DAY 75

VE75 8 MAY 2020 - RESOURCE FOR CARE SETTINGS

HOW WAS VE DAY CELEBRATED IN BODMIN IN 1945?

Church bells rang all afternoon and evening. Children filled the streets and people rushed to find food before the shops closed. Bodmin's main streets were decorated and music played from speakers on a car roof. People made their way through the town. Bodmin Town Band tried to march through the crowds up to Town Wall. On Mount Folly a band played and soldiers let off fireworks.

People came together to celebrate and everyone contributed something. The YMCA was open until 11pm for free refreshments and around 4000 drinks, 5000 sandwiches and 48 pounds of biscuits were given out!

There was singing, dancing and wireless news. Many people went to a thanksgiving service in the Parish Church at 6pm and services were also held in the other churches and chapels to remember loved ones who lost their lives in the war.



ACTIVITY IDEAS

1. Make bunting from fabric or cut out triangular shapes from paper. Thread together with ribbon or string. Use this bunting to decorate your own VE Day celebrations. Red, white and blue were popular colours as on VE Day in 1945 people could buy bunting in these colours without using ration coupons!
2. During VE Day, dance halls stayed open until midnight and many people danced a conga through the streets. Recreate your own conga or learn some 1940s dance moves including the waltz, lindy hop or jive while [listening to this swing music](#)

Hold your own 1940s party with some rationing style food. See English Heritage VE Day 75 pack <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/ve-day-75/eh-ve-day-at-home-pack.pdf> for 1940s recipes, popular song lyrics and dance steps.

Wartime rationing meant sugar, butter and meat were hard to come by, so sweets, chocolate and traditional cakes were unlikely. Listen to music that was popular in the 1940s or have a singalong. You could include these popular wartime songs *We're going to Hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6QANPqHSIc> or *Run Rabbit Run* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mxib93uyd4>

3. Try some 1940s hair and make-up styling. See [Bodmin hair and make-up artist Carolyn Maddox's video here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76lQ3XTY_6c](#)
4. Play traditional games such as cards, marbles, dice and jacks.
5. Write VE Day messages of thanks and display them.
6. Join the nationwide VE75 singalong of Dame Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again' on Friday 8 May 2020 at 9pm. You can watch and join in on BBC1. Song lyrics on last page. Practice by [singing along with Dame Vera Lynn](#)
7. Take part in the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm on 8 May. Stand up, raise a glass and give a toast to the millions at home and abroad that gave so much to ensure we all enjoy and share the freedom we have today.

8. Short videos to watch:

IWM - VE Day Showreel Victory 75 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CdpqhxDR8>

IWM - VE Day celebrations <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFaMjmBt2JU>

BBC Teach - Hear the sounds of VE Day <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ve-day-How-did-the-british-plan-to-celebrate/zndn7nb>

9. Have a 1940s quiz. Try <https://quizly.co/can-you-pass-a-1940s-trivia-quiz/>



WE'LL MEET AGAIN

SONG LYRICS FOR 'WE'LL MEET AGAIN'



We'll meet again
 Don't know where
 Don't know when
 But I know we'll meet again
 Some sunny day

Keep smiling through
 Just like you always do
 'Till the blue skies chase
 Those dark clouds far away

And I will just say hello
 To the folks that you know
 Tell them you won't be long
 They'll be happy to know

That, as I saw you go
 You were singing this song
 We'll meet again
 Don't know where
 Don't know when
 But I know we'll meet again
 Some sunny day

And I will just say hello
 To the folks that you know
 Tell them you won't be long
 They'll be happy to know
 That, as I saw you go
 You were singing this song

We'll meet again
 Don't know where
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