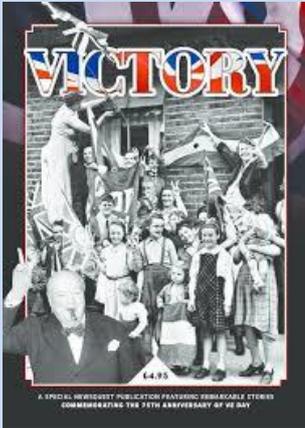




West Moors Town Council

VE DAY – SPECIAL EDITION Issue 8 Newsletter

VE DAY May 8th 1945 – 75 years



In March, many residents of local Care/Nursing Homes were visited by the Assistant to the Clerk, to hear their memories of VE day, 1945. Truly inspiring. This is what some of them said:

“As there were no sweet treats available, we would ask the Americans, “Got any gum Chum?”

Gwen Gravett, 92 yrs, Chestnut Lodge

“Everyone cheered and the flags came out”

“Where were you when you heard the war was over?”

Stan: “On the toilet!!!”

Stanley Gravett, 92 yrs, Chestnut Lodge

“We never knew what a banana was till after the war”

“There were no streetlights allowed for years in case the air bombers saw us”

Sheila, 88yrs Chestnut Lodge

“I was working in the shop when I heard, I then cycled to Ramsgate”.

“The Americans used to collect the children in a lorry and take them for breakfast”

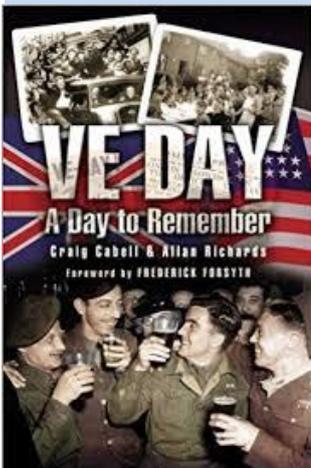
“My Wife hid under the table when they bombed Canterbury, not knowing when to come out”

Raymond Marsh, 89yrs, Chestnut Lodge

“After a pilot crashed in our road, wearing a blue nylon parachute, the local ladies boasted brand new knickers and the sewing machines were going like the clappers!”

Violet (aka Vicki), 95 yrs, Five Gables

“VE - everybody loved everybody. There were so many mugs of tea and a few noggins going about! We were highly strung for so long, we could now relax. A strange lady came in our house with 5 strange people in tow, telling us to come outside!” We were definitely not going to miss the Telegraph Boy 😊



VE DAY May 8th 1945 – 75 years

“VE - there was a long table in the street, food and fireworks.”

“Before, we carried gas masks round our necks in a cardboard box. EVERYWHERE we went. Now we could ride our bikes!”

Valerie Hupton 89yrs, Chestnut Lodge

“We did not know about VE until a few months after when the guards fled, and Communists came in to chuck us out of the Japanese P.O.W we had been for over 3 yrs. I was so well educated when I left due to the professors in there. I spoke 4 languages. In 1947, Liverpool was very different to the colonial life of Shanghai.”

Margaret Clifford, 88yrs, Chestnut Lodge

“My Mum used to say: ‘Shut the back door the Germans will see you!’”

“VE - it was like a big present - you could feel the atmosphere lightening. It had been blackout for years now there was colour and movement.”

Ann Sherwood, 82yrs, Denewood House

“I remember a ‘set’ table with 3 legs in mid-air after a bomb hit a block of flats. All the china just floating!”

“VE- there was a bit of a hooly! On mass in the streets, bottles, food, tables and broad Scottish songs! ‘Till we meet again’...”

Doreen Pennyfather, 92yrs, Denewood House

“Fun memories of the air raid sirens and sky displays – the spiders in the bunkers were worse than the sirens!

VE- Big communal lawn, tables, jelly sweets, all the horded treats came out.”

Dorothy Laver, 80yrs Denewood House

“I met my sisters at Waterloo, walked to Trafalgar Square and partied the night away for it was also my 21st.

Underground was running all night. We got lots of kisses from the Americans and anyone in a uniform. We weren’t fussy!”

Mavis Goodman, 96yrs (RIP)

“Winston Churchill told everyone to take a short period to rejoice. He was a hero of mine. He got us through the war. It’s a pity he can’t come back & knock a few heads together!”

“VE – I wasn’t a party person, but I joined in! My brother returned from the Fleet Air Army and would sing, ‘*My breakfast lies over the ocean, My dinner lies over the sea, My stomach is in a commotion, don’t mention my supper to me*’.

Mary Young, (age unknown!! – apparently 21!), Brook View

“Flags were flying, parties in the road. All the children joined in. Everyone went mad – it was very emotional. The Americans gave children chocolates and the women nylon stockings! My Father refused any relations with them. They did cause some trouble!!!”

Eileen Probin, 94yrs, Brook View

“There were celebrations in the town. I was with my Auntie Lily. Dancing in the street. I enjoyed the war! I was in the Air Force and built spitfires in the factory. I remember Glen Miller, ‘In the Mood’ and ‘The Chestnut Tree’.

Ken Williams, 92yrs, Brook View

“My Husband was in the Boys’ Brigade, so I didn’t see him for seven years”.

“VE- My sister and I went to Buckingham Palace. There were crowds of people.”

WMTC: “What were you waiting for?”

“ Anything that came along!! 😊”

Betty Tripp, 98yrs, Brook View

VE DAY May 8th 1945 – 75 years

VE DAY POEM *by Angela Wybrow*

The poem below would have been read out at St. Mary's Church, West Moors, if the civic service was to be held.

It really was the most brilliant day:
It was 1945; it was the 8th of May;
It is a date, forever remembered,
As the day when Germany finally surrendered.

The war across Europe had come to an end:
A war in which many had lost family or friend;
It was a day of much celebration
In towns and cities across many a nation.

Very soon after they had heard the great news,
Communities came together and really let loose;
Folk, they rejoiced: there was a great atmosphere,
With many a pub running right out of beer.

Soldiers and sailors were dancing the Conga:
The line, which they formed, growing longer and longer;
People danced in the streets and danced in the parks
They danced and they danced until way after dark.

From out of folks' windows, lights dared to glow,
And many a gallon of cheap champagne flowed.
A kaleidoscope of colour lit up the night -
As did blazing bonfires, which were burning so bright.

People held parties right there in the street,
With sweet and savoury dishes laid out to eat;
There was Homity pie, and Corned Beef Hash,
Bread with Beef Dripping, and Faggots with mash.

There were Glory buns, Welsh cakes, and bread,
spread with jam,
Apple Brown Betty, Plum Charlotte, and even Prune
flan;
There were scones, carrot cookies, and eggless
Fruit Cake,
Rock buns, Jam Tarts - all hastily baked.

The war had raged on for almost six years,
And, during that time, it had caused terror and tears;
It was a day of thanksgiving; a day of relief,
But, for some, just another day of deep rooted grief..

"There was no wireless. We lived on the 'Nine Mile Ride' in Crowthorne, which is still there. It wasn't until the next day, that a cyclist went past shouting "The war is over!!", that we knew about it!
Audrey Hubbard, 86yrs, Brook View

VE DAY POEM 1945

By Amie Fawcett – West Moors Council

The world gave almighty cries
The day that victory came
Europe now could sigh relief
Adolf Hitler no longer reigned

Winston Churchill spoke out loud
"This is a period of rejoice"
So much forbidden, such dark days
Being replaced with colour and choice

Neighbours, strangers came together
Shared food and drink galore
The flags did proudly fly that day
Europe fought and won the war

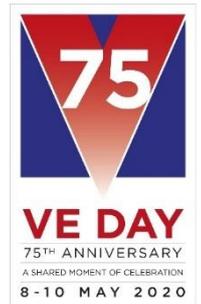
A good old hooley in the street
Families could reunite
Yankees now could all sail home
The enemy quickly took flight

Prisoners of war that suffered so
Did not delight so fast
The treacherous days that they endured
Would be engrained in their hearts

World war II had ceased but still
battles blazed far and wide
For every soldier who marches on
Their bravery can't be denied

Will there ever be world peace?
Will we live as one?
Will we learn from wars gone by?
That we're all equal each and everyone

.....The people of Europe were finally free,
And many a face was shining with glee;
At the Western Front, the fighting had ceased,
And, all throughout Europe, there was now,
much welcomed, peace



VE DAY May 8th 1945 – 75th year celebrations

A Cry for Peace Around the World

Oyez Oyez Oyez

"Citizens, one and all,
Please join this cry for peace
that you now hear from me.
Remember men & women, old & young,
who died to make us free.
The women left at home did not just sit and wait.
They toiled in harsh conditions before dawn to very late.
Factories, farms, other essential jobs, the women
were quick at learning.
They worked, some died, to keep the home fires burning.
As we remember this special day, do not forget that
every day someone needs your aid,
Do not put away your poppies, letting your memories fade.
Celebrate with the knowledge that VE Day is also a time
to remember, beyond the solemn wreaths of the
11th of November. Let's thank all those who have gone
before with their colours proudly unfurled. Join us as
united we say "Peace to the world". God Save the Queen"

The Nation's Toast

to the Heroes of World War II

"To those who gave so much"
"We Thank You"

West Moors Town Council Toast.

"For those that we lost in the war.
For those that have died since
the war.
For those that live among us still
remembering the fight for freedom.
Let's say thank you to them all.
Long may we live freely and look after
one another."



Chairman of the Council Cllr Mr Mike Hawkes and Clerk to the Council Judi Weedon, laid a wreath on the War Memorial on the morning of VE Day.

West Moors Town Council

4 Park Way
West Moors
BH22 0HL

PHONE:
01202 861044

E-MAIL:

[office@westmoors-
pc.gov.uk](mailto:office@westmoors-pc.gov.uk)



Find us on
Facebook



@WestMoorsTC

We're on the Web

See us at:

www.westmoors-pc.gov.uk

WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL
'WORKING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD'

Contacting Your Councillors

Cllr Mrs Rita Burke
22 Heatherdown Road
West Moors, BH22 0BY
☎: 07501 127540

Cllr Alex Clarke
7 Denewood Road, BH22 0LX
☎: 01202 894913

Cllr David Green
7 Kings Close
West Moors, BH22 0HP
☎: 07941 035225

Cllr Mike Hawkes
4 Weavers Close, BH22 0PG
☎: 01202 861044

Cllr Mrs Carol Holmes
9 Glenwood Way, BH22 0EL
☎: 01202 871321

Cllr Stephen Linford
8 Shaftesbury Road
West Moors, BH22 0DY
☎: 07912 107477

Cllr Mrs Nicki Senior
15 Woolslope Road
West Moors, BH22 0PD
☎: 07903 816284

Cllr David Shortell
186 Uplands Road, BH22 0EY
☎: 01202 870476

Cllr Colin Way
70 Elmhurst Road, BH22 0DG
☎: 01202 870208

Cllr Keith Wilkes
18 Avon Road, BH22 0EG
☎: 07713 159857

Cllr Anthony Willats
52 Elmhurst Road
West Moors, BH22 0DQ
☎: 01202 894234

Cllr Mrs Penny Yeo
10 Blackfield Lane, BH22 0NH
☎: 01202 896217

**DUE TO COVID-19
THE OFFICE IS STILL CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**