



**VE DAY 75 – 8TH MAY 2020:
A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY TRIBUTE
TO THE HUGE CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN DURING THE DARK DAYS OF WWII**

VE Day 75 provides an exceptional opportunity to pay tribute to the millions of women who contributed so much to the war effort during 1939-45. They played a vital role during the years of conflict, most of them not knowing if their husbands, sons, daughters and sweethearts would ever return home.

So let us ensure that the VE Day 75 celebrations on the 8th May recognise and thank the millions of women in the UK, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and countries around the world who worked so tirelessly and sacrificed so much.

As part of our celebrations, four young women will climb the four highest peaks in the United Kingdom – Ben Nevis, Scotland; Mount Snowdon, Wales; Scafell Pike, England, and Slieve Donard, Northern Ireland. When each of them reaches their chosen peak at 3pm on the 8th May they will perform the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WWII on behalf of women around the world. It will be the first time such an undertaking has occurred and I applaud their initiative.

We would like the communities throughout Wales to encourage women in their communities to pay a personal tribute to their courageous forebears by raising a glass or another refreshment of their choice and carry out the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WWII at a location of their preference at 3pm on the 8th May. Let us **all** ensure that the important part played by women during the war is truly celebrated.

This event also provides a unique opportunity for the communities of Wales to involve the various homes for the elderly within local communities too, ensuring they feel part of the celebrations on 8th May.

VE Day 75, over the weekend of 8th - 10th May 2020, will be an international celebration of peace – a time to remember, reflect and pay tribute to the millions of people who played such a vital part in achieving it. This includes armed forces personnel from many countries who gave their lives or were physically and mentally injured; the hard-working women and men who kept the factories, mines,

shipyards and farms operating; the ARP wardens, police officers, doctors, nurses, firemen, local defence volunteers and many others who safeguarded the home front.

The following series of commemorative events over the weekend will recognise the contributions of everyone during WWII, while raising valuable funds for our charity partner, SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity, which has been supporting service personnel, veterans and their families since 1885.

- The piping of Battle's O'er & VE 75 Years
- The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WWII
- The Cry for Peace Around the World
- Churches & cathedrals Ringing Out for Peace
- Street parties and celebrations in pubs, clubs and hotels, on town and village greens and in village halls
- Services of commemoration and celebration in churches, including the reading of the Tribute to the Millions and the playing of the Last Post and Reveille.

For further information and those wishing to take part and register their involvement, please go to the VE day 75 website – www.veday75.org and register your/their event by **NO** later than **30th April** to enable us to keep in touch with them, along with informing the media of their involvement nearer the time.

THOSE THAT HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED ARE BEING ASKED NOT TO DO SO AGAIN TO AVOID DUPLICATION

My warmest regards,

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