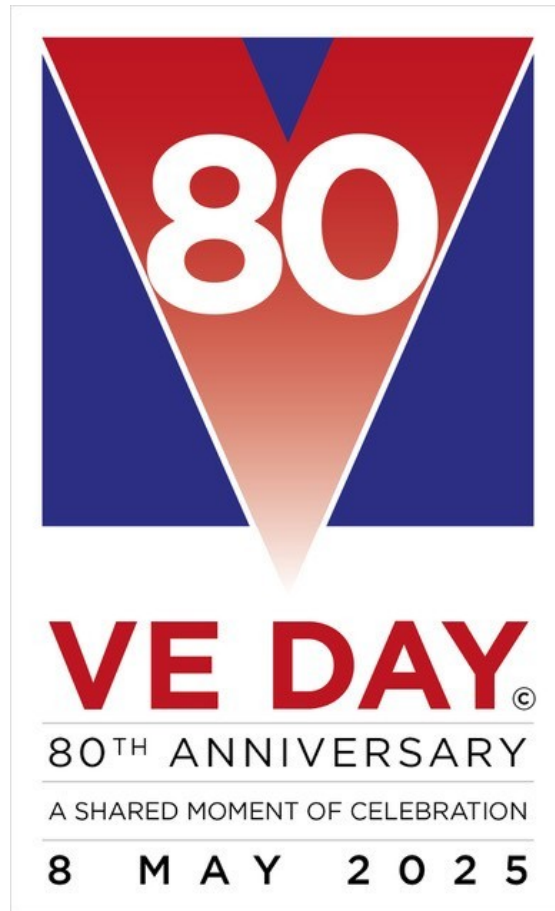




**BLANDFORD FORUM
TOWN COUNCIL**



Proclamation Service

Thursday 8th May 2025

**Piper, Lyndon Wall will play in the
Market Place from 9:40am,
followed by a procession to Legion House
for the service starting at 10am**

**Legion House
Church Lane, Blandford Forum**

Piper

Lyndon Wall

(processing up from the Market Place)

The Standards will march on at 10am and the event will then follow:



Civic Party in Blandford Forum, 2nd June 1945

Welcome

Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke
Mayor of Blandford Forum

Today, the 8th May 2025 we remember and celebrate a momentous day 80 years ago when peace finally came to Europe with the end of the World War that had been raging for six long years.

Blandford Forum can be proud in its part to overthrow the opposing forces. We had many Blandfordians, men and women who left to fight directly and numerous men, women and children who supported the defence effort in so many ways on the home front.

D-Day was the beginning of the end and Blandford Forum saw many American troops stationed here and with the US hospitals on Blandford Camp. Once the troops had left for the invasion the hospitals received the many wounded not only from D-Day but throughout the final push as troops of all nations forged their way to the final victory.

We celebrate today the cessation of hostilities in Europe but also remember those who did not come home after their part in the victory and also those who did return eventually but were changed forever by their experiences of war.

All who served on the front line, in combat support and the home front did their part to achieve victory and were instrumental for the freedoms we all take for granted today.

To paraphrase the wartime leader Winston S Churchill, ‘The victory was theirs’. We must never waste it.

VE Day 80 Proclamation

David Craner, Verwood Town Crier

Written by Principal Town Crier Mrs Jane Smith from Bognor Regis

Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!

Eighty years ago today the United Kingdom and its allies from around the globe celebrated VE Day - the end of the war in Europe.

Today as we come together to commemorate what came to be known as VE Day our thoughts turn to thanksgiving and remembrance of those millions that gave so much to achieve the freedom we all enjoy today.

We remember those we lost, those who were wounded or scarred, those whose lives were forever changed by war.

Nobody was immune from the impact of that terrible conflict.

Let us pause to remember their sacrifice.

We reflect too upon the words of our late and glorious Queen, Elizabeth - “Never Give Up, Never Despair”.

And so, we offer thanksgiving for the selflessness of those who gave up so much in order that future generations should enjoy the blessings of freedom, democracy and peace.

God Save The King!

Geordie Thomson will play a fanfare during the raising of the VE Day 80 Flag and the Mayor will lay a wreath to commemorate those who lost their lives during the conflict.



Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain, Harry Vincent

Prayer of Absolution

Almighty God

Who forgives all who truly repent,

Have mercy upon us,

Pardon and deliver us from all our sins,

Confirm and strengthen us in all our goodness,

And keep us in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,
to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom:
defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies;
that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power
of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Blandford in May 1945

Written by Lt Col (Retd) Bob Brannigan

Read by a member of the Town Council Commemoration Group

Reading

The Reverend Chris Beaumont

Deuteronomy 8:1

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors.

Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments.

He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years.

Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. Therefore, keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him.



**Extract from Winston Churchill's Speech to VE Day Crowds on
Whitehall, London - This is your Victory!**

8th May 1945

Read by Terry Clarkson
Chairman
Blandford & District Branch of the Royal British Legion

This is your victory!

It is the victory of the cause of freedom in every land.

In all our long history we have never seen a greater day than this.

Everyone, man or woman, has done their best.

Everyone has tried.

*Neither the long years, nor the dangers, nor the fierce attacks of
the enemy, have in any way weakened the independent resolve
of the British nation.*

God bless you all.

The National Anthem

Led by Rob Chalkley

*God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!*

Blessing

Chaplain to the Blandford & District Branch of the Royal
British Legion, Reverend Dale Carmichael

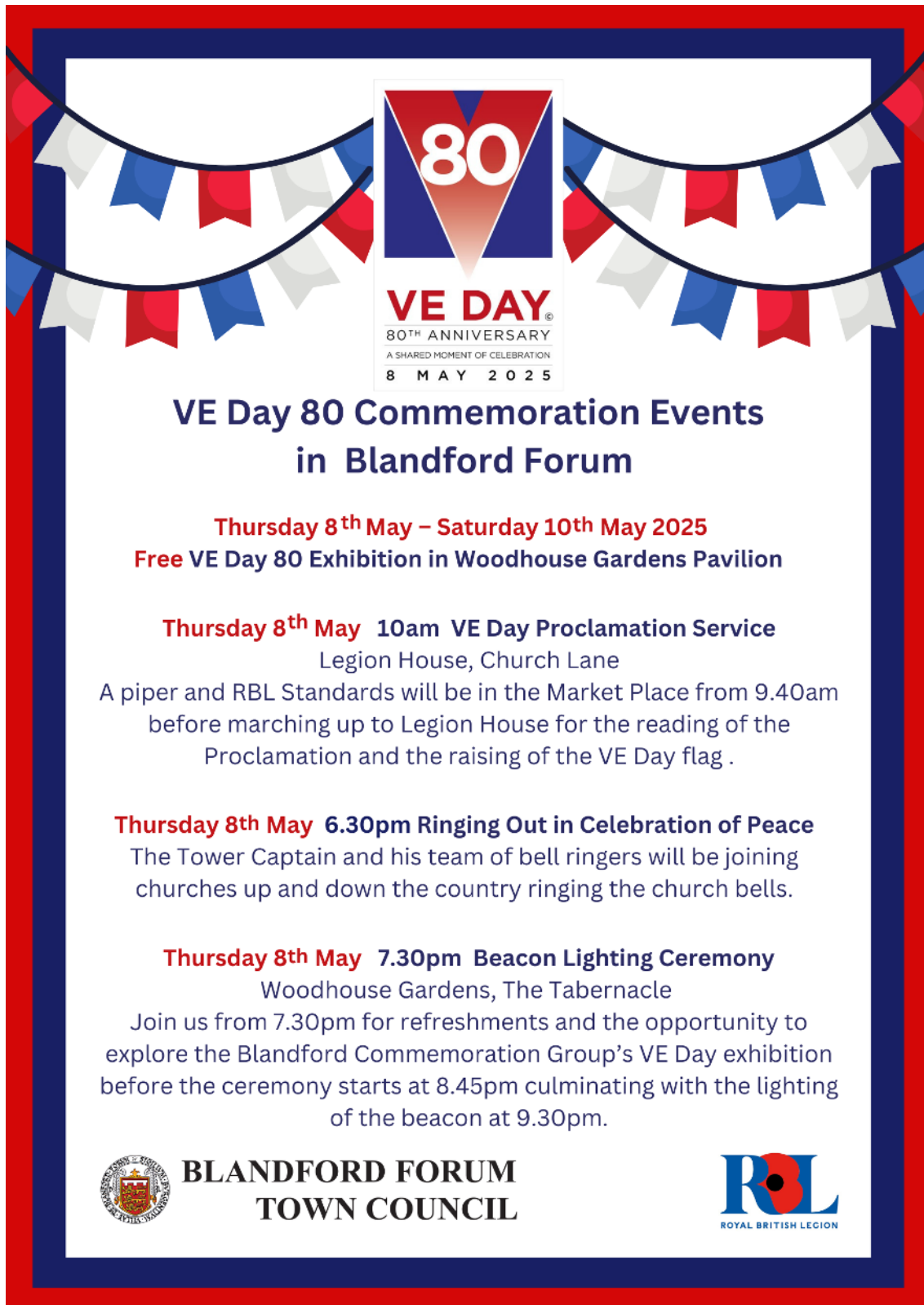
Piper - Celebratum


Lyndon Wall



*The Mayor concludes the ceremony and invites attendees into the
Overlord Room of Legion House for refreshments.*

Thank you for joining us for this poignant event.






VE Day 80 Commemoration Events in Blandford Forum

Thursday 8th May – Saturday 10th May 2025
Free VE Day 80 Exhibition in Woodhouse Gardens Pavilion


Thursday 8th May 10am VE Day Proclamation Service
 Legion House, Church Lane
 A piper and RBL Standards will be in the Market Place from 9.40am
 before marching up to Legion House for the reading of the
 Proclamation and the raising of the VE Day flag .

Thursday 8th May 6.30pm Ringing Out in Celebration of Peace
 The Tower Captain and his team of bell ringers will be joining
 churches up and down the country ringing the church bells.

Thursday 8th May 7.30pm Beacon Lighting Ceremony
 Woodhouse Gardens, The Tabernacle
 Join us from 7.30pm for refreshments and the opportunity to
 explore the Blandford Commemoration Group's VE Day exhibition
 before the ceremony starts at 8.45pm culminating with the lighting
 of the beacon at 9.30pm.



**BLANDFORD FORUM
TOWN COUNCIL**



The Order of Service has been kindly sponsored by Colin J. Close Funeral Service, Peel Close, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7JU.



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