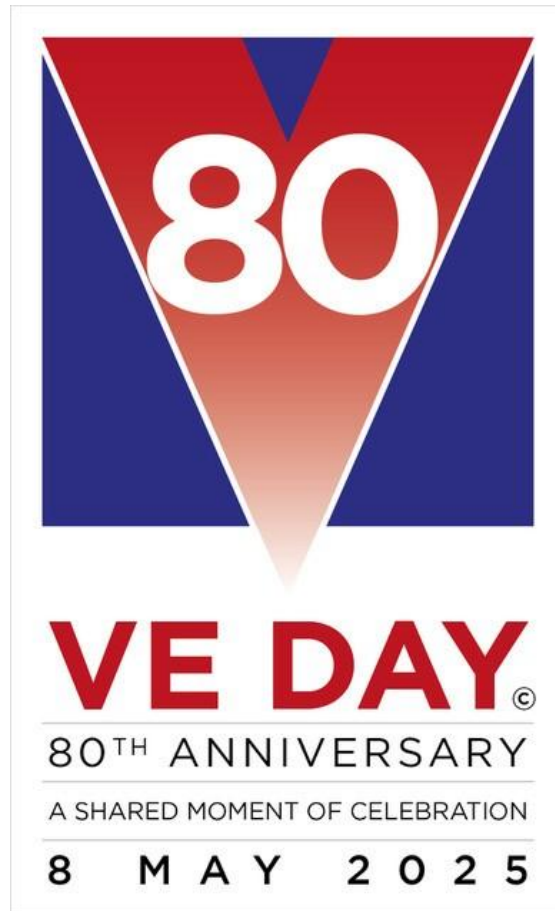




**BLANDFORD FORUM
TOWN COUNCIL**



Beacon Lighting Ceremony

Thursday 8th May 2025

Exhibition and refreshments from 7:30pm

Ceremony starts at 8:45pm

Woodhouse Gardens

The Tabernacle, Blandford Forum

Please view the Commemoration Group's exhibition in Woodhouse Gardens pavilion, enjoy refreshments and listen to music performed by the Blandford Stour Valley Band.

Welcome

Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Mayor of Blandford Forum

Today, the 8th May 2025 we remember and celebrate a momentous day 75 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 the US hospitals were based at 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.

Prayers led by the Mayor's Chaplain

Chaplain Harry Vincent

An Act of Repentance

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;

Its pride, its selfishness, its greed;

Its evil divisions and hatreds.

Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
And our failure to seek and establish that peace

Which God wills for his children.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned,

In thought, word, and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,

Help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;

That we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our
God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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

Hymn - Thine Be the Glory

Led by Rob Chalkley

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vic'try, thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

Thine be the glory...

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Thine be the glory...

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)
Tr. R Birch Hoyle (1875 - 1939)



Civic Party in Blandford Forum, 2nd June 1945

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.

Blandford in May 1945

Roger Carter

Town Council Commemoration Group

Lighting of the VE Day 80 Beacon by Alfie Owen
Student from The Blandford School



The VE Day 80 Tribute

Read by Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke
Mayor of Blandford Forum

*Let us remember those who gave their lives at home
and abroad, whose sacrifice enables us
to all enjoy the peace we have today.*

*Let us remember those who came home, wounded,
physically and mentally, and the friends and family
who cared for them.*

*Let us remember those who returned to restore their
relationships and rebuild their working and family lives after
years of conflict and turmoil.*

*Let us remember the families that lost husbands, wives,
sons, daughters and sweethearts.*

*Let us remember the servicemen and women of other
nationalities and faiths from Commonwealth and allied
countries who fought, suffered and died during six years of war.*

*Let us remember those in reserved occupations and the
brave people who kept us safe on the home front - the
doctors, nurses who cared for the wounded, the men and
women who toiled in the fields, the fisherman who fished
the seas, those who worked in the factories and the air-raid
wardens, the police officers, firemen, ambulance drivers
and the young people of the Scouts and Guides who played
such a vital role in the war effort at home too.*

God Save The King!

Hymn - I Vow to Thee My Country

Led by Rob Chalkley

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no questions, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar, the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.



**Extract from Winston Churchill's Speech to VE Day Crowds on
Whitehall, London on 8th May 1945 - This is your Victory!**

Read by John Dallison

Blandford & District Branch 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!

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign.
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

Blessing

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

Piper - Highland Tribute

Lyndon Wall

Thank you for joining us for this poignant event, which is being held in cities, towns and villages across the country with beacons being lit to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

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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