



75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day May 8th 2020

On 8th May, 1945, German forces surrendered, and the war in Europe was over. Adolf Hitler had committed suicide on April 30th, but the fighting had carried on until the surrender was signed by his successor, Reichspresident Karl Dönitz. Wild celebrations began around the world, with an estimated million people taking to the streets of Britain. While the War in the East against Japan continued until 15th August, Victory in Europe day was hugely significant in the life of the British people, who had endured huge sacrifices in the course of a long war.

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of VE day, and a three-day commemoration was planned which will not go ahead due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. However, a more limited celebration will go ahead on the Bank Holiday weekend of 8th-10th May.



How can you join in?

The Royal British Legion is offering a livestream from 11.15 am [here](#) and a singalong of “We’ll meet again” at 9am. You can sign their message board [here](#).

The organiser of the **VE Day 75** celebrations, Pageant Master Bruno Peek, has encouraged people to take part in a ‘Nation’s Toast to the Heroes of WW2’ at 3pm on the 8th May. People are encouraged to make the toast “To those who gave so much, we thank you,” to pay tribute to the many millions who fought and died for our freedom.

BBC Local Radio Stations are running an initiative to make and hang out your own “VE Day Great British Bunting” to hang out or place on windows. Instructions and resources for children are available [here](#).

A home learning pack for children aged between 11 and 14 years is available [here](#):

You can find out more about the VE Day 75th anniversary at the VE Day official site [here](#) and the Royal British Legion site [here](#).

