

Friday marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day – when the Second World War formally came to an end in Europe.

Although national and local events have had to be scaled back significantly due to the Coronavirus emergency, there are still lots of ways people in Hartlepool can mark this milestone and pay tribute to the remarkable Second World War generation from the safety of their own homes and while maintaining social distancing.

This bulletin includes details of how you can safely get involved. I will issue my usual COVID-19 update tomorrow.

Kind regards

Gill



Gill Street in 1945

Two minute silence

At 11am, people across the country are encouraged to stand at their front doors and join in a national two-minute silence. As well as providing an opportunity to honour the service

and sacrifice of the wartime generation, the silence will also provide an opportunity to reflect on the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on so many lives across the world.



Raise your glass!

At 2.45pm, BBC One will broadcast a special programme including Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill's famous speech declaring the end of the war in Europe.

At the same time, people are invited to raise their glass in the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War 2 – "Those who gave so much – we thank you."

Straight after this, a civic toast will be broadcast on the Council's Facebook page [here](#).

VE Day street parties in Hartlepool in 1945



Christopher Street



Grasmere Street



Mozart Street



Everett Street

Musical memories

There's musical nostalgia in store at 4pm – click onto the Council's Facebook page to watch a special performance of wartime songs by 1940s singer Vicky Sandison, filmed at the Town Hall Theatre. For a taste of what's in store, click [here](#).

The show will also be streamed to a number of care homes in Hartlepool for residents to enjoy. Please note - this is a broadcast-only event.



A message from The Queen

In a fitting conclusion, at 9pm The Queen will address the country on BBC One at the same time that her father the late King George VI did so on VE Day 75 years ago.

Following this, people are encouraged to safely open their doors or windows and join in a national singalong of Dame Vera Lynn's wartime classic 'We'll Meet Again.'

There are also lots of other ways you and your family can take part in the VE Day anniversary – click [here](#) for details.

We've also produced a handy leaflet [here](#).