

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	1 st April 2025
Report Title	VE Day Celebration Events
Agenda Reference	10
Author	Liz Matthews, Marketing & Events Co Ordinator

Officer's Recommendation

1. To note the report.

Background

Message from: Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR, Pageant master VE Day 80 – 8th May 2025 – A Shared Moment of Celebration

“Following on from the enormous success of D-Day 80 - 6th June 2024, in which we all commemorated the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, through the lighting of over one thousand beacons and five hundred lamp lights of peace throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK overseas territories that night, we are now focusing all our efforts on the celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE Day which marked the end of the war in Europe and WWII as a whole on 8th May 1945, in a similar way.

*On **Thursday 8th May 2025** we are encouraging the lighting of **Beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace at 9.30pm**, the raising of a unique VE Day flag at **9am** and, where possible, holding parties of celebration throughout the day in the streets, gardens at home, churches, villages, town halls, pubs, clubs, hotels and all manner of locations throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories.”*

How will Haydon Wick Parish Council will mark this occasion:

1. On Thursday 8th May: Raise the VE Day Flag at 9am. Encourage our community to turn on / light window/tea Lights at 9.30pm
2. Saturday 10th May: VE Day Celebration Family Picnic at Mouldon Hill Country Park in partnership with Swindon & Cricklade Railway. 12pm – 3pm

Window Lights at 9.30pm – The Co Ordinator will invite the community to take part through sharing posters, email bulletin, website and social media.

VE Day Celebration - Family Picnic. Saturday 19th May at 12pm – 3pm

A nostalgic event. Collaborating with Swindon & Cricklade Railway to incorporate the nostalgia of steam and recreate the homecoming. Military dress and vehicles. Photo opportunities.

Family picnic sited on the large sports field area at Mouldon Hill Country Park with Swindon Brass and potentially other performances throughout the event. Encouraging military or 40s dress to support the nostalgia of yesteryear.



Family Lawn Games Area: Bunting off an area for lawn games such as hoops, connect four, bowls etc

Memorabilia displays: The Co Ordinator is sourcing contacts and will approach local groups.

Swindon & Cricklade Railway (S&CR): Have changed their timetable around so that they will be running Steam Locomotives that weekend. A pop-up ticket office will be located at Mouldon Hill adjacent to the Platform entrance. The Co Ordinator to confirm S&CR programme of activities for the 10th May to support marketing opportunities. Potential Fly Pass, mentioned in a recent meeting with S&CR to be confirmed.

Infrastructure:

The Events Working Party and the Finance Committee agreed to funding which will support the basic safety and security of the event. St Johns Ambulance have been approached to supply First Aid support. WillSecure have been approached to provide security at the entrance and car park areas. Toilets: MHCP car park location, Co Ordinator to organise.

Current Sponsorship/support:

- Absolute Motor Care, Bush House Farm, Chiseldon, SN4 0HS. £200.00
- Nick's Ice Creams: £100.00

Other support:

- **Swindon Majorettes:** Are interested and will let us know as soon as they have a troop together.
- **Tawny Owl:** Councillor Vinay Manro will approach regarding support
- **Schools and Community Groups:** The Co Ordinator to approach the Thursday Afternoon Choir, Sea Scouts and Schools for help.



Join us as we commemorate Victory in Europe Day
with a special community celebration!



Relax in the beautiful surroundings of Mouldon Hill Country Park while enjoying
an afternoon filled with nostalgia, music, and community spirit.

For more information contact Liz at: marketing@haydonwick.gov.uk or call: 01793 722446

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