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From: **Communities Duty** <Duty.Communities@scambs.gov.uk>

Date: Thu, May 7, 2020 at 2:24 PM

Subject: Update for parishes and community groups – 7 May 2020

To:

Dear members, volunteer coordinators and parish councillors

Safe VE Day celebrations at home

Ahead of the long weekend and the 75th anniversary of VE Day tomorrow, the message from government remains consistent: the best thing we can all do to prevent the spread of the virus and save lives, is to stay home.

But that doesn't mean people can't commemorate VE Day. We know many of your groups are already organising fantastic celebrations from garden to garden, but for any residents who would like additional ideas, there is:

- A [virtual service you can watch or listen to from 3pm with music, memories and speeches celebrating the occasions and paying tribute to the entire Second World War generation](#) from British, Commonwealth and Allied Forces, to evacuees and those who served on the home front
- A virtual service at 3pm from Peterborough Cathedral, led by the Dean Christopher Dalliston and Canon Ian Black, the Vicar of Peterborough. Watch by visiting the [Cathedral's Facebook page](#) and also as a video via the [Cathedral's website](#).

There will also be a number of activities throughout the day on Friday that residents may want to join in with:

11am: A two-minute silence to honour the service and sacrifice of the wartime generation and reflect on the devastating impact Covid-19 has had on so many lives across the world.

11.15am: Join the Royal British Legion's VE Day 75 Livestream. Grab a cup of tea and tune in as the generations of the Second World War and today are brought together to chat about their shared experiences. Hosted by TV presenter Sonali Shah, the 45-minute programme will feature stories from those who served and sacrificed, as well as recognising the difficulties people are experiencing today.

3pm: The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of World War Two. Take part by raising a glass, cheering and clapping on your doorsteps and saying: "To those who gave so much, we thank you."

9pm: A pre-recorded address by the Queen will be broadcast at the exact moment her father, King George VI, gave a radio address on May 8 1945.

9pm: Fancy a sing-along? After the Queen's address, the nation is invited to come together in a rendition of Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again* on BBC One.

If you would like to share this information with your residents and the easiest way to do so is to share an existing Facebook post, please feel free to [share this post of ours](#) with your community groups or personal networks.

The Council is contacting residents

We wanted to keep you informed about efforts to support families that may be vulnerable. The County Council has helped us identify a list of families that may be in need of support, and to ensure these families are offered support as soon as possible we have written to them to signpost them to local help. Inevitably there will be some overlap as your groups may already be in touch with these families – which is fantastic. But we felt it was prudent to write to this group of people to ensure no one is left without an offer of support.

Best wishes for the bank holiday weekend.

Bridget Smith

Leader South Cambridgeshire District Council