



Potton Town Council

Event Programme



Market Square, Potton SG19 2NP



SCAN ME

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from 9pm



A message from the Pageantmaster



‘On Thursday 8th May 2025, we mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, our nation will unite to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for freedom but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since.

At 9.30pm, beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace will shine across the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, and UK Overseas Territories—symbolising the enduring strength of our communities. From city squares to village greens, we will stand together in gratitude, honouring the sacrifices that secured our freedom.

We encourage everyone to take part—raise the VE Day flag at 9am, gather in streets, gardens, town halls, clubs and pubs. Let this be a day of joy, reflection, and celebration. As part of the Commonwealth’s 2.4 billion people, we reaffirm our commitment to peace, ensuring future generations understand and cherish its value.

Together, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, and peace.’



Bruno Peek

Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR
Pageantmaster
VE DAY 80





9pm – Introduction

Master of Ceremonies – Denis Ellison, Vice-Chairman of Events Committee

The VE Day 80 Proclamation

By the Town Crier – Carlton Avison, Freeman of Potton



Oyez, Oyez, Oyez

Eighty years ago today the United Kingdom and its allies from around the globe celebrated VE Day – the end of the war in Europe.

Today as we come together to commemorate what came to be known as VE Day our thoughts turn to thanksgiving and remembrance of those millions that gave so much to achieve the freedom we all enjoy today.

We remember those we lost, those who were wounded or scarred, those whose lives were forever changed by war. Nobody was immune from the impact of that terrible conflict.

Let us pause to remember their sacrifice.

We reflect too upon the words of our late and glorious Queen, Elizabeth – “Never Give Up, Never Despair”.

And so we offer thanksgiving for the selflessness of those who gave up so much in order that future generations should enjoy the blessings of freedom, democracy and peace.

God Save the King



9.30pm - Potton will now be joining the Nation to mark 80 years of peace since the end of World War 2 in Europe.

Lighting the Beacon

The Beacon Lighting Ceremony will be undertaken by Major Simon Sadler TD VR DL.





The VE Day Tribute

Read by Retired Navy Captain David Tall RN OBE

Potton Youth Councillor Sam

Potton Town Council Chairman Councillor Vicki Gwilliam



The Tribute

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*

Sung by the town's choirs and lead by Dr Douglas Coombes MBE

Accompanied by pianist, Mrs Ronnie White

**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 question, 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.**

Words: Sir Cecil Spring Rice (1859-1918)

Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

(from Jupiter, The Planets)

Prayers

Lead by The Revd. Alex Wheatley, St Mary's Church and
Major Christine McCutcheon, The Salvation Army



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The National Anthem

Accompanied by pianist, Mrs Ronnie White

**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.**



© Imperial War Museum



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VE Day in Potton, Celebrations in Everton Road 1945

© Potton History Society



Everyone to join in singing We'll Meet Again – Vera Lynn

**We'll meet again
Don't know where, don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day**

**Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Til the blue skies drive the dark clouds
Far away**

**So will you, please, say hello
To the folks that I know?
Tell them I won't be long
They'll be happy to know
That as you saw me go
I was singing this song**

**We'll meet again
Don't know where, don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day**

Ross Parker and Hughie Charles - 1939



Potton Town Council wishes to thank all who have attended the VE Day 80 Celebrations and all who have helped to organise the event.