



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 2025

VE DAY 80 BEACON LIGHTING

On Thursday 8th May 2025 on the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, Folkestone took part in the International Tribute and Beacon Lighting at the Bandstand, on The Leas.

Crowds gathered at the Bandstand to enjoy the entertainment provided by Shepway Voices, Friends of the RBL Community Choir and the 99 (Folkestone) Squadron RAF Air Cadets. The Beacon was lit by the Deputy Lieutenant, Mr Geoff Miles DL, whilst the Town Mayor of Folkestone, Cllr Lucy McGirr read the 'International Tribute'.

Victory in Europe Day, known as VE Day, celebrates the Allies acceptance of Germany's unconditional surrender on 8th May 1945, marking the end of all military operations in Europe. 80 years after that day, the nation came together to commemorate VE Day and our thoughts turned to thanksgiving and remembrance of those millions that gave so much to achieve the freedom we all enjoy today. We remembered 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. We reflected on the words of our late and glorious Queen, Elizabeth – 'Never Give Up, Never Despair'.

The Town Mayor said "What a wonderful community spirit last night for the Beacon Lighting and reading of the International Tribute, despite the temperatures being low! It was such an honour to be out talking to the community and remembering the veterans and soldiers who gave their lives for our today."

For further information please contact Folkestone Town Council offices on 01303 257946 or email georgina.wilson@folkestone-tc.gov.uk

May 2025

ENDS

Photos attached

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