

From: rutlandlordlieutenant@gmail.com
Sent: 16 February 2025 11:20
To: rutlandlordlieutenant@gmail.com
Subject: 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 & celebration of Armed Forces Week information and action required.

2025 is the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2. As we know Rutland is a military county, not only do we have two significant military bases but also many military veterans chose to settle in our county. Achieving freedom with the end of WW2 is important for all and recognising the ongoing debt we owe to our serving military and veterans is as well.

We will be marking VE day itself, May 8th, with a flag raising at Oakham Castle and a Beacon Lighting and short ceremony at Cutts Lose Oakham. The government have recommended that towns and villages hold picnics and street parties to bring local communities together to celebrate VE day over the Bank Holiday weekend. I urge you to instigate such local celebrations. Please could you also see if a Youth group/WI/ or a craft group might make a flag or banner to represent your village for use on May 8th and at our county celebration on the 29th June?

We will also mark the beginning of Armed Forces Week with a flag raising at the Castle, Monday June 23rd. However, I wanted Rutland to also have a single really big county celebration of the end of WW2 and Armed Forces Week and celebrate our military and veteran community. It is important that this is a **county** celebration and does not cut across village celebrations hence the date. It is particularly apposite at a time when our county status is under threat. I would like every parish, village and hamlet to be represented at this Rutland celebration on Sunday June 29th by bringing a banner/flag.

We have decided to **concentrate upon the weekend of June 27th – 29th culminating in our main celebration on the Sunday (29th) with a parade** starting from the Castle at 10am followed by a church service at All Saints church (10.30am) followed by a 'Party in the Park' with music, dancing, food stalls and more in Cutts Close (12-5pm) . We would like every village to have a village flag or banner and people to carry these and represent their area in the parade, at the following church service and at the party. We hope all villages will have their flags displayed for all to see close to at the party in Cutts Close after the service. I do hope that with four months to go you will be able to join in and help make this a remarkable Rutland celebration. It will certainly provide opportunity to demonstrate the strength of our Rutland sense of identity.

In the interests of complete information, I would add that we are also planning on marking VJ day with a flag raising and beacon lighting on August 15th. However, our main focus will be on the weekend of 17th – 29th June and the parade, service and party on Sunday June 29th.

All best wishes and thanks for all you and your parish council does

Sarah Furness

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