



Discover:

## VE Day 75th Anniversary

### Key Facts

- VE Day (or Victory in Europe Day) was the 8th May 1945 when people celebrated the news that Germany had surrendered and World War Two in Europe had ended.
- In London more than a million people took to the streets to celebrate, and the royal family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with Winston Churchill.
- Whilst people celebrated VE day with parties around the world, rationing in Britain did not actually end until 1954.
- The celebrations were mixed for many people who had lost loved ones or seen their homes destroyed.
- The War continued in east Asia for another three months until Japan surrendered on 15th August 1945. This is called VJ Day (or Victory in Japan Day).

### Where to find more:

- Read a diary entry of some of the VE Day celebrations that took place in Warwickshire: <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/warwick-war-diary-ve-day>
- See some video footage of the VE Day celebrations in London from the Imperial War Museum archives: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFaMjmBt2JU>
- Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave a speech to mark the end of the war. Listen to some of it here: <https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1941-1945-war-leader/to-v-e-crowds/>
- You can find a 'party pack' from English Heritage here, including some 1940s dance moves, songs and recipes: <https://www.veday75.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/English-Heritage-Party-Pack.pdf>

Junk Modelling

Make and Create

## Make Do and Mend

You will need:  
Recycled materials  
Pens  
Glue  
Tape Scissors

Let your imagination run free! See what you can make of the recycled materials so that they can be used again and do not go to waste. Maybe you could make something to use at home. Or why not try to make a model of something from the museum?

Resources such as food and new clothing were scarce in World War Two. This was because of rationing. Rationing was officially started on 8th January 1940. It was meant to ensure a fair distribution of food, in short supply due to enemy ships attacking merchant ships, preventing them from bringing supplies (such as sugar, cereals, fruit and meat) to the UK.

Ration books were issued to every person (to be stamped by a local shopkeeper when the goods were collected).

People could not get hold of new clothes very easily so they were encouraged to mend their old clothes as much as possible. There was lots of information on how to mend clothes, how to make children's clothes out of adult ones, etc. Some brides were very inventive and made their wedding dresses out of unusual items, such as parachute silk.

