



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Stone to commemorate 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the day on which World War II in Europe ended. To mark the occasion, Stone Town Council will be inviting residents to celebrate with a range of programmed events and activities across the weekend.

#### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May will see a Street Party being hosted on the High Street from 10:30am where locals are invited to bring family and friends to celebrate with a picnic and to enjoy live entertainment from The Sweethearts singing the great hits of the 1940s and performances from the Florence Brass Band.

Friday also includes a performance of The Last Post at 2:55pm leading into the 'Nations Toast to the Heroes of World War II' at 3pm which is exactly 75 years after Churchill announced the end of World War II in Europe. It will be a chance to raise a glass and say cheers to the heroes of World War II.

As part of the celebrations, The Cry for Peace Around the World will be read out by a Christchurch Academy pupil at St Michaels Church at 6:55pm followed by the ringing of the bells.

#### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May will bring Flower Power Fair to the High Street where a range of British plants, including some rare and unusual plants will be sold and live entertainment from vintage singer Sarah Raymond is scheduled for 12pm.

Councillor Rob Kenney said "We are thrilled to welcome Flower Power Fair to Stone's High Street as part of our VE Day weekend celebrations and to see the range of plants and advice from growers that will be on offer."

St Michael's Church are also hosting a Heritage Day in Church from 10am – 4pm with an exhibition by Stephen Edwards MBE featuring items from Stone from World War II.

#### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May there will be a procession from the Cenotaph at the top of the High Street at 10am, down the High Street to St Michael's Church for a Service of Celebration and Commemoration taking place at 10:45am.

The programme of events also includes a concert to commemorate VE Day and Stone in World War II at St Michael's Church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.

Councillor Jill Hood said "Although fully aware of the threat of the Corona Virus we are adopting the 1939 slogan "Keep calm and carry on". We are taking advice from the Public Health Authority and realise things can change quickly with the result that we may have to cancel the celebrations last minute. In the meantime we have organised a weekend that really captures the spirit of VE Day with

something for the whole family to enjoy. Residents are also invited to dress in 1940s costume to really get into the spirit. We look forward to hopefully celebrating this momentous occasion!"

**ENDS**

**13<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Les Trigg

Town Clerk

Stone Town Council

Telephone: 01785 619740

Email: [clerk@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@stonetowncouncil.gov.uk)