



NORTH WEALD BASSETT PARISH COUNCIL
VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY
8 MAY 2025



Flagpole, Village Green, North Weald Bassett



Unveiling of seat to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and to recognise Arthur Moreton, a man well respected by those involved with the Airfield and who was eager to keep the connections alive with the Royal Norwegian Airforce. There is no better place to have a seat situated and commemorated in Arthur's honour, but at the front of the Norwegian Stone and at the vicinity of the Debt of Honour.



The Lamp Light of Peace





Chairmans VE Day 80 Speech – Unveiling of Commemorative Seat

Good Evening Everyone

Welcome to this momentous occasion as we gather to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Today, we stand at this historic North Weald airfield, a place that echoes with the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought for freedom and peace during World War II.

Eighty years ago, the world witnessed the end of a conflict that had brought unimaginable hardship and loss. VE Day marked the triumph of courage, resilience, and unity over tyranny and oppression. It is a day to honour the heroes who served on the front lines, the families who supported them, and the countless individuals who contributed to the war effort in countless ways.

As we reflect on the past, let us also celebrate the enduring spirit of those who fought for a better future. Their legacy lives on in the freedoms we enjoy today and the peace that prevails. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

Let us also remember those who are no longer with us, whose bravery and dedication continue to inspire us. Their memory is etched in our hearts, and whose stories will be passed down through generations.

As we gather here, let us take a moment to appreciate the significance of this place. It was from here that many brave souls of many nationalities embarked on missions that changed the course of history. Today, it continues to represent a symbol of hope, resilience, and the enduring power of unity.

Let us remember the significance of the many Squadrons, numbering at least 47 of many nationalities who were stationed here, including British, Czechoslovakian, Polish, American and Norwegian, all who fought the War in Europe.

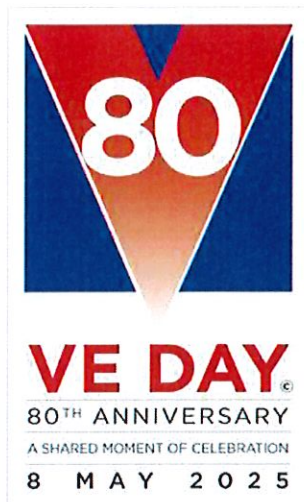
Many of our local roads have connections to the Airfield, whether they are named after Aircraft, or pilots, Pike Way, Tempest Mead, Blenheim Way, Wilhelm Mohr Court, and Beaufort Close to name a few.

The Parish Council strives to keep these connections alive to this day.

So we are unveiling a seat on this day the 8th May 2025 VE Day to commemorate a special Connection and recognise Arthur Moreton, a man well respected by those involved with the Airfield, he was eager to keep the connections alive with the Royal Norwegian Airforce and well respected by all those in the Community. So there is no better place to have a seat situated and commemorated in his honour but at the front of the Norwegian Stone and at the vicinity of the Debt of Honour.



North Weald Bassett Parish Council would like to thank Exterior Plas for sponsoring this event



VE Day 80 Proclamation

To be read by the Chairman

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 II.
"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