



The day of the VErY Big Picnic draws ever closer! This is the time that together, we as a village, will be celebrating VE Day 80 years on!

We have an exciting program of activities lined up for you and this edition of the Newsletter gives you lots of information about what is planned so do read on.....

80th ANNIVERSARY
VE DAY
80
8th May 2025
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

COME AND CELEBRATE VICTORY
Bring Your Own...
VErY Big Picnic!
Ecchinswell Village Hall
MONDAY
MAY 5TH
12:00 - 15.00

FAMILY FUN!

FREE ENTRY!

BAKE OFF COMPETITION (ADULTS & CHILDREN)
LICENSED BAR - REFRESHMENTS
From 3pm - Special VE Day offers available
on food and drink at The Royal Oak

1940S ATTIRE ENCOURAGED
Dust off your glad rags - wartime glam is the jam, darling!

Cash Preferred - Help Us Fund the Fun
ecchinswellhall@gmail.com



THINGS TO GET STARTED ON BEFORE THE BIG DAY

Dig out your bunting and flags to dress up your house and/or garden to get the festive spirit going. Let's make Ecchinswell look really special!

Plan a 1940's outfit. Remember it was the war everyone had to make do and mend so anything goes!

Buy some tickets for the VErY Big Raffle there are lots of lovely prizes to be won (see below).

Seek out a delicious recipe for the VErY Big Bake Off and if possible, please submit your entry form* by Friday 2nd May.



Very BIG BAKE-OFF GUIDANCE

There are 3 categories

1. Under 10's: Decorate a cupcake
2. Up to 16: Make a cake
3. 17 and over: Make a cake

GUIDANCE

There are no rules for children's cupcakes and plain bought cupcakes are fine.

For categories 2 and 3 cakes can be any shape but of suitable dimensions e.g. at least 18cms (7 inches) for a round cake.

Your cake can be of any type – sponge, fruit, scone round etc.

We hope that you will agree to donate your cake(s) to the refreshment stall. Children may collect their cupcakes after judging.



Raffle Prizes

Fortnum & Mason Hamper
Limited Edition Framed Print from local artist, Tracey Larkin
£30 voucher from Twist Hair & Beauty, Kingsclere
Yoga Bundle of goodies
£25 cash
VE Day Decorated Fruit Cake
Bottle of Prosecco
Bottle of Red Wine
Union Jack tote bag
Scented Candles

Tickets on sale from Friday 2nd May



**To obtain the entry form please WhatsApp Kathy Debenham (07774 132094 with your email address.*



THINGS TO DO ON VErY BIG PICNIC DAY!

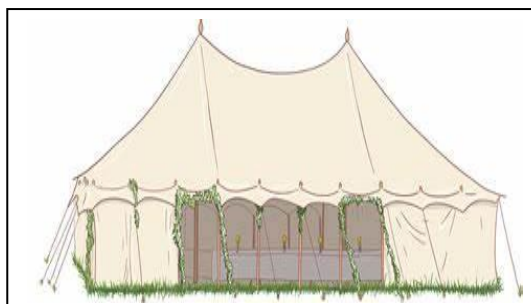
If you are entering the VErY Big Bake Off, please bring your cake to the Marquee between 11.45 and 12.15.

Prepare a delicious picnic – enjoy award winning cakes and hot drinks from our refreshments stall. *NB we are not selling sandwiches or other similar savories.*

Support our bar, the prices, as usual are VErY competitive so please leave your cold drinks and glassware at home today.

So now about the entertainment we have planned for you.....

At 12.45, once the cakes have been judged, you will be able to view them. Come and look also at our VE exhibition which consists of the stories from some of our older village folk and letters that the school children have written to veterans as part of a VE Project.



Grab a refreshing cold drink from the bar, sample a delicious cake from the refreshment stall and whilst there try and guess the location of the treasure on our very own Ecchinswell Treasure Map. Do you have a head for numbers? Yes or no, it doesn't matter try your luck guessing the number of sweets in the jar.

Children: Test your skills with our “Hook a Duck” competition. If you feel lucky, try the Football Tombola or our Lucky Dip.

Feeling glamorous? Get your face painted!

Meet Captain Spoonorosso on the field for the Treasure Hunt at 1.00pm.

Everyone: Tap your feet to the music of the live VE Jazz Band whilst you wait for the cricket!

And finally, it's not too late to buy raffle tickets.....





AND HERE'S THE TIMETABLE FOR HOW OUR DAY (SHOULD) PAN OUT!



12.00 The VErY Big Picnic opens

Children's Activities

Hook-A-Duck; Lucky Dip; Football Tombola; Face Painting

Bar and Refreshments

In the Kingsmill Room

12.15 Judging of the Bake-Off Cakes

In the Marquee

**Please bring cakes to the marquee from 11.45 until 12.15*

12.45 View the cakes and our VE Exhibition

In the Marquee

12.45 Winners and Prizes announced for The Best Bake-Off Cakes

12.50 The VE Jazz band plays 1940's music

On the balcony

13:00 Children's Treasure Hunt

Join Captain Spoonorosso on the field

13:30 The VE Jazz band plays 1940's music

On the balcony

14:00 Cricket match begins

On the field

15:00'ish Raffle Tickets Drawn

At the end of cricket's first innings

Later shall we all go to the Oak?



NB Our activities are cashless, strips of tickets for £1.00 are available at the gate.



WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN MAY?

May 6th Coffee Morning 10.00-11.30, Village Hall

May Coffee Morning falls amidst the VE Celebrations. The day before having been our VErY Big Picnic Event, there will be lots to talk about!

We will carry on the celebrations, following a nostalgic theme around the war years – you may well have a few tales to tell yourself! Have you got any 1940's style clothes or maybe a 1940's hairdo?

Do come, join in the chatter alongside a lovely warm drink and a delicious piece of cake – do you have any wartime recipes to share with us?

At our June get together (03/06), we are going to have a Marsden Morning. We will be raising money for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. So please start saving your pennies for this worthwhile cause.....



May 14th The Annual Assembly of the Parish Council 7.30pm Village Hall

This meeting is open to all. Its your chance to hear what is going on and what is being planned in our neighbourhood.

There will be a number of presentations including:

- **Representative from the Local Police**
- **Cllr John Izett from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council**
- **John Dain talking about our Neighbourhood Plan**

Further details will follow from the Parish Council in the coming days. Refreshments will be provided at the meeting.



REGULAR HALL USERS

You can join any of our regular user groups. Karate, Pilates and Table Tennis are all open sessions. If you are interested in Ballet or Gardening Club, please contact as advised below.

Monday: Karate Club 7-8pm from age 6. Call in or contact Lynne on 01635 298571.

Tuesday: Coffee Morning First Tuesday monthly 10-11.30am.

Ballet Intermediate/Advanced ballet lessons. Contact hollyunnukballet.com for more details.

Wednesday: Pilates 10-11am, £10 per session. All abilities welcome, you can turn up on the day, but you are advised to check the web site www.dannipilates.com

Ballet Grade 5 ballet lessons. School years 7-9. Contact hollyunnukballet.com for more details.

Watership Down Gardening Club 7-9pm. 1st Wednesday monthly. Enquiries ecchinswellhall@gmail.com

Thursday: Table Tennis 2nd and 4th Thursday monthly 7-9pm. Fun session, £2 all ages and abilities welcome.

HOPING TO SEE YOU ALL ON MAY 5TH

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A SWELL TIME!



This E-Newsletter is produced by the Events Team which is a subcommittee of the Village Hall Committee

Contact us on ecchinswellhall@gmail.com, use the same address for the main committee

Events Team Amanda Letch, Helen Gledhill, Kathy Debenham, Louisa Sandover, Mel Willson, Tracey Larkin.

Village Hall Committee Paul Oldring – Chair, Allan Unnuk – Treasurer, Lynne Hutchins – Secretary and Bookings Clerk, Paul Debenham – Parish Council rep, Bill Fry – Football rep, Jackie Bayliss - Panto rep, Chris Hutchins – Caretaker.

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