



VE Day 80 – 8th May 2024

West Mersea Town Council is once again proud to be part of the National Beacon Lighting events being held across the UK to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe.

The Beacon event is being held on Thursday 8th May on the Victoria Esplanade Car Park from 5pm through to the beacon being lit at 9.30pm. We are very pleased to welcome as our host and commentator, former radio presenter Steve Scruton, who many will know from his BBC Essex days.


We hope people will enjoy and join in with a nostalgic vintage 1940s vibe running through the event, with a range of entertainment to suit all ages.

There will be a mix of live music from our very own Out of Tuners group, the Fat Penguins, and Vintage Billie Williams. There will also be various stalls and activities. Our local fire engine and crew will be on site, so people can take the opportunity to go and see them and their firefighting equipment. We are very pleased to have a military presence once again with various personnel from Colchester Garrison attending. The beacon itself will once again be lit by Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Ed Rankin.

This is a celebration of a key moment in history so come along and get into the swing of it. It's a time to get out those glad rags – fancy dress optional!

Below is the event programme. Posters and leaflets will also be available soon in local outlets.

EVENT PROGRAMME

5.00pm	Welcome and Public Address with host Steve Scruton	
5.10 - 5.40pm	The Out of Tuners	
5.40 – 6.10pm	Punch and Judy show (near children's playground)	
6.15 – 7.00pm	Balloon modeller and stilt walker entertain children across the arena	
6.10 - 6.55pm	1940s singer – Vintage Billie Williams	
7.00 – 8.00pm	The Fat Penguins	
8.10 – 8.55pm	1940s singer – Vintage Billie Williams	
9.00pm	VE80 background and lead into King George VI's Victory Speech excerpt	

At the Beacon:

9.10pm	Song 'I Vow to Thee My Country' 1940s singer – Vintage Billie Williams
9.15pm	Reading of the VE Day 80 Tribute by children from Mersea Island School
9.20pm	Blessing by Rev. Jo Parrott
9.30pm - Lighting of the Beacon	Colchester Garrison Commander Lt. Col. Ed Rankin

National Anthem 'God Save The King'

Followed by Fireworks finale