# Winston Churchill impersonators bring VE Day 80th anniversary to life across UK villages



The recent 80th anniversary of VE Day was brought vividly to life in a village gathering that featured a remarkably authentic portrayal of Winston Churchill. Dressed impeccably in a suit, hat, and bow tie, and brandishing his iconic cigar, the re-enactor, Chris Carson, from the Eynsham Amateur Dramatic Society, surprised a crowd gathered to commemorate the end of the Second World War in Europe. His performance was so convincing that many spectators could have believed they were witnessing the former Prime Minister in the flesh, echoing sentiments of nostalgia and reverence for a pivotal moment in history.

The event was replete with traditional festivities, including displays of historic military vehicles and war memorabilia, the ringing of church bells, flag waving, and live performances of wartime music. Responses from attendees highlighted the community spirit and dedication to remembering the past, with one visitor praising the villagers of Ducklington for orchestrating such a memorable occasion.

Similar commemorative activities are taking place across various locales, reflecting a widespread desire to honour historical events from World War II. For instance, a village in the Meon Valley has organised a month-long series of events celebrating the 80th anniversary of D-Day, which includes talks, dance lessons, movie nights, and even steam rides. These initiatives aim to spotlight the local community's historical role during the war, serving both educational and commemorative purposes.

In Southwick, a D-Day anniversary event featured another Winston Churchill impersonator, Steve McTigue, who engaged with visitors while discussing the village’s significant wartime contributions. The atmosphere was recreated with vintage military displays and 1940s attire, immersing attendees in a vivid historical experience.

The rise of virtual commemorations during the pandemic has also kept the spirit of remembrance alive. Derek Herbert, another Churchill impersonator, pivoted from live appearances to engaging audiences online during the COVID-19 lockdown by delivering performances that included a VE Day extravaganza on social media platforms. This adaptability has ensured that various communities, even from afar, could connect with the history they cherish.

In addition, locations like Chartwell, Winston Churchill's former home, also celebrated VE Day with special events, inviting visitors to explore exhibitions and participate in activities that highlight Churchill's legacy during the war. The National Trust’s engagement with the public ensures that his contributions remain central to the public memory of World War II.

With each event and portrayal, communities continue to engage with their history, using imagination and dedication to ensure that the sacrifices of the past are neither forgotten nor overlooked. Such commemorations stimulate discussions of patriotism, resilience, and the shared experiences of those who lived through some of the darkest days of modern history.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/25151006.winston-churchill-visits-village-ve-day-anniversary/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.petersfieldpost.co.uk/news/meon-valley-village-has-month-of-events-to-mark-d-day-80-milestone-675049> - A Meon Valley village is hosting a month of events to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The program includes talks, dance lessons, movie nights, and steam rides, organized by The Friends of Droxford Church. The events aim to honor the village's historical significance during World War II. ([petersfieldpost.co.uk](https://www.petersfieldpost.co.uk/news/meon-valley-village-has-month-of-events-to-mark-d-day-80-milestone-675049?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/defence/d-day-anniversary-winston-churchill-makes-an-appearance-in-southwick-for-villages-revival-966392> - During the D-Day anniversary event in Southwick, a Winston Churchill re-enactor, Steve McTigue, portrayed the wartime leader, engaging with the crowd and discussing the village's role in World War II. The event featured vintage military displays, 1940s attire, and a NAAFI truck, recreating the 1944 atmosphere. ([portsmouth.co.uk](https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/defence/d-day-anniversary-winston-churchill-makes-an-appearance-in-southwick-for-villages-revival-966392?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://jerseyeveningpost.com/morenews/uknews/2020/05/08/locked-down-churchill-impersonator-uses-social-media-to-mark-ve-day/> - Winston Churchill impersonator Derek Herbert adapted to the COVID-19 lockdown by performing online to mark VE Day. Originally scheduled to speak at Hever Castle, he instead delivered a series of virtual performances, including a VE Day 1940s Performers Extravaganza hosted on Facebook. ([jerseyeveningpost.com](https://jerseyeveningpost.com/morenews/uknews/2020/05/08/locked-down-churchill-impersonator-uses-social-media-to-mark-ve-day/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/chartwell/ve-day-80-at-chartwell> - The National Trust's Chartwell estate is celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day with special events throughout May. Visitors can explore the house and gardens, view exhibitions, and participate in children's trails, all highlighting Winston Churchill's role during World War II. ([nationaltrust.org.uk](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/kent/chartwell/ve-day-80-at-chartwell?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.visitessex.com/whats-on/d-day-event-with-winston-churchill-p2164181> - The Combined Military Services Museum in Maldon, Essex, is hosting a D-Day event featuring actor Eric Simonelli portraying Winston Churchill. The event includes speeches, displays about D-Day bravery, and opportunities to sit in a Willys Jeep, with normal entrance fees applying. ([visitessex.com](https://www.visitessex.com/whats-on/d-day-event-with-winston-churchill-p2164181?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/08/ve-day-2020-75-anniversary-celebrations-live-latest-news/> - Britons celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day with various events, including a nationwide toast to Second World War heroes. Despite social distancing measures, communities engaged in street parties, picnics, and online performances to honor the occasion. ([telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/08/ve-day-2020-75-anniversary-celebrations-live-latest-news/?utm_source=openai))