# Fashion thrift and elegance take centre stage at VE Day memorial service



# A Fashion Verdict Focusing on Thrift and Elegance at the VE Day Memorial Service

The recent Thanksgiving Service commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day provided a splendid stage for showcasing fashion that juxtaposes timeless elegance with modern thrift. Despite assertions from fashion critiques that traditional dresses have become passé, the event revealed that the beloved staple is far from obsolete, particularly among royals and high-profile personalities.

Among the notable attendees was the Princess of Wales, who re-wore her eye-catching asymmetric polka-dot dress by Alessandra Rich. Priced at £1,970, this choice showcases her commitment to sustainable fashion—a trend that has grown increasingly vital in today’s consumer climate. Coupled with a striking hat from Juliette Millinery, her outfit epitomised a blend of style and practicality. In line with her ethos of reusing garments, she also donned her £635 Ralph Lauren gold pumps and a £330 Nano Montreal DeMellier bag, both of which have previously graced her wardrobe.

In a similar vein, Akshata Murty, once constrained by her role as the spouse of former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, displayed a fashionable yet economical approach by sporting a co-ordinated tweed pencil skirt and top from the London-based label Jane, formerly known as Goat. Her total expenditure of £840 on this outfit coupled with a Multrees wallet handbag by Strathberry (£295) revealed an encapsulation of chic practicality, especially given her considerable estimated net worth of £651 million.

The spirit of re-wear was palpable among other attendees as well. Samantha Cameron, fashion designer and wife of former Prime Minister David Cameron, benefitted from her own label, Cefinn, by donning a Jacquetta lace maxi dress, valued at £360, without any cost to herself. Her choice reflected an increasingly pragmatic view on fashion, especially in light of the growing emphasis on sustainability. The wide-brimmed Allice boater hat she wore, created in collaboration with Cefinn, featured a hefty price of £1,250—a testament to the fine line between luxury and accessibility that many fashion enthusiasts must negotiate.

Lady Victoria Starmer, renowned for her stylish, yet understated wardrobe, also made an impression in an ensemble consisting of a skirt (£278) and draped top (£198) by Roksanda, proving that high fashion doesn't always equate to lofty spending.

Standing apart in their more extravagant choices, Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, and Queen Camilla opted for statement pieces. The Duchess wore a £750 dress from Beulah, complemented by Prada shoes priced at £820, while Queen Camilla exhibited a custom-made overcoat valued not only for its craftsmanship but also sporting a blanket stitch detail, paired with a Philip Treacy hat and jewellery worth £4,900. These choices revealed a stark contrast to the thrifty spirit displayed by their peers.

In an era increasingly marked by calls for sustainable fashion, where re-wearing and vintage choices are gaining traction, the VE Day memorial service did far more than commemorate a historical event; it showcased a fashion narrative where elegance and thriftiness can coexist. The outfits served as reminders that style is both a reflection of personal taste and a response to cultural shifts, reinforcing the idea that classic wardrobe staples remain relevant and vital in contemporary fashion dialogue.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693855/Sartorial-parsimony-elegance-parade-LAURA-CRAIK-gives-fashion-verdict-VE-Day-memorial-service.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693855/Sartorial-parsimony-elegance-parade-LAURA-CRAIK-gives-fashion-verdict-VE-Day-memorial-service.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/20/akshata-murty-london-fashion-samantha-cameron-suit/), [[5]](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/fashion/buzz/uks-first-lady-akshata-murty-bags-topspot-on-britains-best-dressed-list/articleshow/102238534.cms)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693855/Sartorial-parsimony-elegance-parade-LAURA-CRAIK-gives-fashion-verdict-VE-Day-memorial-service.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/20/akshata-murty-london-fashion-samantha-cameron-suit/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693855/Sartorial-parsimony-elegance-parade-LAURA-CRAIK-gives-fashion-verdict-VE-Day-memorial-service.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693855/Sartorial-parsimony-elegance-parade-LAURA-CRAIK-gives-fashion-verdict-VE-Day-memorial-service.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693855/Sartorial-parsimony-elegance-parade-LAURA-CRAIK-gives-fashion-verdict-VE-Day-memorial-service.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693855/Sartorial-parsimony-elegance-parade-LAURA-CRAIK-gives-fashion-verdict-VE-Day-memorial-service.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14693855/Sartorial-parsimony-elegance-parade-LAURA-CRAIK-gives-fashion-verdict-VE-Day-memorial-service.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/fashion/kate-middleton-recycles-polka-dot-dress-for-visit-to-bletchley-park-a4142076.html> - In May 2019, Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, revisited her vintage-inspired blue polka-dot dress by Alessandra Rich during a visit to Bletchley Park. The dress, featuring a white collar and matching cuffs, was first worn in family portraits for Prince Charles's 70th birthday. For this occasion, she paired the dress with blue Emmy London shoes, a matching clutch bag, and Annoushka pearl earrings, showcasing her commitment to sustainable fashion by rewearing a beloved piece.
3. <https://people.com/kate-middleton-recycles-polka-dot-dress-wimbledon-open-hope-street-7553818> - In June 2023, Kate Middleton, the Princess of Wales, continued her affinity for polka dots by rewearing a navy Alessandra Rich dress with white polka dots and a sailor-style collar during the opening of Hope Street, a residential hub for women in the justice system. This dress was previously worn at Wimbledon in July 2022, highlighting her sustainable fashion choices and consistent style preferences.
4. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/20/akshata-murty-london-fashion-samantha-cameron-suit/> - In February 2024, Akshata Murty, wife of UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, showcased her support for British fashion by wearing a suit from Cefinn, the label founded by Samantha Cameron, at a London Fashion Week event. The £180 corduroy waistcoat and £200 matching trousers were styled with a £120 striped shirt from With Nothing Underneath, reflecting Murty's commitment to promoting homegrown designers.
5. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/fashion/buzz/uks-first-lady-akshata-murty-bags-topspot-on-britains-best-dressed-list/articleshow/102238534.cms> - In July 2023, Akshata Murty topped Tatler magazine's list of Britain's best-dressed individuals. Recognized for her impeccable style, she was dubbed the 'First Lady Fabulous' by the magazine's editors. Murty's fashion choices, including appearances at the G7 meeting in Japan and King Charles III's coronation, have garnered significant attention, solidifying her status as a fashion icon.
6. <https://www.hellomagazine.com/fashion/royal-style/495809/kate-middleton-order-of-the-garter-outfit-alessandra-rich/> - In June 2022, the Princess of Wales attended the Order of the Garter service at Windsor Castle, donning a bespoke monochrome polka-dot midi dress by Alessandra Rich. The dress featured a high neckline and was paired with chic toe-cap heels from the same brand. To complete her ensemble, she wore a statement Philip Treacy hat with feather detailing and Princess Diana's Collingwood Pearl Drop Earrings, epitomizing elegance and royal tradition.
7. <https://www.harpersbazaar.com/celebrity/latest/a25057107/kate-middleton-same-dress-royal-wedding-guest/> - Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, was photographed in a navy polka-dot dress by Alessandra Rich for Prince Charles's 70th birthday portraits. This dress had previously been worn by actress Abigail Spencer at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's royal wedding in May 2018. Spencer accessorized the dress with a belt, rosette-covered fascinator, a black handbag, and white ankle-strap heels, showcasing the dress's versatility and appeal.