# Royal Victoria Hospital removes unauthorised VE Day display to protect elderly patients



Staff at the Royal Victoria Hospital have been reminded of their duty to foster a harmonious environment following the recent display of an unauthorised VE Day exhibit in one of the wards. The exhibit featured a Union flag draped over a hospital trolley, accompanied by newspaper clippings, balloons, and historical photographs affixed to the wall. This incident occurred in ward 5E, which caters to elderly patients, including those with dementia, highlighting the sensitivity required in such environments.

The Andersonstown News first reported that the display was set up by a staff member without the necessary clearance from management. In response to inquiries about the disciplinary actions taken against the staff member or the specific policies governing such displays, a spokesperson for the Belfast health trust indicated that the exhibit was removed and that all staff would be reminded of their obligation to maintain a supportive atmosphere for patients, staff, and visitors.

As Northern Ireland commemorates the 80th anniversary of VE Day, observed annually to mark the official end of the Second World War on May 8, 1945, communities across the region have engaged in various celebrations. Events have included historical talks, parades, and street parties, reflecting the significance of this historic date in British memory.

Nationally, the UK government has planned a series of events to honour the anniversary, including a ceremonial draping of the Cenotaph in Union flags, a military procession, and numerous street parties aimed at acknowledging the contributions of those who served during the Second World War. As public celebrations unfold, they serve to share the stories of a generation that made profound sacrifices.

In cities across the UK, VE Day has been marked by poignant displays, such as the reinstallation of 30,000 ceramic poppies at the Tower of London, a nod to the immersive 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' exhibition from 2014. This evocative display aims to create a 'wound' at the heart of the Tower, honouring the memory of the fallen while serving as a reminder of the lasting impact of conflict.

Historical retrospectives and community activities have also characterised the commemorations. Care homes in Yorkshire have held sing-alongs featuring Vera Lynn’s songs, adorned in homemade Union Jack flags and bunting. These events showcase a collective desire to honour the legacy of the Second World War, creating a unifying atmosphere even in more contemporary settings influenced by modern challenges.

As the public engages in remembrance, London’s lighting of prominent buildings in red, blue, and white further encapsulates the spirit of community and nostalgia tied to VE Day. This year’s commemoration serves as not only a moment of reflection but also a celebration of peace and unity, inviting all generations to remember the importance of maintaining a supporting environment, whether in hospitals or communities at large.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-2
2. Paragraph 3
3. Paragraph 4
4. Paragraph 5
5. Paragraph 6
6. Paragraph 7

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

## References

* <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/rvh-staff-reminded-to-foster-harmonious-environment-after-ve-day-display-featuring-union-flag-removed/a243521909.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cenotaph-draped-in-union-flags-westminster-abbey-service-concert-and-flypast-among-plans-unveiled-to-mark-ve-day-80> - The UK government has announced plans to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a series of events, including draping the Cenotaph in Union flags, a military procession, flypast, and street parties across the country. These celebrations aim to honor the millions who served in the Second World War and share their stories with future generations.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/04/ve-day-2025-tower-of-london-poppies-to-return-to-mark-80th-anniversary> - To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, approximately 30,000 ceramic poppies from the 2014 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' exhibition will be reinstalled at the Tower of London. This installation represents a 'wound' at the heart of the tower, serving as a poignant tribute to those who served and sacrificed during the Second World War.
* <https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/vera-lynn-sing-a-longs-home-made-union-jack-flags-and-bunting-how-care-homes-across-yorkshire-celebrated-ve-day-2845629> - Care homes across Yorkshire celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day with various activities, including Vera Lynn sing-alongs, homemade Union Jack flags, and bunting. Residents and staff came together to honor the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation, creating a memorable and heartfelt commemoration despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
* <https://www.gbnews.com/news/ve-day-celebration-plans-uk-latest-may-bank-holiday-red-arrows-flypast> - Britain is set to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a four-day celebration beginning on May 5, 2025. The commemorations will include a military procession from Whitehall to Buckingham Palace, a flypast featuring current and historic aircraft, and street parties across the country. These events aim to honor the millions who served in the Second World War and share their stories with future generations.
* <https://www.islandecho.co.uk/red-white-blue-island-comes-together-to-celebrate-ve-day-75-in-style/> - The Isle of Wight community came together to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day with various events, including street parties, decorations, and community gatherings. Residents and visitors adorned their homes and streets with red, white, and blue, creating a festive atmosphere to honor the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation.
* <https://www.tatler.com/gallery/what-ve-day-looked-like-across-the-uk> - A visual retrospective of VE Day celebrations across the UK, showcasing jubilant street parties, dancing, and community gatherings. The images capture the national euphoria and unity as the country rejoiced in the end of the Second World War, with streets transformed into vibrant scenes of celebration and remembrance.