

## **D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

### **Background:**

2024 is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. There will be events across the country in recognition of the sacrifice and bravery of a whole generation. Approximately 150000 allied troops were involved in the events on 6<sup>th</sup> June and still remains the largest naval, air and land operation in history. Locally Saltash passage saw approx. 36,000 men embark for Normandy.

Through the National Association of Civic Officers (NAC) guidance has been issued on how villages, towns, cities and organisations are being asked to mark this important anniversary.

The recommended event plan is as follows for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This is taken from information received from organisations and can be viewed as part of the taking part guide found on <https://www.d-day80beacons.co.uk/>.

Appendix 1 as attached.

### **Timetable for Saltash Town Council:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
8.00am	Acting Town Crier reads D-Day 80 Proclamation outside Superdrug with Mayor and Deputy Mayor present. All Councillors invited to attend. Advertised for residents and visitors to attend
9.00am	Raise the D-Day 80 flag at the Guildhall
11.00am	Schools encouraged to read poem for schools – D-Day Heroes
8.35pm	Civic party including Town Sergeant, Mace Bearer and Councillors leave Guildhall to process to Waterside
8.40pm	Saltash Town Band plays
8.45pm	Residents invited to gather on Waterside Green
8.47pm	Welcome by the Mayor
8.55pm	Prayers by Mayor's Chaplain
8.58pm	Bagpiper plays 'Blue Bonnet' – official music of D-Day 80
9.03pm	Mayor's Speech
9.10pm	Minutes silence led by Mayor's Chaplain
9.15pm	Beacon lighting by the Mayor on Saltash Pier
9.15pm	Deputy Mayor to read the Nation's Tribute during which residents invited to shine a light of peace
9.18pm	End of event

### **Members are asked to consider:**

1. Approving the Saltash Town Council timetable and for the evening commemorations to be Civic for the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**End of report**

**Receptionist/Mayor's Secretary.**

## **Appendix 1**

### **D-Day 80 Proclamation**

#### **Oyez, Oyez, Oyez**

Today we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France - an incredible achievement in military planning and logistics uniting brave service personnel from air, sea and land forces at the beginning of Operation Overlord.

By the day's end, over one hundred and fifty thousand Allied troops had successfully stormed the now famous Gold, Juno, Sword, Utah and Omaha beaches to achieve a toehold in France.

In the weeks that followed, the Allies fought bitterly against a determined foe from the unforgiving countryside of Normandy to the liberation of Paris two months later.

We should all remember and never forget the selfless sacrifice and courage of all those involved

and use this Commemoration to pay our tribute to those who gave so much to secure the freedom we all enjoy today.

God Save the King

## Poem for Schools – D-Day Heroes

It is D-Day, the Sixth of June Nineteen-Forty-Four.  
Operation Overlord commenced, leaving the world in awe.  
The planning started in Nineteen-Forty-three.  
Bringing Allies together, to make our World free.  
Deception was used, codenamed Operation Bodyguard.  
Making rubber tanks and wooden planes as a façade.  
An American unit was formed for General Omar Bradley.  
Then a web of lies was spread, by his Ghost Army.  
Much more was done, to keep the Germans in the dark.  
Before the Allies on foreign shores, could disembark.  
Everything was Most Secret and kept Hush Hush.  
As Allies gathered resources, for their big push.  
The Allied Supreme Commander was General Dwight Eisenhower.  
With General (Monty) Montgomery as Temporary Ground Commander.  
Eleven Thousand Aircraft and Gliders with Paratroopers and Soldiers.  
Were dropped behind enemy lines to secure the area.  
More than Five-thousand ships, the biggest Armada ever seen.  
Sailed from British shores and our fields of green.  
Monty's battle plan was written, on one sheet of paper.  
Set for June the Fifth, the Day of their departure.  
But bad weather, caused a Twenty-four-hour delay.  
Then conditions changed, and they got underway.  
British, American, Canadian and many other countries, were together thrown.  
Going to fight a War, something many had never known.  
Over One Hundred and Fifty-Thousand men of every creed.  
Will perform acts of courage, that must succeed.  
There were Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and the Merchant Navy.  
Many Civilians who volunteered to fight against Nazi tyranny.  
Over the English Channel and to Normandy, France will go.  
To land on beaches called Sword, Gold, Utah, Omaha and Juno.  
Were they afraid? Yes! they most certainly were.  
But the world must be saved, that was their spur.  
The German defences were called, the Atlantic Wall.  
Hitler told Field-Marshal Rommel, he must, the Allies stall.  
The Allies landed Twenty-Four-Thousand troops on D-Day.  
Commencing at Six-Thirty, then things went into disarray.  
Wind and rough seas helped landing craft, miss their mark.  
Putting the plan in jeopardy from the start.  
Fierce resistance was put up, by Germans guarding the beaches.  
The time had come to fight, no further need for speeches.  
Beaches were Mined, Barbed wire laid, metal tripods and many hazards.  
Were set to kill, maim and make things awkward.  
Over Ten-Thousand casualties, the Allies had that first day.  
With over Four-Thousand dead, a heavy price to pay.  
D-Day made Heroes, in that hell unknown.  
Helping turn the Tide of War, as the Enemy were overthrown.

## **Nation's Tribute**

Let us remember those who gave their lives at home and abroad during the D-Day landings, whose sacrifice enables us all to enjoy the peace and freedom we have today.

Let us remember those who came home wounded, physically and mentally, and the friends and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore their relationships and rebuild their working lives after years of conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands, wives, sons, daughters and sweethearts.

Let us remember the servicemen and women and merchant seafarers of all faiths and nationalities - from all countries - who fought, suffered and died during the D-Day landings and six years of war.

Let us all remember those in the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, Merchant Navy, and our Allies - the brave people who kept us safe on the home front and abroad and those in reserved occupations during the difficult time of war.

Let us remember the brave doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded, the men and women who toiled in the fields, the coal mines, the factories.