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ACTIONS AND ASSOCIATED EXPENDITURE:**

REPORT TO SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

MAY 17TH 2025

Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation (SHCF)

Commemorating 80th Anniversary of the End of WW2 - Victory in Europe
VE80 (May 8th, 2025)

**‘We’ll Meet Again’ - ‘The Greatest Story’ incorporating the Saltash
Community Concert May 10th 2025 at Saltash Wesley Church**

The SHCF VE80 community celebrations and commemorations in Saltash said: “Get ready to step back in time and celebrate the spirit, resilience, and sacrifices of those who lived through World War II to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day in a truly memorable way.” – With a community-wide Celebration of Music, Drama, and Remembrance from the early months of 2025. The Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation and local communities got together for a rich tapestry of events that gave thanks and honoured the past and celebrated our present freedoms.

Over 4 months, the Trust staged dozens of FREE WW2 themed Music, Songs, Speeches, Recitals, Poetry and Drama Workshops over three phases culminating with a sell-out Public Performance. The workshops were inclusive to all.

These commemorations and celebrations welcomed everyone. Whether a seasoned performer, a budding artist, or simply eager to be part of something special, there was a place for all. The Trust reached out to the elderly, less abled, schools, youth groups, and organisations to join - and was especially keen to encourage individuals with disabilities, loneliness or health challenges - and those disadvantaged or bereaved and so on!

Everyone was invited to join in, there was no need for any particular skills, experience, talents; we just welcomed their enthusiasm to be part of this reflective journey.

Honouring History through Performance ‘We’ll Meet Again’ events paid heartfelt tribute to the men and women who served, sacrificed, and fought for the freedoms we cherish today.

We came together as a community to ensure their legacy endures and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Inspired by the power of newly composed music by Julian Barnicoat, narrative and drama that uplifted spirits during wartime, this project rekindled the hope and camaraderie of those years, showing that even in times of danger and adversity, the human spirit can still shine bright.

The FREE VE 80 Community workshops were held every Tuesday – the afternoons were at Burraton Methodist Chapel, Liskeard Road, Saltash 2.30pm until 4pm and the Tuesday evenings at Ashtorre Rock, Saltash Waterside 7pm until 8.30pm – under the direction of writer, composer and musical director, Julian Barnicoat.

A unique Saltash community-wide VE 80 concert featured the participants of the workshops, many of whom had never sang or had any public engagement before took place on Saturday May 10th at 6pm at the Saltash Wesley Methodist Church (Glebe Avenue) – flavoured with special supporting musicians - the Carlton Big Band playing 1940's and WW2 Big Band music, including Glenn Miller and Vera Lynn songs such 'We'll Meet Again'. The whole concert was recorded and amplified. Dozens of photographs were also taken.

In addition, newly composed songs by Julian Barnicoat were sung by the Saltash VE80 Community Chorus; together with recitations of poems, narratives and famous WW2 speeches that gripped the Nation before, during and after WW2.

The Saltash Town Mayor and her consort – Councillor Mrs Julia Peggs and Mr Geoff Peggs were our honoured guests – Deputy Town Mayor Councillor Rachael Bullock was also in attendance.

Brunel, Bishop Cornish and Burraton CP Saltash Schools supported the Saltash VE80 projects - and the children provided over 200 written works and WW2 projects, which were displayed at the Saltash Library Hub and Saltash Wesley Church – more displays are in the planning stages.

The Trust also delivered a Saltash VE 80 illustrated and musical lecture at the Saltash Library Hub on May 1st.

Major sponsors were – Saltash Town Council - Carew-Pole Charitable Trust - Viscountess Boyd Foundation – China Fleet Country Club - Howton Solar Farm Fund and the Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation, in association with the Cornwall Community Foundation.

The Sue Hooper Charitable Foundation would like to thank Saltash Town Council most sincerely once again for its most generous donation of £1,000 towards phase 3 of the Saltash VE80 Community project – and further, to confirm that Saltash Town Council's generous support was conveyed on all its posters, advertisements, programmes, leaflets and social media on regular occasions leading up to the concert on May 10th.

Please see attached further documentation as evidence of Saltash Town Council's kind support and events.

Thank you Saltash Town Council once again





End of Report