

D-Day 80th Anniversary event 6th June 2024

Background

2024 is the 80th 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 6th 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 6th 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/>.

Time	Event
8.00am	Town Crier reads D-Day 80 Proclamation
11.00am	Schools read poem for schools – D-Day Heroes
9.15pm	Beacon lighting
9.15pm	Mayor to read Nation's Tribute

Recommended event plan for Saltash Town Council.

Time	Event
8.00am	Town Crier reads D-Day 80 Proclamation with civic party present. Advertised for residents and visitors to attend. Suggested location outside Superdrug on Fore Street.
11.00am	Schools read poem for schools – D-Day Heroes. Mayor to visit participating schools.
8.30pm	Civic parade to leave Victoria Gardens at 8.30pm to walk to Jubilee Green lead by the town band and to include RBL standards. Advertised for residents and visitors to join the parade.
9.15pm	Beacon lighting by the Mayor at Jubilee Green followed by the Mayor to read the Nation's Tribute. A minutes silence held to remember all those affected by conflicts. Advertised for residents and visitors to attend. (Use existing Town Council beacon).
9.18pm	Firework display
9.23pm	End of event.

The post of Saltash Town Crier is currently vacant. For the Queen's Jubilee in 2022 the late Mr Brian Whipp filled the role. To fill this role it would require the relevant recruitment process to be followed.

Included in the Appendix of this report are the

- D-Day 80 Proclamation for 8:00am element of event.
- Poems for schools for 11:00am element of event.
- The nations tribute for 9:15pm element of event.

In the event that the recruitment of a Town Crier is unsuccessful other options could be

- Asking Saltash.net to nominate an outstanding student to undertake the reading of the proclamation (Secondary School chosen due to task and length of reading)

- Asking residents to nominate a worthy person in the town such as an outstanding young person, volunteer or Firefighter.
- Asking LiveWire to nominate a worthy person to read the proclamation.
- Delegating the task to the Town Sergeant.

Estimated Costings (current prices from suppliers where available)

Town Band - £350 (2023 price)

Fireworks - £850 (4-5 minute display, same as Queen's Jubilee event in 2022)

Road closures and event management - £2,800 (approximate cost)

St John Ambulance - £150 (based on Queen's Jubilee event in 2022)

Photographer - £150 (based on Queen's Jubilee event in 2022)

Town Crier, Town Sergeant and Mace Bearer - £150

Social Media Geo Targeted Advertising - £50

Total - £4,500

Members are asked to consider:

1. To approve the Saltash Town Council event plan for the D-Day 80th Anniversary event to be held on 6th June 2024.
2. To budget for the year 2024-25 to the value of £4,500 to allow for price increases against budget code 6202 PF Civic Occasions to support the associated event costs.
3. To recommend to the Personnel Committee to recruit for a Town Crier with immediate effect, if recruitment is unsuccessful explore the further options in an agreed priority order.

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.