

THE SPIRIT OF NORMANDY



A CHARITABLE TRUST TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT TO PRESERVE FREEDOM IN 1944

VE Day Update

The Spirit of Normandy Trust has been working hard during the different and challenging times. Trustees are regularly contacting veterans to ensure that they are not feeling isolated and that they have everything that they need.

We were very aware that veterans were looking forward to the planned celebrations across the country to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Sadly, but necessarily, none of the planned events could take place due to the lockdown restrictions and for the safety of the veterans.

VE Day Tins

We worked in partnership with the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans to have a commemorative tin sent to the veterans on our joint circulation lists.

Dick and Susy Goodwin worked tirelessly to source, fill and distribute the tins to veterans in time for VE Day. Tins contained a variety of treats including chocolates and in many cases we managed to include a commemorative badge (unfortunately in spite of our best efforts, not everyone received a tin, so our apologies to those who missed out.).

We are very grateful to Dick and Susy for their hard work and we do hope that the tins were a small reminder to the veterans that they have not been forgotten, neither have the sacrifices that they endured to give us the peace that we so easily take for granted.

Schools Poster Competition

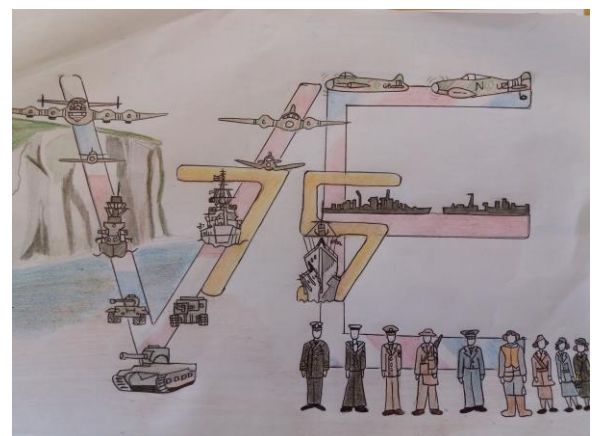
When it became apparent that the Covid 19 crisis was likely to have a significant impact on the possibility of marking VE Day in the usual way, the Trustees started to consider alternative ways to keep the event in the public consciousness.

By the time that we held our March Trustees meeting (electronically of course!) it was also clear that schools were to be closed for the foreseeable future. Flaminia Martin, Trustee, suggested launching a poster competition asking school children, now stuck at home, to design a poster that captured the meaning and spirit of VE Day. Posters submitted would be judged by veterans and prizes awarded by Key Stage categories to those judged by the veterans to be the best in their view. The competition was publicized on our web site and carried on social media, including the Facebook page for Yeovilton Naval Air Station (HMS Heron).

We had a great response with entries being received from across the UK as well as from Caboug, France and from Luxembourg. Entries were all submitted electronically so we were able to set up a site that veterans could access to make their judgement. The veterans' views were collated and prizes awarded to those achieving the highest overall scores in each category.

The resulting winners were:

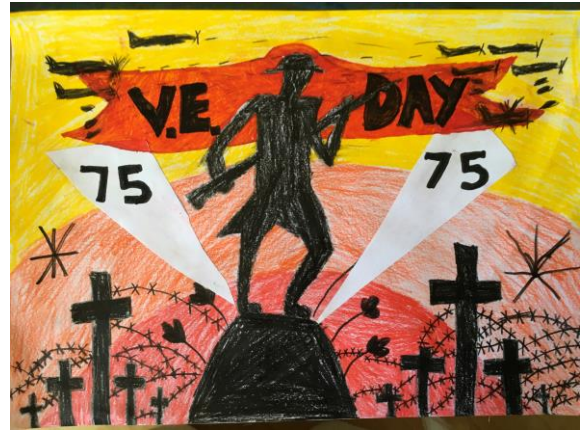
Key stage 3/4 Winner - Ellie (aged 12 years) who attends the Avon Valley School and Performing Arts College, Rugby, Warwickshire



Key Stage 3/4 Runner Up – Mary (aged 15) who attends Bucklers Mead Academy, Yeovil



Key Stage 2 Runner Up – Alex (aged 10) who attends the International School, Luxembourg



A special prize was also awarded to Kyan (aged 5) for his work.

Key Stage 2 Winner – Giles (aged 10) who attends St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Axminster



Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all those who took the time and trouble to enter the competition. The very high standard that everyone achieved made judging very difficult and, had it been possible, everyone deserved to win.

Our thanks also go to the veterans who took the time to carefully review and adjudicate the entries.