

# JOIN VE DAY 80 CELEBRATIONS AT THE POPPY FACTORY

Members of the public are invited to The Poppy Factory in Richmond upon Thames for special celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.



The charity's visitor centre will host a VE Day-themed discovery sessions at 12:30pm on Tuesday 6 May and Wednesday 7 May, and an open afternoon from 12:30pm to 4:30pm on Thursday 8 May, coinciding with four days of national events planned to remember the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Guests will hear VE Day-themed talks by The Poppy Factory's expert hosts, watch special presentations

and have the chance to view lesser-seen parts of the historic factory, which since 1922 has employed injured veterans to make Remembrance poppies and wreaths for the Royal British Legion and the Royal Family. Its workers and their families were among those who took to the streets of London to celebrate the end of the war in 1945.

Hot drinks, refreshments and special VE Day 80 Victoria sponge cake will be on offer in the visitor centre café, with music from the era adding to the spirit of celebration.

In more recent times, The Poppy Factory has grown into a national charity helping veterans and their families on the path to employment. Funds raised through the visitor centre go towards its Veteran and Family Services, which last year helped more than 1,100 members of the Armed Forces community to change their lives.



Chief Executive Amanda Shepard said: "It's so important that we all come together on the 8th May this year to celebrate and commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day and pay tribute to all those who gave up so much to fight for peace in Europe.

"Our VE Day 80 programme offers an opportunity to join the celebrations that are planned across the UK, and we hope our guests will also see this as an opportunity to support the veterans and family members who we continue to help today."

Tickets for the discovery sessions on May 6 and 7 are available here.

Advanced tickets for the free open afternoon are fully booked. Limited un-ticketed entry will be offered during the open afternoon on May 8, depending on capacity. This will be on a first come-first serve basis and access is not guaranteed.

*Amanda Shepard*  
Chief Executive,  
The Poppy Factory.

