

Speech by Mayor Rachel Brooks to mark VE 75, 8th May 2020

“When we started planning months ago for how we were going to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day we were expecting that we could all come together.

“Sadly we’ve had to postpone those plans. However, as we deal with the Coronavirus crisis, facing restrictions on what we can do, seeing the daily heroism of our key workers, helping and supporting each other through difficulties, in some cases mourning family and friends, perhaps that gives us some extra insight into what our parents and grandparents faced during the war.

“I have three thoughts today.

“Like you, I am remembering and honouring those men and women who played a part in fighting fascism and keeping the home front going. As our war memorial shows, some of them never came back.

“I am also celebrating the peace which started on VE Day and which, working with our friends and neighbours in Europe, has lasted ever since. Let’s commit to continue that so our children never have to face the horror of war.

“And thirdly, I am hopeful. People in Liskeard, as elsewhere, came through the war by working together and helping each other just as we are doing today. After the war, through all the difficulties, they built something better than they had before, including the NHS and the modern welfare state. And we can do the same. Our challenges are different and our solutions will be too but we can build a ‘new normal’ which is fairer and greener and values what is really important.

“My very best wishes to all of you, however you are marking this day and stay safe.”