



*D-day was the day on which the Allied landings took place in Normandy. They are the largest military invasion ever. On that day 156,000 Allied troops were deployed. It marked the start of Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944. A major undertaking resulting in the eventual liberation of Western Europe.*

Thursday 6th June 2024 will be the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, Whitwick Scout Group are looking to join the national Beacons, that will be lit to commemorate this occasion.

<https://www.d-day80beacons.co.uk/>

We already have a Beacon, built for the late Queens Jubilee back in 2022 in the grounds of our Scout field. However, we are looking for a main sponsor (or sponsors) to help with the costs to stage a fitting community event; to include a short parade to the beacon site following by the lighting of the Beacon.

#### Allied Countries That Took Part in D-Day

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Great Britain | • Czechoslovakia |
| • America       | • Denmark        |
| • Canada        | • Norway         |
| • France        | • Australia      |
| • Poland        | • New Zealand    |
| • Netherlands   | • Luxembourg     |
| • Belgium       |                  |

Ref: [Allies on D-Day - Which factions played a role? D-day Info](#)

Whitwick Scout Group have been looking at ways to directly involve older Scout and Explorer Sections whilst creating a fitting community event to commemorate this important occasion.

Whilst making it simple to manage, we came across this image of a parade at the Kandersteg Scout centre in Switzerland which seemed a positive way to involve many Scouts.



Certainly, with 13x Big (8ft x 5ft) Flags and flaming torch bearers, to represent the countries directly involved, with 6x Scouts per flag to carry, that's direct involvement for 118 Scouts and Explorers, watched by family, members and residents of the village, along with the Royal British Legion who have also invited Scouts to attend their event on the Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June at the Clock tower in Coalville..

With funding, sponsorship and donations, we hope to zero any cost to the group and raise some funds for the Royal British Legion in the process.

The event will all be within a 2.5hr window, on the night of the 6<sup>th</sup> June (7:30-10pm) 2024.

Following several months of planning and paperwork. We have submitted Road Closure information to the Leicestershire County Council Events Team and registered the Event with NWLDC. The Scouts are covered by Scout Association Public Liability Insurance provided by Unity.

The Route of the Parade was planned by the organising sub-committee, it was suggested that a route from the war memorial to the Beacon, following a short church service would be most fitting, and I'm pleased to advise Whitwick Parish Church are holding a commemorative Service prior to the parade.

**Equally, it was decided that we should look to invite other Scout sections from across the district, this we have done and are expected to have over one hundred Scouts taking part in the parade, along with members of the Royal British Legion and invited guests.**

Members of the public are encouraged to join and follow the parade to the Beacon Site in fact we are organising a raffle to help fund the event, with 25 flaming torches on offer enabling members of the public (over 18) to join with the parade, with proceeds beyond costs to the RBL.

**Draft Plan and Timing of Events:**

**Route – War memorial to Scout Hut**

**19:30 Church Service Whitwick St. John the Baptist.**

RBL, Seaforth Highlanders Band and Scouts sections from across the district invited.

**20:15 Wreath laid at the war memorial.**

Band Plays, Symbolic lantern and torch lit.

**20:15 Road Closure Full Parade Route.**

Following the confirmed Road Closure.

**20:20 Parade assemblies – North Street (outside church).**

Parade assembly, Band, RBL, Guests and Scouts.

The 80x procession Torches will be distributed to over 18's or group members.

**20:30 Parade departs.**

Down North Street, through Marketplace, towards the City of Dan.

**20:40 Pause of the Main Procession in the City of Dan.**

The Parade will pause at the mining wheel in the City of Dan for up to 10mins, whilst the band plays, the less able musicians may then drop out prior to the walk-up Leicester Road.

Once the Parade is with the boundary of the City of Dan, North Street, Church Lane, Marketplace, silver street and Hall Lane, closures can be re-opened, allowing traffic flow.

**20:50 Procession Departs the City of Dan**

The procession will walk up Leicester Road from the City of Dan, turning left into the Scout field.

**21:05 Parade Turns into Scout Field**

**21:15 The official Beacon lighting time,** by this time our procession should be at the Scout hut field, with everyone in place around the Beacon.

On arrival at the Scout Field the Beacon lighting will begin, first the Ibstock Brick Brass band will play the National Anthem. As the Beacons and Lamps are lit, we ask all those taking part to stop what they are doing and undertake The International Tribute.

The Brass Band will entertain the crowd during the Beacon lighting.

The lighting of the Beacon may be followed by a short firework display, should funds allow.

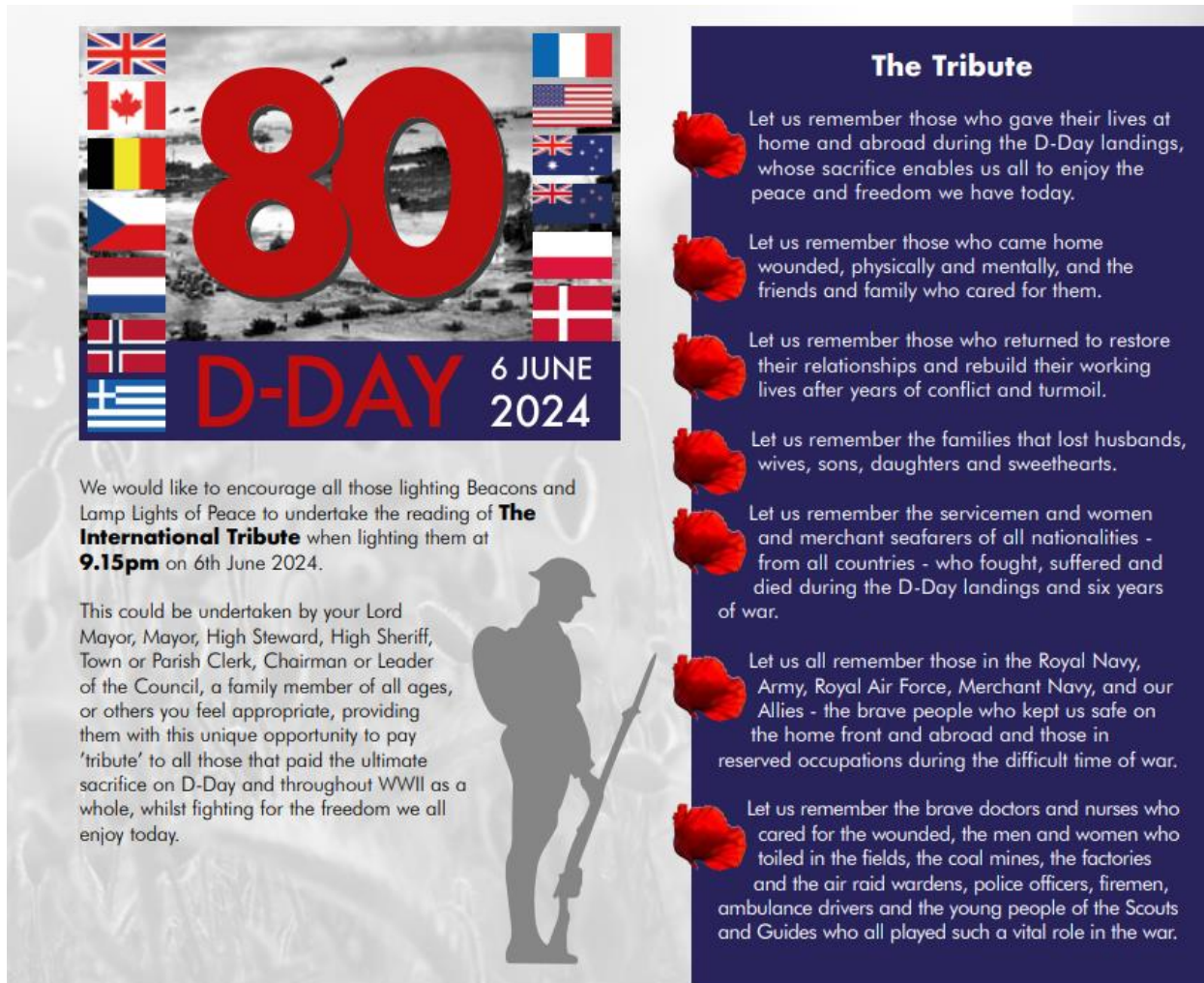
**21:45 Crowd starts to disperse.** People will start to depart from the Scout Field, leaving via footpaths.

**22:30 All Road Closures end.**

Note: Events and timings are as known 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and may be subject to adjustment.

Note:

1. Flaming Torches should only be ignited within 15 minutes of the departure time.
2. Sunset is scheduled for 21:12pm.
3. Water filled 'fire buckets' will be available at marshalling posts and placed on doorsteps throughout the parade route. Pubs on route also asked to make a hose pipe available.
4. Traffic Marshals, the Scouts shall be supported by the Loughborough Land Rover Club



**80**  
**D-DAY** 6 JUNE 2024

We would like to encourage all those lighting Beacons and Lamp Lights of Peace to undertake the reading of **The International Tribute** when lighting them at **9.15pm** on 6th June 2024.

This could be undertaken by your Lord Mayor, Mayor, High Steward, High Sheriff, Town or Parish Clerk, Chairman or Leader of the Council, a family member of all ages, or others you feel appropriate, providing them with this unique opportunity to pay 'tribute' to all those that paid the ultimate sacrifice on D-Day and throughout WWII as a whole, whilst fighting for the freedom we all enjoy today.

**The 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 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 and the air raid wardens, police officers, firemen, ambulance drivers and the young people of the Scouts and Guides who all played such a vital role in the war.

**Whitwick Scout Group wishes to thank the following organisations, business and supporters in the planning and development of this event.**

- Bruno Peek CVO OBE OPR Pageantmaster D-Day 80 Anniversary
- Royal British Legion
- Whitwick Parish Church
- The Scout Association and other local Scout groups inc.
  - Ashford Explorers
  - Ellistown Scouts
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Ashby Scouts
  - Ashby Hastings Scouts
  - Ravenstone Scouts
- Leicestershire Events.
- North West Leicestershire District Council.
- Whitwick Parish Council.
- The Seaforth Highlanders
- The Hare and Hounds Public House.
- Ibstock Brick Brass Band
- Western Power.
- The Man within Compass Public House.
- Mr C. Nicholls.

This event is registered with D-Day Beacons, NWLDC and Leicestershire Events.