

Commemorating 75 Years since the End of World War Two

Oberursel, 03 May 2020

Dear friends in Rushmoor,

8 May 2020 marks the **75th Anniversary of V-E Day**. It ended the deadliest war in the 20th century in Europe with an estimated death toll of 50 million worldwide. The United Kingdom and numerous other countries endured great hardships and suffered numerous casualties from Nazi terror.

Queen Elizabeth will address the British nation to mark this anniversary and the May Day Bank Holiday has been shifted to Friday, but due to the Corona pandemic, most of the previously planned commemorations are most likely to be held on a much smaller scale or may have been cancelled altogether. Yet we hope that commemorating this event all over the world will help prevent such an insane war from happening again. Please be assured that our thoughts will be with you on 8 May.

At the same time, this might be an ideal time to rejoice in and **celebrate 75 years of peace** in - most of – Europe. Although we saw two opposing blocs threatening each other for several decades, tensions never escalated into a military conflict. The peaceful resolution of the Cold War should give us hope for the future. Talking, negotiating and empathy are and have always been the antidotes to waging violence and launching missiles at each other.

We believe that town twinning activities since the end of World War Two have contributed immensely to this extended period of peace in Europe. Meeting face to face on a personal level, making new friends, learning each other's points of view and understanding each other's way of life have been vital in overcoming past resentments.

So, although Corona is currently keeping us apart, rest assured that your friends this side of the Channel will still be here when the "new normal" begins, whenever this will be, looking forward to welcoming you in Oberursel as we have done since our town twinning partnership began in 1989.

Please keep in touch and keep us posted on what's going on on your side of the Channel. We love hearing from you.

Stay safe and healthy.



Helmut (VFOS President)