

HAPPY HOMES COMMUNITY VE DAY REPORT

Issue 2 | JUNE 2025



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INTRODUCTION

Happy Homes Community proudly marked VE Day by organizing two meaningful and engaging events — one at Doris Emerton Court and another at York Gardens Library. These events were a heartfelt tribute to those who served during the war and an opportunity to reflect on the importance of peace, unity, and shared history.

The VE Day events had a strong emotional and educational impact on all participants. Elderly residents expressed deep appreciation, sharing that they felt seen, included, and valued. Many said it reminded them of their younger years and helped reduce feelings of loneliness.

Children enjoyed the interactive activities, especially the crafts and quizzes, which made learning about history fun and meaningful. Parents appreciated that their children learned the importance of peace, unity, and the cost of war in a respectful and engaging way.

The events successfully bridged generations, promoted social connection, and reinforced the value of community gatherings in fostering understanding and well-being. Many attendees requested more such events in the future.



GRANT BREAKDOWN

- £600 – Food & Refreshments: Themed cake, brunch, tea/coffee for all guests.
- £100 – Craft Materials: Art supplies for children and elders' peace-themed activities.
- £100 – Decorations: VE Day banners, balloons, flags, and table décor.
- £100 – Volunteer Expenses: Travel and lunch support for helpers.
- £50 – Printing: quizzes, posters, and historical leaflets.
- £50 – Prizes: Small gifts for participating children.

DORIS EMERTON COURT

At Doris Emerton Court, many elderly residents initially seemed unsure about participating, but by the end of the event, they were relaxed, smiling, and fully engaged. They took part in an art activity where they wrote heartfelt messages of peace on dove-shaped cutouts. It was a powerful way to reflect on their experiences and hopes for the future. Residents expressed how thankful they were to have such an event brought to them, especially since many are unable to attend outdoor celebrations. The manager, Sandra, was particularly pleased and said she hoped Happy Homes would return for more activities, as it brought genuine joy to the residents.



YORK GARDENS LIBRARY

At York Gardens Library, the event welcomed families, children, and local visitors. A beautifully themed VE Day cake and delicious brunch were served, creating a warm, communal atmosphere. Children took part in a craft session where they created artwork inspired by peace and remembrance — parents were delighted to see their children learning about history in such a fun and interactive way. A quiz on VE Day helped both adults and children engage with historical facts, and many expressed how important it is to keep these lessons alive. One participant shared her grandfather's moving story from the war, which touched everyone present and added a personal connection to the day. The event also welcomed members of the public who were visiting the library and decided to join in, highlighting the inclusive and community-driven nature of the celebration.

