

## High Kelling Corona Community No 5

Welcome to the weekly Corona Community in this week of the May Bank Holiday on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day which enables us all to pay tribute to the British, Commonwealth and Allied armed forces personnel and those who contributed to the Home Front. It will also serve as an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served and continue to serve in the UK Armed Forces and their families. Everyone in High Kelling will have their own reflections.



### Reflections of Mr Victor George Carter, Age 95, Vale Rd

75<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary

VE DAY

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

See the Imperial War Museum:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-you-need-to-know-about-ve-day>

Vic joined the Navy in July 1943 aged 18, signing up at Croydon recruitment office, opting for the Navy which he favoured over the Army. He was posted as a stoker second class to a brand new fleet minesweeper HMS Plucky. As part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Minesweeping flotilla she sailed on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1944 to sweep mines off the Normandy coast as part of Operation Neptune, D-Day. With her sister ships she swept channel 8, off Juno Beach for the Canadian landing. Subsequently she acted as a rescue ship in the North Sea for any aircraft ditching carrying airborne troops for Operation Market Garden, the 'Bridge too far' operation.

Vic married Pauline on 6<sup>th</sup> November despite his mother's refusal for permission having been to court to get her decision overturned. He had hoped his brother Geoffrey would attend but tragically he hadn't obtained leave and died the very next day when his ship was mined off Ostend!

Vic was kept far too busy to celebrate VE Day as his ship was made ready for service in the Far East. His main feeling was relief that the folks at home would now be free from V1 & 2 attacks. In the Far East he took part in Operation Livery of Phuket Island when they were attacked by Japanese suicide planes with two sister ships sunk.

One of Vic's jobs was looking after the ship's stores, which he enjoyed as it often involved trips ashore where he could stretch his legs and see the sights. On the other hand Plucky was all too frequently the 'Duty Ship' which had to do the running around.

Victory over Japan Day soon came and several weeks later Vic's ship with others swept a path for the victorious fleet which entered Penang and subsequently Singapore where Japanese forces in Malaya surrendered. Vic doesn't recall any particular celebration as there was much to do, not even splicing the main brace. His overwhelming feeling was the happiness that he could return to his wife and family and that he had survived when so many had died. He was discharged from the Navy in January 1947.

**Link of the Week:** <https://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org/>  
<https://www.veday75.org>

Why not plant a Rhododendron, Camellia or Magnolia for VE Day 75 year celebrations!

**Words of the Week:** George Eliot

May every life that touches mine...Be it the slightest contact...Get therefrom some good...Some little Grace, one kindly thought..One aspiration yet unfelt..One bit of courage for the darkening sky...One gleam of faith to brave the thickening ills of life...One glimpse of brighter skies beyond the gathering mist....To make this life worthwhile....And heaven a surer heritage.

**Know your North Norfolk**

Last Weeks Photo: The Pond was in Spout Hills, Holt

**Spring Photo Competition:** Still plenty of time to enter

Email your photo to [patrickkelly9@btinternet.com](mailto:patrickkelly9@btinternet.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> May to win a £20.00 garden centre voucher.