

VE Day – Alexandra Road then & now. By Daniel (Year 11)

8th May 1945

Alexandra Road as it is now, did not exist. It was simply a field in the middle of Wesham. It may not have been at the heart of the action, but the community around it had.

After six years of gunshots, explosions, rationing and everything else that goes with being a country at war, the skys fell silent. At nine o'clock at night, Winston Churchill declared victory in Europe and the war was over. Time to celebrate and start rebuilding life as we know it.

8th May 2020

That same field in Wesham, has now got houses built on it, the same as many of the other surrounding fields. In a weird sort of way, we are at war again, this time with an invisible enemy. We are in lockdown. Trips out are rationed, schools are closed, life has become very different once again. Everyone has been affected by it. Many will be missing seeing their loved ones and for some, they may never see them again. People are pulling together and helping each other out and things have gone very much back to basics. Who knew we would be hit by shortages of everyday items such as toilet rolls and flour. But we are. We have become a nation of bakers and home cooks again, making do with what we have. Nights out are off the agenda, replaced by nights in with our immediate 'housemates'.

Today should be a time to celebrate and remember what happened seventy-five years ago and people will, but at a two meter distance. The flags are out, the bunting is out and we're already for the strangest street party ever. We will drink tea as the British do and reflect on what has happened before, what is happening now, and, what the future will hold for us as they did 75 years ago.

Times have changed or have they?