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| NEWS RELEASE  | # |

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| 15 May 2024  |
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| **Preparations are underway to commemorate 80th anniversary of D-Day and mark West Sussex’s key role**  |
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| PP_WSL_FLA_P375Events are being staged across West Sussex to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June and in recognition of the county’s role in preparations for the Normandy Landings.On 6 June 1944, or D-Day, one of the most ambitious military operations of all time was launched by Allied Forces with the invasion of Nazi-occupied western Europe. In the build-up, thousands of troops were billeted in West Sussex. Residents are invited to learn more about these historic times via one of West Sussex Library Service’s online resources, or to mark the anniversary by attending an exhibition or other event.[West Sussex Record Office](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/history-and-heritage/west-sussex-record-office/) in Chichester has already launched its free D-Day display in its reception and search room, which will be available throughout May and June. Copies of D-Day West Sussex: Springboard for the Normandy Landings 1944 by Ian Greig, Kim Leslie and Alan Readman will be available to purchase for the reduced price of £5 (usually £7.95). Copies can be purchased from the Record Office and West Sussex Libraries. Please contact: bibliographicalservices.library@westsussex.gov.ukRecordings of D-Day veterans can be found on the West Sussex Military Voices website [worldwartwoexperience - West Sussex](https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/web/militaryvoices/worldwartwoexperience) and further information about D-Day and its links to West Sussex is available online at [West Sussex County Council: D-Day](http://www2.westsussex.gov.uk/learning-resources/LR/learning/learning_resources/wartime_west_sussex_1939-45/themes/d-day.html).The Library Service also has a Remembrance webpage, Remembering Wartime Sussex, <https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/-/remembrance-sussex>  plus a video of wartime images <https://youtu.be/ks5_xfS8O2A?si=8Nz-CWD27-w65Zwh>  Cllr Pieter Montyn, Chairman of West Sussex County Council, said: “The 80th anniversary of D-Day is a momentous occasion and one I am pleased to see is being marked so well across the county.“West Sussex has a fascinating link to the Normandy Landings: did you know The Bracklesham Bay Hotel hosted Eisenhower, Montgomery and Churchill while they observed landing rehearsals at Bracklesham and Climping? I urge you to go and explore more facts and celebrate this anniversary.”The county council will be hosting the West Sussex Armed Forces Conference in June, where we will be joined by other organisations and charity partners to raise awareness and improve support for the Armed Forces Community (serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families).The council also supports veterans all-year-round via The Armed Forces Covenant which provides support for veterans, military reservists and their families. More information about the support on offer can be found on our website at [Supporting the armed forces community - West Sussex County Council](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/supporting-local-communities/supporting-the-armed-forces-community/) or by emailing ArmedForces@westsussex.gov.uk.Other local events taking place include:* **Wednesday June 5th, 2pm-4pm –** [Rustington and D-Day Tickets, Wed, Jun 5, 2024 at 2:00 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rustington-and-d-day-tickets-865418248277)
* **Thursday June 6th, 9.15pm –** Lighting of the Beacon, at various locations across West Sussex
* **Saturday June 8th, 11am-3pm –** [D-day 80th Anniversary Event – Save the Date – Southbourne (southbourne-pc.gov.uk)](https://southbourne-pc.gov.uk/2024/01/31/d-day-80th-anniversary-event-save-the-date/)
* **Saturday June 8th & Sunday June 9th, 9am-5pm –** [D-Day Revival | Southwick Village D-Day Revival (southwickrevival.co.uk)](https://southwickrevival.co.uk/)
* **Not date specific: -** [Chichester's Role in D-Day - The Novium Museum](https://www.thenovium.org.uk/article/31597/Chichester-s-Role-in-D-Day)

 **Notes to editors:**The D-Day 80th anniversary guide can be seen here: [1183160\_d-day80anniversaryguidev148.pdf (emlfiles4.com)](https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/6/7/3/5/8/files/1183160_d-day80anniversaryguidev148.pdf?utm_source=Clear%20Insurance%20Management%20Limited&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14316401_Councils%20feb%20comms&dm_t=0,0,0,0,0)Any residents who would like to hold their own neighbourhood gathering and local events for the anniversary are asked to please contact their local [district or borough council](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-licences/temporary-road-closures/district-and-borough-councils-road-closures/) which deals with applications for road closures for neighbourhood gatherings, processions, parades or similar community events.**Picture:** Wartime West Sussex: Soldiers’ gun practice on the beach at Bognor Regis, c1942. The pier can be seen in the background as well as barbed wire, which was put along the beach to defend it from attack and to prevent people using the beaches during the war. Frank L'Alouette Collection, by kind permission of his daughter, Jeanette Hickman. The photo is now deposited at West Sussex Record Office. Copyright: West Sussex County Council. [West Sussex Past Pictures](http://185.121.204.173/PastPictures/Default.aspx)  Print media: Please contact [West Sussex Record Office](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/history-and-heritage/west-sussex-record-office/) if a higher-resolution image is needed**ENDS** **For further information please contact the news desk on 0330 222 8090 or email** **pressoffice@westsussex.gov.uk****. For urgent out-of-hours enquiries please call 07767 098415.** Facebook  Twitter |

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