

## **From the Parish Council Chairman on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day**

If we had been able to hold any of the events and activities that were being planned to mark this occasion, I would have said a few words, more than I'll actually be saying now, about the importance of reflecting and saying thank you to everyone who was involved with this community 75-80 years ago.

Many people made huge sacrifices – with the 8 men on this memorial giving their lives whilst trying to ensure a world of peace.

But scores / hundreds of other people (from all walks of life) showed great determination and courage through almost six years of war to help their country – and this community.

Researching a wide range of sources to produce the new series of local history booklets has provided a special insight into how so many aspects of 'normal life' had to be put on hold – and people had to endure great hardships (lacking food, electricity and other things that we now take for granted) over varying lengths of time.

But, just as we're finding now, it is at times of crises that the strengths of real communities shine through – and Buriton is one of those places that has always maintained a very real sense of community; and has always shone brightly whenever called upon to do so ...

It's also clear from records of 75 years ago that there was a great sense of relief and joy that the war was over. The dances and parties weren't about winning – they were about celebrating peace.

And all those people who were here 75 years ago would expect us to be remembering their efforts and their sacrifices, remembering the loss of life and focusing on friendship for the future.

Doug Jones  
Parish Council Chairman