

Classic Sponge

Ingredients

225g (8oz) butter or margarine, softened
225g (8 oz) caster sugar
4 eggs
225 (8oz) self raising flour
2 teaspoons of baking powder
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
2 tablespoons of milk

Method

Lightly grease and line 2 x 8in (20 cm) sandwich tins with baking parchment. Pre-heat oven to 180°C/250°F/Gas Mark 4.

Measure the butter or margarine and caster sugar into a bowl and mix until light, fluffy and pale in colour. Add in the eggs, vanilla and milk and mix until smooth and fully combined. Add in the flour and baking powder and mix until the flour is fully incorporated.

Divide the mixture evenly between the prepared tins and level the surface with the back of a spoon or a plastic spatula.

Bake for between 22 – 25 minutes until well risen and golden. The tops of the cakes should spring back when pressed lightly with a finger.

Leave the cakes to cool in the tins for a few minutes before turning out onto a wire cooling rack. Remove the baking parchment and leave the cakes to cool completely.

While the cakes are cooling make the vanilla buttercream for the filling.

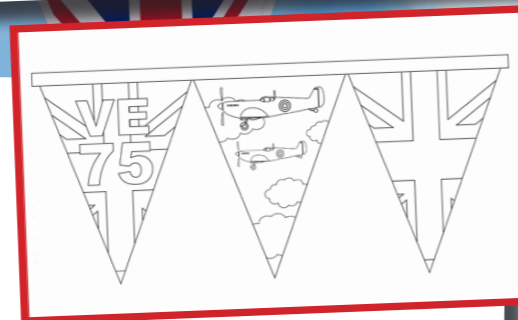
Beat 125g of butter until light, fluffy and pale in colour. Sieve 250g icing sugar into the bowl along with 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract and 1 tablespoon of milk and mix until creamy and smooth.

Once the cake has cooled completely spread the buttercream onto one of the sponges (you may not need all of it) and then spread your favourite jam on top before sandwiching the two cakes together. Sieve icing sugar over the top of the sponge for the final decoration.

If you are not a fan of buttercream you could also use whipped cream and add some strawberries.

Enjoy!

With thanks to Rachel Brown for the recipe and photo.



Download our VE Day bunting to colour in from our website: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/VE-Day-75>

Find out more from these websites:

Government VE 75: <https://ve-vjday75.gov.uk/>

British Legion: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75>

VE Day page on the WBC website: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/VE-Day-75>

Quiz Answers

1) Shaw House 2) True- it was used primarily as a transport airfield. 3) 1943 4) Kintbury 5) RAF Aldermaston 6) General Eisenhower 7) Theale 8) Lambourn; a plaque can be found in Lambourn commemorating American Lt. Lawrence Berkhoff who guided his damaged plane away from the village saving many lives. Sadly Berkhoff died in the crash. 9) A prisoner of War camp. 10) Pillboxes



VE Day 75th Anniversary Activity Pack

VE Day took place on 8 May 1945 and saw people celebrate peace in Europe after years of conflict. Every year, we all pause to remember those who fought in the Second World War, or were affected by it, over the weekend of 8 - 10 May, when World War 2 came to an end in Europe.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day which we would have normally marked with events, street parties and gatherings alongside our friends, family and communities. With the current measures to contain the spread of Coronavirus asking us all to stay at home, people across the country will be remembering and giving thanks to the Second World War generation from the safety of their own homes.

We have created this activity pack that we hope will help you celebrate at home. In addition, there are a number of other resources that are available to give you ideas of how to celebrate and links to these can be found on our website – <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/VE-Day-75>

Don't forget to look out for the VE Day Celebration 'pull out' in this week's Newbury Weekly News – why not have a go at their bunting competition?

A few words from Councillor Graham Pask, Chairman of West Berkshire Council

The 8 of May 1945 was a significant moment in history and despite the current situation we wanted to help people mark it and celebrate it while still ensuring social distancing measures are maintained.

Our activity pack contains something for the whole family and we hope it helps you to celebrate and commemorate VE day amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen communities up and down the country evoke that wartime spirit and determination.

While we know that this year's celebrations won't be the same as any other, we hope people will remember and give thanks at home and enjoy the day together as a household. I had been invited to attend several events and I appreciate the hard work undertaken by local communities planning for this important day and the very difficult decisions to cancel these celebrations.

We hope you will remember and give thanks to our veterans by celebrating at home and staying safe. On Friday 8 May, at 11am, please take part in a national moment of Remembrance and pause for a Two Minute Silence to honour the service and sacrifice of the Second World War generation and reflect on the devastating impact Covid-19 has had on so many lives across the world. Enjoy the day together as a household and make sure you share your activities from this pack with us on social media.

With Best Wishes

**Councillor Graham Pask,
Chairman of West Berkshire Council**



VE Day West Berkshire World War 2 Quiz

1) Which house in Newbury was used as a military training area during World War 2 and at one time housed American and Canadian troops?

2) True or False- RAF Welford opened during World War 2?

3) In which year was Newbury attacked by German bombers?

4) In which West Berkshire village can this war memorial in the picture to the right be found?

5) What was the name of the RAF station based on what is now the AWE?

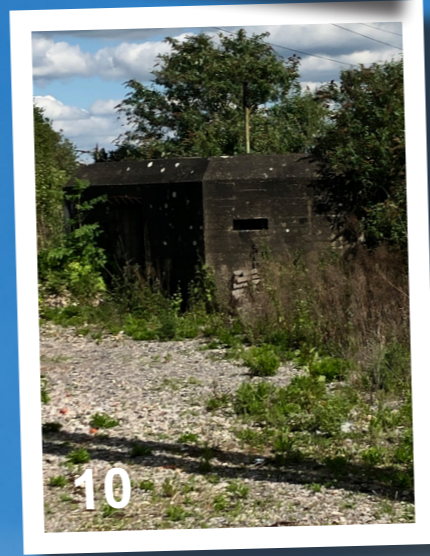
6) Which US general gave a speech to troops on Hungerford Common in World War 2?

7) In which West Berkshire village was there a factory that made munitions during World War 2?

8) Which West Berkshire village narrowly avoided a plane crashing into it during World War 2?

9) What was based on Crookham Common during World War 2?

10) Examples of these structures (see image on the right), created in World War 2 can be seen throughout West Berkshire, but what are they called?



Answers to these questions can be found over the page.

VE Day Wordsearch

M	Y	R	Y	N	C	H	U	R	C	H	I	L	L
E	A	Y	N	A	M	R	E	G	M	S	X	A	P
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| PILLBOXES | MUNITIONS |
| VICTORY | ALLIES |
| CHURCHILL | BUNTING |
| WORLD WAR | REMEMBRANCE |
| EUROPE | BRITAIN |
| GERMANY | AIRFORCE |



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