

News & Views

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D-Day Commemoration event 6th June 9.15pm

Thursday 6th June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, and to recognise this occasion Stanford Rivers Parish Council will be lighting the Beacon on **Toot Hill Village Green**. Beacons across the country will be lit at **9.15pm on 6th June** in celebration of the 'light of peace' that emerged out of the darkness of war, and we will be joining the rest of the country promptly at 9.15pm. This will be a quiet, symbolic occasion however members of the community are of course welcome to attend and take part in the commemoration.

Early on 6th June 1944 off the coast of German-occupied France, lay an armada of more than 7,000 naval vessels. Above them in the skies that day would pass thousands of aircraft on more than 14,000 sorties, bombing targets and dropping or landing some 24,000 airborne personnel behind enemy lines. Their mission: to capture key bridges, neutralise coastal batteries and secure vital roads ahead of the main landings. Shortly after dawn, and under cover of a massive naval bombardment, the first waves of assaulting infantry made for five designated beaches, codenamed Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha and Utah, along a 50-mile stretch of Normandy coastline. In many places the defenders were waiting, and exacted a horrific toll on the allies as they came ashore. But, backed by years of meticulous planning and with great determination, they fought on. They ultimately breached Hitler's famed 'Atlantic Wall' and gained a foothold in 'Fortress Europe'.

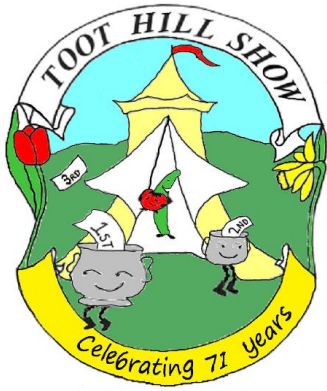
By the end of that first day, over 130,000 personnel representing 13 nations had come ashore, united in the aim of liberating western Europe. That success came at a terrible cost. All told, the allies suffered 10,000 casualties in the skies, seas and on the beaches of Normandy on 6th June alone; with 4,400 making the ultimate sacrifice. But D-Day was only the beginning. For the next three months of 'Operation Overlord', the fighting would rage in the towns, villages and the infamous hedgerows of Northern France, as the allies forced the Germans through, and eventually beyond, Normandy. It was a fight for liberation that would involve more than two million allied personnel, 10 percent of whom would become casualties, with 72,000 making the ultimate sacrifice. Hard fought, and costly, the Battle of Normandy was a decisive victory which paved the way to end the Second World War in Europe.

What does the 'D' in 'D-Day' stand for?

Strangely enough, it actually stands for 'Day'. It is an Army designation used to indicate the start date for specific field operations, i.e. the 'day of the day'. It is a placeholder used to designate a particular day on the calendar. The military also employed the term 'H-Hour' to refer to the time on D-Day when the action would begin. This shorthand helped prevent actual mission dates from falling into enemy hands, but it also proved handy when the start date for an attack was still undecided.



Toot Hill Show Saturday 3rd August



Toot Hill Show 2024 Show Competition Schedule available End of May!

The 71st show is on **Saturday 3rd August**. Come along to see the “Duck and Dog Show” (this year with sheep!) and “The Mighty Smith” strong man. Plus, all the usual attractions.

Now is the time to prepare for the Horticultural Competition.



MAKE



BAKE



GROW

The horticultural competition is a fun competition **for all ages** and is open to everyone, so ask all your friends to enter, wherever they live. If you have always wondered what it would be like to enter a horticultural competition this is your chance. No previous experience necessary and we are available to provide help and guidance if required. There are lots of children’s classes so a great way to get little fingers busy and their imaginations buzzing.

Volunteers desperately needed.

The show is run by volunteers for the benefit of the community. There are jobs to do on the run up to the show and especially on the day. Without more people getting involved we **WILL** lose our show. Please get in touch if you can help.

Schedules for the competition entries can be picked up in Sennars News Agent in the high street, or you can find us online at www.Toothillshow.co.uk, or contact maurice@stanford-rivers.co.uk.