

## Our Project Story

The PM club  
VE/VJ day celebrations

Tell us about the funded project – what did you set out to achieve? Who participated? How successful was the project? Will your project continue?

The project funded a one off event for senior citizens on Islay and Jura, celebrating VE/VJ day. The event was held in Bruichladdich hall which was decorated in red white and blue, with displays of artefacts, posters and film footage of the war years promoting lively discussion and memories. 48 people attended and were treated to a sumptuous three course meal, with a complementary dram of Bowmore malt. The singing was led by our resident musicians and by a 'Vera Lynn' sing along by Lorna MacDonald from Jura. 11 members of Jura lunch club were among our gathering. Our friends from Jura wrote a lovely piece in the Jura Jottings which expressed their delight in the event.

A photographer captured the day and produced a memory book with photos, quotes and memories of a personal war time.

(Available if requested)

The day was a resounding success and with the funding we received we were able to provide our members a truly memorable experience.

We would very much like to continue this project in 2016 and are already looking at a royal celebration in June! (HM Queen 90<sup>th</sup> birthday)



"Just the best day in ages"

"Lovely to meet up with our friends from Jura"

"Oh look! I remember cod liver oil!"

"A gas mask... uck"

"I don't think I'll eat for a week"



What were the health benefits?

The original aim was to promote mental awareness through memorable experiences. This was indeed achieved and discussion and reminiscences buzzed throughout the day. An added benefit was the social interaction of the participants and the fun and laughter of these often isolated people. Through shared experiences, comradeship and friendship were reinforced.

Where there any unexpected outcomes?

We were lucky to have to high school students to help on the day which everyone appreciated. We hope that next time we could involve more school students to interact with our seniors.

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