

**MEDIA RELEASE**

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

## **Join the VE Day celebrations and Light Pyramid illumination at Milton Keynes Rose**

On 8 May 2025, celebrations will mark the historic 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe – VE Day 80 - with the city's communities.

A day when everyone is encouraged to come together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. VE Day 80 is not only an opportunity to pay tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today, but also to celebrate our future built on unity, hope, love and peace.

Everyone is invited to join our city's celebration at the Milton Keynes Rose at 8pm on Thursday 8 May to enjoy music, dancing and singing, plus refreshments before processing to the Light Pyramid. At 9.30pm, the beacon will be lit along with over a thousand other Beacons and hundreds of Lamp Lights of Peace to shine throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The flames and light will represent the 'light of peace' that emerged from the dreadful darkness of war.

Sarah Clarke DL, Chair of the Milton Keynes Rose Trust said, "This is a unique moment in our history. The purpose of the Milton Keynes Rose is to bring our diverse communities together to reflect and celebrate special moments such as VE Day 80, and to give thanks for all those who played their part in securing peace in Europe."

Victoria Miles MBE, Chief Executive of The Parks Trust said "We're delighted to support Milton Keynes Rose in the significant VE Day 80 anniversary. An evening of joy, reflection, and celebration right in the heart of the city will bring communities together in the park, to join the procession, see the light pyramid illumination, and enjoy some music – with song sheets for those who like to singalong."

To find out more about the event, visit [theparkstrust.com/VE80](https://theparkstrust.com/VE80) and <https://miltonkeynesrose.org.uk/news/ve80-commemoration/>

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For further information, images or interviews, please contact: John Moffoot on 07831 581199 or [miltonkeynesrose@gmail.com](mailto:miltonkeynesrose@gmail.com)

### **Notes**

The Milton Keynes Rose was opened in 2013 and celebrated its 10th anniversary with a series of community activities throughout 2024, including a Living Archive film about The MK Rose's first ten years,

which was screened as part of the Heritage Open Day scheme and an exhibition at MK Gallery and Milton Keynes Central Library.

The Milton Keynes Rose provides all local people and organisations with a place to celebrate, contemplate and commemorate the things that are significant to them. Updates about the VE Day 80 celebration can be found on the Rose's Facebook page.

### **About the Milton Keynes Rose**

The Milton Keynes Rose located in our central city park, Campbell Park, is a public space designed for commemoration, celebration and contemplation. Developed in partnership by the Milton Keynes Rose Trust and The Parks Trust, with support from Milton Keynes Council, the Milton Keynes Rose was created as a central civic space to host events of significance and occasions of remembrance.

Created by internationally renowned artist Gordon Young in 2013, the Milton Keynes Rose is an open-air circle with markings based on the mathematical beauty of a flower. Upon installation 106 granite pillars of varying height were mounted in positions to create the art piece. 68 pillars have been engraved with dedications, leaving 38 for future inscriptions.

On social: [facebook.com/miltonkeynesrose](https://facebook.com/miltonkeynesrose)

Website: [miltonkeynesrose.org.uk](https://miltonkeynesrose.org.uk)

### **About The Parks Trust**

Established as a charity in 1992, The Parks Trust expertly cares for over 6,000 acres of green space in Milton Keynes including river valleys, ancient woodlands, lakes, parks and landscaped areas along the city's grid roads.

In addition to managing and developing local landscapes, the charity's staff and volunteers also work hard to support local wildlife and biodiversity, provide valuable facilities for park users, deliver extensive education programmes and connect communities with events and activities.

In most towns and cities, parkland is owned by the local authority, but Milton Keynes' founders were pioneers and decided to do things differently. Their vision was to create a new town where the parkland and landscapes would be protected forever by a charity that was separate from local government. Doing so would ensure that, as the new town grew, its green spaces would never be compromised or required to fight for funding.

The Parks Trust was given an endowment of commercial property when it was set up and returns on these investments generate the primary source of income required to fund its wide-ranging work.

As Milton Keynes grows, so does The Parks Trust. Each year, the charity takes on new green spaces and endowments from developers and ensures that all new areas of the city benefit from the same quality of inspiring, connected landscape.

Website: <https://www.theparkstrust.com/>