



VICTORY OVER JAPAN (VJ) DAY 2025 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION EVALUATION REPORT

Commemorating 80 Years of Peace, Unity,
and Cultural Heritage in Swale

Funded by
National Lottery Awards for All

October 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The VJ Day 2025 community celebrations, funded by the National Lottery Awards for All and organised by Diversity House, marked the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day. The project aimed to commemorate the end of World War II in the Pacific, honour veterans and those who served, and bring the community together in a day of remembrance, celebration, and cultural unity.

Diversity House VJ Day 2025 structure—a three-month-long series of workshops and sessions that built up to two specific, large public celebration events—emphasises the depth and richness of this VJ Day commemoration. The blend of activities—including intergenerational storytelling workshops; creative arts and heritage sessions; cultural food and performance events; volunteer training and legacy building; information and support zone; and educational sessions with service users—shows a deep and varied approach to remembering and celebrating.

The two specific public events served as the big community focal points:

- Saturday, August 16th in Sittingbourne
- Friday, August 29th at the West Faversham Community Centre

The project successfully engaged approximately **670 participants** across the two main events, with critical support from **29 volunteers** who collectively dedicated an estimated **276 hours**.

Despite facing **adverse weather conditions** at the West Faversham venue, the project team implemented effective **contingency planning**, successfully adapting the programme by relocating outdoor activities indoors to ensure complete continuity of the planned events.

Comprehensive **evaluation data** was systematically collected through a mixed-methods approach, utilizing **surveys, short video interviews, direct observation, and focus groups**. This data robustly demonstrated **high levels of participant satisfaction, successful inclusive participation**, and a demonstrable **strengthening of community cohesion** within the target population.

Furthermore, these culminating celebrations effectively leveraged the preparatory work conducted during the **VE Day commemorations** on May 9, 2025. This earlier engagement focused on historical education regarding World War II, cultural representation, skill-building workshops, and initial volunteer recruitment. This strategic **continuity** allowed Diversity House to progressively cultivate a strong sense of **awareness, belonging, and successful intergenerational engagement** in the lead-up to the VJ Day anniversary.

1. INTRODUCTION

This three-month initiative was undertaken to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ Day), which signifies the end of World War Two and a significant step toward global peace. This project was structured around comprehensive community activities, including intergenerational arts, heritage workshops, and storytelling sessions, culminating in a major commemorative events on August 16th and 29th. The celebration, hosted at a central, accessible location in Sittingbourne High Street and Faversham, involved local businesses, performances, exhibitor displays, a community feast, historical addresses, and a memorial service.

The project's strategic goal was to promote community cohesion and mutual reflection on shared history by bringing together diverse populations, particularly those facing social isolation, economic hardship, and systemic underrepresentation in traditional remembrance contexts. Crucially, in response to the cost of living crisis, all elements of the project were offered without financial barrier (free of charge),

including provisions for food and transport. This framework also maximised social value by creating numerous volunteering, skills development, and enduring legacy opportunities.

Context of Swale

Swale is a borough in Kent, with a population of approximately 155,000 (Office for National Statistics, 2023). The area is characterised by a diverse community, with residents from multiple ethnic backgrounds, including White British, Black African, and Asian communities. Swale faces a range of social and economic challenges, including pockets of deprivation, higher-than-average rates of social isolation among older residents, and limited access to cultural engagement opportunities in certain areas.

Culturally, Swale has a rich heritage of military remembrance, but historically, some veterans and minority communities have felt underrepresented in mainstream commemorations. Diversity House identified this gap and sought to create inclusive, community-led celebrations, ensuring that both older and younger generations, as well as diverse ethnic groups, could engage meaningfully with local history and cultural activities.

The events were therefore designed to reflect Swale's demographic diversity and intergenerational composition, while also addressing broader objectives around community cohesion, cultural representation, and volunteer development. By combining remembrance with interactive workshops, performances, and family-friendly activities, the VJ Day 2025 celebrations sought to strengthen community networks and foster a shared sense of identity and belonging in Swale.

2. Aims, Objectives & Outcomes

Original Aims & Objectives:

- Commemorate VJ Day and honour local veterans and those affected by WWII.
- Engage community members of all ages and backgrounds in storytelling, arts, and cultural activities.
- Promote intergenerational and intercultural understanding and cohesion.
- Provide free and accessible participation for socially isolated or economically disadvantaged individuals.
- Offer volunteer opportunities and skills development.

Expected Outcomes:

- Short-term: Enhanced community engagement, awareness of WWII history, and participation in cultural and creative activities.
- Medium-term: Stronger intergenerational and intercultural connections, reduced isolation, improved volunteer skills.
- Long-term: Creation of lasting community heritage resources to strengthen local networks, and an enduring legacy of inclusive commemorations.

Building Awareness and Belonging from VE Day to VJ Day

Diversity House began its journey towards commemorating VJ Day as early as April 2025, when the organisation first introduced the concept to its service users and community. This initiative was carefully woven into preparations for the VE Day Celebration held on 9th May 2025. During this period,

users not only learned about the history of World War II but also engaged actively in celebrating VE Day through cultural representation and volunteering.

Workshops, Learning, and Shared Stories

In the lead-up to VE Day, Diversity House hosted a series of workshops and educational sessions with service beneficiaries and community partners, including Sittingbourne College Students (as shown in the pictures below). These sessions created space for interactive and reflective learning. Participants watched archived videos, listened to historical narratives, and received information that drew clear links between VE Day in Europe and VJ Day in Asia. This process not only built historical knowledge but also fostered a sense of belonging and shared responsibility. For many attendees, particularly from Commonwealth backgrounds, the workshops gave a voice to their heritage and experiences. By making representative Commonwealth flags, participants visually expressed their identity while affirming their place in the broader story of World War II remembrance. Participants showcased their traditions, foods, and attire, underscoring the important role of diverse communities in both past and present histories.



Photos from the VE day on 9th May 2025

A Pathway from VE to VJ Day

The celebration of VE Day on 9th May 2025 became more than a one-off commemoration, it served as a launching platform for VJ Day awareness. By connecting European and Asian dimensions of the war, Diversity House helped participants understand the global scale of sacrifice and victory. This awareness gradually built momentum and interest in VJ Day, ensuring that service users were not only informed but emotionally invested in the VJ Day events. Crucially, the groundwork for the VJ Day programme was laid before the official grant inception in June 2025. Diversity House had already been cultivating knowledge, engagement, and enthusiasm among its communities, ensuring that the funded activities would be meaningful, well-received, and impactful.

Through these engagements, Diversity House created a safe and inclusive space where participants could see themselves represented in national narratives. Many beneficiaries expressed that learning about VE and VJ Day gave them a deeper appreciation of their community's historical contributions, while also encouraging them to celebrate their cultural identity in a shared public space. This dual

emphasis on history and belonging has been central to Diversity House's approach helping communities not only remember the past but also claim their voice in shaping the present.

Legacy and Tribute

As part of the build-up to the VJ Day commemorations, Diversity House team paid a tribute visit to the Sittingbourne Cemetery, where a significant act of remembrance took place almost three decades ago. The last recorded public activity at this site was in November 1995, when a tree was planted to mark the fiftieth anniversary of VE and VJ Days. The names of those who contributed and served are preserved on a Roll of Remembrance located in the Swale Borough Council offices on East Street, Sittingbourne.

By revisiting this historic site, Diversity House connected the present generation with a legacy of remembrance established long ago. This act underscored the importance of continuity, memory, and intergenerational dialogue, bridging the efforts of the past with the aspirations of today.

Through the support of the National Lottery Awards for All, Diversity House has been able to build upon this foundation reuniting the community, celebrating cultures, and creating inclusive spaces of remembrance. Hosting the VJ Day celebrations in 2025 was more than an event; it was an opportunity to rekindle local heritage, honour contributions from diverse communities, and weave new traditions of unity and belonging into Sittingbourne's history.



The Visit by Diversity House Team to the Sittingbourne Graveyard

3. VJ DAY EVENT DELIVERY

3.1 Logistics & Volunteer Coordination (Sittingbourne High Street – 16 August 2025)

The Sittingbourne High Street celebration was a large-scale outdoor event requiring significant preparation and coordination. Pre-event arrangements included food preparation, van loading and unloading, and site set-up by Diversity House staff and volunteers.

Volunteer management for the VJ Day celebration was a highly organized effort, led jointly by Diversity House staff, **Mr. Adekunle Shodiya** and **Dr. Zina Lehef**, alongside **Mr. Karl Hudson** from Event Volunteers of Swale (EVOS), who expertly managed the stewards.

Volunteers didn't just show up; they received **intensive training** to prepare them for their roles. Upon signing in, they got detailed **role briefings** and were then allocated to specific duties such as **stewarding**, managing **information desks**, and providing **stage support**.

This involvement was a fantastic, practical opportunity for volunteers to **work, learn new skills, and significantly build their CVs**. For many, it was more than just an experience; it was a stepping stone. In fact, as a direct result of their commitment and experience with Diversity House, **three volunteers successfully secured employment**, with Diversity House providing them with a supporting **letter of reference**.

A total of 21 volunteers participated, drawn from both Diversity House and EVOS. Key roles included:

- Stage management and programme timing
- Safety officers and crowd stewards
- Information desk staff supporting attendees
- First aiders providing on-site medical cover
- Photographers & videographers documenting activities throughout the day

This strong volunteer base ensured smooth operations and effective crowd management across the High Street (as captured in the pictures below).



Pre-event arrangement site set-up by Diversity House staff and volunteers.

3.1.1 Entertainment & Activities

The programme combined a rich mix of Remembrance service at the Sittingbourne war memorial, performances, workshops, and community engagement activities designed to appeal to all age groups.

3.1.2 Opening Session and Remembrance Service

The programme began with an opening ceremony led by the C.E.O Diversity House Dr. Christine Locke, followed by remarks from the Worshipful Mayor of Swale, Cllr Karen Watson. After the opening, attendees proceeded to the Sittingbourne War Memorial where the remembrance Service was

held to honour the sacrifices of servicemen and women. The event brought together community members, local organisations, veterans, and civic leaders in a collective act of remembrance. Through wreath-laying, readings, and moments of silence, the service provided an opportunity for reflection, unity, and intergenerational engagement, ensuring that the legacy of those who served is preserved within the community.



Welcoming Speech by Dr. Christine Locke followed the Worshipful Mayor of Swale Cllr Karen Watson.

3.1.3 Participation and Engagement of Veterans

The participation of veterans was a particularly significant aspect of the day. Historically, many veterans have felt forgotten or underrepresented in mainstream remembrance activities. Diversity House recognised this gap and intentionally ensured that veterans had ownership in organising the civic celebration, adding a meaningful and authentic flavour to the event. One of the veterans even coordinated the remembrance service, actively leading elements of the ceremony such as wreath-laying, readings, and moments of silence.

This approach not only amplified the voices of veterans whose contributions might otherwise be overlooked but also facilitated intergenerational engagement, allowing younger attendees to learn directly from those who served. By embedding veterans into the organisational and ceremonial aspects of the event, Diversity House strengthened the community's connection to history and ensured that the legacy of those who served was both remembered and actively celebrated.



Remembrance Service Led by Reader Pat Tatchell, from the Benefice of Tunstall and Bredgar.



Scene from Remembrance Service at the Sittingbourne War Memorial.



Diversity House Trustee Patrick Lock, C.E.O Dr. Christine Locke, C.E.O Swale CVS Christine White.



Wreath Laying Ceremony.



Scene From Remembrance Service.

3.1.4 Performances

The performers at the VJ Day celebration (stilt walker, singers, bagpipes, belly dancers, Haka UK, drumming, cultural dance groups, traditional music) were deliberately chosen to reflect the global nature of the conflict and the diverse communities that contributed to the war effort and its ultimate end. By bringing together this eclectic mix of arts, music, and dance, Diversity House ensured the celebration was not only a commemoration but also a powerful display of **community cohesion and cross-cultural learning**. Below are some of the performers' pictures.



Stilt Walk Along the Sittingbourne High Street



Bagpiper Along the Sittingbourne Cenotaph During Remembrance Service



Indian Performance on the stage

This picture tells a profound story that goes straight to the heart of Diversity House's mission! It is not just an image of a performance; it is a testament to the transformative power of belief and opportunity.

The image captures more than a moment of celebration; it embodies the multilayers of radical support that Diversity House provides. It features an Indian performer, a dedicated service user whose innate talent for Indian dance was recognised and nurtured by the organisation.

Knowing her passion to practice, refine, and display her heritage, Diversity House did not just offer support—it offered a stage. By inviting her to be a featured performer at *both* major VJ Day public events—first in Sittingbourne and later in Faversham—Diversity House created an opportunity that was life-changing.

This decision powerfully demonstrates the charity's commitment:

- **Beyond Case Management:** Recognising and validating a service user's talent is a move far beyond basic support; it is an act of empowerment.
- **A Platform for Growth:** The opportunity to perform in front of large public audiences validated her skill, boosted her confidence, and provided invaluable experience, actively helping her reclaim her narrative through her art.
- **Integration and Respect:** Her role as a celebrated performer in a major civic event underscores the charity's dedication to ensuring service users are not just supported, but are recognised as valued, contributing members of the wider community.

This is the enduring, powerful legacy of Diversity House: taking a personal passion and turning it into a public triumph.



<https://youtube.com/shorts/C06svSxHdwk?feature=share>



Performance from the Haka UK demonstration

3.1.5 Workshops: Creative Arts and Heritage Sessions

The artworks produced during the Sittingbourne High Street event revealed a wide range of community perceptions about World War II and its legacy (see the video below). Many of the visual pieces incorporated symbols of peace, unity, and remembrance, highlighting how participants, especially younger generations, interpreted the war as both a lesson in resilience and a reminder of the value of peace.

Some artworks directly acknowledged the sacrifices of veterans and civilians, while others expressed the importance of intercultural harmony today. The activity demonstrated that creative expression could capture emotional and personal connections to history in ways that traditional evaluation tools may not.



Art & Craft Activities by participants

3.1.6 Family Activities

Face painting, children's bouncy castle, and the magician performances providing light-hearted entertainment



Children Having fun at the Bounty Castle and face paint.

3.1.7 Community Stalls & Services

Information and awareness stalls from over 16 local organisations partnering in the VJ Day event including Diversity House desks, Sea Cadets, Swale CVS, Kent Wildlife Rescue, Bayleaf Cafe, ABetterMe Life Coach, Currys, Children & Families team, Alice storytelling, Diabetes UK, mother invention, Swallows leisure centre, Next step fostering, SFM radio, Kent fire and rescue services, Sittingbourne police, and more providing residents with opportunities to learn about local services, initiatives, and volunteering options. The stalls created a vibrant space for engagement, where community members could access information, resources, and practical support. This involvement not only raised awareness of the wide range of services available locally but also strengthened collaboration between organisations, showcased the diversity of Sittingbourne's community sector, and encouraged a sense of inclusion and belonging among attendees.



Picture of Mother Invention Stall with Mr Paul Auston DL, the Representative of the Lord Lieutenant of Kent.



Richard Stew and team Stroke Information & Advice Stall



Alice Hatari Storytelling Stall.



Dr. Christine Locke having Discussion with Mr. Paul Auston DL.



Staff of Swale CVS showcasing their services in their stall.



The representatives from the Sea Cadet.



The Next Step Fostering Stall



SFM Radio team all excited and getting ready for the VJ Day event.

Media & Documentation

SFM Radio provided live coverage throughout the day while a team of three volunteer photographers and videographers captured key highlights across the event area, ensuring full documentation of performances, community interactions, short video interviews, and audience engagement.

3.1.8 Indoor Activity - Featured Talk

As part of the VJ Day Community Celebration, a Featured Talk was hosted at the Baptist Church on Sittingbourne High Street. This session offered attendees the opportunity to explore the historical and cultural significance of VJ Day in greater depth, complementing the outdoor performances and activities. Registration was managed via Eventbrite ([Diversity House Events and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)). This allowed for pre-event sign-ups, efficient attendee tracking, and promotion through online networks. The content was delivered by guest speakers and supported by Diversity House facilitators, the talk focused on:

- The historical legacies of VJ Day.
- Personal and community reflections on peace, conflict, and reconciliation.
- Connections between wartime history and contemporary multicultural community life in Swale.

The Featured Talk added educational depth to the celebrations, enabling participants to reflect on the broader meaning of the commemoration. Feedback highlighted the value of combining cultural festivities with historical education in accessible community spaces.



Featured talk by Dr Anne Samson and Richard Elmmett at the Sittingbourne Baptist Church.



Featured talk by Dr Anne Samson and Richard Elmmett at the Sittingbourne Baptist Church.

The Sittingbourne High Street VJ Day Event Site Plan

see interactive version here: [Google Map Link](#) illustrates the overall layout of the VJ Day Community Celebration held on 16 August 2025 along Sittingbourne High Street.

3.1.9 Celebrating Legacy and New Beginnings

The VJ Day celebration on 16th August 2025, went beyond remembering the past, it also became a day of joyful new beginnings. In addition to the Remembrance Service and cultural activities, the community came together to celebrate a baby shower for one of its members, marking the arrival of a new life on this historically significant day.

This special moment added a deeply symbolic layer to the commemoration while the community honoured the sacrifices of the fallen heroes who fought for peace, it also welcomed hope and continuity through new life. The day became a story of impact, demonstrating how collective memory and present

joy can coexist, reinforcing the event's themes of unity, intergenerational connection, and the enduring value of community.

By combining remembrance with celebration, Diversity House ensured that the 80th anniversary of VJ Day was both reflective and forward-looking, highlighting resilience, life, and hope as central pillars of community cohesion.



Guests on arrival for baby shower

3.2 West Faversham Event (29 August 2025)

Our work at Diversity House initially focused on running educational sessions for our service users and other local organisations. When we began planning the VJ Day event for Sittingbourne, we were met with an overwhelmingly positive response from the community.

Local people were genuinely excited about the commemoration scheduled for the 16th of August. This enthusiasm was matched by the local businesses, particularly along the High Street. Many shop owners proactively offered their support and even told us they planned to decorate their storefronts with British flags to mark the occasion.

The high level of acceptance and excitement from both residents and businesses gave us great confidence that the Sittingbourne event would be a significant success. It became clear to us that there was a real appetite for this kind of commemoration in the area.

This strong, positive feedback was the direct motivation for our next step. Realising the potential and the demand, we decided to expand our efforts and organise a second VJ Day event at the West Faversham Community Centre, building directly on the momentum and goodwill we experienced in Sittingbourne. The event combined indoor and outdoor activities, with flexibility built into delivery to respond to unpredictable weather.

3.2.1 Logistics and Volunteer Coordination

Pre-event arrangements included food preparation, van loading/unloading, and site set-up, coordinated by Diversity House staff and volunteers. **Volunteer management was led by Mr. Adekunle Shodiya and Dr. Zina Lehef (Project Officers, Diversity House).** They worked alongside 8 Diversity House volunteers, who supported the event through:

- Information desk management
- Raffle ticket sales and coordination
- Stage support and safety stewarding
- Arts & crafts workshop facilitation
- Event photography
- Indoor/outdoor venue set-up

This allocation of tasks ensured smooth operations and effective coordination across the venue.

3.2.2 Opening Ceremony & Remembrance Service

The day began with an opening ceremony led by Dr. Christine Locke, CEO of Diversity House, followed by remarks from the Worshipful Mayor of Faversham, Cllr. Josh Rowlands. A Remembrance Service, led by Chris Hopking, was then held inside the community hall. Veterans, civic leaders, local organisations, and community members gathered for a collective act of remembrance through wreath-laying, readings, and moments of silence, creating a meaningful space for reflection, unity, and intergenerational dialogue.



Welcoming and Opening Speech by C.E.O Diversity House and the Worshipful Mayor of Faversham



One of the clearest indicators of the event's success was the proactive involvement from the veteran community. For instance, the VJ Day flag displayed prominently behind Dr. Zina Lehef (Diversity House Staff) was provided by a local veteran who brought it without any request from our team. This gesture signifies more than just support; it represents a crucial step towards community “ownership” of the event. When veterans take such personal initiative, they lend an unparalleled layer of “authenticity” and “power” to the commemoration, demonstrating a real community-wide excitement and confirming the unique importance of our organisation's efforts.

3.2.3 Entertainment & Activities

The event programme was designed to reflect the spirit of the Sittingbourne High Street celebration while tailoring to a community hall setting. Activities included:



Drumming Workshop with Lucky Moyo, engaging children and families with interactive drumming using 30 drums.

Bantu Arts performance, bringing high-energy African music and dance by a team of three artists.

- *Micky Magician* entertained with three short sessions of magic.
- *Spencer* (traditional music) performed continuously throughout the day both indoor and outdoor when the rain stops.
- *Srilatha* from India, a local young performer gave a stunning performance, adding a community showcase element.

3.2.4 Family Activities:

- Face painting.
- Bouncy castle - Children later enjoyed the bouncy castle once the rain cleared.
- Arts & crafts sessions for children.

3.2.5 Community & Partner Stalls:

- *Mother Invention*
- The Royal British Legion
- Nando's
- Faversham Detachment Kent Cadet Force
- *Alice Hatari* Storytelling.
- *Abetterme Life Coach*
- *Diversity House* stall & information desk.
- *West Faversham Community Centre*

3.2.6 Building Bridges Through Cultural Food:

Attendees enjoyed freshly prepared Nigerian and Indian food, reflecting the diverse cultural heritage of the community. This addition not only enriched the event experience but also created opportunities for intercultural exchange and conversations around food, identity, and heritage

3.3 Summary of Event Delivery

The delivery of the VJ Day commemorations across Sittingbourne High Street (16 August 2025) and the West Faversham Community Centre (29 August 2025) demonstrated strong planning, community collaboration, and adaptability. Both events successfully combined remembrance with cultural celebration, drawing in families, veterans, and diverse community groups.

At Sittingbourne High Street, the favourable weather and effective coordination of over 21 volunteers ensured that logistics ran smoothly, performers and workshops attracted large audiences, and the atmosphere reflected both commemoration and festivity. The presence of community stalls and support services added depth by connecting attendees with valuable local resources.

In contrast, the West Faversham event required greater flexibility due to rain disrupting outdoor plans. The organising team swiftly relocated activities indoors, reshuffled programme timings, and maximised use of the community centre space. Despite these challenges, families engaged positively, and once the rain cleared, outdoor activities such as the bouncy castle were reintroduced, ensuring children were not left out.

Together, the two events showcased Diversity House's capacity to manage large-scale public celebrations while also adapting to unforeseen challenges. They not only honoured the significance of VJ Day but also created opportunities for cultural exchange, family participation, and strengthened community cohesion.

4. Participation & Engagement

- Total Attendance: 670 (Sittingbourne – 550+, West Faversham – 120+).
- Demographics: Families, older residents, veterans, youth, and attendees from diverse ethnic backgrounds.
- Volunteers: 29 volunteers contributed 276 hours.
- Partners Engaged: EVOS, Swale CVS, Sea Cadets, Nandos, West Faversham Community centre, SFM Radio, and many others.

5. Evaluation Method

A combination of quantitative and qualitative tools was used to assess the outcomes and overall impact of the VJ Day events at Sittingbourne High Street (16 August 2025) and West Faversham Community Centre (29 August 2025).

5.1 Tools and Approaches

- Pre-Events Focus group Discussions: staff, volunteers, service users, local businesses, partners (such as West Faversham Community Centre, Swale CVS, EVOS...and others) to...
- Surveys: Distributed in emails, paper, and digital formats (via barcode link) to attendees and volunteers. (Appendix 1)
- Social Analytics. (Appendix 2)
- Short Video Interviews: Conducted by Diversity House staff and photographers/videographers with participants during the event to capture live reflections. (Appendix 3)
- Observation Reports: Produced by staff and volunteers throughout the events to record engagement, atmosphere, and delivery challenges.
- Post-Events Focus Group: Held one week after the events with volunteers and staff to review processes, successes, and areas for improvement.

5.2 Number of Responses

- 120 surveys collected: 102 from Sittingbourne, 18 from West Faversham.
- 32 short-impactful video interviews recorded.
- 10 observation reports compiled.
- 2 post-event focus group conducted.

5.3 Data Collection Process

- Surveys were distributed on-site and through a digital link for ease of access.
- Short video interviews were opportunistically conducted with attendees and performers to capture immediate reactions.
- Observations were structured around set themes (logistics, participation, inclusivity, atmosphere).

- The post-event focus groups were facilitated by Diversity House staff and included a cross-section of volunteers and team leads.

5.4 Analysis

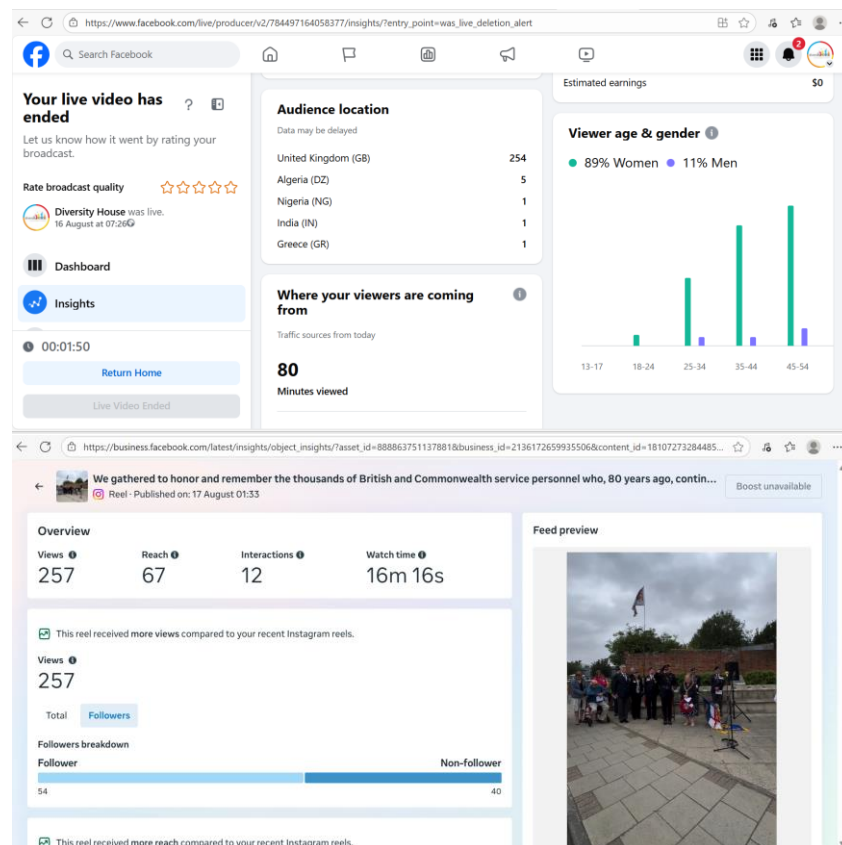
- Quantitative survey data was analysed to measure participant satisfaction, attendance demographics, and levels of engagement.
- Qualitative data (interviews, observations, focus group notes) was thematically analysed to identify recurring strengths, challenges, and recommendations for future events.

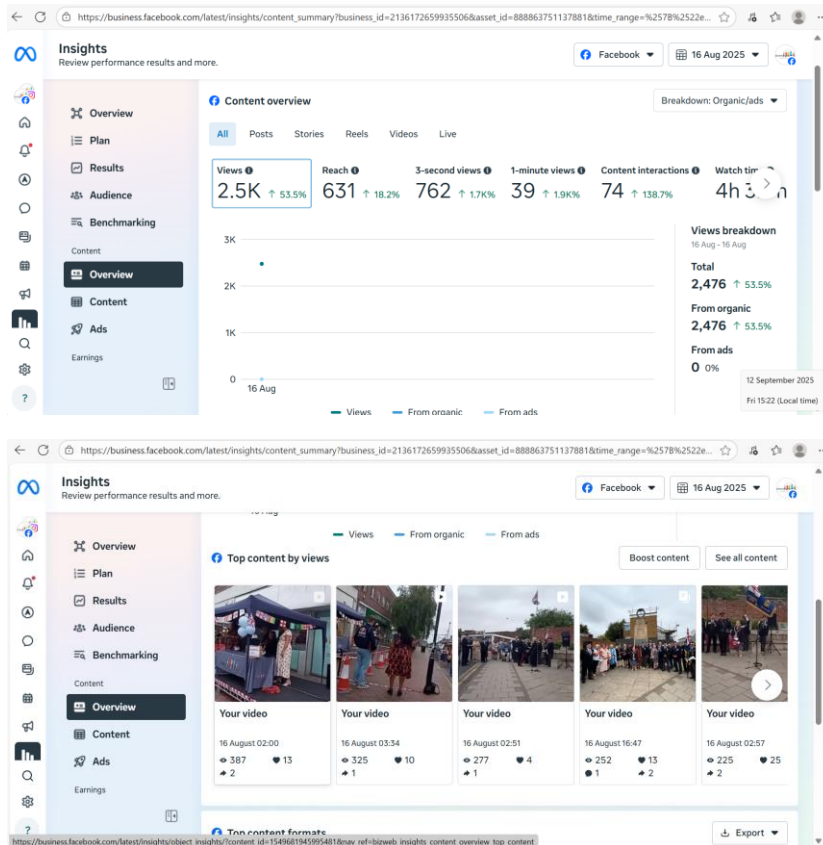
6. Key Findings & Outcomes

- **High Satisfaction:** 95% of respondents rated their overall experience as excellent or good; 92% enjoyed performances, workshops, and interactive activities.
- **Community Impact:** Strong intergenerational and intercultural engagement; families, youth, and veterans participated actively.
- **Volunteer Development:** Enhanced skills in event coordination, teamwork, and leadership.
- **Programme Delivery:** Despite rain at West Faversham, indoor adaptations ensured continuity; outdoor activities resumed post-rain without major disruption.
- **Support Services Impact:** Attendees accessed information on wellbeing and cost-of-living support.
- **Challenges:** Weather disruptions, volunteer fatigue, minor schedule adjustments; successfully mitigated through flexibility and contingency planning.

7. Recommendations & Lessons Learned

1. Develop comprehensive contingency plans for outdoor activities.
2. Allocate additional setup/rehearsal time to prevent last-minute adjustments.
3. Continue providing free access, transport support, and accessibility measures.
4. Maintain flexibility in programme delivery for unexpected disruptions.
5. Enhance volunteer support, training, and recognition.
6. Strengthen multi-channel promotion to maximise attendance.
7. Build on existing and new partnerships for wider community reach.





Appendix 3: Short Video Interviews conducted by photographers/videographers with participants during the event to capture live reflections.

<https://youtube.com/shorts/veBbyvfMcyC?feature=share>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/xXu1ylTO7Bw?feature=share>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/AGWRSp7BjkM?feature=share>

https://youtube.com/shorts/Hi-Uv_A7rDU?feature=share

<https://youtube.com/shorts/3BNM5vjfpDc?feature=share>

<https://youtube.com/shorts/NXJdKiW4GBQ?feature=share>