



MAKE YOUR OWN VE DAY PAPER CHAINS

In May 1945 the end of the war in Europe had been expected for some time, so people had been getting ready to celebrate by making decorations and saving food to celebrate with.

On 7 May 1945 it was announced that the next day, Tuesday 8 May, would be **Victory in Europe Day (VE Day)**.

On **VE Day** houses were decked with homemade decorations such as bunting and paper chains. Celebrations broke out everywhere as everyone rejoiced and street parties were organised. Tables were pulled out into the street and covered with homemade sweet treats and sandwiches. Children played games, sang songs, ate lots of food, and sometimes celebrated in fancy dress.

Paper was salvaged during the Second World War to help the war effort, so it was important not to waste it. People used scrap paper and odds-and-ends from around the house to make decorations.



Ogilvie Street, Woodstock Road, Belfast



Foundry Street, Belfast

Images courtesy of Belfast Telegraph

Due to the Coronavirus restrictions, many **VE Day 75** events and street parties have been cancelled, but you can still mark the 75th anniversary at your home. So, why don't you have a **VE Day** party with your family on Friday 8th May 2020? Just like they did in 1945, you can use scrap paper (from your recycling bin) to make colourful paper chains to decorate your house and garden.

All you need is scrap paper, scissors, a glue stick or sticky tape. If you have paints, colouring pens, and stickers, you can make your paper chains all the colours of the rainbow! Maybe you could add secret messages to them using the following VE Day headlines:

WORLD JOY OVER PEACE

VICTORY PARADE

CHURCH BELLS WILL BE RUNG

THE WORLD HAS GONE MAD WITH JOY

A JOYOUS CELEBRATION

BELFAST IS A CITY WITHOUT STRANGERS

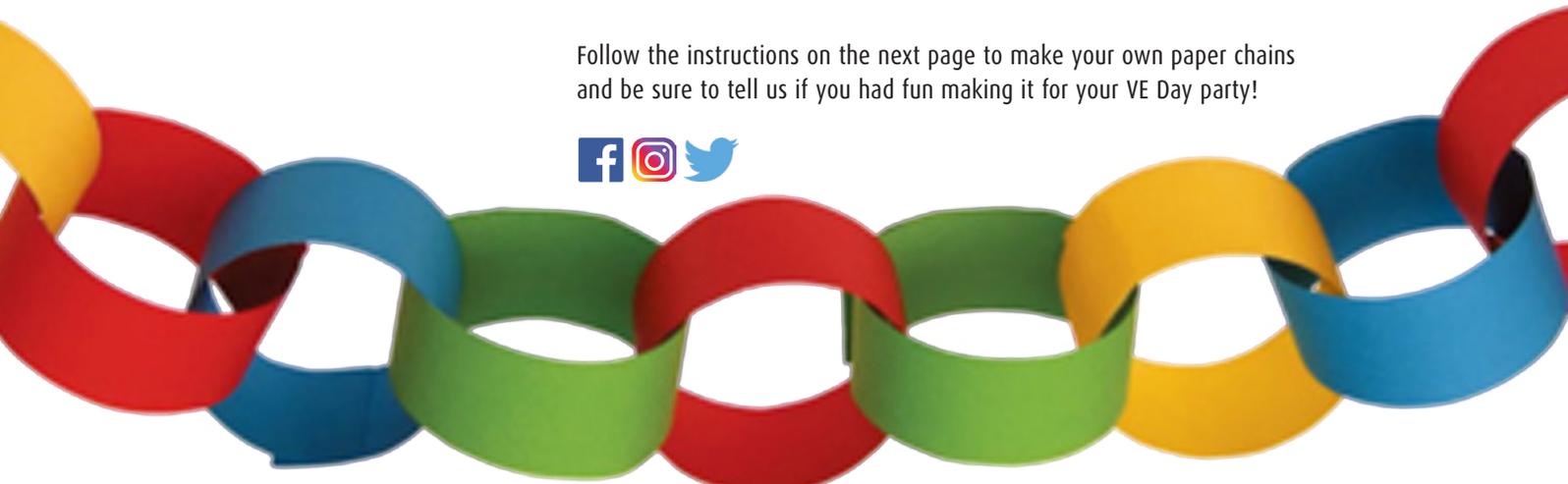
LONG LIVE THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

WAR ENDS MIDNIGHT

WORLD THANKFUL AND JOYFUL

THE WAR IN EUROPE IS OVER

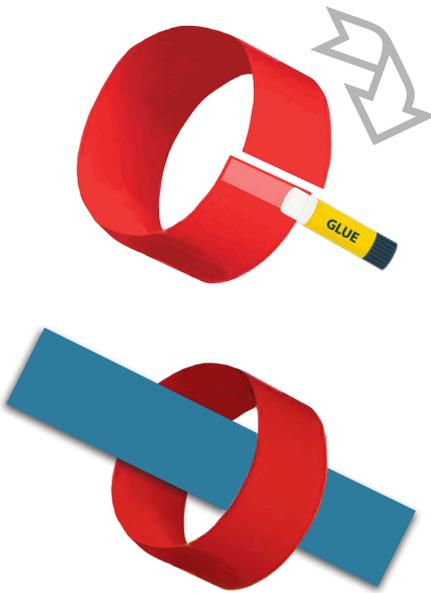
Follow the instructions on the next page to make your own paper chains and be sure to tell us if you had fun making it for your VE Day party!





MAKE YOUR OWN VE DAY PAPER CHAINS

CUT YOUR PAPER INTO STRIPS AROUND 2CM BY 20CM.



IF YOU ARE USING OLD NEWSPAPERS OR PLAIN PAPER, YOU COULD DECORATE THESE PIECES TO MAKE THEM MORE COLOURFUL USING PAINT, COLOURING PENS, STICKERS AND VE DAY MESSAGES.

TAKE A STRIP OF PAPER AND CURL IT AROUND SO THE TWO ENDS MEET. GLUE ONE END TO THE OTHER AND HOLD FOR SEVERAL SECONDS UNTIL DRY - OR YOU COULD USE STICKY TAPE TO CONNECT THE ENDS IF YOU PREFER.

FEED YOUR NEXT STRIP THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF YOUR FIRST CHAIN LINK. CURL THE ENDS OF THE SECOND STRIP TOGETHER UNTIL THEY MEET AND THEN GLUE AS BEFORE.

REPEAT UNTIL YOU HAVE REACHED THE LENGTH OF CHAIN THAT YOU WANT. THEN ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS HANG IT UP AT YOUR VE DAY PARTY!

