



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.

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



Ogilvie Street, Woodstock Road, Belfast

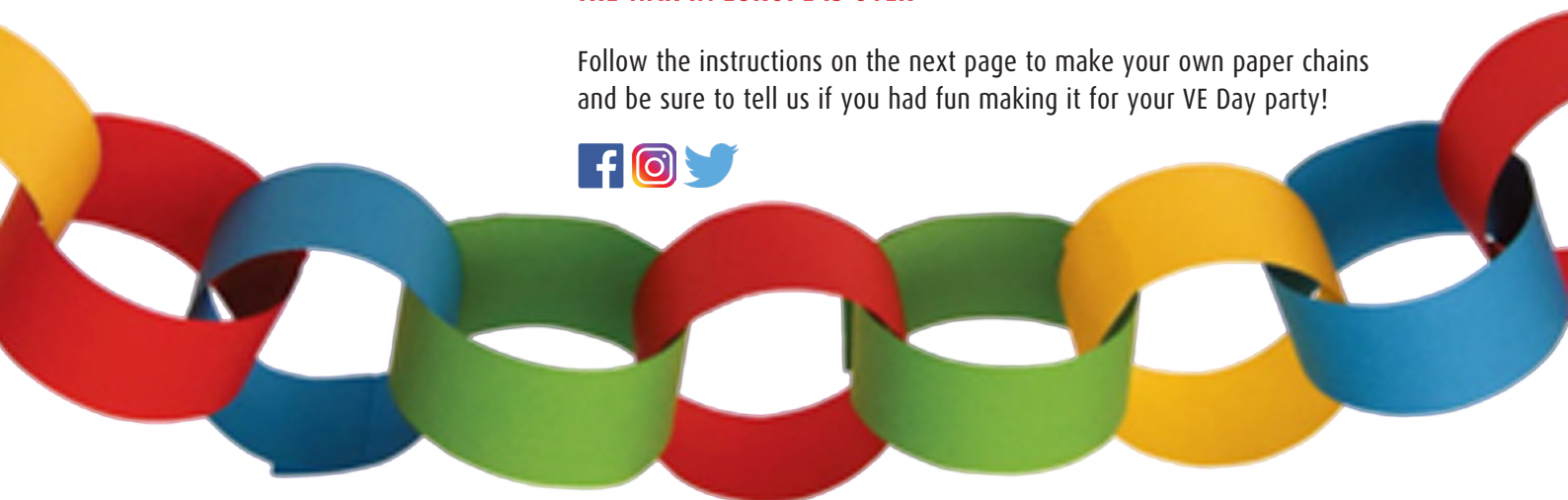


Foundry Street, Belfast

Images courtesy of
Belfast Telegraph



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!





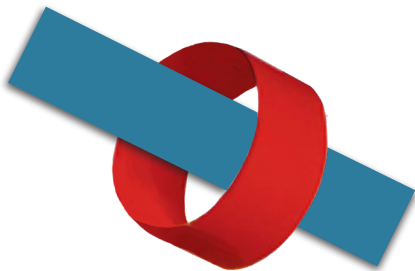
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Cut your paper into strips around 2cm by 20cm.



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!

