

PICNIC IN YOUR PARLOUR IDEAS

As we are all following guidelines and staying at home, leaving the house as little as possible, it's a really good idea to use items we already have at home, and to reuse and upcycle in our VE Day celebrations, which is very much in keeping with the "Make do and mend" sentiment of the second world war era.

1. Any sheet or blanket can be used as a picnic blanket or table cloth
2. Use old glass jars as fancy glasses for your fruit punch or as a vase for your centre piece. (obviously check for sharp edges)
3. Pick flowers from your garden, even a jar of dandelions can look quite bright and beautiful, as a table centre piece, why not decorate the jar with a ribbon or any bric a brac such as old buttons and badges etc.
4. Make your own bunting, these can be fabric, felt or paper. Pages from old comics, magazines or newspapers cut into triangles with two small holes created for string or wool to be thread through them, making bright fluttery bunting that will add a sense of occasion to any celebration.
5. Make your own flags to wave, again you can draw your own design be it the Union Jack or something less formal or again even old comics etc. Use anything from pencils, rulers, straws, kebab sticks or sticks from your garden and tape your flag design to it. A cluster of small homemade flags would also look great in a jar as your centre piece (again be careful of sharp objects)
6. Make your own party hats, these can be simple paper crowns or upcycled hats you have, be it a bobble hat now covered in paper flowers or a sunhat decorated with ribbons and homemade pom poms. Be as creative as you like.
7. Make your picnic look fancy, we may not be able to access all the food we'd like, but use cookie cutters to shape your sandwiches, use foil to cover serving plates, create your own paper doilies by folding up paper and cutting out all different small shapes and then unfolding, as you would to create a paper "snowflake"
8. Dress up, it could be fancy dress, or a red white and blue theme, a pyjama party or maybe you want to get your posh frocks and suits out. Nothing puts you in the mood for celebrating like being dressed for the occasion!
9. Use your technology to have your loved ones involved. Make sure they have their picnic sorted too so you can all enjoy it together-apart.

Have fun, make memories!