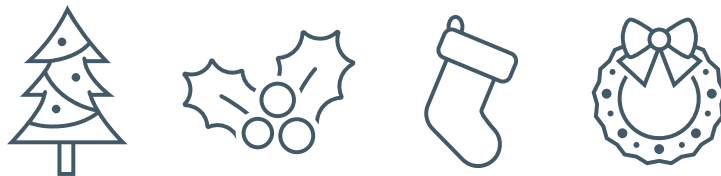


Make a Christmas Cracker

In the Second World War, times were hard for families. So during the festive season, Christmas celebrations had to be scaled down due to the restrictions and shortages that were in place. The government advised against the use of paper for things like packaging or wrapping presents. As such, it was difficult to get a hold of! It was also difficult to buy new decorations each year, and as the war lasted for six years, civilians had to get creative!

In order to keep the festive spirit alive, civilians on the home front would make Christmas decorations, cards and wrapping paper out of scrap material, newspaper and anything they could recycle! This was adopted throughout the war in many ways, and recycling and reusing became a huge part of everyday life. It became known as the "Make Do and Mend" scheme.



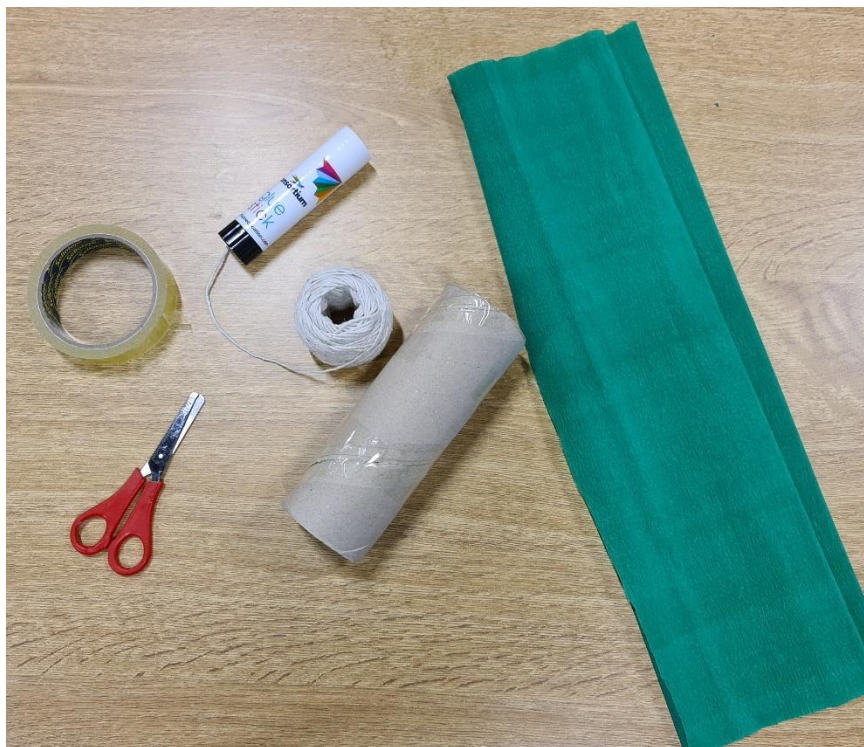
For many families on Christmas day, it is traditional to have Christmas crackers at the dinner table. Due to rationing, the production of Christmas crackers was halted throughout the war, and so people made do with what they had.

Here is a way that you can reuse and recycle items from around your home to make your very own Christmas cracker!



Resources:

- Cardboard kitchen/toilet roll
- Crepe/tissue/wrapping paper (this should be about double the length of your roll)
- 2 x 10cm piece of string/ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue/Sticky Tape
- Craft resources to decorate your cracker



How to Make your Christmas Cracker:

- Take your cardboard roll and a piece of crepe paper.
- Wrap the crepe paper around the toilet roll and secure it with glue or some sticky tape.



- Next, on one end of your cracker, twist the end and secure with string near to the roll.
- **Top Tip: You could write down a Christmas-themed joke or add a small gift in before you secure the second side!**



- Repeat with other side.



- To finish, decorate your Christmas cracker!