

HER

LIFE

MAR 2017 ISSUE 76 £4.50

FOR THE LOVE OF  
**SHOES**

- GRANNY CHIC
- VINTAGE BRIDES
- TWIGGY'S 60s STYLE
- VINTAGE IN PRAGUE
- MADEIRA TIKI BAR

BURLESQUE... MORE THAN JUST

**PASTIES &**

**FEATHERS**

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ISSUE 76  
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# Editor's Letter

**H**appy March, Vintage Life Readers! That feeling of spring is in the air and I am looking forward to ditching my winter warmers in favour of lighter garments! March is always a glorious month – the days are getting longer, the weather is beginning to settle (except for those blustery winds!) and it's the perfect time to spring clean our lives – getting rid of clutter and items we no longer need or have a use for. I will be visiting the charity shops with bags of goodies for them – again!

I'd like to talk about a new website that is now up and running – [Retroseekers.com](http://Retroseekers.com). Just launched and growing daily – it's the hub for the vintage community. Why not check it out? If you own a vintage business, why not add yours to the site too?

I recently took a trip to London and visited the VintageTV studios where I was filmed for an upcoming feature on the channel, discussing my favourite tunes for my Vintage Mix Tape. There's no confirmed air date yet but I'll keep you posted.

That's all for this issue – in the meantime, keep your eyes peeled on the VL Facebook page – more live streams will be coming your way!

Rae Evans  
Editor in Chief

Follow me on: Instagram [@vintagelifemag\\_ed](https://www.instagram.com/vintagelifemag_ed)





# VINTAGE LIFE

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In this section  
**FASHION**





# GRANNY CHIC

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHS EMMA GRIFFIN

ONE OF THE KEY FASHION TRENDS THAT WILL BE STICKING AROUND FOR SOMETIME IS THE 'GRANNY CHIC'. NOW, THIS IS A FASHION TREND THAT WE VINTAGE LOVERS CAN REALLY ROCK WELL AND IT'S FUN. SO, WHAT IS THIS TREND ALL ABOUT?





MODEL: Katy Lewis. MAKE-UP ARTIST: Amanda Platt. HAIR STYLIST: Alana Rickard. VINTAGE CLOTHING: She's Yaw (on Facebook @shesyar), PHOTOGRAPHER: www.griffin-photography.co.uk



It's the clashing of prints and colours, textures and lots of accessories, such as gloves, handbags, pearls, your Gran's heels or loafers and the granny favourite – brooches – are a huge must. The ultimate accessory has to be fashion glasses, such as the nerd style or faithful cat-eye glasses.

Hats play a huge part in this look and I do love a good vintage hat, don't you? You can also go all out

and wrap a pretty silk scarf around your head, which helps to add a touch of unexpected pattern or colour to your outfit.

Don't be scared of busy prints and embrace them instead, with dresses or mid-length skirts and blouses. It's about fun and mixing up the decades so you look like someone who has just stepped off Gucci's catwalk.

For this vintage Vogue feature we mixed up 1960s and 1970s for these fun looks.



A woman is seen from behind, standing on a rocky outcrop. She is wearing a bright yellow short-sleeved top, a long skirt with a green and yellow floral pattern, a wide-brimmed straw hat, and green gloves. She is looking out over a dense forest of tall, thin trees. In the distance, a valley with a river or lake is visible under a clear sky. The foreground consists of large, mossy rocks.

# TEMPLE MAGIC

WORDS MELANIE CALLAND



Spring has finally sprung here and Retropoodles took ourselves away for an afternoon down to Druids Temple at Ilton in North Yorkshire; a wonderful old folly created in 1820 by local eccentric squire William Danby (1752-1832, based on an original plan by P.T. Runton Esq.).



William Danby was tutored at Eton College, went to Cambridge and was later made High Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1784. He created the temple to generate work for the local population, who were undergoing a time of agricultural depression and high unemployment. He offered to pay one shilling a day and there are rumours that the job was strung out for a long while! The immense size of some of the rocks must have puzzled some of them and made them wonder why he went to such an extent, for no reason other than to give them work!

William was a bit of a philosopher, writing such works as *Travelling Thoughts* and *Thoughts on Various Subjects*. He was also a bit of a dreamer or a romantic, especially when he offered to feed and pay a "Hermit" to live there for a seven year contract. Apparently one such man gave up after four years, with the Pennine weather beating him down and the constraints of having to grow his hair and beard long as part of the agreement – as well as being prohibited to talk to anyone! It's said that he gradually went mad.

The temple was meant to be a replica of Stonehenge, though on a much smaller scale. It consists of a stone circle, including a cave and altar, and lots of wonderful stone stacks etc. surround the area if you have a walk around the woodland.

It's quite magical, even though there's no real history to it but with outstanding vistas looking down to Leighton Reservoir, it's really quite inspiring!

Although built on private land, he did want the public to visit, but don't forget insect repellent on a warm day. My sister and I used to ride up there on horseback years ago and learned our lesson. Dark and mysterious, the stone circle will draw you in with a feeling of uncertainty, not being able to see past the



pillars and into the cave at first. The poodles adore it: stones, puddles and woodland to explore! Playing hide and seek is the best!

I donned a spring outfit, with fresh yellows, turquoise and spring greens, including a hand painted 50s skirt from Mexico, featuring wonderful striking roses. These skirts were made on large circular boards that rotated for the artist to apply their design and were sold to tourists who visited towns on the Mexican / USA border. An original 1950s yellow, grosgrain jacket with nipped in waist kept me warm and I also wore a yellow straw hat which is conical in shape, also a favourite style in the 50s, along with my "Green Dahlia" blouse from Freddie's of Pinewood. It felt great to get out of the woollies, even if it was only warm enough in direct sunlight...

Scarves are great for this time of year and I purchased this one for a pound at a vintage fair – it's great for keeping the chill away! I took my trusty green "Judy" shoes along for the trip, but also tried out my yellow "Dorothy" shoes, both from Rocket Originals.

I love the bright bold colours of these funky brooches from Luxulite, I'm never without a brooch! It's the details that make an outfit; I love wearing gloves, as with having five poodles to groom, my nails get a bit tatty!

William also built his home in the style of a castle at nearby Swinton. After he died, the whole estate was bought by wool magnate Samuel Cunliffe Lister. The parkland and castle still belong to the same family, although the castle is now a hotel (Swinton Park Hotel).

They can arrange weddings at the hotel or at Druids Temple itself, which I think would be wonderful! (Although no druids have ever been seen there!)

Check out more musings at [retropoodles.wordpress.com](http://retropoodles.wordpress.com)





# For the love of SHOES

## 10 Tips for Navigating the Minefield of Buying Shoes Online

**WORDS** POLLY POLKA-DOT OF POLLYDOT SHOES BLOG

**W**e've all been there, haven't we? Desperately searching for that perfect shoe but of course there is nothing of interest to be found locally enough to try on... so you search online.

Navigating the minefield that is buying shoes online is so exhausting, and even terrifying for some, but please don't just dismiss buying shoes online because you have had some failures in the past! Beautiful shoes are waiting for you!

I buy a LOT of shoes online and haven't had too many massive issues, but I am also quite easy to fit and I think this is the thing that concerns people the most when looking - how will I know that they are going to fit?! Unfortunately the short answer is, you can't. When buying online, this is just the gamble that you take, but hopefully I can help increase your odds a little!

There are so many things to consider when buying new shoes, and most of the things which you would probably place high on your list are the things that you have no certainty in when shopping online. My top deciding factors are: sizing, comfort, does the style suit, quality, colour and value for money. So what do you do when you can't try on the shoe you want or inspect it closely to see what the quality is like? Research, research and more research.

Let's assume you have found a pair that you like the look of and go through a few pointers to help you be confident enough to scoop them up!





## 1. SIZING

What sort of sizing does the shoe you are looking at have US, UK, EU? You probably know what sizes you usually wear in all of those, but different brands and even styles within brands can have different measurements and fit. Size conversion charts are not always 100% accurate, but can be a helpful start if you are unsure. Check to see if the website or seller has measurements listed and compare this to a measurement of your own foot, or the measurement of a shoe you know fits you well; this can be taken by placing a flexible tape measure along the length of the insole.

## 2. START SMALL AND PLAY IT SAFE

Do you have a few brands which you know, have tried on before or even own a few pairs of? Consider starting here with brands you trust to build your confidence.

## 3. QUALITY, COMFORT AND STYLE

Is the material leather, rubber, vinyl or something else? You might not be able to pick it up to feel, but the materials ought to be clearly listed. I would suggest particularly looking at the inside of the shoe as better quality shoes will also be well made on the inside, can you see if the insole is stitched or just glued and what does the brand label look like?

Your eye might be on the six inch heels but if you can't really walk in them then no amount of cushion-y sole is going to help you. There could be lots of straps, a peep toe, a pointy toe or open sides, so think about if you are comfortable with those features. If your feet are super wide then maybe pointy shoes might be an issue and if they are super narrow you might need something with a strap to hold them in place, those things might seem obvious but when shopping online you need to visualise all the things that would usually make themselves apparent when trying in a store. I prefer to wear a regular court shoe or stiletto rather than the same shoe as a Mary Jane, as the strap annoys me, so I need to remember not to look at those styles even though I like them. Style is such a personal thing, but you need to consider not only what you like and what is comfortable, but what suits you as well. Here you might need to draw on any experience you have trying on similar styles in real life.

## 4. ASK A CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

Ask them for advice, but I stress, don't take their word as gospel! This is only one piece of your puzzle. I have been burned by taking the advice of well meaning customer service people, when my own first instinct was right, and that is seriously maddening!

If you are buying from an individual seller on eBay, Etsy or Facebook ask that person for as much info as they can give you, it might feel like you are being super annoying but you want your shoes to be right!

## 5. CROWDSOURCE REVIEWS AND ADVICE

Armed with the knowledge of what size you should be, I would suggest googling to see if you can find any reviews, blogs etc which talk about the brand and the particular style you are after. If you are looking at a popular brand there might even be a related Facebook group where you can go to ask any questions you have, I have found people are generally very helpful when it comes to sizing questions and general advice. If you have very wide or very narrow feet, try to find out if what you are looking at will fit your requirements in that respect. Perhaps you could look for a shoe size buddy, someone who is close to your size to discuss with; lots of women already do this for clothing, so why not shoes too?!

## 6. DON'T FORGET THE COLOUR

If you are banking on that shoe being baby pink and when it turns up it is decidedly dusty rose, this would not be ideal. All screens and devices can show colours differently so try to have a look on a few different ones if you are worried about colour matching with something. Plus, sometimes it is just the photography of the item which makes it look a certain way, so try looking around on Instagram or Pinterest to see if you can find anyone else wearing the same product (if it is new). If the shoes are vintage or you are still concerned, contact the seller or business and ask if they could provide some more photos in a different light. I once bought shoes that I thought were baby blue and when they turned up they were definitely mint... but that was really my own fault as they were labelled mint!







## 7. READ EVERYTHING

Don't make my mistake and buy mint shoes when you wanted blue; make sure to not only read any fine print, but the obvious headings too! Find out about the return and exchange policy, to put yourself at ease.

## 8. SHOP AROUND AND WAIT FOR SALES

If the shoe is expensive you will probably be worrying about the amount of money that would be wasted if it isn't right when it arrives. Finding the same shoe cheaper won't make your worries evaporate, but it will alleviate a little of the money-loss apprehension guilt! Is Black Friday coming up? Wait and see if your shoe goes on sale! Can you sign up to a newsletter to get a coupon? Do that! And don't be afraid to go past the first page of results on eBay or Google, sometimes you can find what you are looking for twelve pages in! Remember to also check out 'daily deal' type sites like Zulily (and turn on notifications!) as they often have retro style brands available. Though, I wouldn't trust the sizing charts on those deal sites, go by the sizes listed for the brand and look up the fit/measurements on their own website if possible.

## 9. IS IT DIFFERENT FOR VINTAGE SHOES?

Yes and no. A lot of the above advice around new shoes can still be applied when buying vintage, just because you can't send them back for the next size doesn't mean you should limit yourself! Vintage sellers are usually pretty good at listing the shoe measurements and taking photos that best show the colour, but still it is always best to check if you are unsure. Vintage shoes can have different size labels from

what you might be used to so it is helpful to go by the measurement provided, sometimes the shoe width label can also be useful (AAAA-DDD or later M,N & W), though these have changed over time and I believe that the US and the UK do not always have the same so this can be slightly confusing at first. The most important thing to ascertain when buying vintage shoes is the condition and signs of wear, getting a new heel tip is no issue but if the sole has a crack through it they may only be a display piece.

## 10. IF ALL ELSE FAILS, SELL THEM

While strictly not an actual suggestion on how to buy shoes, I feel this is important enough to include as part of the list. If you do end up buying shoes that don't work out (or you already have a stash after doing so several times), don't hang on to them, they are just a reminder of your frustrations! Get on a Facebook BSS group, eBay, your local buying/selling site or even have a yard/garage sale, you will make at least some of your money back and then you will have more room to fill it with your new perfect shoes!

Shoes are not 'one size fits all' and if you are left saying "all that is great but my feet are SO wide it is impossible" or "nowhere sells size 11 anyway"; remember point number four. Go and talk to people, ask for help, you will probably be surprised how many other ladies are facing the same struggles and would be more than happy to share their prized find brands and websites with you.

Hopefully this has helped you to make the leap and press 'buy' on some lovely shoes today!



*POLLY  
POLKA-DOT*

Obsessed pin-up girl, store owner and blogger with a weakness for pretty shoes.





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# Vintage Brides...

Kate Beavis shares shots of real brides rocking their vintage wedding gowns.



One of the best parts of running the National Vintage Wedding Fair is organising the fashion parades. These are more a “show and tell” than full on catwalk shows and a great way for brides-to-be to see both vintage and vintage inspired dresses worn and accessorized. We choose real women, not models, who simply love to dress up in vintage – something that our brides-to-be appreciate. This month I am sharing some of these fabulous ladies rocking their vintage wedding gowns, all photographed last season around the UK. Why not come along this season to see our dresses in the flesh. Our dates are: Cheltenham, March 12th and Manchester, March 19th. For April and May dates visit [www.vintageweddingfair.co.uk](http://www.vintageweddingfair.co.uk)







**KATE BEAVIS**

Blogger, writer and author of the book, *Style Your Modern Vintage Home*. Also runs the original award winning National Vintage Wedding Fair across the UK







# 1940 – 1959

## From Bombs to Bombshells

WORDS LIZA HOLLINGHURST

WE'RE LOOKING AT HOW WARTIME RATIONING AFFECTED THE AVAILABILITY OF UNDERWEAR IN THE FIRST PART OF THIS FEATURE IN OUR SERIES CHARTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERWEAR IN THE 20TH CENTURY. THEN FOLLOWING ONTO THE 1950S, WE'LL SEE HOW THE POST-WAR FIGURE WELCOMED IN CURVES, CONES AND THE ADVENT OF THE SWEATER GIRL.

### ON THE RATION

The Second World War saw shortages and restrictions appear in all areas of life as necessities became subject to rationing as part of the Government's 'Fair Shares for All' campaign. People now had to part with a specified number of coupons along with their money if they wanted to buy anything from biscuits to bras; though product availability could not always be guaranteed due to limited supply. Clothes rationing was implemented on 1st June 1941 with both adults and children being issued with individual ration books containing coupons that had a 'points value'. During the first year of rationing, each adult was issued with 66 coupons, which had to be eked out to provide a year's worth of clothing. With a coat being allocated 14 coupons, dresses 11 each and five coupons for shoes not to mention other extras like blouses, skirts and overalls for workwear, people had to plan their wardrobe carefully before parting with any of their precious coupons.

The same went for underwear too. In 1941, single items of lingerie such as camiknickers or a petticoat would have used up four coupons and a corset would need three. Yet, even if someone had the coupons and money to spare for underwear, they may not have been able to buy any due to restricted availability as the textiles and raw materials needed in underwear manufacturing were being channelled off into the war effort. Silk was being used for parachutes; cotton, wool and elastic for uniforms and ancillary items, and rubber and steel for aircraft and munitions. Correspondingly, corsets were placed

low on the list in manufacturing terms much to the consternation of those whose corsets were in dire need of replacement. However, the Government realised that the nation needed to be appropriately clothed especially in terms of morale and the importance placed on appearance, so the Board of Trade implemented the 'Utility' clothing scheme in September 1941, which helped keep the population clothed whilst regulating clothing production. All Utility clothing – including lingerie and corsets – were labelled with the 'CC41' logo, which stood for 'Controlled Commodity 1941'. Even after the end of WW2, clothes rationing was still in place and would continue as such until the 15th March 1949 when it was abolished.

### STITCHING FOR VICTORY

With the Government urging people to 'Make Do and Mend', more women than ever turned to making their own underwear out of necessity. Warm undies which could be plain and simple or overtly feminine, were knitted out of unravelling jumpers and cardigans; woollies like these were invaluable during freezing winter months when coal was rationed and new rubber hot water bottles were a thing of the past. Women's magazines like *Stitchcraft* regularly included patterns for knitted camiknicker sets and vests; even a crocheted brassiere, which no doubt looked becoming on some women, but was utterly impractical for others. Even magazine adverts promoted thriftiness; a typical one comprising a drawing of a glamorous woman showing off her handmade cami-

knicker set to a friend, with the strapline exclaiming: Here's how to spend your blackout evenings. Make your own undies – and the money you'll save! This was fine in practice, yet fabric was also rationed and in short supply, so women had to make do with whatever they could get their hands on; pre-war lace curtains for example, which were of no use during the blackout. However, for the fortunate few, the opportunity to sew slinky underwear fell from the skies in the form of parachute silk. There are numerous stories about German Luftwaffe airmen bailing out over Britain and on reaching ground, finding that their parachutes were swiftly taken off them by the locals and subsequently turned into knickers – a novel interpretation of turning the other cheek to the enemy!

### NEW LOOK – NEW DECADE

The significant post-war fashion shake-up was undoubtedly Christian Dior's 1947 'Corolle' collection; otherwise known as the 'New Look'. His full-skirted, hourglass silhouette comprising a high, well-defined bust, narrow waist and sculpted hips to balance out the look – all achieved with the aid of well-structured foundation wear – would set the pace for curve-endowing girdles and bras in the 1950s.

Whereas small, natural shaped breasts had been the wartime ideal, the 1950s woman aimed for a large bosom moulded into a conical shape by wearing a spiral-stitched 'bullet bra'. For extra oomph, women could enhance their bust-line with small pads known as 'Falsies', which were placed inside the pointy bra cups, thus

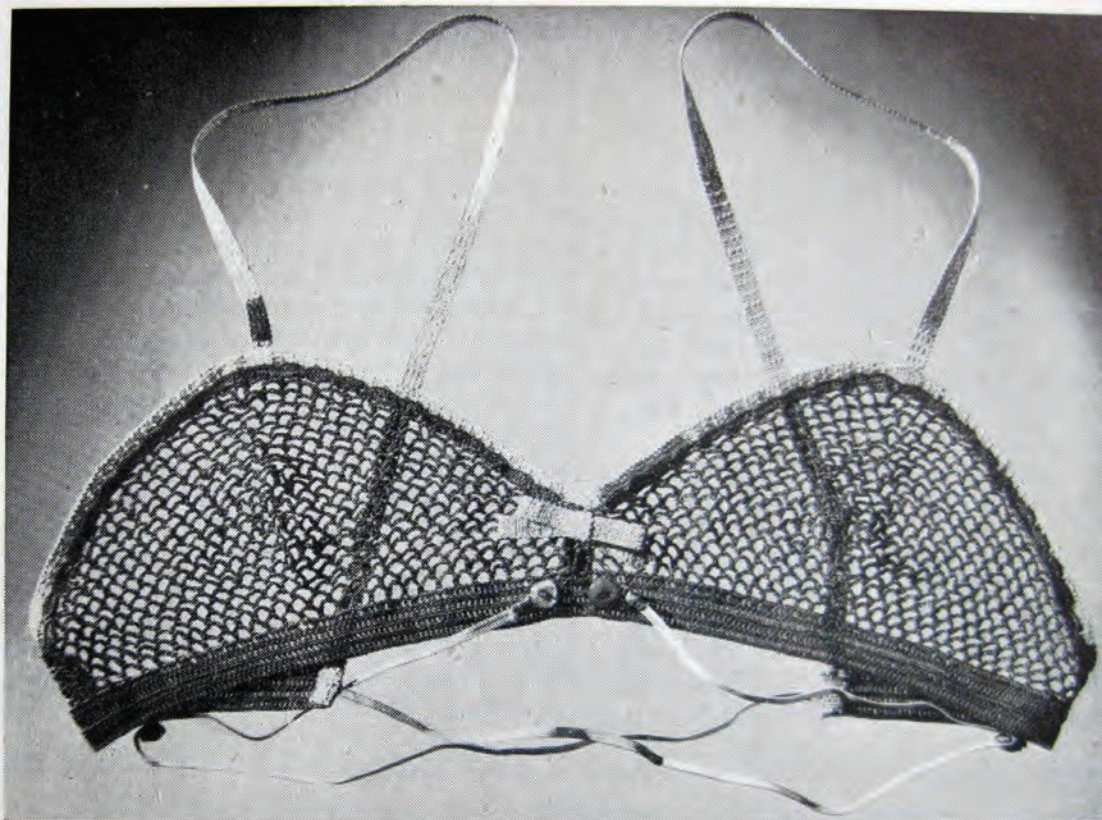


Aug.-Sept. 1945

## the Cold weather

### Crochet brassiere

● Adapt it for the fuller figure by working more increases under the bust and making a deeper band round lower edge. Instructions on page 6.



endowing the wearer with the 'sweater girl' look made popular by Hollywood film stars like Jayne Mansfield.

Due to an increase in living standards in the mid-1950s which gave the decade's teenagers and women more spending power than their predecessors, manufacturers began catering to their fashion-hungry tastes. Frumpiness and old-fashioned 'mumsy' underwear were happily discarded as a new generation of bras and control wear became commercially available. At first glance these looked delicate and gossamer-light with their lace inserts, floral patterned nylon or satin panels, but were significantly well-structured to provide the required uplift and constriction. Underwired bra styles were highly popular with many having detachable straps. Additionally, strapless bras also made an appearance with designs sometimes comprising two underwired cups connected together at the front with a 'u' shaped metal wire sewn into the cups and hidden by a strategically placed bow. Bra styles such as the above were perfect to wear with the off-the-shoulder dresses and jumpers that were now in vogue. As for the waist and hips, these were whittled down to curvaceous smoothness with the aid of elasticated girdles known as 'roll-ons', which had suspenders attached so that seamed or seamless fully fashioned nylon stockings could be fastened.

With the decade edging toward its end, underwear was now becoming more streamlined with femininity and allure being given equal consideration along with support, shape and comfort. Teenagers didn't have to wear the same styles of underwear as their mothers and now had a wide and more importantly, fashionable choice, available to them; however, it would be the 1960s that would greatly emphasise the fashion divide between young and old.

Further reading: *Foundations of Fashion*, Philip Warren (2001) Leicestershire County Council

this is the line you'll love!

**No. 149**—marvellous new brief strapless bra for summer fashions. Circular-stitched cups are lightly wired. Cool cotton poplin. A, B, cups. 32-36. 14/11

**No. 145**—the bra for your well-separated line. Smoothly tailored of miraculous terylene with pretty nylon trim. A, B, C cups. 32-40. 13/11

**No. 9010**—strong power net girdle for a sleek, smooth line. Lightweight white nylon. Waist 23 1/2, 26 1/2, 28 1/2. 29/11

**No. 9009**—pretty flower-patterned pantie girdle. Lightweight net reinforced with nylon. Black, white. Waist 23 1/2, 26 1/2, 28 1/2. 24/11

**KAYSER** a product of **KAYSER BONDOR**






Dress: Tahiti 50s Dress  
Sizes XS to 4XL  
[www.hellbunny.com](http://www.hellbunny.com)







A woman with red hair and a yellow flower in her hair is standing on a balcony. She is wearing a dark blue dress with a yellow lemon and green leaf pattern. The balcony has a white ornate metal railing. There are green plants and palm leaves in the background.

Dress: Leandra 50s Dress  
Sizes XS to 4XL  
[www.hellbunny.com](http://www.hellbunny.com)



Dress: Miley Pencil Dress – Pink  
Also available in Aqua  
Sizes XS to 4XL  
[www.hellbunny.com](http://www.hellbunny.com)







Dress: Tutti Frutti 50s Dress  
Sizes XS to 4XL  
[www.hellbunny.com](http://www.hellbunny.com)





Top: Melissa Top -Black/white polka dot  
Also available in Red/Black polka dot  
Skirt: Leandra Skirt  
Sizes XS to 4XL  
[www.hellbunny.com](http://www.hellbunny.com)



A TASTE FOR

# TARTAN

*Tartans & plaids are the perfect choice for the vintage girl wanting to keep warm in style.*

WORDS SARAH DUNN

Tartan fabrics were popular during the 1940s and a real wardrobe staple, as patterned fabric became a great way of adding a bit of colour and fun to the no-frills style clothing that was necessary for the war effort. This fabric was popular all year round though, so while you might have worn a nice, warm dark tartan dress or smartly tailored suit during the cold winter months, you may also have had a lightweight plaid cotton sundress in your wardrobe for the summer.





# FASHION

The fabric came in many colours, not just the traditional red, but also green, cream, yellow, brown and blue. It was a popular choice for women working in the factories and out on the land as Lumberjills and in the Land Army.

As women adjusted to their new roles, their wardrobes had to change too. 1940s clothing had to be practical as women started to take on more traditionally masculine jobs, like factory work. Women now needed hardwearing 'workwear' so items like trousers, denim jeans, overalls and men's shirts all became popular, plus these could be easily borrowed from a husband or a family member's wardrobe! The turban was also very popular during the era, when practicality dictated a lot of style choices. Not only did they keep your hair safely tucked away from dangerous factory machinery but they could cover up greasy hair (especially as soap was rationed) or protect clean hair from the dirt of the workplace. They could also be fashioned from



scraps of leftover fabric so were an inexpensive option. The now iconic image of 'Rosie the Riveter' in her overalls and bandana is the perfect example of 1940s workwear.

The popularity of tartan remained strong into the 1950s. Whether it was a chic tailored waist coat and matching beret or a beautifully cut dress with the new style full skirt, it could now even be worn as evening wear with some gowns having floor length tartan skirts! The fashionable Pendleton brand offered women well tailored tartan capri pants, jackets and handbags in a variety of colours. This brand is still very collectable today with vintage blouses and jackets from this era fetching a high price. Even into the 1960s tartan was worn, only by now as a mini skirt with brightly coloured tights!

Today tartan is still hugely popular with many reproduction brands creating gorgeous dresses, shirts and skirts for their collections showing that this popular look is clearly here to stay!

Credits:  
Model: Patsypbl / Stylist: Sarah Dunn / Jeans: Feddies of Pinewood /  
Jumper: Rocket Originals / Turbans: Sarah's Doo-Wop Dos / Earrings:  
Bow and Crossbones / Photography: Jez Brown



*In this section*

# **BEAUTY & HAIR**





# Get the ROCKABILLY LOOK

WORDS: OLIVIA WHITBREAD-ROBERTS

STYLIST HOLLY MITCHELL AND I HAVE TEAMED UP IN THE PAST AND WE COULDN'T WAIT TO GET UNDERWAY WITH THIS NEW PROJECT.

**T**he desire to shoot 'rockabilly' really started from some work I had come across by a photographer called Jennifer Greenburg. The subjects in Jennifer Greenburg's photos not only dressed

like it was the 1950s, they also drove cars and decorated their houses as if they were living in the 50s too. As part of the rockabilly community, it isn't just about fashion to them; it's also about lifestyle and bringing a confidence into this way of life that they have chosen.

Stumbling across these photographs twinned with our interest in how people may have looked in a different era, are what really brought this shoot to life.

Choosing our models Adele Green, Maisie Tooley and Tiana Quigly was easy; we knew that we needed models that not only posed assertively but that were also fun, exuberant and animated. A daring attitude is everything in such a shoot.

Rockabilly principally refers to a genre of music that mashes rock 'n' roll with several other types of music including country, rhythm and blues; we felt that we needed to incorporate these themes into the hair, make-up and clothing.

Hair stylist Holly talks about how to get the look:

You will need a pair of medium size straighteners, a few bobby pins that match your hair colour and HAIRSPRAY!

1. Start by curling sections of the hair in the same direction.
2. Lightly hairspray over the curls and brush out from root to tip.
3. Watch the waves fall into place and spray some more hairspray.

The waves can be made more prominent by using your hands/fingers to create them.

From the waves/curls, you can create a rockabilly look by adding victory rolls or pincurls. You can have lots of fun being creative and place them anywhere.

For victory rolls:

1. Grab a section of hair from the front (from parting to ear).
2. Smooth out the hair until your fingers meet the ends of the hair.
3. Continue to roll the hair up until you have a cone like shape.
4. Use Bobby pins to secure / spray hairspray.

Make-up artists Amy Pike and Demelza Dale worked their magic to create statement looks with daring colours, focusing on high cheekbones, overstated eye make-up and dusky lips. They explain how to create the looks:

There are no concrete rules in beauty, but if you're looking to add a little vintage flair to your make-up, just follow these easy steps!

**Look 1:** All about that base: For full coverage foundation that still looks like skin, load up a dampened sponge and gently stipple the product all over your face, starting from the centre (which tends to produce more redness). Follow with your favourite concealer in any problem areas and a mattifying powder to combat oil throughout the day.

**Eye eye, Sir!** Keep it classic with the trademark flicks of a vintage era! Prime your lids with a silicone-based primer for lasting wear and pat your favourite gold-toned eyeshadow from the lashes to the crease of your eye. Blend out with your fingertips and finish off with some dark liquid eyeliner. Choose petite flicks or a sweeping cat eye for extra drama.

**Kiss me quick:** To maintain a smooch-proof pout all day, use a red lip liner to line and fill in your lips. Slick on a deep rouge lipstick and perfect the edges with a lip brush.

**Pro tip!** Finish off the entire look with a quick spritz of setting spray to keep your make-up locked in place.

**Look 2:** To achieve the 50s vintage make-up look first you should apply a full medium/ full coverage foundation and set with a powder to create a nice matte finish which was widespread in this era.

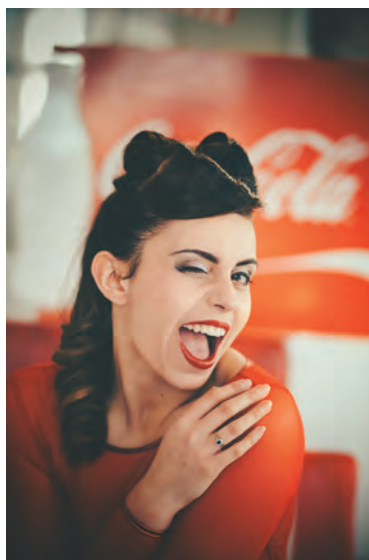
Next, fill your brows into a strong prominent shape (brows were discovered around this time so was hugely popular) and apply a clear gel/soft balm to smoothen.

Apply a soft taupe/ brown shadow in the eye crease using a medium fluffy brush to create depth and shadow to the eyes. Apply a liquid liner following closely along the lash line and then flicking out to create a curved line outwards. Finish the eyes with mascara on the top and bottom lashes.

For lips, make sure they are soft and exfoliated with no cracks, as applying a strong colour will only highlight any uneven texture. Line the lips with a colour similar to the lipstick you're going to use – I would recommend a bright red that compliments your skin and reapply when needed.







Keep cheeks natural as other areas of the face are more featured in this look. Apply a slight swirl of blush where the cheeks would naturally flush but only to put colour back in from the all over base.

The clothing for the photoshoot was a real mix of genuine 1950s apparel and rockabilly styled outfits belonging to the models themselves. The desire was to show flexibility where possible with the clothing, in order for the models to be able to bring their own personalities into the shoot – imperative to make the images candid and authentic. Having a venue that was authentic was paramount. 'Happy Days American Diner' is a little piece of the American Midwest in the Cornish Midwest, the perfect venue for a rockabilly shoot. The diner is decorated with 50s memorabilia, taking every little object into account, such as retro sweets, a juke box and red leather seating. We did add our own little individual touch – some Captain America Bunting hand made by the wonderful Tracy from 'Funky Flags Bunting'. This addition really made the shoot personal to our team. In terms of the photographic style, we were keen to be in keeping with the 50s pin-up style and this meant that colour was key. The shoot was photographed in digital and processed with film pre-sets, which added a cinematic feel to the photographs.





**SARAH BLOOR**

Sarah is the face behind Pin Up Curl, a vintage hair-styling service! She was a contestant on the BBC's skills based show 'Hair' and makes her own range of hair accessories.

## The Evolution of Hair

# THE 1960s

DURING THE 50s INFLUENTIAL FASHION EMERGED MAINLY FROM PARIS, BUT BY THE TIME THE 60s WERE IN FULL FLOW THE FOCUS HAD SHIFTED TO LONDON. MARY QUANT LED THE 'SWINGING SIX-TIES' LOOK WITH HER MINISKIRTS AND SHORT SHIFT DRESSES, AN ALTOGETHER FREER MODE OF DRESS THAN THE PRECEDING YEARS.

This also applied to the hairstyles – innovative hairdresser Vidal Sassoon created the short, sharp bob, a far cry from the pin curled, moulded styles of the previous two decades. Far less maintenance was needed and it fell easily into place, with regular trimming necessary to keep the precise shape. It was asymmetric and geometric, known as the 'five point' hairstyle due to its defined angles around the head. Another typical Sassoon creation was the super short and fresh urchin cut, as worn by Mia Farrow in *Rosemary's Baby*. Twiggy also sported a shorter cut, deeply parted and swept to one side, in a popular blonde shade.

In contrast to these sleek and close fitting hairdos we had the bouffant, and of course, the instantly recognisable beehive. Margaret Vinci Heldt, a Chicago hairdresser, was asked by a magazine to create something new, something different to reflect the coming decade. Modelled on a fez hat she owned, and likened to a beehive, the style was born. Teased and backcombed to within an inch of its life, the hair was piled high on the head, with the top layer lightly combed over to hide the mat of hair underneath creating a smooth surface. The longer the hair, the bigger the beehive.

Heavily lacquered into place, the beehive could literally last for days. Once you had one, you really did commit to it! It's a style still very much worn today, for everyday and occasion hair. Many variations are possible, one of which was made famous by French actress and sex symbol, Brigitte Bardot. Rather than the usual smoothed over style she favoured the tousled, teased look. Whether it was all up, half up half down or even fully down paired with a velvet headband, it always had an 'undone' feel. Her fringe fell seductively over her eyes, parted gently in the middle, tapering down towards the temples.

We have seen throughout the decades since the birth of the moving picture the great influence on fashion trends of the movie star. The 60s were no different. Iconic actresses included the ultimate 60s siren you just read about, Miss Bardot, with Audrey Hepburn, Sophia Loren, Jane Birkin, Julie Christie and Elizabeth Taylor. Each had their own individual signature style. Along with the stars of the screen's effect on fashion

and beauty, there was popular music. From rock and roll, to the 'mod' scene, psychedelia and the hippie subculture, all had a wide influence, representing the true diversity of the era.

We also have to remember the American First Lady, Jackie Kennedy (later 'O' for Onassis). Her style was perfectly groomed and elegant, her outfit and accessories immaculately co-ordinated, her signature bouffant hairstyle topped with a pillbox hat. The bouffant was an easy to wear style, suitable for many ages. Versatile and varying in size from a modest to a rather large bouff, rollers were used to set and lift the hair, also giving a gentle curl to the ends. These could be flipped up or smoothed under like a high bouncy pageboy, or flicked forward onto the cheeks. A certain amount of backcombing was also required to achieve the desired height and volume.

Earlier in the decade, hair would not have been left loose and down. Towards the mid 60s it became more acceptable to do so, although still styled. Long poker straight hair was very in, with a blocked fringe that was either full, or sideswept. Before the invention of the straighteners, women would literally iron their hair. Heat damage throughout the decades was common, there just weren't the kind of products available to help prevent it.

In terms of accessories, fake and natural hair came into its own during the 60s. Made from real hair, wigs and hairpieces were openly worn, attached to the back of the head to create even more height and volume. Pieces could also be used as padding to give even more oomph to a beehive, although fake hair was not necessarily needed – socks and hosiery would also do the trick! Elegant updos could be created with the use of a hairpiece, or ponytail. Headscarves that were in vogue during the 50s continued into the 60s, tied under the chin, behind the head at the nape of the neck, and long scarves crossed under the chin, wrapped around and tied at the back.

As the 70s approached political activism and social change gave rise to the 'flower power' hippie movement. Both sexes had longer, more natural hair, reflecting their carefree attitudes. Women and girls wore feathers and flowers, beads and leather bands in their hair.

So as you have read, the 60s really was a decade of opposites – smart and well groomed, edgy and cool, liberal and carefree. But as you have

learnt over this series of An Evolution of Hair from the 20s to the 60s, many influential factors remain the same – social change, the onset of technology, more freedom for women, and the influence of the movie star. I hope you have enjoyed this little historical foray into one of my biggest passions. I've learnt a great deal along the way. You can never stop learning!

### Easy 60s Hair

1. Curl the fringe area and clip to cool. Separate a portion of the hair at the top of your head all the way around and tie out of the way.
2. Leave a narrow strip of hair at the front of the portion you have sectioned off. Clip out the way. This will cover the part you are backcombing to help give a smooth surface on top once you start to shape your beehive. Backcomb the portion of hair in sections from half way up to the root. Take your time, making sure you are pushing the hair to the roots to create a nest of hair. Use dry shampoo for extra grip while backcombing if required. The more you backcomb, the bigger the beehive!
3. Push your nest of backcombed hair back over the head and gently smooth over the surface using a dressing out brush. I recommend one from Denman. Make sure you don't brush out the backcombing you have done. Smooth over a tiny bit of pomade to aid smoothness, control and shine.
4. Take the section of hair you have just worked on, twist at the back and push up. Push up even more if you want a bigger 'hive! Grip in place.
5. Remove the clips from the fringe and backcomb, again using a little squirt of dry shampoo for extra grip if needed. Once backcombed it needs to fall to the opposite side of the parting. Smooth over with your dressing out brush, using a little pomade for extra smoothness, control and shine.
6. Mould and shape your fringe with your hands. I like to use long sectioning clips to secure to free up your hands while gripping in place. Once its pinned, spray liberally with hair spray and curl the sections of your hair that are loose.
7. You can either run your fingers through the curls you have just made for a softer look, or brush them through, flicking out at the ends Pop on a headband, or a headscarf, tying at the side and you are beehived for action!







# How to create **TWIGGY'S** **1960s LOOK**

## COLOURING PROCESS:

I wanted to achieve a modern twist to Twiggy's sandy blonde. Rose gold is a favourite of this season; we kept the tones blonde but added a little rose pink to give it a peachy shine. The hair was lightly foiled, keeping fine sections to create texture.



## STYLING PROCESS:

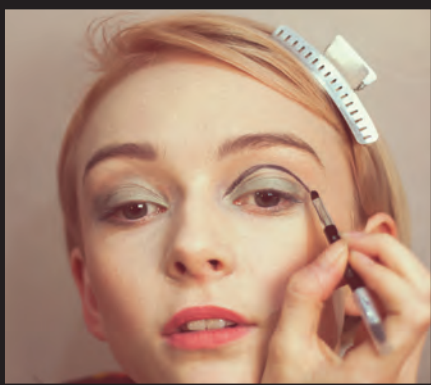
To get the Twiggy look, ask your stylist for a soft texture pixie bob. Keeping the hair one length on the top and texture underneath gives even the thinnest of hair a great strong look. The great thing about this style is it's easy to manage and can be worn in different ways.



## STYLING

Use a medium round brush to create roundness and curve to the shape. Add in root boost to form a dryness to the scalp and finish off with some light spray to hold the style.

**MAKE-UP:** A natural primer was used on the face followed by a foundation. The undertone of the primer catches the best of lights for a photo finish. The base was finished off with a magnifying pressed powder to seal. A coral bronzer was applied to give a peachy tint to the cheeks. A grey/blue shadow was used on the eyes, which were lined with a gel eyeliner. False lashes give a full affect to the eye and Lucy painted the lashes below freehand. This also can be achieved by flash lashes but I preferred this technique.





# BEAUTY

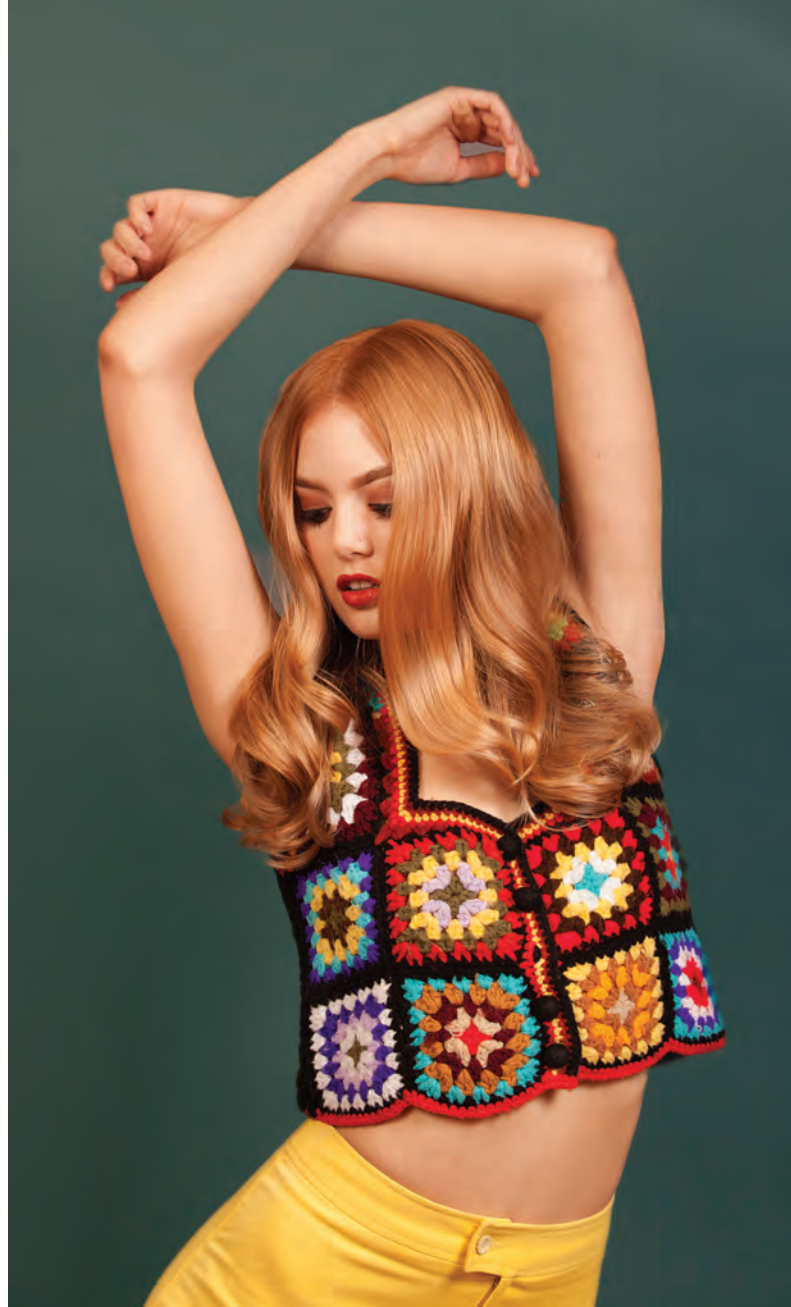


Products used at the backwash: Coral Blush by Fudge Paintbox and a silver shampoo to tone the blonde. Styling products used: Sexy Hair (Big Sexy range), a medium-sized round brush, a comb to create sharpness. Make up products used: Primer, No 7 airbrush foundation, Mac studio fix powder, Mac coral blush, Maybelline gel liner, false lashes.





# A MODERN TWIST



WHILST WE AT RUSSELL AND BROWN'S VINTAGE SALON HAVE GAINED A GOOD REPUTATION FOR OUR UNIQUE VINTAGE HAIR STYLING SERVICES, WHAT MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW IS THAT WE ALSO OFFER CLASSIC SALON CUT AND COLOUR SERVICES TOO.

In the vintage world there is so much focus on the styling of the hair, however, getting the foundations correct with an amazing cut and colour job is fundamental to having photo fabulous hair every day. Recently we did a shoot to showcase some of our most popular cut and colour styles, which are so on trend for 2017 and are sure to get heads turning. Both wearable and show-stopping, these styles take inspiration from the vintage eras up to 1970s and give them a modern twist to make them catwalk ready for today's vintage vixen.

Our first look showcased is a staple of the vintage hair world – the classic Bettie Bang cut. This look is so popular in both the vintage and pin up scenes and is certainly a bold style for the edgier vintage gal out there. For this look we have enhanced the fringe area with a teal colour overtone and shadow-root and took the remaining hair down in shade to further highlight the contrast between the bold statement fringe and the accompanying one-length bob. As you can see, this style is wearable in many different ways – from smooth, strong and sleek to textured, big and back combed. It requires less maintenance than other classic cuts, such as the midi which needs a full pin curl set every morning and it gives your vintage hair a statement look with its bold clean lines.

Our second showcased look is a much more commercial and easily wearable style. This long layered look is softened up with a feathered angel-wing fringe that gives lift, shape and movement to the hair. It can be worn straight and sleek to give a 1960s feel or alternatively, with a little pin curl set and brush out, it can be worn with a soft curl to give more of a 1970s feel. You can even add a little bit of old Hollywood glamour with some classic waves that sit perfectly with this cut. We have enhanced this blonde with a peach tone through the top of the hair and a pastel pink underneath which gives extra dynamics to the curls and adds extra interest to the hair when moving.

Throughout this collection we have focused on precision cutting and colouring, which allows the hair to be worn in many different styles. We know you vintage ladies love to switch up your style and explore all of the vintage eras, which is why we have chosen these clean-line cuts that can be worn in many ways. All colours showcased are also non-permanent, which allows you to change your hair to reflect the trends and seasons. Fundamentally fun, these styles are perfect for a fresh look as spring comes around, so why not give them a go at your visit to the vintage salon?



**CARL  
BROWN**

Professional  
hairdresser and  
co-founder of  
Russell & Brown's  
Vintage Salon  
in Liverpool.



*In this section*  
**WELLBEING**







# MY JOURNEY FROM BARIATRIC SURGERY & BACK

IT ALL STARTED WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT AS A CHILD WAS BEING A MODEL, DANCER, OR ACTRESS. I WANTED TO BE SOMEONE PRETTY, BEAUTIFUL. REALLY I JUST WANTED TO BE ANYONE BUT ME. I WAS ALWAYS OVERWEIGHT; PEOPLE TEASED ME AND I JUST GOT BIGGER AND BIGGER AS I GREW OLDER.

WORDS: CAROLYN RICHMOND

After four babies and at 309lbs, I decided to finally make a change; this is where my real story begins – June 2013 when I had bariatric surgery.

I thought losing weight would make all my dreams come true. I went to my first photo shoot after surgery at 179lbs. When I showed people the pictures there was the instant recognition that I was looking for all my life, and I would finally be happy with me. I was finally “beautiful” and off I went to book as many photo shoots as I could get. What I forgot about was staying healthy, I forgot about being mentally focused on my food. I stopped doing what I was supposed to do in order to be the best me. I was so focused on my outer beauty that I lost sight of what was really important. This leads us to my next phase: forgetting to eat and even drink water.

I lived on diet soda. I can't tell you how I forgot to eat, but it would lead me to becoming extremely thin. I got down to 150lbs and would have been fine there. However, by this time I couldn't eat. You see I'd become sick of food, physically and mentally. I found myself obsessed with my body. I thought I looked good at 121lbs, however, photographers and my doctors didn't think so. I didn't listen then. It was when I got too weak to function and had photographers telling me, “I recommend gaining some weight before you pay for anymore photos” and they wouldn't shoot me until I put weight back on that I started to realize I had to do something. By then though, I went into a deep depression. I still couldn't eat, I was now at 111lbs and on the edge, then I went to the hospital. Thank god for my oldest daughter – she saved my life. She stayed by my side while they told me I had become anorexic. What? “I'm a fat girl” I said to myself. This can't be happening. However I couldn't stop the weight loss and was sick in bed for another 10 days, so I knew I had to do something. Finally, I did. With a hard push from my daughter, I decided I was who mattered; I lost a few

more lbs and made my comeback from 109lbs.

I realized beauty is inside of a person and my family and most of all my children and husband mattered. I turned a corner. I started eating slowly and began to gradually gain weight too. I was happy and I was doing it. I loved me, I loved my family and modelling was something that I still could do for fun after I got serious about my spirit, soul and weight gain. You see, being beautiful is not being skinny, or trying to be someone you're not. It's loving yourself for who you are and enjoying life to the fullest. We only have so much time to live and now I live life like today is all we have.

This is not just a female issue – men have body issues too. Everyone, please take care of yourself first and foremost. You're not alone; there are people just like you and me. There are people who can help you, love you, and want you to have a full, healthy life. It's not just about modelling and being beautiful, it is about loving yourself how you are. You can even find that in some magazines, beauty is not in size, it's in attitude.

Finally I would like to remind everyone, if you put your mind to it, anything is possible. You CAN do it. I am back at a healthy 150lbs and I remember on a daily basis where I was and how I could have ended up. I thank all my friends and family, other models and photographers for their support and honesty. Remember, a picture does not make a model – the model makes a picture.

I hope I help someone with my story; thank you for letting me tell it. Thank you to *Vintage Life Magazine* for the opportunity to write this and really be able to know I've moved on and don't have to be afraid anymore about what I went through. Life is good today and every day I have, yes I still model, write and perform but it is not the reason to feel beautiful. A special thank you to my photographers, friends, family and all others who made this journey with me.



WELLBEING

WORDS: KITTY VON TASTIQUE

# THE PLANETS

SOME PEOPLE LIKE THEIR SPA TREATMENTS FAST AND FURIOUS, WHILE OTHERS PREFER TO TAKE THE SLOW ROAD TO 'CHILL TOWN'. I, ON THE OTHER HAND, PREFER MY SPA TREATMENTS TO DELIVER A LOT MORE THAN THAT. I LIKE MY SPA TO GIVE ME THEATRE, A GOOD STORYLINE, A SOUNDTRACK AND AN EPIPHANY. SOUNDS LIKE QUITE THE HIGH BAR UNTIL... YOU VISIT A LUSH SPA!

I am a long time Lush Spa stalker. I have now accrued at least five trips to the Lush Spa under my belt but none have come close to the epic treatment that is 'The Planets'.

It was a cold, wet day when I scurried in, off bustling Oxford Street in London and into the Willy Wonka style emporium that is the flagship Oxford Street Lush store. Before the colours, fragrances and pools of fizzing bath bombs could distract me, I was soon scooped up by someone holding a sign with my name.

In a scene that felt a little bit like *Alice Through The Looking Glass* I was taken behind the smoky glass windows to the peaceful haven that laid within to experience, 'The Planets'!

Like the name suggests this is a treatment of the vast and magical variety, lasting well over three hours. It takes you on a journey through The Past, The Present and The Future with a custom soundtrack, lashings of theatre and plenty of interactivity.

The treatment starts with a consultation of 20 minutes. You choose a card with a planet that determines which focus your treatment will take. From here you head to the comforting, cloistered walls of the treatment room, filled with twinkling galaxies, pink lights and the sounds of birds, looping surreally like the entranceway to another world.

## THE PAST

With the distant 'toot' of a vintage steam train, we begin our journey. This is a



*KITTY VON TASTIQUE*

A qualified personal trainer, group fitness instructor, fitness nutrition coach and wellness coach. She has a passion for everything eco, ethical and sustainable.





# WELLBEING



90-minute body massage that draws on various ideologies to create a thoughtful experience that allows you to reflect on what might be troubling you. 'The Planets' uses the idea that thoughts and problems can be stored in the body. Whether this is true or not is really irrelevant, as what the treatment actually does is bring you to a place of contemplation. As each knot is discovered, the possible cause is discussed and the therapist simply listens. Have no fear, there is no pseudo advice dispensed, it is simply like a one-way spoken meditation; a conversation with yourself. As each 'drawer is closed' using hot and cold stones, the massage works its way through the whole body, finally bringing you to...

## THE PRESENT

After the journey that was The Past, it is pleasant to close that chapter and move on to The Present. This is a hand and arm treatment with a difference. After being given a Harry Potter style robe and slippers, you are invited for tea (very Alice!) and chocolate before having a 'palm reading' and hand and arm massage. Theatrics are on point as an 'Intergalactic' bath bomb is dissolved with dry ice to create a smoking cauldron of wonderment. Your palm is literally put under the spotlight to find out who you might be and where your strengths may lie.

## THE FUTURE

Moving on, we head to the future with an 'uplifting' facial and scalp massage, that utilises vegan brushes to uplift the facial muscles, some interesting flapping movements of the arms and even fans to create the feeling of flight! The music at this point is in a wonderful crescendo, giving you the feeling that you could probably take on the world. While the first two sections involve some verbal interaction, this section leaves you free to simply drift and fly away with the music.

Along with the incredible narrative journey woven throughout the entire treatment, it also incorporates an amazing, custom, orchestral soundtrack and bespoke orb-like massage balls (that smell a bit like lemongrass sherbet).

Although the treatment is a little on the expensive side, you do get to take home complimentary versions of the body, arm and face massage balls and serums, a slice of gourmet soap, an exclusive Rose & Lemon face mask and even your slippers.

At the end of the treatment you aren't pushed out the door, instead you get to take as long as you like to float off the treatment bench and back into your civvies. Back in the consultation room you are offered fresh fruit and water as you come back to the ground, before heading back out to the real world again.

Lush Spa treatments always contain a little bit of magic compared to your run-of-the-mill spa offerings. It's this extra attention to detail that makes them an 'experience'.

I am a serial over-thinker of the worst kind and it is no mean feat to stop my brain for more than a few moments. I love the Lush Spa treatments because for once I am not only 'stopped' but also transported and it is not uncommon for me to have an epiphany-like experience. 'The Planets' was for me the closing of a very long and hard year, and the opening of a new hopeful chapter.

Like everything in this world, things are what you make of them, but to me this experience was the perfect opportunity to step through the looking glass and fly away for a few hours until that little white rabbit of life came knocking at my door again. Luckily I was prepared with my empty baggage and magical lemongrass massage balls, ready to take on the world again!







# AN INVISIBLE LIFE MADE BETTER BY VINTAGE!

WORDS: SCARLETT LUXE

**A**n invisible illness: something that we don't visually see right in front of us but exists inside many of us both physically and mentally. Some of us raise our voices explaining that we withhold these illnesses inside us and others hold tight to this secret life. I am very open and post publicly about my illness. It helps me to accept the life I've been given but it also helps to build a support network for fellow sufferers that everything can be alright.

I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease at the age of 15, a time where I was finishing full time education, finally hitting the end of puberty and trying to decide what I actually wanted to do with my life. Then this bombshell was dropped. After going to the doctors and having a routine check up to ending up in hospital having test after test, this thing inside me was found. I didn't understand the disease at all, it wasn't something I couldn't see, it just gave me some rather nasty symptoms! I didn't look after my body as best as I could have, punishing it and making myself unwell. This then upset me; I felt as though I couldn't be normal and do what every other teenager was doing. It was tough.

Seven years later, I have a completely different mind set about my illness and a lot of that is down to discovering who I am and my style. Dressing in a vintage pin-up style fills me with a confidence that makes me

feel as though I can conquer the world. On a bad day where I'm suffering with a lot of pain I'll put on one of my favourite but still comfortable dresses, most likely a swing dress. I'll apply my red lipstick and I'll still feel like me. I currently receive my medication through intravenous so when I visit the hospital for my appointment I'll go all out and dress for me. My hair will be styled, classic make-up applied and accessories to co-ordinate with my outfit. When I am sat in hospital on the IV dressed all glamorous, it makes me feel stronger like I am in control of feeling good. It also not only brings a smile to my face but also to the wonderful nurses and doctors who treat me and also the other patients. This brings me sheer joy that something so simple as my style could make so many people just smile.

It is a huge cathartic release to be able to find something that makes me feel like me even in the darkest of times. There are many others out there who suffer with invisible illnesses but who also find relief through their vintage style. It has been a pleasure to hear their stories and to share them so publicly...

**Sarah Jerrom:**

I suffer from a rare congenital vascular malformation. It has affected me my whole life and so unlike others who are diagnosed with various conditions later on in life, I have grown up with my condition which in a way I think may be easier than for others who have to adjust

in adulthood. That said I have been in and out of hospital since I was a baby. For years I didn't talk openly to many people about it. I concentrated on my studies, whether I was at school/ uni or laid up in hospital! Despite months out of school over the years I became the pharmacist I always wanted to be. I can give something back to others, as so many have helped me over the years.

These days I am definitely more open about my condition. In recent years, without studies to focus on, all things vintage have been a real saviour for me. It is my passion, when I am outside of work, I live eat and breathe it. And so if I am in pain or am running on empty and waiting for an infusion, vintage glamour makes me feel beautiful. People no longer comment that I look pale, skinny, tired or unwell, but on how beautiful my outfit is or how I managed to create my victory rolls! Not only that but what better way to spend hours sitting around in hospitals than tucking into your favourite *Vintage Life Magazine*. Not only this but I have come into contact with some great friends through all things vintage and my pin-up wifey and blogging partner is a welcome attendee while I am hooked up in hospital.

**Diane Few:**

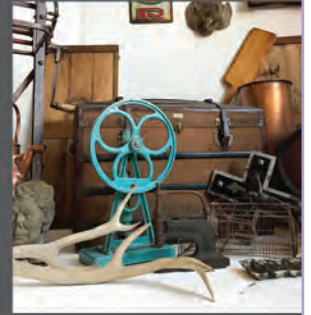
I have had fibromyalgia since 2001 and it has had a massive impact on my life. At one time I was facing life in a wheelchair. Thankfully I have improved.

I'm 57, a mother of three and grandmother to six. Dressing in vintage/retro style clothing has helped me to still feel attractive and feminine. My husband has been so supportive and we visit burlesque shows, vintage fairs and rock 'n' roll festivals together. I also love the community feel of vintage followers and we have made some lovely friends since we started. Illness can be very isolating and the whole dressing up thing makes you get out and meet people. I have suffered from depression because of the fibro but I feel wearing red lipstick and stockings makes a huge difference!

**Haley Kitchen:**

I have struggled with a chronic condition, coccydynia, for the last six years which makes it extremely painful to sit and impossible to do a lot of things. Whilst my social life is restricted, I have struggled with self confidence and my weight when I do go out. I've always been into vintage, growing up in a family of WW11 reenactors, but it's only in the last few years I have stopped being shy about my passion and venturing out more dressed-up and more frequently. It has done wonders for my self-esteem and happiness levels. It's also a great distraction from the pain. It's so hard having an invisible condition but my love for vintage never fails to pull me out of myself in the most positive way... and I've given a few others the confidence to be brave too and that feels amazing.





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In this section

# LIFESTYLE





# WITH GREAT VINTAGE FASHION COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

WORDS: ELENA FALCON



WAS IT STAN LEE, THE GREAT COMIC BOOK GENIUS, WHO ORIGINALLY WROTE THE LINE “WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY?” SPOKEN BY UNCLE BEN IN THE ADVENTURE, SPIDER MAN? OR WAS IT THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT WRITER, HISTORIAN AND FAMOUS PHILOSOPHER FRANCOIS-MARIE AROUET, BORN IN 1694 AND KNOWN BY HIS NOM DE PLUME, VOLTAIRE, WHO ORIGINALLY COINED THE PHRASE? WE MAY NEVER KNOW FOR SURE WHO SAID IT FIRST, BUT WE DO KNOW AS HUMAN BEINGS, WE ARE GRACED WITH THE POWER OF INFLUENCE. WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND FROM HISTORY, INTEGRATING OUR LEARNING INTO LIFE EXPERIENCES AS ONE OF OUR HIGHEST VALUES.



ELENA FALCON

Leader in healthcare in California, inspiring and connecting people through vintage fashion to create more access to healthcare services. Elena is known for her expertise in policy, community advocacy and passion, but also for her colourful business suits, power bouffant and wearing her grandmother's jewellery.

In the vintage community, we take the responsibility of influence and learning seriously. We regard ourselves as the cultivators of history and historians of fashion. And why not? Aren't we the keepers of sacred fabrics? Of preserved cottons, wools, silks and knits of surprising diversity? Of novelty prints and cold pressed rayons – bravely surviving decades of potential sun exposure, smoke damage and dry rot? Saving brittle but priceless patterns with scotch tape and in doing so, memorializing the shapes and lines of our ancestors...The curve of our grandmother's hips, the profiles of our aunts, and the waistlines of our mothers? Within those ancestral shapes is a pattern for progress, courage and unity that is drawn across generations of fashion. The

shapes and lines of our frocks illustrating a recognition of the past and shared experiences.

Our fashion is our art and represents statements of purpose in which we are unified by figurative and literal threads. According to Miriam-Webster, the definition of unity is described in multiple ways including, "A condition of harmony, continuity, the state of being one, the totality of related parts." "Unity," Miriam-Webster says, "is the symmetry and consistency of style and character."

In this description, I can see the vintage community clearly; serving as stewards of historical design, progressive evolution, personal expression and liberation from oppressive routine. When you put on your vintage suit of armour, you are






fulfilling your destiny of stewardship through the powers of history. You are doing this in a dress that has already attended to the same challenges you face today, years before you even put it on. A suit that has already survived criticism, uncertainty and conflict, far before it ever met you. A dazzling combination of gloves, shoes and accessories that has faced discourse and doubt before. This is the power of your vintage fashion, dear reader.

The specifics of your symmetry, consistency of style and character is completely up to you. As you travel the corridors of your relationships at work and personal life, ask yourself these questions: "How do I want to be? How do I want to sustain my vintage fashion expression over time and connected to others?" As a vintage executive I often ask myself, "How can I best deal with the exposure and demands of my job and personal life? My commitment to vintage stewardship, and sincere connection with others in ways that celebrates them? How can I be intentionally supportive, positive and inclusive? How can I do this in a way that enriches the world around me, and can I even do it all?"

Well, dear reader, I must tell you. I believe you have the magical power to affect the fabric of the world around you every day. The way you inspire unity is present in the patterns of vintage fashion chosen by you and having withstood the tests of time. The impacts of your expressions are drawn in the hand of your own design. An invitation to support others with glorious shoulder pads in shared narratives of our related pasts. The pow-

er of shared unity is a social experience, best expressed through dialogue and time spent together in person, in places and connected to cherished things.

As you think how to manifest your great responsibility to others through vintage fashion, consider the wisdom of Janus, the ancient Roman God of beginnings, gates, transitions, time, doorways, passages and endings. Janus is usually depicted as having two faces, looking both to the future and to the past. How will you look to honour both the future and the past as a steward in the vintage community? What doorways of opportunity and corridors of time will you fashionably walk in your work and personal life? How will you weave a thread of unity, peace, connection, inspiration and respect through the fabric of your world using the power of vintage fashion? Where in your life will you look to institutionalise the values of direct communication and friendship?

This last weekend I met three friends in downtown Los Angeles after several weeks of overwhelming circumstances, doubt and social confusion. As soon as I saw their faces and their fashion, I felt the immediate peace of unity. I felt the connection of our shared values, diversity of thought and appreciation for history. Our love of vintage fashion, of culture and connection. I felt the power and comfort of us and the influence of our unity on the fabric of the world around us. Dear reader, don't ever doubt your magical power to affect the fabric of the world around you. If not us, then who? I can't wait to see you fly. 





# UNIVERSITY: LIVING A CHAMPAGNE LIFESTYLE ON A GINGER BEER BUDGET

WORDS: HARRIET BALL



I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A LOVE FOR THE 1940s, ESPECIALLY THE HISTORY AND ROMANCE OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING SO FASCINATING ABOUT IT THAT NEVER FAILS TO INSPIRE ME. MY LOVE FOR THE 40s HAS FOLLOWED ME THROUGH MY CHILDHOOD AND I NOW LIVE, BREATHE, WRITE AND DRESS THE ERA, SO MUCH SO THAT I HAVE WRITTEN A FILM ABOUT IT TOO.

My film, *A Train Ride Away*, is the story of a young man and woman learning the true meaning of love in the shadow of the Second World War. I wrote the entire script but did have *Jambusters* author Julie Summers help with historical accuracy. Set on a train station platform in February 1940, my film follows 21 year old Daniel Jones, who has just received his call up papers. When his girlfriend Lizzie finds out, she is heartbroken and says bitterly that he can take himself to the station and see himself off, before leaving him. When Daniel arrives for his train, he sees mothers saying goodbye to their children as they are evacuated to the countryside and girlfriends saying goodbye to their partners, much like Lizzie should be doing for Daniel. He sits on a bench and goes through all that has happened between him and Lizzie, before

penning a letter of apology, which he will post to her when he arrives at the barracks.

No sooner has Daniel started writing his letter, he hears Lizzie's voice calling him, apologising profusely for being so horrible and suggesting that they should get married if he really loves her as much as he says. Daniel worryingly says to her that she shouldn't have said that and walks off. Lizzie follows him down the platform as he walks to the train, asking why would he not marry her if he loves her so much: she is obviously quite hurt by this situation.

Daniel begins to explain why he didn't want her to ask, before getting on one knee and asking her to marry him. Lizzie, completely overwhelmed, accepts his proposal before they share a kiss. The couple say their farewells before Daniel boards the train, leaving an emotional Lizzie looking at her engagement ring, not knowing what the future has in store.

I have an amazing cast and crew, the only problem is finding locations. My initial idea was to film at Oxenhope station on the Keighley Worth Valley Railway, but it's proving impossible, purely because it would cost thousands of pounds to close off a public space. However, my amazing dad is trying to sort something out for me. Instead of dwelling on the fact that the location isn't yet sorted and I am subsequently panicking, I thought I'd talk clothes; after all, what is a period drama without amazing costumes?

I'm lucky. I have plenty of friends who have been re-enacting for years, who have volunteered to be in the film as extras. This means I don't need to hire out costumes. I am also very lucky to have friends who are seamstresses and have a vast knowledge of 40s fashion who will make sure everything is historically accurate.

My good friend let me raid her pattern stash to find outfits

that may reflect Lizzie and how she'd dress. I normally write about affluent characters who would wear glamorous outfits, such as the black and green pattern. Lizzie is a plain and simple city girl who isn't well off. She works in the local haberdashery and makes her own clothes, so makes the best of what she's got. February 1940 was extremely cold so her outfit will be covered by a coat and an exceptional hat, something she has saved up for over quite some time.

The ring! My mum found the most simple little ring that matches both Daniel and Lizzie's life, with the tiniest diamond – my friends say it's an illusion ring, as it makes the diamond look bigger than it actually is.

As you can probably tell, I am so excited. I have so many people on board (pardon the pun) helping me with this amazing project and I really hope I can pull it off!





# Dear, 16 Year Old Me!

I RECENTLY TURNED 30, WHICH MAKES YOU REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE AND YOUR YOUTH; IT ALSO MADE ME LOOK BACK AT MY 16 YEAR OLD SELF WITH A FOND, YET SAD NOSTALGIA. HOW MANY OF US WISH WE KNEW THE THINGS WE KNOW NOW, WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER? SO I PENNED A LETTER TO MY 16 YEAR OLD SELF, WHO WAS IN NEED OF A FEW LIFE LESSONS.

Dear Helen,

I know you are a bit lost right now, you don't know who you are, or who you are supposed to be. You have an adult's body but a child's mind and the two often collide.

Your friends are all wearing size 6-8s while you squeeze into 16s and 18s. You don't know yet that this is OK, that you are OK.

You feel ugly and huge around most people your age, you focus on how much your hips spread out, missing how your waist tucks in. You dress to hide your shape, not yet knowing how to accentuate it.

At the moment your big bones, wide hips, soft belly and strong legs are a hindrance. You hate them. But one day, someone will convince you to apply for a modelling job, he will convince you that the term 'plus size' is not a negative. You will marry that man (and you'll bag the modelling job too!)

You have no idea of the transformation the fashion industry will make to celebrate women like you in the next decade. You can't see it yet, but one day your role models will be relatable.

The term "vintage" is not familiar to you yet, nor is it fashionable, but I know you tried on a skirt, in a 1950s style and you felt amazing. You weren't brave enough to wear it in public, you took it off and put your jeans and long cardigan back on, but one day you will be brave enough, I promise you that.

Work hard. Harder than you are working now. Keep working hard even when you see your peer's progress faster than you. Congratulate them. Not through gritted teeth, but with genuine happiness.

Understand that even though you have decided to work hard, the world won't stop to give you what you want, just because you want it.

Cherish your family - they will support you in ways you can't imagine possible right now, and they won't expect a thing in return. Do give them something in return though, give them your time.

You'll meet various boys who will turn into men, some will be special, but not all of them have to be. Try to recognise the difference. Don't adapt yourself to make someone like you. The right one will think you are just fine the way you are, and the rest of them will keep you busy on your path to find him.

Soon you will experience heartbreak like you can't imagine; you'll think it will never pass, but it will.

People think you are a shy teenager, but one day people will think you are a confident woman and you will be...so fake it till you feel it.



WORK HARD.  
HARDER THAN  
YOU ARE  
WORKING NOW.

**WORDS:** HELEN MUGGERIDGE

Keep singing. One day that pretend audience of cushions will be real people.

Experiment with clothes, find your style and don't be afraid to be different.

Don't steal that bottle of spirits from your parent's alcohol cupboard, they will know you filled it back up with water, or at least they do now.

Be nice to animals, you're scared of anything on four legs right now, but one day, two sets of furry little legs will be taking up residence in your home.

Don't be disheartened when you lose jobs, friends and money. They were never really yours.

Right now you don't want to go to university, but you will and it will open your narrow mind up to a whole new world of people that exist outside your school. You will love, laugh (A LOT) and make life-long friendships. It will be at university that you will feel free enough to experiment with vintage fashion and you'll swap jeans for circle skirts around year two. In year three you'll decide it's your time to get thin and starve yourself of carbohydrates for three months, you will lose weight and look great, but I'm sorry to say the weight and more will return the moment you start eating sandwiches again. You will go through ten more years of losing, gaining, losing again and gaining more. I would like to say at 30 you stopped the cycle and figured everything out and I am writing to you from our goal weight, but the truth is I'm not, I don't know if I ever will. But I think I'm OK with that.

So Helen: I know your heart, I know your soul and I can't wait to see what you do with them next.

Stay true to yourself and follow your own path, you know the way.

Love always,  
Helen





## VINTAGE GIRL PROBLEMS NO 4: WANT TO BE IN MY GANG?

WORDS: MARIAM VOUSSOGH

Vintage has entered your life. You're happier than ever – you've finally found your soulmates. However, you soon discover that there are subgroups in this tribe. Pin up girls, forties devotees and rockabilly queens to name but a few. Trouble is that you love your wiggle dresses as much as you love your saddle oxfords as much as you love your old-school tattoos. To make things more confusing, some of the fashions you love cross over between the groups. Polka dots and high waisted trousers are popular across the board.

So, which gang do you join?

For the most part, the vintage world is a friendly, welcoming place to be. The passion and excitement found amongst the clothes rails (and cake stalls) at vintage events is contagious.

Nevertheless, some purists can take things rather more seriously. Accusations of not being a 'real' rockabilly/pin up etc. can be thrown around if you deviate from dressing in a particular way. It's as if a 'uniform' has been agreed, detailing what you wear, except you didn't get the memo.

The newer you are to the scene, the more likely you are to want to conform and fit in with your recently discovered soul mates. Yes, even as adults, we can be sensitive to being singled out. But – and it's a big but – there's a reason vintage fashion is viewed as 'alternative'. We refuse to follow whatever is deemed fashionable this season and tread our own path. By definition, we offer an alternative to mainstream culture, which means we shouldn't subscribe to the notion of uniformity.

One thing's for sure, we are a diverse bunch. Whether we love burlesque, lindy hop, kustom culture or flapper dresses, we each have our own views on what vintage is – it's personal to every one of us. Regardless of this, we are a group of individuals with many shared passions, it follows that we should all be on the same side.

No groups, no uniforms, no rules.

So, to rid us of this particular Vintage Girl Problem, let's invent a new, inclusive name for lovers of vintage (however they choose to express it). Retrobillys? Vintesque? Polka Dotties?

The truth is, there's room for us all in this wonderful vintage world. So, shove up, here comes another petti-coated dame who wants in...

P.S. I vote for Polka Dotties!





LIFESTYLE

# WHAT IS

# BURLESQUE?

WORDS: KIKI DEVILLE

THE QUESTION I GET ASKED THE MOST FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN TO A SHOW IS "WHAT IS BURLESQUE?" THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ANSWERS TO THAT QUESTION BUT THE MAIN ONE IS THAT THE CHER AND CHRISTINA AGUILERA MOVIE IS NOT BURLESQUE. (I SHOULD ADMIT TO KNOWING A GOOD NUMBER OF PERFORMERS, INCLUDING ME, WHO ACTUALLY LOVE THE FILM REGARDLESS.)





However, it is not a world away from what burlesque actually is. The one thing I can say unequivocally is that burlesque is not just striptease. The word itself has a much wider meaning that incorporates so much more. You may have noticed that the articles I have been writing have been highlighting some of the other aspects of burlesque and it has been nice to be able to introduce readers to some of the incredible talent out there.

Historically, burlesque was parody. It spoke of politics and politicians and the world in general. "Burla" is Italian for humorous or playful character (Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary), and it often involved men dressing in women's clothes and portraying and sending up people in the public eye. Burlesque was also used to describe small plays that did the same thing, a medium that Gilbert and Sullivan famously used to comment on the times in which they lived.

In the mid-18th century in both the UK and the USA, music hall and vaudeville respectively, were becoming very popular. These early burlesque shows incorporated comedy sketches, singers and of course, female dancers. They were not as we know burlesque dancers now however – that wouldn't come until around about 1920 – but a little under-dressed for the era, which was obviously considered incredibly risqué for a time when we measured the length of women's swimsuits on the beach!

Over the years, these shows became more provocative, until they eventually incorporated striptease. The history of how the striptease evolved varies from stories of a broken dress strap to the Hootchie Cootchie being performed at the Chicago's World Fair but there is no definitive answer.

Working with the famous Minsky Brothers in New York,

perhaps the most famous burlesque dancer was Gypsy Rose Lee (the inspiration behind the award winning musical *Gypsy*). Burlesque became one of the most popular forms of entertainment throughout the 1920s and 30s. Still the burlesque comedians, like the legendary duo Laurel and Hardy, made their living in burlesque and "cut their teeth" with burlesque audiences.

In the UK through the 1930s and WW2, Mrs Laura Henderson (who Judi Dench portrayed in the 2005 hit *Mrs Henderson Presents*) ran the Windmill Theatre in Soho in London, giving audiences an escape from turbulent times, not even closing throughout the war. The Windmill post war saw many well-known comedians start their careers – household names like Tony Hancock, Peter Sellers and Tommy Cooper. (Source: Windmillinternational.com)

Eventually burlesque and variety took a hit with things like television and strict nudity laws, but it never completely went away. In the 1990s in the USA, neo-burlesque stars like Kitten DeVille and Dirty Martini were bringing burlesque back to a new and enthusiastic audience.

These days, burlesque shows have returned to the format of old and include not just striptease, but comedy, parody, music and political commentary. So if you go and only expect to see pasties and feathers, you will probably be pleasantly surprised! Think of burlesque as an 'umbrella' term. You just never know what you might see!

NOW GET YOURSELF TO A SHOW!

Much love  
Mama Keeks





WORDS: HAILI HUGHES

## AFTERNOON TEA FOR CHAPS



IMAGES COURTESY OF NEIL KENDALL

Writer Henry James once said, "There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea." As a vintage wearing, tea slurping devotee, of course I would agree.

Afternoon tea is just so quintessentially English. However, it was the Chinese who popularised tea drinking as a custom and it didn't really become a popular pastime over here until the 1660s, when King Charles II drank tea from elegant bone china cups and saucers, in their lavishly decorated 'salon.'

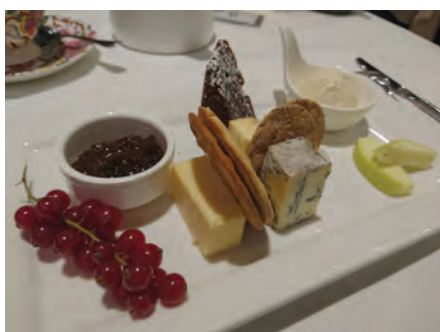
Stopping for tea and cake didn't become a trend until the 1880s, when beautifully dressed upper class ladies would change into long gowns, hats, gloves and all their finery and invite friends into their drawing rooms for tea, cake and sandwiches to be served. Since then, no respectable lady has ever turned down an

invitation for afternoon tea; nowadays it is more popular than ever! With a huge range of cafes, restaurants and hotels opening up their doors to this marvellous tradition, afternoon tea is no longer just for the girls.

Of course, traditional afternoon tea usually includes thinly sliced, dainty sandwiches, scones spread thickly with decadent clotted cream and jam and a huge selection of yummy cakes and pastries. Yet times are changing and there is now a plethora of quirky themed afternoon tea choices – including one for the blokes. My husband is always moaning when I drag him around various cafes to sample afternoon teas, so a more chap friendly choice is music to my ears!

Enter, Gentleman Jack – an afternoon tea for the discerning gent at Great John Street Hotel in Manchester. If you are expecting cucumber sandwiches and teeny macaroons,





WITH BELLIES BUSTING, WE HEADED HOME. THIS IS A DEFINITE WINNER FOR ANY STYLISH CHAP WHO FEELS THAT AFTERNOON TEA ISN'T FOR HIM

think again. From the minute we arrived, I knew this was going to be a tea experience with a difference. The quirky art, which adorned the walls and gave a nod to everything that is cool about Manchester, including reference to iconic bands and Northern cult celebs such as Frank Sidebottom, was just the start. From the slate coloured ceiling giving a nod to Manchester's industrial past, juxtaposed with the glamorous art deco seating, it looked like a scene from a Brit Pop video.

When the afternoon tea arrived, we were not disappointed. There was a huge choice of different types of tea, served up in quirky, mismatched china. We enjoyed a selection of wholesome canapé-style bites, which would appeal to any vintage chap. From a mini chip shop style fish, laid on top of delicious, chunky thrice cooked chips which were unbelievably delicious, to a mini chicken and leek pie, complete with flaky puff pastry.

Next, we tackled a surprisingly meaty mini beef burger, complete with a bucket of golden, American style French fries. A surprising inclusion was the prawn dumplings – it made us feel like we were enjoying mini takeaways! It

was just a real picnic for the senses. Of course, no picnic would be complete without a scotch egg and this was my husband's absolute favourite. Nestled in tangy pickle, the breadcrumbs were lovely and crispy and you could taste the freshness of the egg and sausage meat.

After such a feast, we really struggled to eat our desserts. I usually hate having to choose between cheese and cake but on this occasion, I didn't have to, as a selection of cheeses, crackers and gooey chocolate brownie finished with Bailey's ice cream is included as part of the cost.

With bellies busting, we headed home. This is a definite winner for any stylish chap who feels that afternoon tea isn't for him. Next time your lady fancies it, you know where to head! The ritual of afternoon tea has grown beyond the tea pot covers and doily decorated finery of old. Today's afternoon teas cater to a new crowd.

Standard gentleman's afternoon tea £25 per person  
Include a round of 'Gentleman Jack's' for £30 per person





# GREASER'S SOCIAL CLUB UK – PART 1

WORDS: PAUL MARLAND GRIFFITHS

I am sure many of you have friends...those friends, that you have never actually met, that you know all about because you see their posts popping up on your phone or laptop, on everyone's favourite internet social media site; I have my fair share of these friends. One such FB friend has over the last year snagged my interest with the posts of his and his wife's lifestyle and in particular their trip to the USA last year. I followed with great interest what they were getting up to Stateside - the new friendships they were making and the great places they were visiting, all seen in regularly posted photos. Looking a little closer, I saw that they were members of a social group known as

GSC (Greaser's Social Club), originally founded in the US; the reason for their trip was to connect with fellow members over the pond. What a fantastic thing to do!

I discovered that GSC is a social group for those who have a love of the rock and roll/rockabilly/psychobilly culture. Their members are like-minded greasers, rockers and teds, who come together to enjoy all the trappings of a rockin' lifestyle. Now my lady wife and myself – in our vintage endeavours – veer more towards the 40s scene, however we do enjoy a dip into the faster waters of the rockin' 50s world. She loves spinning around, wearing her frilly underskirts and likewise, I do particularly enjoy the more bouncy, rockabilly

snare drum, slap bass beat tunes without really knowing much about the rockabilly scene (Not that you have to, to enjoy a good throw-round on the dance floor). So it was plain to see that GSC would be a good place to start, to discover more about this vibrant form of rock and roll and to find out more about GSC itself.

So I returned to social media and contacted, Si Miles, to ask him what he and GSC is really all about.

Born in Chester and brought up in Runcorn, Si Miles is and has always been a rockabilly through and through. Since he can remember, he has had the music of the 50s rock and roll greats flowing through him. His parents, Frank and

Olive, played their favourite rock and roll records as Si was growing up and as a school boy, he attended Weston Point Primary School with pictures of his music hero, Elvis, in his short's pocket.

"When people asked me and my mates what we wanted to be when we grew up, my mates would say 'fire man, footballer, train driver'...you know? I'd say, 'I wanna be a teddy boy'. My favourite has always been Elvis. But I love Bill Haley too. Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent, Holly, Cash, Orbison. I've got them all tattooed on my arm. They were my heroes as I was growing up. I guess they're all my favourites."

By the age of 12, Si was a





I DISCOVERED THAT GSC IS A SOCIAL GROUP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A LOVE OF THE ROCK AND ROLL/ ROCKABILLY/PHYSCHOBILLY CULTURE. THEIR MEMBERS ARE LIKE-MINDED GREASERS, ROCKERS AND TEDS, WHO COME TOGETHER TO ENJOY ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF A ROCKIN' LIFESTYLE.

'teddy boy'. A style welcomed by mum Olive. "She was always a big Elvis fan." Si wasn't the only rock and roll fan in the neighbourhood.

"I had a few friends who liked the same music but Brian Mellor and me were really into it. As we went through Helsby Grammar School, we met up with others. We'd meet up and hang around in 'Shopping City' in Runcorn. I'm still in touch with them on FB and I still go to gigs with friends from the 80s: Paul and Jane Fahey, Tom and Elaine Nunnerly and others."

Though rock and roll would remain his favourite music, rockabilly soon loomed large and the emergence of the 80s revival bands, now referred to as Neo and Psychobilly, became a passion.

2003 saw Si become a policeman and as his first marriage came to a close, he married his current wife Elaine at Runcorn Town Hall in 2010. They moved from St. Helen's to Bedale in North Yorkshire.

2011 saw Si leave the police force and in 2012, Si and Elaine both joined GSC WW, 'just for the cool shirt', Si told me.

In June 2015, for Si's 50th birthday, they both decided to do a tour of America, which would take in Memphis, Graceland, California and Las Vegas, amongst other destinations.

"I contacted the bloke that started GSC WW (Greasers Social Club World Wide) Tony Reina and asked if there were any rockabilly bands playing in Vegas, while we'd be there. He said he'd organise a meet up with a BBQ and invite local members. At the time I just

thought he was being polite. After that, I didn't really think much of it."

Despite not having heard from Tony for a long while Tony had arranged for a friend of his to pick Si and Elaine up when they arrived in Vegas. He had been true to his word, having put together a full on Vegas BBQ with a host of GSC WW members in attendance.

"Tony explained to me why he'd started GSC WW up. Primarily, it was to support friends and members of the rockabilly scene. He had t-shirts designed and the proceeds of sales helped members in various aspects of their lives. One example was to raise money for a friend who needed a part for his car. In Germany! Another example was of a rockabilly band he'd come across that had run out of money and couldn't get to their next gig. They had no money for gas. A lot of bands don't get paid a wage in the US, they just put a bucket in the middle of the dance floor and punters put money in depending how good they think they are. So he raised money to get them on their way. It was a fantastic idea. The respect and feeling of family they had was inspiring."

After discussion with GSC WW in the US, Si came home with the ambition to create a UK chapter of GSC WW, with himself as President. With Elaine and two friends, they created awareness of their plans on social media as well as recruiting new members through word of mouth. Within 12 months they had 60 members.

To be continued in next month's edition.





## JAPAN'S ROCKABILLY REVIVAL

# Rokabiri This Town

WORDS: PARIS BROWN

**W**hilst roaming the world-renowned Harajuku District in Tokyo back in 2009, I visually gorged myself on the fashion wonders lining the narrow streets. Back then, Gothic Lolitas were heavily represented, but now mid-century style is once again emerging, as rockabillies in leather jackets and poodle skirts hit the streets in full force.

As in other adoptive countries, rockabilly boasts a colourful history in Japan, where it was first introduced by U.S. military forces during the Occupation (1945-1952). Early rockabilly music—then known as “country”, or as Japanese youth initially called it, “western” or “cowboy” music—caught on after the Far East Radio Network (FEN), through its affiliation with military radio stations, began playing it on-air.

While Japanese teens loved the genre nearly as much as its other imported predecessor, jazz, they gradually found ways to make it culturally their own. According to music historian Mitsui Toru, the first such group was the Western Melodians, formed in 1947, soon followed by the Western Ramblers and other rising stars like Masaaki Hirao and his All-Star Wagon and Kihara Matsuko, one of the few female instrumentalists of the era.

But here's the kicker—because early rockabilly (rokabiri) groups catered to the Western military, and the bands that followed remained deeply influenced by American hit songs, Japanese vocalists almost entirely sang all of their songs in English. Despite their general unfamiliarity with the language—and a 1961 *Time* magazine article that discouragingly caricatured their pronunciations—they were able to memorize lyrics with a skill that was both astonishing and accurate. It took several years, after the occupiers

left and Nihonjin (Japanese) fans made up the majority of audiences, that they began translating and writing songs in their native language.

The rockabilly bumo (boom) briefly hit its peak in 1958 and '59, beginning with the Nichigeki Western Carnival, an annual music festival in Tokyo. Singer Sakamoto Kyū, best known for his international hit “Sukiyaki” and a contender for the title of “the Japanese Elvis,” also began his singing career at the first Western Carnival by covering Elvis Presley's *G.I. Blues*. In fact, Kyū's “swinging” version, backed by his former band, Danny Iida and Paradise King, has been accurately described as “run[n]g circles around the fairly staid arrangement on Elvis's original” (Bourdagh's). How's that for shaking it up, Japanese-style?

Similar to the black-and-white snapshots we've seen of blue-collared, scrappy Western rockabillies, archives of Japanese devotees reveal them as rivals in rebellious fashion. The motorcycles, slicked-back hair, and all that leather shocked the more staid observers of these rokabirizoku, or rockabilly gangs.

So what are local rockabillies up to today, you ask? In Japan overall, less than ten percent of the population participate in rockabilly culture, but bands like Blue Angel, Peppermint Jam, The Mackshow, and the Hillbilly Bops keep the beat going. The Tokyo Rockabilly Club regularly congregates in Yoyogi Park, others in the Harajuku District (perhaps some are conversions from the fashionistas I encountered on my 2009 holiday), and all around Japan, they revive bygone days. The men's regents (ducktails) and pompadours, 1950s jackets, and combs in denim back pockets, along with the women's poodle skirts, bobby socks, and colorful parasols, reflect





a mixture of vintage, retro, and reproduction brand clothing.

This roving reporter had the opportunity to chat with a couple of fashionable women with their fingers on the pulse of the contemporary rockabilly scene: Kasumi Yoshino, owner of Tokyo-based Psycho Apparel and native Edokko, who has been a fan since she was a teenager. Originally inspired by Bettie Page and the Horrorpops, she became drawn to the timelessness of rockabilly. Her eclectic personal style while working in a Harajuku shop at 15 gradually evolved into a modernized vintage-inspired look (think psychobilly pin-up). Kasumi's psychobilly roots are still evident in her musical tastes; her favourite Japanese band is Spike, locally advertised as a "Rock 'n Roll Psycho Monster" group, due to its mix of rockabilly and psychobilly sounds.

A trailblazer in Japan's vintage-inspired merchandising, Kasumi opened her own shop five years ago and created her world-renowned clothing line, Psycho Apparel, three years later. On March 15th, she'll be launching a new store featuring her original Japanese-made designs for the modern pin-up, merging creative talents with a local custom car shop. Like many of her rockabilly sisters around the globe, she immerses herself in pin-up tattoo magazines and music events like the popular (and aptly-named) "Rockin' Rollin'", which boasts the added allure of those she charmingly refers to as "many fancy rockabilly ladies."


Because classic rockabilly style always involves a blast to the past, vintage shop owner Samantha (Sammy) Ishimoto similarly makes clothing the focus of her own involvement in the scene southwest of Tokyo, in Osaka. As a teen, the film *American Graffiti* (1973) rocked her world quite literally. Shortly thereafter, she began shopping at local vintage boutiques and instinctively knew she'd found her calling.

Thirteen years of experience in vintage clothing led her to open her own successful Osaka shop,



Samantha's Vintage, in 2000. Her business perfectly complements her personal style, which includes wearing only true vintage clothing, attending weekly swing and lindy-hop dance lessons, and listening to rockabilly bands like her local favourite, the Tennessee Cats.

Both Kasumi and Sammy avow that their love for rockabilly goes deeper than the music itself; they cite the inclusiveness of the culture, noting that it transcends all barriers, including age, nationality, gender, and ethnicity. Kasumi loves the pin-up aspect which especially allows women to shine, while Sammy relates that "people [I meet in the scene] are always friendly and open-minded. It's just fascinating, and it's a culture I am proud to be a part of."

Further inside info from Sammy provides an intriguing glimpse into the 'undercover' aspect of rockabilles in Japan. Often, nondescript men in typical business attire appear at music events and dance in their office clothes with unexpected energy and passion. Sammy thus bridges the oft-perceived gap between East and West by adding that prescribed conventionality sometimes involves "a double life [as] a hard-core rockabilly dude during the weekend"; as with our own Western balancing acts between rockabilly culture and the outside world, "it certainly happens in Japan" as well! 



Psycho Apparel: <http://psycho-apparel.com>

Samantha's Vintage: <http://samantha1950.blog136.fc2.com>

References: Bourdaghs, Michael K. Sayonara Amerika, Sayonara Nippon: A Geopolitical Prehistory of J-Pop. New York and Chichester: Columbia UP, 2012.

Furmanovsky, Michael. American Country Music in Japan: Lost Piece in the Popular Music History Puzzle. *Popular Music and Society* 31.3 (2008): 357-72.

Photo credits: Top left (Sammy): Samantha Ishimoto. Top right (Kasumi): Kasumi Yoshino. Bottom right (Samantha's Vintage): Samantha Ishimoto



*In this section*  
**IN THE HOME**





# IN THE HOME

## BOTANICAL PRINTS

Also big in interiors this year is botanical prints on everything from wallpaper to lampshades. If you wish to bring a small hint of the trend why not opt for this cushion cover. With its fern design in various shades of moss, emerald and fern green it has a distinctly vintage feel to it too. Schumacher cushion cover available from SewWhatAlley on Etsy.com. £25.53



## RETRO TELEPHONE

This fab telephone from Wild and Wolf maintains the aesthetics of the iconic shape launched in 1967 which to this day remains the universal symbol of the phone. However, for modern convenience, the dial is replaced with buttons. Retro telephone in Swedish Green £33. [cuckooland.com](http://cuckooland.com)

## MARCH...

It's March and spring is in the air. If you wish to stay bang on trend whilst maintaining your vintage vibe, why not opt for vintage styling in Pantones colour of the year, 'Greenery', to update and refresh. Here is our pick for you... Enjoy!



## LOUNGE IN STYLE

Relax in this design led piece from made.com. Inspired by mid century shapes and angles it has a cool vibe without even trying... and it also has a matching footstool if you require ultra comfort. Jonny Accent Chair £199, Made.com

# VINTAGE INSPIRED MUST HAVES

## FOR YOUR HOME

WITH: CHRISTINE OF COPPER AND ASH



Coming from a background covering engineering, property renovation and interior design, and with a love for the beauty of vintage and antique furniture, Christine decided to combine them all and Copper and Ash was born. Christine now spends her days breathing new life into vintage pieces, creating bespoke furniture just perfect for today's interiors. Mainly working to commission with a small selection ready to go in her unit at Botany Bay, Chorley

## CHILL OUT...

Why not make a brave and bold statement with this fabulous retro styled fridge freezer from Gorenje in Lime Green. It may have retro styling but with frostless technology and 322 litre capacity it is perfect for modern living. And with A+++ energy rating it is green in more ways than one. Gorenje ORK193GR £899 [markselectrical.co.uk](http://markselectrical.co.uk)



## DAPPER DESK

Why not update a piece you already own? Our Annabell Duke paint in Green Door fits the theme perfectly. Shown here on a gorgeous desk transformed by ourselves. Paints from £7.95. Desks from £165 [www.copperandash.co.uk](http://www.copperandash.co.uk)



## CEILING PENDANT

Lighten up your space with this fishermans style ceiling pendant shade in a glorious green metal finish. Combine a trio over a dining table or breakfast bar for ultimate impact. Best of all it simply fits onto your existing light fitting so no wiring involved. Ukai ceiling pendant shade £18. [www.tesco.com](http://www.tesco.com)



## FUNKY RADIO

We all need music in our lives! Listen in style with this digital radio that combines iconic 60s styling with modern function and performance. With its leather carry handle it is easy to take into the garden too for any spring sunshine. Goodmans Oxford radio in green £49.00. [www.cramptonandmoore.co.uk](http://www.cramptonandmoore.co.uk)







IN THE HOME

NATURAL AIR

# FRESHENERS

WORDS: SEREN HOLLINS

I love a nice smelling home, but the last thing you want to do is dump toxic chemicals into the environment in the name of air freshening, right? There are a few different ways to freshen up your home in a natural and creative way.

Cotton wool air freshener: sprinkle essential oil on a cotton ball and pop it in a corner of the room. If you have children or pets, make sure it is out of their reach as essential oils are very strong and could irritate their skin. Lavender and chamomile are relaxing and so are great for bedrooms, whilst ylang ylang is great for creating a seductive mood and cinnamon, clove, and citrus oils are great for the rest of the house. You can stash a few in the car too – try peppermint or bergamot which are stimulating and great for long distance drives.

## ORANGE CANDLES\*

Oranges are for so much more than eating and marmalade making; they are your best friends in the room freshening task. You can make simple candles out of them (without wasting the fruit). All you need is an orange, sharp knife, oil (sweet almond or olive are good choices) and a candle lighter (the long taper type).

1. Cut your orange in half. Take your knife and run it around the edges of the orange.
2. Take a fork and scrape out the inside of the orange. Be careful not to remove the inside stem. This is the white piece that rests in the centre of the orange. It is rather tough and resilient, so just continue to scrape away the fruit around it.
3. Once the inside of your orange is clean, place it in a heat proof shallow bowl; you can fill it ¾ of the way full with oil. Remember you can use any oil of your choice, but those with little fragrance are best as you want to get the smell of the orange, not the cooking oil.
4. Let the oil sit in the orange for about 45 minutes. It is impor-

tant to let the oil sit and the stem of the orange (the white piece) absorb it. This is what will help keep it burning well.

5. In 60 minutes, you can try lighting your orange. You will need a candle lighter to do this as a match or cigarette lighter does not stay lit long enough to get the job done... it's not a quick task.
6. Hold the lighter to the stem and let it heat up. You will need to do this for 2-3 minutes.
7. Let the stem rest for a moment. It should be nice and brown/black at this point. To the touch, it should feel dry now.
8. Try relighting the stem. This may take a few seconds. You should hear a little crackling and then the flame should take off on its own.

## CINNAMON PILLAR CANDLE\*

Forget the cinnamon scented candles that cost a fortune; it is quick and easy to make the real thing.

You will need:

- Pillar candle, at least 3 inches in diameter
- Cinnamon sticks
- Floristry shears
- Hot-glue gun
- Dish or coaster

1. Measure candle height; cut cinnamon sticks to size with floral shears.
2. You'll need about 20 cinnamon sticks per candle, depending on their thickness and the thickness of the candle.
3. Run hot glue along the cinnamon stick; affix it vertically to side of the candle. (Use low-temperature setting to minimize melting.)
4. When the first stick is dry, (only a few seconds) glue the next stick snugly against it; repeat this process to cover the candle.
5. Place the finished candle on a dish or a coaster.

Not only is this candle very stylish, but it smells beautiful!



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*In this section*

# FOOD & DRINK







# Keep It Seasonal Sweetie!

## YOUR FAST GUIDE TO WHAT'S IN SEASON NEAR YOU

WORDS: KITTY VON TASTIQUE

### NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

#### **Cabbage**

Cabbage has a long and interesting history. For a veg that seems a bit 'run-of-the-mill', it has been medicinal, regal and a food for the poor. Cabbage is great for stir fries, cooked with some garlic and ginger, or add it to a salad for some crunchy texture and an Asian flavour twist. It is a great source of vitamin C and K plus it also contains B6 and folate.

#### **Leeks**

Leeks have been with us since ancient Egyptian days. These hardy growers soldier on through winter to give us loads of flavour and taste. They make a great addition to soups, casseroles and savoury tarts. They are an excellent source of vitamin K plus they also contain manganese, vitamin B6, iron, folate and vitamin C.

#### **Oranges**

Oranges are believed to have originated in China before making their way to Spain, Italy and Portugal. They then went on to South America, Mexico and Florida spreading their citrusy cheer. Although they are of course amazing juiced alone, try throwing in some ginger, carrot and apple for a marvelous mocktail!

### SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

#### **Lettuce**

These days lettuce choices seem to be endless but they are as old as the hills, or should I say, the pyramids?! The ancient Egyptians grew lettuce for the oil they made from its seeds, then it travelled via the Greeks and Romans before jumping across to the Americas with Christopher Columbus. Lettuce can be a good source of vitamin K and A, and iceberg aside, it can also be a good source of folate and iron. Dressed with a fabulous dressing and topped with some healthy grains and sesame seeds, it looks restaurant chic and is super easy to prepare!

#### **Kiwi Fruit**

These furry little delights were originally from China where they are known as the 'Chinese gooseberry' and were traditionally picked wild. They made their way to New Zealand in the 20th century and American servicemen stationed there during WW2 took a liking to them, which helped them spread to the US. Kiwifruit is the bomb when it comes to vitamin C, just 100g provides 112-127% of your daily allowance (almost double that of oranges)! The gold kiwifruit is my favourite. It has a less acidic taste and is actually higher in vitamin C than the green variety.

#### **Lime**

Limes are the lemon's sexy cousin! There are so many varieties, including of course our very own 'finger lime' here in Australia! Limes are an excellent source of vitamin C. Historically of course they were used to prevent scurvy and are believed to have originated in Indonesia or Southeast Asia. They are perfect for adding some class to your chilled water, some zing to your zesty dressing or charisma to your curry!





# Goodies for Days

## SWEET TREATS AT SHANE'S

WORDS: BRANDY SCOTT

A hhhh... confections. Who can resist when confronted with the delectable sight and sweet smell of sugar formed in the shapes of taffies, peppermints, jelly beans, fruit slices, caramels and of course, fudge. In America, candy is the undeniable winner when it comes to treats not just for children, but also the young at heart who incorporate it's deliciousness in pretty much anything one can think of! I'll admit, I am ecstatically weak in its presence and finally, instead of it just finding a resting spot on my waistline, my love of candy joined forces with my other love – pin-up modelling.

I somewhat stumbled into the pin up niche as my first time trying it out was more of an attempt at imitating women of various eras that I've always admired and could relate to—seemingly innocent, conservative and underestimated. Once I became more confident in front of a camera, I unleashed the sleeping kitten that had awakened and surprised not only myself, but also those who presumed that there is not much attraction in women with fuller figures much less, a woman of colour as a pin-up. Each time I pose, the ease I have gained has opened my world to more exploration of the enduring appeal of vintage while most importantly, expressing the importance of body positivity. I have had the fortune of my self-discoveries being published on the front cover and pages of several

pin-up publications in the US, Australia and the United Kingdom in addition to being included in the books *Chocolate Cheesecake: Celebrating the Modern Black Pinup* and *Chocolate Cheesecake 2: A Second Serving of Modern Black Pin-ups* by Dr. Earnest Cox.

Speaking of chocolate, in my hometown of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania sits one of the oldest still-operating candy stores in the country—Shane's Confectionery. It's location in the Philly area of "Old City" is only a mild foreshadowing of what you will find in this candy shop that was established in 1911 by Edward R. Shane who drew crowds with his technicolour sugar shapes and "Irish potatoes" which consisted of cinnamon-dusted lumps of cream cheese and coconut. By 1926, Shane's suffered a significant loss in business due to a handful of factors including sugar shortages. Fast-forward to 2010 when brothers Eric and Ryan Berley, proprietors of The Franklin Fountain, a vintage ice cream parlor and another enduring Old City Philadelphia landmark purchased the confectionery from the Shane family and restored the shop impeccably close to it's original state. Not only have the brothers perfected the details of the candies available for purchase that are displayed in vintage jars but you are also in for another treat as shopkeepers donned in wardrobe from the colonial early 1900's effortlessly float behind the hardwood display cases selected a century earlier by Edward Shane.





When candy first came to America, it was considered a luxury and only attainable by the rich. As a Philadelphia native like Shane's and history buff with an insatiable sweet tooth, I thought, "How exciting would it be if I were photographed as a high-society glamour bunny in one of the most delicious places in the United States!" More fitting is the similarity in the complex but sweet description of the brother's signature Whirley Berley Bars and my own unique approach to the classy but sexy aura of pin-up along with the hopes of inspiring other women who feel they don't fit the pin-up mold.

I have yet to feel as pleasantly challenged as the day I stepped into Shane's Confectionery prepared for a rousing experience of posing while being intoxicated by the decadent aroma of chocolate in the candy-making kitchen on the second floor. I'm not embarrassed to reveal that between the clicks of the camera I found myself eyeing which candies I planned on devouring during my drive home! The nostalgia of it all makes Shane's quite unforgettable and hopefully inspiring to anyone who doubts there are indeed moments when you can have it all!





# Great British... *Sunday Lunch*

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"The Great British Sunday Lunch is a great event to get behind – it's for a wonderful cause providing vital support to RAF families when they need it most. What better excuse do you need to get your loved ones together for a delicious roast? I'll be hosting my own Great British Sunday Lunch with my family to support the event, and we'll be tucking in to some lovely braised shoulder of lamb!"

## BRAISED SHOULDER OF SPRING LAMB

From Le Gavroche Cookbook –  
Credit: Weidenfeld & Nicolson  
Serves 6

2 shoulders of baby lamb  
Olive oil  
24 button onions  
Sea salt

3 cloves of garlic, chopped  
1 teaspoon cumin seeds  
1 chilli, cut in half lengthways, seeds removed  
3 plum tomatoes, peeled, deseeded and chopped  
100ml Madeira  
Generous pinch of saffron strands  
200ml fresh orange juice  
500ml chicken stock

Heat the oven to 190c/375 F/gas mark 5. Take a flameproof casserole with plenty of room to hold the two shoulders laid flat, place over high heat and add a generous amount of olive oil. Brown the lamb well on both sides.

Lower the heat to moderate and add the peeled button onions and a little sea salt; shake the pan from time to time so that the onions start to get a good colour. After about

5 minutes add the garlic, cumin seeds, chilli and tomatoes, stir well and increase the heat to high. Pour in the Madeira and the saffron, and when they come to the boil add the orange juice and chicken stock. Bring back to the boil, then partially cover the pan and place in the oven for 1 hour. Stir and turn the meat occasionally.

Leave to cool completely, then remove the lamb and place in the refrigerator for 1 hour.

Using a heavy knife or cleaver, cut the shoulders into three at the joints.

To serve: Reheat the meat in a non-stick pan with a little olive oil until caramelized. Remove the chilli from the sauce, then reheat the sauce until piping hot. Pour the sauce over the meat and serve with couscous.

## WHITE CHICKEN STOCK

Makes about 4 litres  
2kg chicken bones or wing tips  
1 calf's foot, split  
5 litres water  
1 onion  
1 small leek  
2 sticks of celery  
2 sprigs of thyme  
6 parsley stalks

Place the bones and calf's foot in a large saucepan, cover with the water and bring to the boil. Skim off the scum and fat that come to the surface. Turn the heat down, add the remaining ingredients and simmer for 1 ½ hours, skimming occasionally. Pass through a fine sieve and leave to cool. This can be kept in the refrigerator for up to 5 days, or frozen.









# 3 Easy Vintage Jam Recipes

WORDS & PHOTOS: CATHERINE BECK

**V**intage recipe books are packed with recipes for jams, pickles and chutneys. In a time before freezers and often fridges, preserving was a great way to make a seasonal harvest of fruit or vegetables last a little bit longer.

Luckily for us modern jam makers, most fruit and veg is available all year round, be it fresh or frozen, which also means we can make delicious jams at any time of year. Of course if you grow your own, these fabulous jam recipes can be stored away until your crops are ready. Why not gather a group of friends together WI style and share your ingredients to make a big batch of different jams.

Traditional recipes usually call for large quantities, to make jam

in batches. I've created these recipes to make just two jars of each, if you want to make more just double the quantities.

## USEFUL EQUIPMENT FOR JAM MAKING

Saucepan  
Jam thermometer  
Wooden spoon  
Jam jars  
Wax discs  
Labels

## BLACKBERRY AND APPLE JAM

You will need:  
250g blackberries  
90g chopped cooking apples  
2 tbsp water  
Jam sugar  
Muslin bag (for rhubarb jam)

Stew the blackberries in half the water until tender. Prepare the apples and stew in the remaining water until tender. Then add the blackberries. Weigh the mixture and add an equal quantity of sugar. Stir over a low heat

until dissolved. Bring to the boil and continue to heat until it reaches setting point (105°C). Pour into jars and cover with a wax disc. Once cooled add the jar lid, label and date.

## RHUBARB JAM

You will need:  
400g rhubarb  
350g jam sugar  
2 tbsp water  
Juice and rind of 1 lemon

Cut the rhubarb into chunks and cook in the water and lemon juice. Also add the rind which should be placed inside a muslin bag. Bring to the boil, stirring to avoid the fruit sticking to the pan. Remove the bag of peel. Stir in the sugar and simmer until completely dissolved. Boil the mixture until it thickens and reaches setting temperature. Pour into your jars and cover with a wax disc.

Once cooled add the jar lid, label and date.

## PLUM JAM

You will need:  
500g plums  
500g jam sugar  
100ml water

Simmer the plums in the water until the skins start to peel and the fruit becomes tender. Add the sugar and simmer gently until fully dissolved. Bring to the boil and continue to heat until setting temperature is reached. Remove the plum stones from the mixture. Pour into jars and cover with a wax disc. Once cooled add the jar lid, label and date.

## HOW TO STERILISE JAM JARS

Jam jars should always be sterilised before use. To do this rinse the jars and while still wet place on a baking tray. Place into an oven heated to 140°C for about 15 minutes.





## FOUR CLASSIC TEATIME CAKES







WORDS & PHOTOS: CATHERINE BECK



CATHERINE  
BECK

Has a passion for the past, which began as a child helping in her Grandparents' antique shop. She collects vintage recipe books and kitchenalia and loves to recreate vintage recipes. She writes about all things vintage on her blog Vintage Frills.

In the past tea and cake was a big part of everyday life. It was normal to always have a cake stored away in a tin, ready to be served with a big pot of tea. These days cake is seen as more of a treat and afternoon tea is a far more lavish affair.

Vintage recipe books are full of classic cakes that are simple and easy to make and don't use too many hard to find ingredients. These four cakes are all popular classics and take very little time to prepare. They are all smaller versions of the original larger cakes and work really well together as an alternative to the more modern cupcake. All recipes require a 6 inch cake tin.

#### 1. Date and Walnut Cake

Ingredients:  
170g plain flour  
Pinch of salt  
65g butter  
70g sugar  
A pinch of grated nutmeg  
½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
1 teaspoon cream of tartar  
60g chopped dates  
25g chopped walnuts  
1 egg  
30ml milk  
Half walnuts to decorate

1. Preheat oven to 190°C
2. Sift the flour and salt into a large mixing bowl.
3. Rub in the butter.
4. Add the other dry ingredients.
5. Mix in the eggs and milk.
6. Pour into a greased cake tin
7. Top with a few halved walnuts.
8. Bake for around 40 mins reducing the temp to 170°C after 15 minutes.

#### 2. Spice Cake

Ingredients:  
120g plain flour  
Small pinch of salt  
45g butter  
½ teaspoon of mixed spice  
45g sugar  
½ teaspoon of baking powder  
1 egg  
30ml milk

1. Preheat oven to 190°C.
2. Sift the flour salt and spice into a

- large mixing bowl.
3. Rub in the butter.
4. Add the sugar and baking powder.
5. Mix in the egg and milk.
6. Pour into a greased baking tin.
7. Bake for around 40 minutes until golden.
8. Sprinkle with a little icing sugar and ground nutmeg once cooled.

#### 3. Cherry Cake

Ingredients:  
120g butter  
85g caster sugar  
2 eggs beaten  
170g plain flour  
Small pinch of salt  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
Grated rind of half a lemon  
60g glace cherries cut into quarters  
30ml milk  
Icing, cherries and flaked almonds to decorate

1. Preheat oven to 170°C.
2. Cream the butter and sugar until pale.
3. Gradually add the beaten eggs.
4. Sift in the dry ingredients and mix in with the lemon rind.
5. Mix in the chopped cherries along with the milk.
6. Pour into a lined cake tin.
7. Bake for around 45 mins until golden.
8. Decorate with white icing, halved cherries and almond flakes once cooled.

#### 4. Orange Cake

Ingredients:  
100g butter  
100g caster sugar  
2 eggs  
170g plain flour  
Small pinch of salt  
½ teaspoon of baking powder  
1 small orange

1. Preheat oven to 170°C.
2. Cream the fat and sugar until pale.
3. Add the beaten eggs a little at a time.
4. Sift in the dry ingredients.
5. Add the rind and juice from the orange and mix well.
6. Pour into a lined cake tin.
7. Bake for 40 minutes until golden.
8. Sprinkle with a little caster sugar to serve.



# Afternoon Tea at

**WORDS AND PHOTOS:**  
CATHERINE BECK @VINTAGE\_FRILLS



## TEA ON THE PANTILLES



Afternoon teas are not just reserved for big hotels and larger well known venues. Some of the nicest vintage tearooms can be found out in the suburbs and it's always a treat to discover the hidden gems serving the very best tea and cake.

One such tearoom is Tea on The Pantilles, an adorable little haven tucked away in Bexleyheath, just outside London.

The tearoom is owned by Jackie and Vanessa, who gave up their careers in health and education to start a tea party business. Using their vast collection of vintage crockery and baking skills learnt from their mothers and grandmothers, the business was a huge success. Soon they decided that the next step was to open their own tearoom and Tea on the Pantilles was born. It is now a successful business and a favourite

amongst locals.

Décor is always an important factor in any afternoon tea experience and Tea on the Pantilles did not disappoint. The interior is traditional and homely and packed with old-fashioned charm. All the furniture is original vintage and the lovely fireplace with comfy armchairs gave everything a very cosy feel.

The staff were really chatty and friendly; they talked us through the menu and helped us choose the perfect mini afternoon tea. We opted for the taster tea, a mini version of their full afternoon tea. This came with a pot of tea of our choice, along with sandwiches and a scone with clotted cream and jam.

The food was all delicious and the scone was still warm from the oven. Everything was served on beautiful mismatched vintage china, which went perfectly with the crisp antique

table linen. The taster tea cost just £7, which was amazing value for wonderful service and beautiful food.

An afternoon tea here is a full vintage experience and it was the perfect way to spend an afternoon with a friend. As well as the taster tea, which is available for walk-ins, they also offer a full afternoon tea, which is bookable. The venue can also be hired out for events with full catering and would be perfect for a birthday party or baby shower.

I will definitely be back to try more from the menu and to see the lovely staff again. This was an all round excellent experience and I couldn't recommend it enough.

Tea on the Pantilles  
6 the Pantiles  
Bexleyheath  
DA7 5HD  
[www.teaonthepantilles.co.uk](http://www.teaonthepantilles.co.uk)



In this section

# CULTURE







**CARRIE-ANN  
DRING**

A vintage style blogger at Something Definitely Happened, and puts her passion for vintage down to her love of history, fashion and stories. And shopping – she likes that too.

## This month in history

# MARCH

AH, MARCH. THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING HAVE SPRUNG, AND IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR A SPRING CLEAN. BUT WHAT'S HAPPENED IN MARCH THROUGHOUT HISTORY, WE HEAR YOU ASK? WE'VE ROUNDED UP A SELECTION OF KEY EVENTS FROM ACROSS THE YEARS:

### 1920s

- On 17 March 1921, Dr Marie Stopes opened Britain's first family planning clinic in London with her husband, offering a free service to married women.

### 1930s

- Charles Lindbergh III, son of famous aviator Charles Lindbergh and his wife Anne, was kidnapped on 1 March 1932. 'The Lindbergh Baby' was taken from his room in New Jersey and a ransom of \$50,000 demanded by the kidnappers. Three days later, another request – this time for \$70,000 – was made. After the ransom was delivered, the baby's body was found less than a mile from his home.

### 1940s

- Two months after rationing was introduced in Britain, meat was included from 1 March 1940. Sticking with the theme, it was on 15 March 1949 – almost four years after the war ended – that clothes rationing finally finished.

### 1950s

- On 9 March 1959, the first Barbie doll went on display at the American Toy Fair in New York. Since then, more than 800 million Barbies have been sold around the world.

### 1960s

- On 10 March 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of Dr Martin Luther King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Three days later, he attempted to withdraw his plea, but his request was denied. During the 1990s, Dr King's family spoke publicly in support of Ray, but while the assassination has been re-examined several times, all have concluded that Ray killed Dr King.

### 1970s

- Queen Elizabeth II became the first monarch to send an email on 26 March 1976 during a visit to an army base.

Are there any to add, readers?

Join the conversation on our Facebook page – search 'Vintage Life'



SHUTTERSTOCK/WHO IS DANNY



**S**o you've just got engaged, you've set a date and the invites are in the post. You've picked a vintage theme for your big day and organised a venue and caterers, your dress is ordered and the florist sorted. It is all systems go for the big day and everything is on track.

What about the music? I've been DJing at vintage themed weddings for many years and there are one or two pitfalls that you may not have considered. This is where a good DJ can be the difference between an ordinary celebration and a truly memorable day.

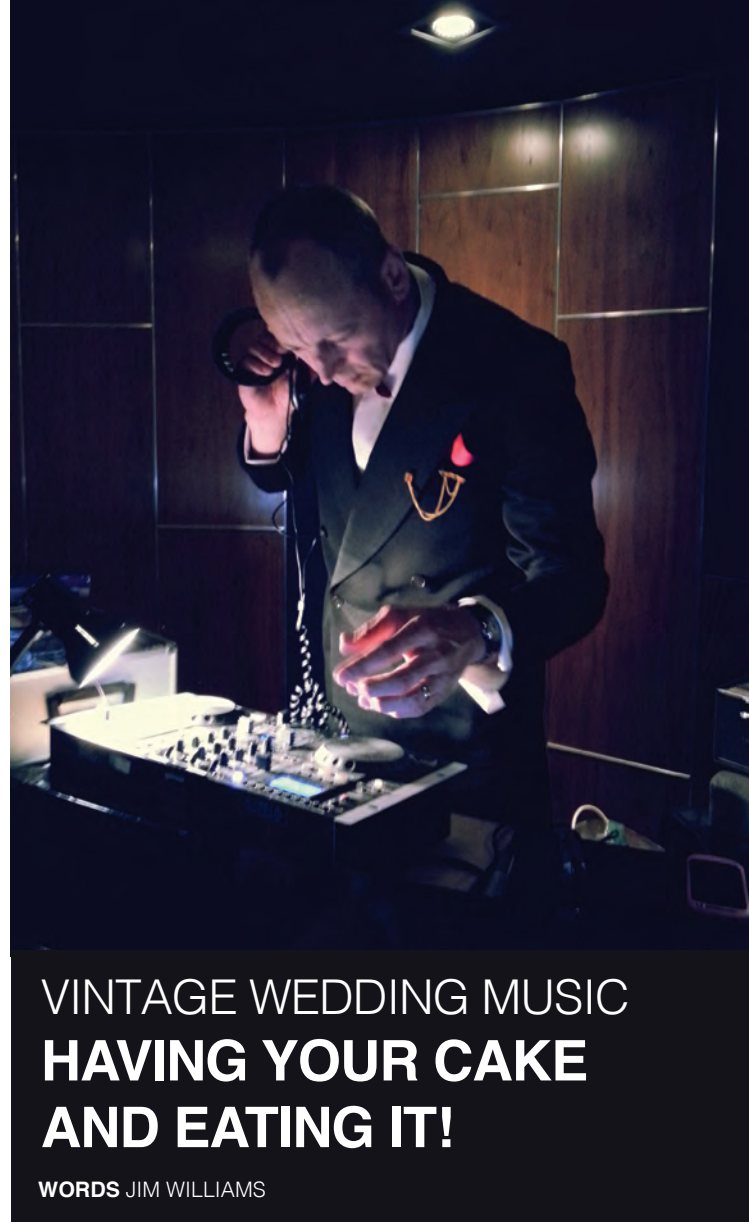
Firstly there's the dancing. You might think this is obvious but it's not always as straightforward as you first think. Assuming you are a lifelong devotee of the 30s and have a huge collection of music from that decade, it is natural for you to want to express this love in the theme of your big day, so you hire a vintage DJ, possibly one who plays shellac on period record players. All is good and on the day the soundtrack is cracking. I have DJ'ed at some beautifully decorated and stunning venues where the guests have bought into the theme, the bride looked gorgeous and the groom cut a dash. I've played all the killer dance tracks the happy couple asked me to play but... the dance floor remained empty. From my experience there is no doubt that the right music can only enhance this experience – up to a point! Unless you and all of your guests are heavily into the vintage scene, it is unlikely that everyone will be able to get up and dance in a period style that befits the occasion. Guests will sit, enjoy the music and will tap their toes to the beat but to create a full on and unforgettable party atmosphere, you may wish to consider not being absolutely authentic to your chosen era. There – I've said it!

I'm an experienced vintage DJ and can guarantee that there is a core of tunes that time after time will fill the floor. In the Mood never fails and neither does Rock Around the Clock, Shake Rattle and Roll or Goody Goody to name but four, but if you've got five hours to fill, those four tracks will start to wear thin – my point being that unless people can dance or feel

confident to wing it, then the floor will remain empty. Trust me, that is not a good thing. You want and deserve your wedding to be the best, most fun party you've ever experienced, am I right? I've played to empty floors at gorgeous weddings because the guests were unable to jive or foxtrot to the music I was playing. The guests were enjoying themselves but just weren't confident enough to get up and give it a go. You could hire a dance teacher and hold a taster lesson before the music starts but to be honest, your wedding breakfast isn't the time or place for that.

So, what do I suggest? Well why not go retro and vintage? Throw in some Motown, some Glam Rock or Disco. Mix in some 80s and some party classics and wham... you've got the perfect mix of styles. Play the old school swing early on and blend in the retro sounds as the night progresses. If you ask me nicely, I may even play a Bieber (it'd have to be really nice though) or a Little Mix track. Please trust me here, you might want a vintage theme and you may set one up but unless I fill the floor, your reception will be a disappointment.

Another suggestion I'd make is to ask the DJ to include a playlist of your favourite tracks, what I call your 'must haves'. Every family has songs that they all love and I've known the bride or groom's family get up and do a routine to some obscure stuff! However most good DJs will accommodate your choices – you are paying their wages after all and it's your wedding. Don't ask for Old Shep though, even if it was your Granddads' favourite, it tends to kill the mood! Remember that this isn't a disco you've paid to enter, like I keep saying, it's your wedding so lay some ground rules. I like to work with the happy couple to ensure that they pick songs that mean something to them or for a special loved one, or to enhance a memory. This is especially true of the first dance. Here, the wrong track choice can come back to haunt you, remember the first dance will be videoed so please pick something classic and timeless. Don't embarrass your kids; they'll not thank you. If you aren't sure what you want, talk it over with your DJ and ask for suggestions. Oh, and don't



## VINTAGE WEDDING MUSIC HAVING YOUR CAKE AND EATING IT!

WORDS JIM WILLIAMS

ever leave the DJ to decide what your first dance will be, clients of mine did this once and despite months of asking they steadfastly declined to suggest a tune. So on the day I played what I thought would be a suitable track only to discover that the bride hated the song. No DJ wants to find themselves in that position.

Lastly if you are having a band and a DJ, please email both with their respective contact details. This will ensure a seamless meshing of both acts and ensure no dead air or technical hiccups on the night. I'm happy to report that on every occasion when I've worked with a band bar one, its gone very well – there will always be an exception and at one wedding many years ago the band thought they were headlining at Glastonbury and insisted that I stop playing while they sound checked. This went on for around 35 minutes – trust me, 35 minutes of testing 1,2,1,2 and the same 12 bars over and over was a struggle!

So there we have it, go vintage but keep it retro, build in your must

haves, pick a killer first dance and let the band and DJ talk before the day. Easy. What can go wrong?

Oh and I'm available for weddings-[www.mr-tunes-vintage-dj.co.uk](http://www.mr-tunes-vintage-dj.co.uk)



**JIM WILLIAMS**

Host of Swing Time on Hoxtonradio.com in London and Racketeer Radio in Seattle. His passion is swing, jazz, blues, R&B, shuffle & jump blues. All backed up by the history of each genre and the artists involved.





**CHRIS WHITE**

Chris has accumulated 30 years of music industry experience and can be found stage-managing the incredible performers at The War & Peace Revival, The Military World Show, and most recently, the Liberty Stage at Twinwood Festival. Over the coming months Chris will bring you the best music in the current UK vintage scene.

## Vintage Trio **THE BLUEBIRD BELLES**

I FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE BLUEBIRD BELLES ON YOU TUBE AND FACEBOOK. I WAS DRAWN TOWARDS THE GIRLS' PERFORMANCES DRESSED IN WAAF WW2 PERIOD UNIFORMS, 1940S TEA DRESSES AND FABULOUS 50S FROCKS. THEY CERTAINLY LOOKED AS GLAMOROUS AS THEY SOUNDED.

AS A TEENAGER IN THE 1980S I WAS A FAN OF ACTS LIKE BANANARAMA, THE HUMAN LEAGUE AND TOYAH PERFORMING ON TOP OF THE POPS. HAD I FOUND A NEW VINTAGE-INSPIRED POP ACT IN THE MAKING? I WAS HOOKED AND STAYED IN TOUCH WITH THEM, BEING IMPRESSED WITH THE HARD WORK THEY PUT IN ALONG WITH THE SHEER NUMBER OF GIGS THEY PLAYED LAST YEAR. SIMILAR TO THE ACTS I LOVED IN THE 80S THE BLUEBIRD BELLES ARE THE POP STARS OF THE VINTAGE SCENE.

### **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GROUP?**

The Bluebird Belles are a professional 1940s and vintage vocal harmony trio from the West Midlands. Inspired by The Andrews Sisters and specializing in retro sounds from the 1920s right up to the present day, we perform nationwide and have sung at some of the largest 1940s and vintage events in the country. Fate threw us together when starting this group as we were all in a really good position to put a lot of time and effort into making it something special. Beth and Vicky met around five years ago, although they didn't really start a friendship until 2015 when they met Abbi through a mutual friend who was teaching at the University of Wolverhampton, where Abbi gained her degree in Popular Music. We were all united by a love of vintage and vocal harmony – the rest is history!

### **WHAT IS YOUR PERFORMING BACKGROUND?**

We all have very different performing backgrounds which we think work well to give us our unique

Bluebird Belles package: Beth has a Musical Theatre based background, having been performing in and writing shows since she was five; Vicky comes from a very talented musical family and has performed in numerous dance shows and competitions and Abbi is an accomplished songwriter and guitarist, as well as a superb vocalist!

### **WHAT INFLUENCES YOU?**

We're fortunate in that our personal interests collectively cover most eras and aspects of the vintage scene! Beth's enthusiasm lies with 1940s fashion, music and history; Vicky loves the 1950s-pinup style; and Abbi is a huge fan of 1960s music and fashion. Our repertoire and stage outfits cover these eras which keeps our performances fresh and interesting week to week.

### **DESCRIBE YOUR LIVE PERFORMANCES...**

Interactive, fun and professional! We love to involve an audience in what we do – our aim is to get people



tapping their feet and jiggling in their seats, if not up and throwing some shapes on the dance floor and having a wonderful time – we haven't failed yet!

### **YOU WEAR AUTHENTIC WAAF UNIFORMS, HOW DID YOU RESEARCH THEM AND ANY TIPS FOR PEOPLE STARTING OUT WHO WANT TO REENACT THE 1940s SCENE?**

We do take pride in the fact that we wear our uniforms correctly. Beth owns two WAAF uniforms, one is an original from 1943 so we had that on which to base our replica uniforms. For anyone looking to start re-enacting, our tip is to just do your research before buying! There are plenty of books in the library and websites online; the information isn't hard to find! It's also the little touches, like making sure your brass buttons are polished, that add to the overall look. We regularly meet ex-WAAFs and other wartime servicewomen on our travels and it really makes us smile when they say 'I remember wearing this uniform' before going on to tell us stories from that time.

### **WHAT ARE YOUR INFLUENCES?**

We have so many, but most notably The Andrews Sisters – they were fun, charming and cheeky and won the hearts of many during their singing years! Their harmonies are just to die for. We try and get them as close as we possibly can – sometimes the vocal lines are so close that their voices just seem to blend into one, being sisters and all. Magical! Then we are also inspired by artists like The Puppini Sisters, Caro Emerald and Imelda May, who have taken vintage and made it current and relevant to people of today. You can tell we have hugely broad musical tastes by the amount of eras and artists that we cover, from The Chordettes and Connie Francis through to Ray Charles, Jackie Wilson and the Drifters. Abbi is particularly fond (slight understatement) of The Beatles, Vicky loves her divas (from Celine through to Beyoncé) and Beth sings musical theatre and opera away from the group, so we pretty much have every genre covered between us!

### **WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR 2017?**

We already have a jam-packed diary which is filling up by the week! This year we're looking forward to returning to the 1940s events, as well as a trip overseas (more to be revealed soon!). We'll be performing at some weddings in the most beautiful locations, and recording our purely-1940s CD which has been requested time and time again. We're so looking forward to another year together doing what we love

and sprinkling three-part harmony magic all around the country!

### **CAN READERS FIND OUT MORE?**

You can find out more on our: Website – [www.thebluebirdbelles.co.uk](http://www.thebluebirdbelles.co.uk) / Facebook – [www.facebook.com/thebluebirdbelles](https://www.facebook.com/thebluebirdbelles) & Twitter – [www.twitter.com/bluebirdbelles](https://www.twitter.com/bluebirdbelles) We also have Instagram, YouTube and SoundCloud – do subscribe or follow us to keep up to date with what we're doing!

### **QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS**

#### **BETH**

Best gig: Great Central Railway 1940s Weekend. Likes: Musical Theatre. Dislikes: negativity! When you are not working what do you do: Spend time with friends and family, and my puppy Bertie! Favourite person in the world would be: Joanna Lumley. Most frightening experiences: Singing above a top C live, and flying on stage! Ambitions & fantasies: To see more of the world. Favourite animal: Dog – specifically my own! Favourite food and drinks: Chocolate and prosecco. Favourite song and group: Afternoon Delight – Starland Vocal Band. Favourite film stars & films: Mitzi Gaynor in South Pacific.

#### **ABBI**

Best gig: 1940s Weekend at The Black Country Living Museum. Likes and dislikes: Likes – Finding peculiar vintage items! Dislikes – Baked beans! When you are not working what do you do: Collect and listen to records. Favourite person in the world would be: George Harrison. Most frightening experiences: Anything that involves spiders. Ambitions & fantasies: To travel as much as possible! Favourite animal: Panda. Favourite food and drinks: Pizza and Tia Maria! Favourite song and group: Tomorrow Never Knows – The Beatles. Favourite film stars & films: Michael Caine in Alfie.

#### **VICKY**

Best gig: Manchester Airport. Likes and dislikes: Likes – Cosy nights in watching films. Dislikes – Fish and hot weather! When you are not working what do you do: Spend time with family, listen to music. Favourite person in the world would be: Celine Dion. Most frightening experiences: Singing live for the first time. Ambitions & fantasies: Play Velma Kelly in Chicago. Favourite animal: Cat. Favourite food and drinks: Crisps and Pepsi Max. Favourite song and group: The Supremes – too many songs to choose from! Favourite film stars & films: Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, Sister Act, The Shawshank Redemption.







# THE SISTERHOOD...

SOMETHING THAT IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF BEING A TOOTSIE IS THE SISTERHOOD. THIS CAN MEAN MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE BUT FUNDAMENTALLY IT'S WOMEN RAISING OTHER WOMEN UP. IT'S COMPLIMENTING A STRANGER ON HER BLOW DRY, IT'S STANDING SIDE BY SIDE TO PROTEST WHEN FEMALE RIGHTS ARE ENDANGERED, IT'S THE SMILE OF UNDERSTANDING TO THE NEW MUM WITH THE SCREAMING BABY IN THE COFFEE SHOP... IT'S ALWAYS CHAMPIONING FELLOW WOMEN. IT'S THE BIG AND THE SMALL THINGS, BUT IT ALL COMES BACK TO EMPOWERING EACH OTHER.

Obviously we have to give a shout out to one of our current female icons ADELE, who encompassed this at her Grammy acceptance speech. She took her moment and used it to talk about Beyoncé and her brilliance, to thank her for being a life long inspiration and for creating such art with her music. Then she broke off a piece of her Grammy award for Queen Bey! It was perfect. Beyoncé has 22 Grammys of her own, she didn't need Adele to do that in any way... But that's what the Sisterhood means. You empower each other when ever you can - whether the support is needed or not. Watching such love and

respect between these two female musical titans brought tears to our eyes at Tootsie Towers...

It's easy to underestimate the simple act of showing support - standing up and speaking out. We are inspired by the story of Marilyn Monroe insisting Ella Fitzgerald played the infamous Mocambo Jazz club. Here is the story told by the incredible Ella herself...

"I owe Marilyn Monroe a real debt ... she personally called the owner of the Mocambo, and told him she wanted me booked immediately, and if he would do it, she would take a front table every night. She told him - and it was true, due to Marilyn's superstar status - that the press would go wild.

"The owner said yes, and Marilyn was there, front table, every night. The press went overboard. After that, I never had to play a small jazz club again. She was an unusual woman - a little ahead of her times. And she didn't know it."

So this month we urge you to be active in your Sisterhood. Tell your best friends they are awesome just because they are. Go and support each other's new projects, see their gigs, retweet their blogs, go wild on the Instagram hearts. Now taking inspiration from Mean Girls... When you can, take the crown life has handed to you, break it in to pieces and split it. Share the love - you'll be amazed at how much comes back to you!



IN THE 1941 FILM NOIR *I WAKE UP SCREAMING* CAROLE LANDIS PLAYS VICKY LYNN, A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN WHO SEEMS TO HAVE IT ALL. IN FACT SHE IS THE VICTIM; THE FILM STARTS WITH NEWS OF HER DEATH SPLASHED ACROSS THE FRONT PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPERS. LANDIS WAS JUST 22 AND ALREADY A MUCH LOVED HOLLYWOOD STAR.

# CAROLE LANDIS

## SILVER SCREEN STARS

**B**orn Frances Lillian Ridste in 1919, her mother's husband left the family shortly before her birth and may not have been her biological father. Frances was born in rural Wisconsin in the home of her maternal grandparents who were Polish immigrants, but her mother took the family to Montana shortly after Frances' birth to rejoin and marry the man who may have been Frances' biological father. They divorced within two years.

The family, including Frances' older sister and two older brothers, moved to San Bernardino. In a 1948 interview her mother Clara described, "the big ones looking after the little ones and all four looking after Mommie, who was sure to come home from work tired." Tragedy struck the family in 1925 when her eleven year old brother accidentally shot and killed himself whilst playing with a pistol.

At the age of seven Frances attended an amateur night at a local theatre and sang in public for the first time, after which her mind was made up. She knew then that she wanted to be a singer and a movie star. In her early teens Frances competed in – and won – several local beauty contests, lying about her age to get in. When she had just turned 15 she met – and married – a would-be writer and movie extra, Irving Wheeler. Her furious mother had the marriage annulled after a few days, but Frances appealed to her father who allowed her to remarry. The marriage lasted for less than a month.

Still only 15, Frances saved up her wages from her part-time job on a hamburger stand and

went alone to San Francisco, where she began her career in showbusiness. She reinvented herself by combining two of her passions – movies and baseball – and renamed herself "Carole" after Carole Lombard, and "Landis" after baseball commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis. She also bleached her naturally brown hair blonde.

During her first few weeks in San Francisco, the newly named Carole worked as a hula dancer before getting work as a singer in various nightclubs around town. By the time she was 17 Carole was the lead singer of the Carl Ravazza Orchestra. She didn't rest on the laurels of her quick success but left the orchestra after just six months to try her luck in Hollywood.

Within her first year in Hollywood, Carole had minor roles in upwards of 20 films and a contract after just six months. No one seems to doubt that the 17 year old was given many of these roles in return for sexual favours for the predatory casting men and directors of the studios. Her contract with Warner Bros. was the result of a liaison with the five-times-married notorious womaniser and legendary choreographic director Busby Berkeley. There were also rumours that Carole worked as a call-girl. When Carole got her big break in *1 Million BC* in 1940 wearing a skimpy cave girl costume there was little pretence that her success in the film was owed to anything other than her physical attributes. Her next contract, at Twentieth Century Fox, was as a result of her affair with studio boss Darryl Zanuck. It was here that studio executive Milton Sperling came to dub Carole the "studio hooker," a

reputation that remained with her throughout her short life, making her constant fodder for Hollywood's gossip writers.

In a 1940 article published in *Motion Picture* magazine, Carole spoke of how she wanted to be known for her talent rather than her looks. Regardless of this the (female) journalist, Gladys Hall started the article by listing Carole's physical statistics (height, bust, waist, hips, lower arm, thigh, calf, ankle, upper arm, wrist) in almost medical detail. Hall then went into a brief rapture over Carole's "pale-gold hair, gray-blue eyes, one of those milky skins you'd love to touch, oh, and how!" before listing her weight, shoe, hat and glove sizes.

Carole poured her heart out in a revealing 1941 interview, again with Hall, saying "Every girl in the world wants to find the right man... The glamour and the tinsel, the fame and the money mean very little if there is a hurt in the heart... If glamour girls are so smart, so shrewd, so devastating to men, why don't we have home and love and marriage? Or having them, why don't we hold them?"

Carole married yacht broker Wallis Hunt in 1940, but left him after just two months. During World War Two she travelled extensively to entertain the troops and met husband number three, Captain Thomas Wallace, an American pilot, whilst touring in England in 1942. She later wrote a book about her exploits on tour called *Four Jills in a Jeep*, which was made into a film in 1944, in which she played herself. During a later tour in the jungles of the South Pacific islands Carole caught malaria and dysentery, causing an ulcerated stomach that was

to torment her for the rest of her life. After her return to America she divorced Wallace and within months married banking heir Horace Schmidlapp.

In the spring of 1947 Carole began an affair with another notorious womaniser, Rex Harrison, who was married at the time to Lilli Palmer, the second of his six wives. Carole was deeply in love with Harrison and believed that he would leave his wife for her. They spent the evening of 4th July 1948 together and Harrison told Carole that he would not leave his wife. Her body was found by Harrison and her maid the following afternoon. Carole had committed suicide by taking a drug overdose.

A quote from Carole's 1941 interview with Hall gives a small insight into her psyche and goes some way to explaining her death seven years later, "Being a glamour girl doesn't help any. I can only do what other girls do, cry my eyes out at night, hope and pray, pretend I don't care."

Carole Landis was a beautiful young woman who seemed to have it all, she was just twenty nine when news of her death was splashed across the front pages of the newspapers.



**KATRINA SIMPSON**

Katrina Simpson is a writer, teacher and bibliophile. She has loved vintage films since the age of five when she saw her first Doris Day musical.



# Stick your nose in a **GOOD BOOK**



## **STITCH, FABRIC AND THREAD**

*By Elizabeth Healey*

This book takes a look at various sewing techniques which can be used to create new designs or incorporated into old ones to give them a different look. There is a handy guide as to which items make up a basic sewing kit, which items are recommended, and details of how a sewing machine works. There is also a lovely suggestion of keeping a sketchbook so that ideas can be explored and the progress of an item or garment can be recorded. The book then goes on to look at

experimental projects that enable different stitches to be explored.

For beginner sewers, there are handy thread, fabric and colour guides. There are some fantastically different techniques featured to have a go at, such as creating varsity letters, experimenting with ink and bleach, using natural dyes, making pretty Dorset buttons and shibori. There are also some curious techniques explored such as mudlarking – sewing ‘found’ trinkets such as shells, coins and bits of pottery onto a garment or item.

This book is ideal for sewers or for those who like to create their own garments and home textiles.



## **FREEFORM CROCHET WITH CONFIDENCE**

*By Carol Meldrum*

If you have ever wanted to take up crochet as a hobby, then this is the book for you! Beginning with a comprehensive ‘Getting Started’ section that focusses on types of yarn and their weights, an equipment guide, abbreviation key and examples of different stitches and techniques, the book goes on to share 30 different projects to undertake, including scarves, table mats, cushions, hats and more. Each project is clearly

set out and easy to follow - there are details of the materials and equipment needed, pattern notes, details on sizing and step by step instructions. There are also lots of colour photographs that show the details of each item. The book is geared for all abilities - confident crocheters will be able to follow the patterns with ease, while beginners are also catered for with easy to follow stitching tutorials that can be mastered before getting underway with the projects featured. The different projects vary from simple to detailed too.





# VINTAGE IN PRAGUE

BACK IN DECEMBER, A BLOGGER FRIEND ([DOESMYBLOGMAKEMELOOKFAT.COM](http://DOESMYBLOGMAKEMELOOKFAT.COM)) AND I VISITED PRAGUE FOR THREE DAYS FOR THE CHRISTMAS MARKETS. WHILST WE WERE THERE, WE VISITED THE NÁRODNÍ MUSEUM ON VINOHRADSKÁ 1, WHERE WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT AN AMAZING RETRO EXHIBITION WAS ON SHOW.

WORDS AND IMAGES: TANYA BRANNAN

**N**ow of course, loving our retro stylings we duly visited it to see what it was all about. I have to say, we were really pleasantly surprised by what we found! My phone almost melted at the amount of photographs I took as it really was an amazing collection.

The exhibition is split into two sections; the first is clothing and accessories, the second lifestyle including children's toys and technology.

The first section really was what we had gone there to look at. The stunning dresses, shoes, jewellery, and settings, the history of the garments and their designers. The modern reproductions based on past styles. We couldn't wait to see it all.

We arrived at the museum and purchased a ticket just for the exhibition. It cost approximately 120czk which translates as around £3.80 which was a fabulous price considering the amount of exhibits we would be seeing.

Walking inside we were immediately hit by a large glass display holding around eight or nine dresses. Placards explained what the dresses were, their materials and their date of design.

Many of the outfits were displayed in a diorama where furniture and even the wallpaper that was popular in the day were used. Art Deco chairs, writing desks and even a sports car were all on display.

Many of the description cards had swatches of material for the dresses so you could feel just how the material would be next to your skin. The whole exhibition was very educational with design tips and comparisons made between garments.

One of my favourite sections was a set of shelves holding specific comparisons. A real 40's shoe against a modern day equivalent; A hat from the 30's and one from the 80's. It really showed you how fashion has transcended the years and styles go around in cycles. What was fashionable in the 1940's is doing the rounds again now, nearly 80 years later.



# CULTURE



TANYA BRANNAN

Tanya is a forty something plus size lover of vintage style, music and films and full time wearer of fabulous 40s and 50s fashion. Usually found hunting for the perfect hat or bag to add to her wardrobe. She is also a lifestyle blogger, prolific letter writer and Bibliophile.

There were so many pretty dresses that we fell in love with. Dresses that would not look out of place on a catwalk, or at a dinner party even now. I wished that I had several of them in my wardrobe as I know they would get so much wear.

No fashion style was left out; from bras to crinolines, Duffel coats to Wedding dresses, hats to kimonos. All were included in the exhibition and they left us with severe dress envy. Even the parasols were just too pretty not to want.

I honestly could have spent hours wandering around, admiring the clothing that they had on display. Sadly we soon came to the end of the display. Or so we thought!

Going into a second section we were in an area devoted to lifestyle and family. Most of the displays were interactive, so you could turn items on, write on an old fashioned typewriter and construction toys to make. There were old sewing machines and patterns, televisions and computer consoles from the 1980's.

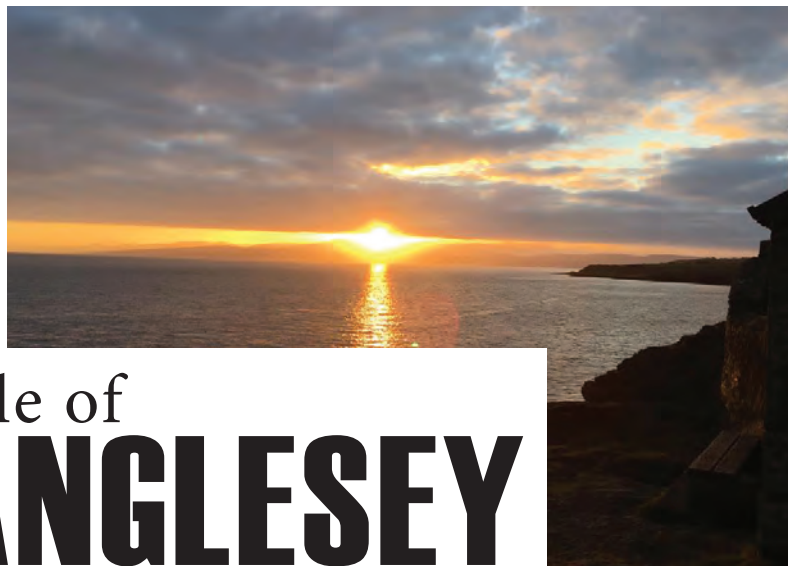
For me, it was like walking back into my childhood in the 80's and 90's. I remember having typing classes at school, and the need for carbon paper. I remember the dial style telephones and the televisions that needed the element to warm up before you got a good picture. It really was like walking back in time.

The exhibition is a fabulous way to spend a couple of hours. Whilst your children might not enjoy the clothing so much, I am pretty sure they will have great fun trying out all the old fashioned equipment such as writing a page on a proper metal typewriter

If you happen to be in Prague between now and the 31st May 2017, you really should pop down to Vinohradská 1 and give the Retro Exhibition a go, especially if you love fashion and lifestyle from all decades.







#### BEXI OWEN

Bexi is a jazz and swing singer travelling the UK and beyond on her musical adventures.

## Isle of ANGLESEY

**T**his month I've been in Wales, more specifically the stunning Isle of Anglesey. For those who may not have visited, Anglesey is an island off the north west coast of Wales, with many beaches awarded the title of 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.' Here are my top vintage picks for Anglesey:

1. Antiques Shops: I love treasure hunting and the island is home to many antique shops, which will satisfy the collector in you!

42A Interiors and Antiques, based by Menai Bridge, houses many jewellery pieces for you to peruse. Anglesey Antiques, found in Benllech Beach stock beautiful Victorian furniture and M. Jones Antiques, which you can find in Beaumaris, specialise in sourcing and restoring

Welsh Country furniture. Whilst you're in Beaumaris, you can also visit the historic 13th Century Beaumaris Castle, which is now a world heritage site.

2. Traditional Crafts: There is so much creativity on the island that continues centuries old traditions. One such business is Blackbird Cottage Crafts, based in the quaint village of Pen-y-Sarn, where Sally Owen honours the work of past generations by using traditional techniques to make beautiful knitted pieces. Sally says she is inspired by the surroundings of Anglesey, "nature's beauty" to preserve the "nostalgia and memories" from the past. You can find Blackbird Cottage Crafts and other artists at many fairs held throughout the year, check [www.dailypost.co.uk/](http://www.dailypost.co.uk/)

whats-on for details of any upcoming events.

3. Tacla Taid, Newborough: There's a permanent museum called Tacla Taid (translates to "Grandad's Museum") situated in the Newborough area of the island, where you'll find an array of old buses, cars and a fab display of motorbikes dating back to the 1920s. The main exhibition is set in a replica of a 1940s street, making it a good trip for those with a particular interest in the wartime era, though there are vehicles from all decades.

4. Vintage Shops: Whilst there aren't any specific vintage clothing shops on Anglesey yet, just off the island, in nearby Bangor, you'll find a lovely vintage shop called Lookachu Vintage on Holyhead Road and several very good charity shops on

Bangor High Street for those of us who love a good browse!

5. Tearooms: After you've explored all the collectables and history, there are several pretty tearooms to take a well-earned rest in, including Ann's Pantry in Moelfre which regularly hosts special afternoon tea events and live music. I have been lucky enough to sample their afternoon tea; it was delicious and they can cater for all dietary needs including vegan and gluten free. Other lovely tearooms on the island to visit include Giddy Aunt's Tearoom in Brynsiencyn and Te Bach Tearooms in Benllech.

For a beautiful seaside break and so much tradition, history and hidden vintage gems, the Isle of Anglesey has so much to offer. Why not go and explore for yourself?



## CULTURE



EMMA EDWARDS

Also known as Miss Bamboo, her alter ego and reproduction vintage clothing label. She has been on the 'vintage scene' since 1983 and adores mid century style and Airstream adventures.

# The Hawaii of Europe **MADEIRA**

OUR MOST RECENT ADVENTURE TOOK US BY PLANE TO ONE OF THE FEW EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS UNREACHABLE BY AIRSTREAM, TO THE 'SUNNY ISLAND' OF MADEIRA – 'THE HAWAII OF EUROPE.'



**M**adeiran born pinup model and tiki enthusiast Carla Lopes Marques (aka Coco Lopes) and partner Martin 'McTiki' McDermott have been well known faces on the UK 'rockin' and tiki scenes, returning to Carla's birthplace to open the first tiki bar on the island. Pukiki bar is based in the lovely area of Calheta and is inspired by the historical links between Hawaii and Madeira, which is often referred to as the 'Hawaii of Europe' due to the similar climate and volcanic origins.

In 1878 Madeira was in serious economic trouble due to the failing grape harvest. Hawaii by contrast was in need of labourers for its growing sugar industry. As Madeira already had a long history in sugar production, it was the perfect place to source the experienced labour it needed and Hawaiian King, Kamehameha, offered land and better working conditions plus free passage for workers and their families. After settling in Hawaii, Madeirans were given the name Pukiki that means Portuguese in Hawaiian.

The Pukiki brought with them not only experience in sugar cane production but also their culture and music, including the Ukulele which is typically associated with Hawaii but is actually the Portuguese instrument known as 'machete'!

While mid-century 'tiki' style has been a long time trend on the 1940s and 50s scene, tiki has become a bit of a buzzword of late and we have seen a recent resurgence in mainstream culture, with the growing number of commercial tiki bars springing up across UK and European cities, including chains such as Lola Lo.

Martin and Carla however, have a real personal passion for tiki and their knowledge of rum and experience in the art of cocktail making, really shine through. Both perfectionists, their cocktails are only made with fresh juices, squeezed everyday by the couple along with their 'dried' fruit garnishes, also lovingly created by their own hands every week. Paying homage to 1930s and 40s





classics from Trader Vic and Don the Beachcomber, with drinks such as the Mai Tai, they have also created their own menu of inspirational cocktails including the 'Atlantic Pearl'. I particularly loved their 'Ukulele' sharer for four people, complete with 4 long straws laid out as the Ukulele strings. Just brilliant! As experienced graphic designers, the couple's artistic skills and flair have also been put to great use in the bar's decor with a wonderful attention to detail.

So, with the history of Madeiran sugar cane production and the rum tiki cocktails at Pukiki, it seemed only fitting to take a visit to the local rum distillery 'Engenhos da Calheta'. You can at times, actually see the locally grown sugar cane being brought in, take a tour and see the old equipment that is still used today in the production of the local white rum 'Aguardente'. You can then sample the local Madeiran rum drink, 'Poncha' and savour a piece of the best Madeira cake on the Island, a great alternative to 'afternoon tea' for sure!

Madeira is also famous for its wicker and it was a pleasure to visit the 'Wicker Village', where you could find practically anything you could think of made in wicker – including an entire wicker zoo of animals and a somewhat random longboat, amongst some very cool mid-century style furniture with hairpin legs and retro 50s style wicker handbags. It was amazing to see the old craftsmen and women at work and we managed to catch a view of a wicker bag in actual production. It would have been rude not to take one home; Carla owns a few as it turns out!

Talking of wicker, another must do vintage tradition is the ride you can take down the mountain side in a wicker sleigh, steered by two men dressed in traditional white attire with vintage style straw boaters! The Monte Toboggan Ride was originally a means of transport down to the capital, Funchal, for people living in the higher region of Monte; the sledges first appearing around 1850. The guys push you down the mountain road in your wicker sledge, using their rubber soled shoes as brakes! At speeds of up to 48 km/hour... a little scary perhaps but pretty good fun nevertheless!

One real surprise while exploring Madeira was the old Art Deco (1933) cinema, nestled on the hillside above Ponta Do Sol. Seemingly derelict and unused, it was good to find out that there are still occasional events hosted at the cinema including the Madeira Micro Film Festival. Its golden days were during the silent film era, when audiences would come from across the island and even arrive by boat to witness the spectacle of the cinema and view the latest films including those of Charlie Chaplin. It became not only a place to watch films but also a meeting place for high society gatherings and parties. It is such a pity that there have not been the investment opportunities needed to restore the cinema back to its former glory.

Madeira is a truly beautiful tropical island, as our vintage travel poster boasts, full of wonderful scenery and the most picturesque spots. With a pinup model to hand and the perfect tropical location, it seemed only right to shoot Miss Bamboo's new ranges for spring and summer! The collection is all made in the UK from vintage patterns or with patterns created from original 1940s and 50s dresses. You can check out the new season from March including two styles of 1940s/50s Hawaiian sarongs and new 50s sundress and bolero sets at [www.missbamboo.co.uk](http://www.missbamboo.co.uk).

Also check out - [www.pukikibar.com](http://www.pukikibar.com)





*CARRIE-ANN DRING*

A vintage style blogger at Something Definitely Happened, and puts her passion for vintage down to her love of history, fashion and stories. And shopping - she likes that too.

## Exploring Britain **WIMPOLE ESTATE**

Somewhere not too deep in the Cambridgeshire countryside, a mere eight-and-a-bit miles from Cambridge, is the Wimpole Estate, including Wimpole Hall. It has several claims to fame; Queen Victoria stayed for two nights in 1843 and Mrs Bambridge, Rudyard Kipling's daughter, gave it to English Heritage in 1976.

It's also somewhere I've been visiting ever since I was a young child. While my childhood memories are firmly centred on the Adventure Playground, my most recent visit was during Wimpole at War, an annual event that takes you back in time with military and civilian re-enactments, plus 1940s fashion and music.

There was tonnes to see and do, including some great live performances to enjoy, and a

ticket to the event entitled you to look around Wimpole Hall, too. My friends and I had a great time variously pretending to be ladies of the house and below stairs staff (we all used to do drama together at school, and can never resist the opportunity to play to the gallery). The Hall has a set route of sorts, which I loved, as it means you know you're not missing anything out, including the 88 lion heads in the Yellow Drawing Room and the 10,000 books nestled in the library.

Once we'd experienced being ladies of the manor, we decided to take a turn around the gardens, which are extensive (ladies, bring flat shoes). We visited in September, when everything was winding down but still pretty, and I'm reliably informed the gardens are at their best in the summer months, when the flowers offer a veritable riot of colour.

The pleasure grounds, for example, contain 180,000 summer bulbs that flower in June, while the 18th century walled garden features the most amazing glasshouse, producing plants and vegetables; we were quite taken with the Harvest Festival display.

A stroll around the gardens was the perfect, relaxing thing to do before lunch, and helped us work up quite an appetite. In a bit of a departure from my previous articles (for those of you keeping up), I decided against the scone and jam, and had a jacket potato. And very nice it was too.

One thing that sets Wimpole Estate apart from other stately homes is Home Farm, one of the largest rare breed centres in the country and where you can find Shire Horses, Shetland ponies, Longhorn and White Park cattle, goats,

pigs and sheep. There's usually someone on hand to teach you more about the different rare breeds and what it's like to look after them every day. If you're anything like me, it's a good idea to leave plenty of time during your visit to talk about - and to - the animals. If they're not your thing, there is still lots to see and explore, including a threshing barn, cart sheds and stables.

One thing to note about Wimpole is that opening times and ticket prices vary; opening times are dependent on the time of year, while ticket prices change depending on how much of the estate you want to see. My recommendation? Check that everything you want to see is open before you set off, and buy the whole estate ticket, which is pricey at £18 per adult (at time of writing and including gift aid), but is well worth it.



*In this section*  
**SOCIETY**







EMMA PRINGLE

Community leader of the 1940s/1950s Most Marvellous Meet Ups

# Most Marvellous MEET UPS

WELCOME BACK VINTAGE LIFE READERS. WOW! WE ARE IN MARCH ALREADY AND SOON TO BE IN FULL VINTAGE SEASON. WE HAVE HAD A FEW GREAT MEET UPS TO TELL YOU ABOUT AND ARE BUSY WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO BRING YOU SOME FUN EVENTS.



This year, we have the return of our Vintage Essex Beano, which will involve us having a good old weekend away on the Essex Coast (think Kent Beano in Only Fools and Horses, but more glamorous!) We will be having bingo, pier rides (vintage of course) dinners, dancing and most of all laughter and loads of fun.

We had our last Beano a couple of years back and had such a wonderful time, that we decided another was long overdue! Please see our group for further details.

This month has also seen us come up with the idea of creating our very own MMM army! Every community should have one; we want to have as many good deeds done as we can but we can't do this without you!

So without further ado, let's hear what our members have been up to...

## NORTH EAST

Nicola, our North East Rep has been busy rocking away at her local meet.

"Recently, we have gathered for a number of meet ups; sometimes we hit the charity shops, looking for bargains and stopping off for a spot of lunch, a cup of tea and a slice of cake. On other occasions we get all dolled up with our swing and wiggle dresses on, ready to dance the night away by visiting the bars where the likes of Ruby and the Mystery Cats, Bernie and the Bluenotes and The Revolutionaires will be playing.

"One of the best meet ups we have had recently happened on 7th January. After checking the gig line ups, I decided to create a meet at The Fat Ox Pub in Whitley Bay. This is a fantastic venue and quite frequently has rock and roll, rockabilly and rhythm and blues bands booked in. The Red Hot Panthers were playing on that night – a band definitely not to be missed. If you get the chance to go see them, make sure you do!

"We also meet on a weekly basis at The Exchange in North Shields for a modern jive class, so we are always able to put our moves into practice on the dance floor.

"Among others, I was joined by Rachel Brown, owner of the Vintage Place Tea Room in North Shields and her amazing jet setting mother, Susan Purvis. I must say that I am honoured to have met such wonderful, beautiful and amazing people in our North East clan. I love you all."

## NORTHAMPTON

Mel, our Northants' rep has been doing what she does best: shopping and meeting up! This time Mel has been scouring for bargains at Vintage Retreat in Northamptonshire.

"I decided to arrange a mini meet up - it was short notice when I posted the details on the MMMU site, only days before the event but I need not have worried, as I had good friend, Sarah in tow.

"Sarah Baker Day and myself ordered a pot of tea and slice of cake from the tearoom, the atmosphere was buzzing with so many customers. Whilst walking around, Dawn Sleet, a fellow member of MMM introduced herself to me – she recognized Sarah and myself from photos on the MMMU group site on Facebook.

"Dawn and her partner had a stall inside the Deco Room, selling vintage clothing and accessories. I purchased a Collectif blouse, Sarah a 1950s powder compact case and the prices were very reasonable. Whilst browsing through lots of beautiful vintage delights, we bumped into three more members of MMMU: Lynnda Gouldie, Dean Turner and Sarah Ascombe, who were also trading.

"I just wanted to tell *Vintage Life* Readers that Vintage Retreat is an amazing place. It has two floors of pop up shops; I do recommend you spend more than a few hours there. You can easily lose yourself in this vintage paradise, with so many hidden treasures to find."





### BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

My first meet of 2017 was at The Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, West Midlands; another group member who was unable to attend due to illness arranged it.

I donned my swing pants, woolly socks, cardigan, coat, shawl, hat and mittens and set off on a 40 minute journey, arriving nice and early. I waited inside the foyer, with slight trepidation wondering if others would turn up. I needn't have worried as one by one, these beautiful people dressed in 1940s style finery arrived. All in all, there were nine of us, three of whom I have previously met, one young girl on her first meet up and two further couples. We all chatted eagerly and realised how much we had in common and how friendly everyone was.

We started off with a perfunctory photograph, and then made our way to view the houses on site. One member of our group, a lady from Dudley and a member of the WI Victory Belles, gave us loads of information about some of the history of the Black Country, it was wonderful to have her with us.

Each house we entered had a roaring fire and a museum volunteer who showered us with stories of the lives of the original occupants. It was so wonderful bringing history to life. As we were standing outside one of the buildings, a lady walked past and took a photo of us, presuming we were part of the museum – that's how comfortable we all appeared in this environment!

After some time, we decided it would be a nice idea to have a cup of tea and a piece of cake – well a good meet up wouldn't be complete without it! We then made our way to the schoolhouse where a stern looking schoolmistress holding a cane, waiting to commence a lesson, met us. She was so realistic she even scared me and she had to keep informing the younger children that she was only pretending. After, we went over to thank her and she went from speaking with a fierce, posh, school mistress voice to a comfortable Black Country twang. She regaled us with stories of her grandparents during the Second World War in Dudley and about the hidden secret munitions factories. She was absolutely fascinating and we could have spoken to her for hours, but sadly the classroom was once again filling up for another lesson, so we had to say our goodbyes.

All too soon our visit came to an end and we had to go our separate ways but I know that we will all meet again soon as we have formed a most marvellous friendship.

### SUFFOLK

The first meet up of 2017 for Suffolk took place at Doffy's Tea Room in Haverhill and Emma Lord tells us all about it.

"It was great to meet so many new faces from the group and try somewhere new, and Doffy's did not disappoint. The pretty, pastel colours and shabby chic theme made the perfect setting for an afternoon tea and a chat, with a very tempting selection of homemade cakes. The staff members were very friendly and are also vintage fans!

"After tea and cake, we then walked and had a browse round the charity shops and walked past a 50s style diner which got us inspired - so you can guarantee there will be another meet around the corner! A most marvellous start to 2017 indeed!"

Right folks, after another exhausting month of meet ups, it's time for us at MMM towers to put our feet up (Only until the next meet!)

Until the next time, stay Most Marvellous!

### MEETS FOR MARCH

#### 11th March

MMM Ipswich Affordable Vintage Fair. Meet at 11.00am meet outside Costa Coffee Opp Ipswich Town Hall and Corn Exchange.

#### 11th March

Cornwall Meet Up at 12.00, meet outside Olde Penny's Vintage Tea Room, New Portreath Road, Bridge, Portreath

#### 11th March

Brighton Meet Up at 12.00, meet outside Collectif Clothing Shop, 29 Bond Street, Brighton

#### 11th March

Hampshire Meet Up at 12.00, meet outside 'Vintage Tea Room' 168 West Street, Fareham

#### 11th March

Kent Meet Up at 12.00, Meet outside Bessie's Tea Parlour, 45 Albion Street, Broadstairs

#### 12th March

Southend Vintage Fair Meet - 10.30am-16.00pm. Meet outside at 10.30am Chase sports and fitness centre, 250 Prittlewell Chase, Southend on Sea, Essex

[facebook.com/1940s/1950sMostMarvellousMeetUps](https://www.facebook.com/1940s/1950sMostMarvellousMeetUps)







**FLICK  
RACKSHAW**

Runs a small independent dressmaker's in North Staffordshire called Esme's Vintage Closet. She is a dressmaker, specialising in creating clothes and knitwear from the 1920s to the 1960s.

# GOODWOOD

2016 MARKED MY SIXTH VISIT TO THE GOODWOOD REVIVAL, THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY SOCIAL CALENDAR! FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN, I THOUGHT I'D SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT THE EVENT, AND THE KIND OF THINGS YOU CAN EXPECT TO HEAR AND SEE...

I was lucky enough to be offered a spare ticket from the fabulous quartet of Kitty Ford of 'Curious Orange Vintage', Susie Ford of 'It's Deco, Darling!', Virginia Ewart of 'Gingermegs Vintage' and Tabitha Sims of 'Tabitha's Nice Things'. Joining us on the campsite was Sarah Bloor of 'Pin Up Curl' who was styling at Betty's Hair Lounge.

Arriving on the Thursday afternoon, to get the girls set up for three days' trading, we settled in for the night. Early on the Friday morning, I was awoken by the sound of Merlin engines overhead... the Spitfires were doing their early morning warm up and what a way to wake up! On our little campsite pitch, I was treated to a cup of coffee and a full English by my chap, whilst I watched the two Spitfires practising their aerial acrobatics in the early morning mist over the campsite. Over the road, I could hear the sounds of vintage and classic V8s, V10s and V12s being warmed up for the day's racing.

Wandering around the Parc Ferme is an experience in itself: seeing, quite literally, several million pounds worth of cars all parked up and waiting patiently for their time on track. As a Cobra kit car owner, it always gives me great pleasure to see several either racing or in Parc Ferme.

Goodwood Revival is jam packed full of so much to see, hear and do that it's a wonder if a girl can get it all seen in three days!

There are some staples of the event which are always a 'must visit'. The What Katie Did shop (this girl loves her corsetry, and WKD is up there with the best!), the vintage market 'Over The Road', the car park (got to keep the boy happy with some racing and some amazing cars!), the National Motor Museum exhibit (hosted by a different manufacturer each year – this year was the turn of BMW and

Lamborghini), the Veuve Cliquot tent at 3.30pm each day for the Best Dressed Parade, to get inspiration for shopping and next year and the airfield, where you can get up close and personal with vintage aircraft. Of course, the fun fair and roller disco are both great fun after you're shopped out and have enjoyed a Pimms or two.

The major change this year from previous years was that historically, Revivallers could access all the entertainments 'Over The Road' without a ticket. Disappointingly, this year this was not the case and due to it not being made widely known that this was changing, there were several disappointed visitors at the gate who found themselves unable to enter 'Over The Road' and enjoy the shopping, dancing, beer tents etc. ticket free. I'm waiting with bated breath to see whether this will be the case next year...

So what would my advice be to a girl planning to go this year (8th-10th September), who has not been before?

Comfy but classy footwear is a must! The site is huge and you can be on your feet dancing, shopping and walking for hours if you want to see everything!

A brolly! Goodwood is usually lucky and has great weather but this year, we saw a torrential downpour almost all day on the Saturday; my poor Bertie shoes got covered in mud!

If, like me, you want to get picked for Best Dressed (unlike Twinwood, it is not something you can enter in advance) then research is essential, as judges look for authenticity (albeit occasionally with a modern twist) and style. Finally, visit the Goodwood Revival website to help plan your day – especially if you plan on taking the Mister along and he wants to catch some racing or aerobatics.





GEMMA  
MILLER

## She's a Model and She's **LOOKING GOOD!**



Claire Seville has been a very good friend of mine for a few years now and I was overjoyed to hear the news last year that she would be publishing her first book *Stocking Seams & Lipstick Queens* which would be a collection of classic images and lots of brand new sets taken exclusively for her book. I was even more excited to receive an invitation to her launch party at the decadent 'Cirque' club in Manchester at the end of January, so myself and Haili set off on a cold winter night for a sneak preview of the book and to hang out with some of the famous names gracing the pages.

Tucked away on the outskirts of Manchester City Centre, Cirque is an exclusive champagne bar with a real gothic feel to it. Think dark wood, candelabras and leather chaise longue; the perfect setting for Claire's book launch! The venue was also decorated with framed prints which feature in the book and it was great to spot people getting their book signed by models such as Ewa Baberska and Lillian Love.

It was also great to finally catch up with the lady herself, Claire, who is busy planning her trip

to 'Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly Weekend' for the US launch of her book. I've been lucky enough to shoot with Claire three times and I can honestly say it's an amazing experience. Claire may shoot with some of the most in demand models both home and abroad, but it is her work with real women that sets her apart from her peers. Her themed shoots are a great excuse to indulge yourself with full hair and make up and a fantastic set of pictures!

Anyway, back to the book launch! One of the highlights of the evening was the impromptu acapella set by the Miss Fortune's harmony trio and they did a fabulous version of Soft Cell's *Tainted Love*. I managed to sneak a few minutes with Claire to find out how she was enjoying her launch party: "tonight has been so much fun. Cirque have put on a wonderful event. My favourite part of the evening has been seeing peoples' reactions when they've looked through the book. I feel so blessed to have achieved a lifelong ambition with my book."

Head over to [www.working-classpublishing.com](http://www.working-classpublishing.com) to pick up your copy of *Stocking Seams & Lipstick Queens*.







CHARLIE  
ADAMS

Charlie has been collecting 1940/50s clothing and accessories for over a decade, being addicted to novelty prints and Bakelite.

# Nottingham VINTAGE CARNIVAL

WITH THE PRICE OF THE LARGER MORE WELL KNOWN VINTAGE FESTIVALS RISING EACH YEAR, NOW COSTING THE EQUIVALENT OF A SMALL HOLIDAY ABROAD, THEY HAVE BECOME OUT OF REACH FOR MANY. TO MUCH DELIGHT, SMALLER ONE OR TWO DAY VINTAGE EVENTS CAN EASILY BE FOUND ACROSS THE UK FOR A FRACTION OF THE COST BUT WITH NO LESS QUALITY, ENTERTAINMENT OR FUN.

For anyone living the vintage life on a budget these events are the ones to attend, and once visited you will find yourself a regular supporter. Tickets range from £5-£15, with the discounts of early bird and groups often granted, meaning that if the event is located too far away for a day trip, with the price of a cheap B&B they are still a small portion of the price of the more famous events. For those staying overnight, additional tickets for an evening dance are commonplace. For me there is no question in resisting the temptation of the more expensive events; my money is much better spent attending four or five smaller events a year, rather than having my budget spent in a single transaction. These are by no means lesser festivals, they are full of all the attractions you would expect but without the overwhelming crowds, hassles of camping and breaking the bank.

Nottingham's Vintage Carnival celebrated its second event in 2016; it was organised by the wonderful Lou Lou's Vintage Fairs. With an estimated 5,000 visitors, it is well on its way to becoming part of the vintage calendar.

As you walked in the gate you were greeted by the pavilion stage with various singers, bands and dance classes entertaining throughout the day. Outside there was an array of traditional children's games to test their strength and skill, next to this was a lawn of deckchairs waiting to rest your tired feet. Walking further into the carnival site eyes were drawn to the vast amount of food and drink stands, with enough variety to suit any taste – from Prosecco to pizza and even vegan cupcakes.

The area reserved for shopping was as large as any other festival I have visited; the vintage market consisted of over 80 stalls. The Centenary building had two floors full of vintage and retro clothing and accessories, there was also a beauty parlour for that perfect pampered feeling and right behind it a vintage photo studio, ready to capture memories of the day.

For those ready to increase their skills, there was a workshop area where you could learn various new talents. The Grandstand building housed the collector's hall for further shopping, the notorious secret cake club and the new, much beloved, Tiki bar. When you think you could not ask for more, a walk towards the race track discovered many more

stalls, the covered grandstand seating area, over 50 vintage vehicles on display and the rock 'n' roll tent enticing you in with its vibrancy. It's where the rockers danced to the DJs or watched bands and jive contests.

Jess Jennison, the events organiser for the Vintage Carnival told me, "We work really hard to make sure the Vintage Carnival is a really affordable event. Early bird tickets are just £5 so that's less than going to the cinema and yet you get a full day of great live bands, tons of shopping, classic cars, street food, free workshops, free dance lessons and activities. We wanted to prove that you can enjoy vintage without having to break the bank."

Everyone I talked to at this event agreed they could not ask for more (apart from better weather!), there was something for everyone and it was a great day out for vintage enthusiasts and family outings alike. As one visitor said, "there is something to excite every sense." All those who had bought items from the vintage market agreed with me that the prices were very reasonable; there were many bargains, with 1940s hats from £12, to 1950s novelty print skirts for £20, they were all there to be snapped up.

What surprised me most was the lack of attendees who enjoy vintage; most of the people were there for a local day out. This caused me to believe that these smaller events are sadly missed by many who wrongly presume they do not hold up to the prestige of the larger festivals. For the price of a single dance lesson you get an enjoyable day out. You can wear your best vintage outfit, listen to live music to your heart's content, dance, admire vehicles, savour food, consume drinks, compete in games and shop till you drop. The vibe at the smaller events is just the same and the pounds you save can be spent on further events, shopping or the less attractive household bills.

The date of the next Vintage Carnival is the 2nd September 2017. These smaller events are packed with entertainment, with the extra delight of a welcoming community feel where not only the ticket costs are much less but often the food and stalls are too. So next time you see a small vintage event advertised go to it and enjoy!







## SOCIETY



### 18TH MARCH

#### 100: A TRIBUTE TO DAME

**VERA LYNN** - a one-night spectacular on Saturday 18th March at The London Palladium.

Celebrating and honouring Dame Vera Lynn's centenary year, the show will tell the story of her remarkable life, and highlight her many hits such as *We'll Meet Again* and *The White Cliffs of Dover*.

Ticket holders will help raise money for the Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity (DVLCC) - a cause incredibly close to Vera's heart.

Tickets are on sale now priced from £50 and available from <http://www.seetickets.com/show/100-a-tribute-to-dame-vera-lynn/pal/2/5169>



## EVENTS IN MARCH

### FEATURED EVENT

#### 25TH MARCH

NEW! Monthly Pop Up Vintage Fairs London at Mercato Metropolitano, 42 Newington Causeway, Elephant & Castle, London SE1 6DR. Make a day of it with vintage stalls, indoor street food market, craft beer, wine bar & Backyard Cinema all housed within an old industrial paperworks factory. 5 mins from either Elephant & Castle or Borough Station. 12 - 7pm. Free Entry! [popupvintagefairs.co.uk](http://popupvintagefairs.co.uk)

#### 11TH MARCH

Ipswich's Affordable Vintage Fair. Grand Hall, Ipswich Corn Exchange, King's Street, Ipswich, IP1 1DH. 11am-4pm, £2 entry, under 12s free. [judysvintagefair.co.uk](http://judysvintagefair.co.uk)

#### 12TH MARCH

Cranmore Park Vintage & Antiques Fair. Cranmore Park Exhibition Centre, Solihull B90 4LE. Now on a Sunday! 150 stands featuring an exciting mix of Art Deco, antique, vintage and retro homewares. [b2bevents.info](mailto:b2bevents.info) 01636 676531

#### 12TH MARCH

Vintage Vauxhall. Vauxhall One, Kia Oval, London, SE11 5SS. Up to 60 high quality vintage traders. 10am-4pm. [vintageandantiques.co.uk](http://vintageandantiques.co.uk)

#### 12TH MARCH

Discover Vintage at The Vintage Home Show. Victoria Baths, Hathersage Road, Manchester, M13 0FE. 11am-4pm, £3 entry (Trade 10.30, £5). [vintagehomeshow.co.uk](http://vintagehomeshow.co.uk)

#### 12TH MARCH

Royal Park Hotel Antiques and Collectors Fair. Park Royal Hotel, Stretton, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 4NS. Trade 8.30am-10am (free with card), public 10am-3.30pm. Adults £2, children free of charge. [vandafairs.com](http://vandafairs.com)

#### 12TH MARCH

The Vintage Village. Stockport Covered Market Hall, Market Place, Stockport, SK1 1EU. 10am-4pm. [thevintagevillage.co.uk](http://thevintagevillage.co.uk)

#### 16TH MARCH

Nantwich Civic Hall Antique and Collectors Fair. Civic Hall Nantwich, Beam Street, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 5DG. Public 10am-4pm, £1.50 adults, £1 concessions, children free Trade 8.30am-10am. [vandafairs.com](http://vandafairs.com)

#### 18TH MARCH

The Chester Town Hall Vintage Fair. The Town Hall, St. Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 2HJ. 10am-4.30pm, £2 entry. [decorativefairs.com](http://decorativefairs.com)

#### 18TH MARCH

Monica's Vintage Fair. Mayfield Girls' Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0JE. 11am-3.30pm, £2.50 entry, £2 with flyer or assoc.ad, accompanied children free. [monicasvintagefair.com](http://monicasvintagefair.com)

#### 19TH MARCH

The National Vintage Wedding Fair. Manchester Victoria Baths, Hathersage Road, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester, M13 0FE. £4. [vintageweddingfair.co.uk](http://vintageweddingfair.co.uk)

#### 19TH MARCH

Lou Lou's Derby Vintage Fair. Derby Silk Mill, Silk Mill Lane, Derby, DE1 3AF. 10am-4pm, £2 entry, under 12s free! [thevintagefair.com/event/lou-lous-derby-vintage-fair-5/](http://thevintagefair.com/event/lou-lous-derby-vintage-fair-5/)

#### 19TH MARCH

The Bristol Vintage Furniture Flea. Paintworks, Bath Road, Bristol, BS4 3EH. 10.30am-4.30pm. Earlybird entry 10.30am-11am, £3. General entry 11am-4.30pm, £2. [judysvintagefair.co.uk](http://judysvintagefair.co.uk)

#### 19TH MARCH

Hammersmith Vintage Fashion Fair. Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London, W6 9JU. £10 from 8am-10am. £5 from 10am-5pm. [pa-antiques.co.uk/londonvintagefashionfair.html](http://pa-antiques.co.uk/londonvintagefashionfair.html)

#### 25TH MARCH

Lou Lou's Vintage Fair. Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, SA1 4PE. 11am-5pm. £2.50, under 12s go free! [thevintagefair.com](http://thevintagefair.com)

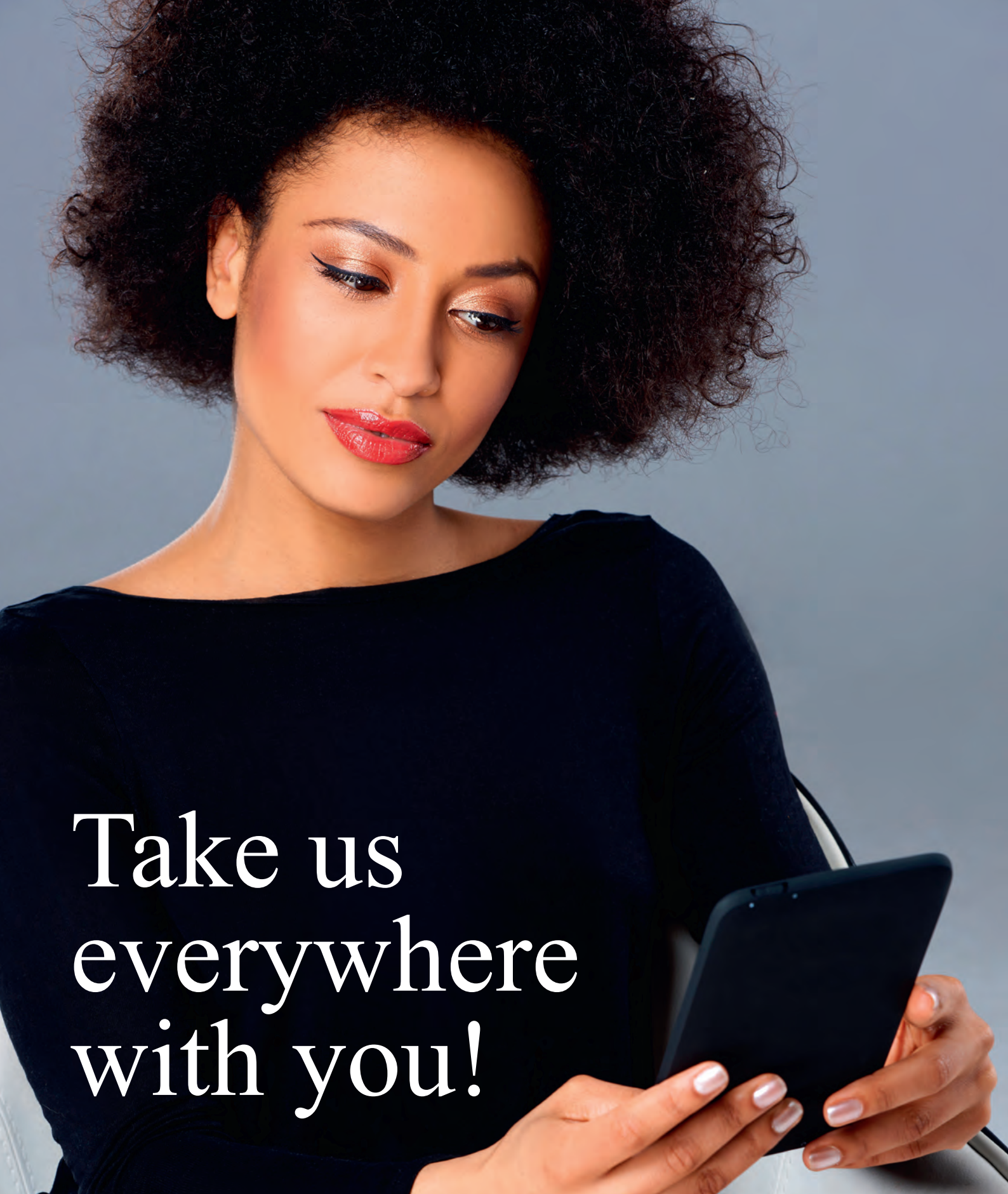
#### 26TH MARCH

Southport Antiques and Collectors Fair. The Dunes Leisure Centre. The Esplanade, Southport, Merseyside, PR8 1RX. Trade 8.30am-10am (free with card), public 10am-3.30pm, adults £2, children free of charge. [judysvintagefair.co.uk](http://judysvintagefair.co.uk)

#### 26TH MARCH

Bath Vintage and Decorative Antiques Market. Green Park Station, Green Park Road, Bath, BA1 1JB. Up to 50 high quality traders. 8.30am-4pm. [vintageandantiques.co.uk](http://vintageandantiques.co.uk)





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