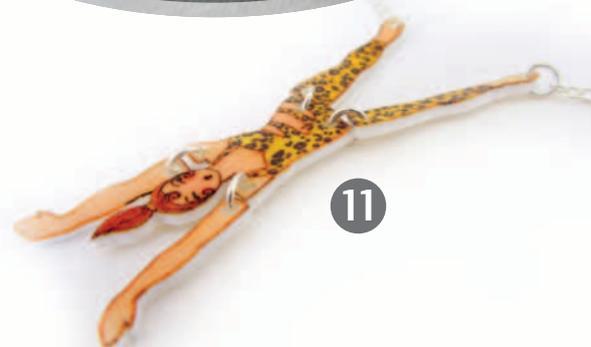


Spring fashions - fun & funky!

by Anna Weller our fashion correspondent

Spring blows away the last cobwebs of the old season bringing in a freshness that extends from the first green leaves in the hedgerows, via the age-old urge to clean and order, to a feeling of optimism about the months ahead. The lightness of spirit that most of us feel as the days grow longer, warmer and filled again with colour, feeds into the April Fools' Day tradition of the first day of April where licence is given to play out jokes or tricks. Harness this sense of joy, of fun and of foolery and how could this translate into wearable jewellery to be worn as a celebration of humour and a reminder not to take life too seriously? I present here a selection of jewellery pieces made with a twinkle in the eye to raise a smile upon the lips. All the pieces are from individual British jewellery maker-designers.



1 Lego Heart Necklaces, by Linda Chima of Temporal Flux
www.etsy.com/shop/TemporalFlux
 Take a trip back to childhood and perhaps relive your first crush with Linda's cute pendants made from Lego components. Never has a broken heart been so easy to mend.

2 Ink Splat Brooch, by Gina Ulgen of vitaminGdesign
www.etsy.com/shop/vitaminGdesign
 A simple, fun brooch made from laser cut birch wood, painted black to resemble a splash of black ink. Accessorise this with a pen worn in your top pocket to make people look twice.

3 Washing Line Bracelet, by Sarah Keyes of Sarah Keyes Contemporary Jewellery
www.etsy.com/shop/sarahkeyes
 Dinky laser cut acrylic clothes are hung out to dry from a silver metal chain bracelet. They wouldn't pass the Persil whites test, but the bracelet would be a real talking point as you waved to your neighbour from your deckchair in the garden. After all there are plenty of better ways to spend the day than engaged in laundry. Gin and tonic anyone?



4 Jammy Dodger Ring and Grilled Cheese Sandwich Necklace, by Rhonda of NeatEats
www.etsy.com/shop/NeatEats
 All these pieces feature meticulously made miniature foodstuffs handmade from polymer clay by designer, Rhonda. Her attention to detail and true to life colouring really make you look closely at her work. The Jammy Dodger ring is scented to smell like the real biscuit. Who needs diamonds when you can have biscuits?

5 Wine Bottle Earrings, by Cat Armitage of twopennylane jewellery
www.twopennylane.com
 Cat makes 'jewellery for people cleverly disguised as responsible adults'. Her jewellery is openly light-hearted and makes more than a subtle nod to the care-free days of childhood by making use of small toys and dolls house miniatures as focals.

6 Hundreds and Thousands Resin Bangle, by Nicola Williams of Made by Daisy
www.etsy.com/shop/madebydaisy
 Nicola sources the perkier coloured

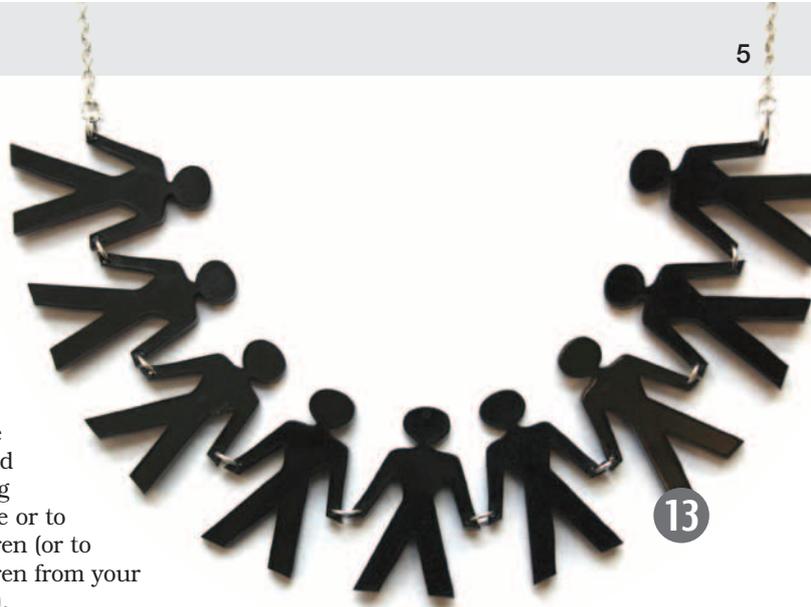
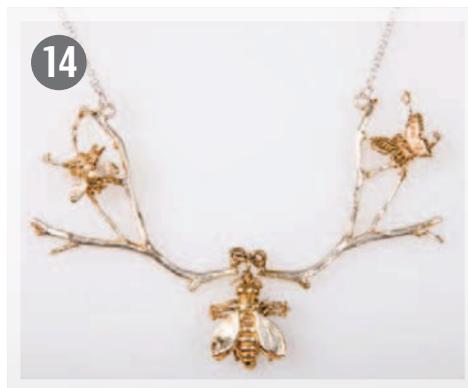
hundreds and thousands once destined to enliven cup cakes and pours them into custom made resin moulds. These bangles really should be worn when eating an ice cream sundae or to distract small children (or to distract small children from your ice cream sundae...).

7 Masked Cat Locket, by Rachel Jose of Candidate
www.etsy.com/shop/Candidate
 Rachel works with illustrators (here, InkFive) to produce beautifully finished lockets that are the perfect setting for the selected image. I challenge you not to smile back at this cat.

8 Button Rings and Bangles, Tape Measure Brooch, by Linda Carmichael of Ruby Bijou
www.rubybijou.co.uk
 Lovely, cheerfully colourful large-scale rings and bangles made of buttons imbedded in resin. From her studio in Northern Ireland, Linda also makes fun brooches and bracelets featuring tape measures and other sewing accessories.

9 Fried Egg Bracelet, by Lauren Searle of Mauve Magpie
www.mauvemagpie.com
 More quirky food inspired pieces that have also the appearance of juicy jelly sweets. Lauren creates the miniature fried eggs from resin, they are then strung alongside clear glass beads or mounted onto a ring base so that you can always be sunny side up.

10 LuuLulu Peekaboo Necklace, by Lynsey Harris of Lynsey Luu
www.lynseyluu.co.uk
 A pair of enamelled hypnotic glasses suspended from a chain to beguile the onlooker, or if that doesn't work, Lynsey has created a range of cheeky peekaboo necklaces each featuring a saucy lady who swings to reveal (nearly) all.



11 'At the Circus' Trapeze Artist Necklace, by Sally Haysom of myBearHands
www.etsy.com/shop/frommybearhands
 Trained illustrator, Sally, creates lively characters to inspire the imagination. Each piece is hand drawn onto shrink plastic, with different elements of the body created separately so that the trapeze artist has some movement when worn. This necklace is part of a circus themed range that includes a Strong Man, a Harlequin Clown and the Ring Master.

12 Origami Bird Necklace, by AvaandBea
www.avaandbea.co.uk
 These two necklaces feature unexpected motifs in the form of a paper folded bird rendered in acrylic and a hairy mammoth made of wood. Ava and Bea is a design team of two, united by their love of fabric, pattern and graphic images.

13 Paper Chain People Necklace, by Kayleigh Walker of Sour Cherry
www.sourcherry.co.uk
 Laser cut acrylic people hold hands to form a collar that allows you to bring your own retinue wherever you go. Just like the Queen but better for the tax-payer. This necklace is just one of a whole range of Sour Cherry jewellery items that will cheer you just to look at them.

14 Bee, Butterfly & Fly Necklace, by Simon Kemp of Simon Kemp Jewellers
www.simonkempjewellers.com
 This fabulous precious metal necklace of sterling silver and 22 carat gold features beautifully detailed insects on a branch. Designer and maker, Simon Kemp believes that "a well chosen piece of jewellery offers the wearer a step away from the mundane and predictable", and the delicate humour of this necklace encapsulates that aim.
 Simon Kemp Jewellers are offering a 10% discount to Bead Society members when purchasing through the website. Simply quote 'Bead Society' when ordering.