

NI4you

with STEPHANIE BRINKLEY

Style Counsel

EASTER COLLECTION



A native of Donegal, Stephanie Brinkley is the marketing manager of the award-winning WS science centre and a former editor of Northern Ireland magazine. Mother to Charlie and Tara, she hosts *How To's* ultimate IT girls, Holly Goughy and Carrie Beadshaw and is never without her Samsung Galaxy S4, vintage magazines and trusty Rayban sunglasses. When she isn't off to an event, running in vestigial heels, she is day-dreaming about gorgeous shoes, looking for a packet of Bumblebee to satisfy a craving or choosing over her Banquet House. Star

The Brinkleys are on the move - after two decades of metropolitan life, 12 of which spent in our current home, we have succumbed to the temptations of Kinky's Best of Both Worlds and HB's Escape to the Country and we are upping sticks and looking for a rural retreat.

To many city slickers, the thought of swapping traffic and a Starbucks on every corner for the sound of farmyard animals and the whiff of fertiliser might be a nightmare but apparently the muds from the city to the shires is gathering pace.

A few years ago some forward thinking friends sold their city pile and moved into a lovely house a few miles outside Belfast citing space, sunsets, and quality of life as the reasons for upping sticks. The same was reasonably commutable meaning their children didn't have to change schools and they were still an affordable taxi journey from the city centre and so!

Having enjoyed many boozey holiday summer evenings relaxing in their substantial gardens overlooking nothing but green fields it became harder for us townies to resist following in their muddy boots.

So here we are, sign in the garden and for the past few months it has not been about window shopping and all about window dressing. I've had no discussions about Kinky's Vogue cover (it's not how catastrophic) but plenty about Bede's bedroom! I've been power-hoing not power dressing, trimming my budget not



my locks and I've been pinning not preening and to be honest I've now emotionally detached myself from the process as well as the house!

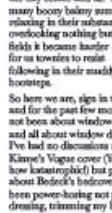
Don't panic reader as I did however find the time to turn my attention to picking up a new spring jacket. For some reason, shopping for spring here is just so hard. Maybe that's because here in good old New Inn, spring weather means it could be 16 degrees and sunny one day, and freezing rain or hailstones the next. Am I the only one with this problem? I'm thinking probably not, which is why I've compiled a few ideas for the perfect spring jacket. All of which are sleek, chic, versatile, and best of all, they're bang on-trend for the season.

1 | **UPGRADE A CLASSIC NEXT** - Red Mac £99 This well-tailored is such a fine take on the classic raincoat.

2 | **FRANTASTIC FLOURISH** M&S Collection £95 - I love a good trench and this deconstructed style in the colour of the season (lemon sorbet) feels so right.

3 | **COMB BLENDED ON SHINE** Matalan - So maybe it's not totally wise to invest in a pastel rain coat when you're still going to be snow-freezing in early spring. Enter this handy retro toggle rain jacket.

4 | **REINVENT CHIC** Primark £25 - Yes, I know, Biker jackets have been around for centuries (OK, not really, but that's what it looks like). But, there's a reason for that! They're effortlessly cool. This year mix it up by getting a softest colour like blue or pink and team with skinny jeans or a summer dress to rock a classic look.



Colourblock Straw Shopper £4 This candy-stripe Primark tote is perfect for the beach and big enough to carry all the kiddie essentials, and an absolute steal!

Sweet Treat RRP £10.49 50ml Dry2Alive face and body hydrating cream contains marshmallow root extract bringing instant relief to dry, irritated and sensitive skin. Easy on the wallet and suitable for all the family - including little ones. Shop at W. dry2alive.com

Floral Collar Top £35 Inject a fresh touch to your wardrobe with this patterned collar tee from River Island, gorgeous in a sugar-sweet hue for spring.

STYLE FILE

STREET STYLING | The Cabaret Supper Club on Belfast's Upper Arthur Street is an experience reminiscent of the 1920s and offers good food, lovely bubbles and a wide variety of entertainment ranging from a live jazz band to burlesque, vaudeville, burlesque acts and more. This is a fantastic girl's night out or would make a fantastic fundraising night for your PCA or charity!

SHOWS | The Daily Fashion Showcase is a brand new two night event showing the very best of Northern Ireland's designers, students and local boutiques. It is taking place on May 28 & 29 at Titanic Drawing Rooms. Thursday's catwalk show will highlight the very best of local designers and boutiques and Friday will include collections from outstanding student designers as well as a student showcase from Belfast. Mat. Tickets cost £60 or £80 VIP and include a goods bag and drinks reception on arrival. For more information visit W. style4u.com

MOVIE NIGHT | Bubblee dating as Mark Francis and the party socialites from Made in Chelsea are back on our screens at last. The glamorous cast of 100 returns to our screens for series 7, with some shocking drama, tangled love triangles and headship tussles - 'Yessssss! Not

SHOWS | This year's Olympia Arena is playing host to some of the world's biggest stars; Miley will be wrecking the joint on May 16, Kelly Rowland will be showing us her skills (I said HUMP) on June 10, Kylie will be spinning around on November 6 and Michael Frobe will be all I want for Christmas on December 11. It's a time to get your tickets for the hottest shows in town.



Easter Scheme 2014

Week 1: Monday 14th to Friday 18th April
Week 2: Wednesday 23rd to Friday 25th April
(Comber week 2 runs Tuesday 22nd to Friday 25th April)

Mini Scheme for 4 to 7 year olds
9.30am to 12.30pm
Ards & Comber Leisure Centres
Supervised activities suitable for the age group. Mini Scheme is sold on a weekly basis and must be pre-booked.

Junior Scheme for 8 to 15 year olds
Ards Leisure Centre
Three age groups each with their own Group Leader

All Day option: 9.30am to 4.30pm (incl. lunch)
Half Day option: 9.30am to 12.30pm
or 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Junior Scheme is sold on a weekly basis. Day tickets may be available.

Comber Leisure Centre
8 to 12 year olds can enjoy football, tennis or any other activity outdoors for just £1 per person per hour! These are unsupervised activities.

Ards Leisure Centre Tel: 028 9181 2837
William Street, Newtownards

Comber Leisure Centre Tel: 028 9187 4350
Castle Street, Comber
www.leisureards.org.uk