

FESTIVAL FILLIES . . .



Stylist Kate Parker

THE most beautiful outfits worn at Cheltenham Ladies' Day could be described as 'classic with a twist'. Here are my top tips for looking like a fine filly:

■ Ladies' Day can be chilly so fine thermals underneath your outfit is a great way of staying snug.

■ A gorgeous coat pulls your look together. Make like a French woman and consider it an investment piece. You should be able to put on a coat and feel instantly glamorous. After all, you don't want to hide an amazing dress with a mundane cover-up.

■ A dress is often easier than separates. If you choose the right style for your body it can be very flattering and is less likely to break up the line of your body, especially important if you are petite.

■ High waisted Seventies-inspired trousers are a key look this spring. Wear them as long as possible with heels and combine with a neat jacket or lean coat for instant sophistication.

■ Rich mauve, magenta, teal, deep green and burnt orange can strike a fabulous chord without shouting too loudly among the more traditional tweeds.

■ Consider vintage for something unique. Experiment with different textures to add luxury to your look, such as tweed, silk or velvet. But again use a light hand – don't have it all going on.

■ Elegant flat boots are a great choice for racing. They look great with a coat and are easier to walk in than heels.

■ If you prefer a heel, patent court shoes introduce some colour and polish without the worry of damage by damp grass.

■ Make sure that the different elements of your outfit have a synergy. They don't need to match. In fact you will look more contemporary if they don't. Instead aim for each piece to have a relationship with the other.

■ Great accessories can turn something ordinary into something fabulous. Pay attention to the detail. Gloves, scarves, earrings, or a beautiful brooch can all be used to add the wow factor.

■ If you choose an attention grabbing hat, keep the rest of the look simple.

■ Contact Kate Parker Style. For more details, call 01242 620687, visit www.kateparkerstyle.com or email kate@kateparkerstyle.com

Chloe's top of the style stakes



With The Cheltenham Festival less than a month away, **WEEKEND** challenged local personal stylist Kate Parker to come up with three different looks for Ladies' Day, which takes place on March 16

KATE'S model was 26-year-old Chloe Bowkett who works as an events manager at Cheltenham racecourse.

Chloe will be among the 12 riders taking part in the St Patrick's Day Derby, a charity flat race which runs on Thursday, March 17.

In order to take part, Chloe needs to raise at least £5,000 in sponsorship for Cancer Research UK, this year's chosen charity.

She says: "Working at Cheltenham racecourse is fantastic, but to ride here is a dream come true. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to experience the thrill of riding at The Festival, but more importantly, I will raise a significant amount of money for Cancer Research, a charity close to my heart."

Anyone wanting to sponsor Chloe can visit her at www.justgiving.com/Chloe-Bowkett Ladies' Day takes place on Wednesday, March 16, the day before St Patrick's Day, and there is a package of luxury prizes to be won if you enter the fashion awards.

Prizes will be presented to the best dressed lady, the lady with the best hat and the lady with the best accessories.

Kate Parker is one of the judges, representing The Greenway Spa Hotel. Her fellow judges are Jackie Llewelyn Bowen, Lady Sarah Apsley, Cheltenham hairdresser Stuart Holmes and actress Claire Sweeney.

Kate says: "Last year's winner, Carly Shave, wore an outfit from Hobbs, so I thought it would be fun to take a look at what they have on offer this year."

"I have styled three very different looks for Chloe from Hobbs' mainline collection and their younger NW3 range and included a sprinkling of gorgeous accessories from Reiss and boots from Keith Scarrott."

Chloe said: "My favourite outfit was the second one. The colours were fantastic and it really brightened up the feel of the racecourse."

Ladies wishing to pre-enter the fashion awards can do so now by visiting the website www.cheltenham.co.uk

Any budding fashion scouts who would like to assist the judges by finding ladies and escorting them to enter the fashion awards on the day should email Victoria Schlesinger on v Schlesinger@btconnect.com

Pictures: Spencer McPherson and Phillip Stevens of www.allintheimage.co.uk



Vintage day out

Love all things vintage? Then head for Gloucester tomorrow and a day well spent browsing and buying.

Vintage specialist Blind Lemon is hosting its second fashion fair at the Guildhall.

The fair will be full of stalls selling everything from womenswear and menswear to jewellery.

This time there's a twist with the addition of vintage hairstyling, make-up advice and demonstrations.

Organiser Edwin Dyson, said: "A lot of people have asked for vintage hairstyling and make-up advice, so we've found a team which specialises in just that. They can provide tips and advice or even show you how it's done."

The fair runs from 10am-4pm. For more details, visit www.blindlemonvintage.co.uk



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