

COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

JANUARY 2016 £3

**A STITCH
IN TIME**
Why bespoke is
the ultimate luxury

**THE
WHITE
QUEEN**
*Chrissie Ruch
opens her home
in the A*

PL
SAM KINCH
SMITH TRAVE
THE ROAD
MANDAL

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

We look forward to the cultural highlights of 2016



FROM ABOVE:
Timeless 18ct gold
and diamond Arch
necklace, £2,700.
Chain bracelet,
£2,500 and ring,
£550, all by Links
of London



1



The Gold Digger

The latest jewellery news.
By Annabel Davidson

1 TIMELESS STYLE

To celebrate 25 years of business, that quintessentially British brand Links of London looked to another very British icon, Big Ben, for inspiration – but you’d have to be a serious clocktower fan to recognise the clock’s influence on the company’s new ‘Timeless’ collection. The yellow gold range in particular is a super stylised version of the famous landmark’s detailed face, taking random sections of its pattern and setting it in gold and diamonds. linksoflondon.com

2 UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS

Wandering along Bond Street, the UK’s most famous jewellery location, you’d be forgiven for thinking that all the action happens at street level, what with all those vitrines showcasing enough diamonds to make your head spin. But Bond Street has its secrets, too, and one of those is the showroom of VanLeles, the jewellery company founded by Vania Leles, originally of Guinea-Bissau, West Africa, who is breathing new life into a somewhat traditional arena. Leles has had plenty of experience in the jewellery world, but this is her first foray into designing her own pieces, and her unique aesthetic is an enchanting blend of West African motifs and super elegant forms. Take the Enchanted Garden cluster rings, featuring tiny flowers of garnets and rubies on diamond bands – a riot of colour. vanleles.com

3 A LITTLE PRECIOUS

London’s usually not overly excited about watches, but the new Faubourg Pierre collection of watches from Hermès – using semi-precious materials of onyx, malachite, and lapis lazuli for its dials – has stolen my heart. The timepieces are not only jewel-like in colour, they’re jewel-like in size. The teeny 15.5mm dial, set with diamonds or gold, on metal or leather straps, make it a piece as elegant and decorative as any bracelet. hermes.com

4 GUY & MAX

Shepherd’s Market-based brothers Guy and Max Shepherd have quietly been blurring the lines of traditional jewellery and cutting-edge technology for a decade – but that doesn’t mean you need a degree in computing to appreciate their work. Inspired by cellular structure, the latest additions to their Digital Nature collection are a more minimalist interpretation of previous pieces, and include easy little earrings and flamboyant cocktail rings. guyandmax.com



3

Faubourg Pierre watch in rose gold and malachite, and lapis lazuli with gemset dial, £9,450, by Hermès



2

Diamond, ruby and pink sapphire Enchanted Garden ring, POA, by Vanleles



4

Digital Nature ring Paraba tourmalin and diamonds, £3,500, by Guy & Max