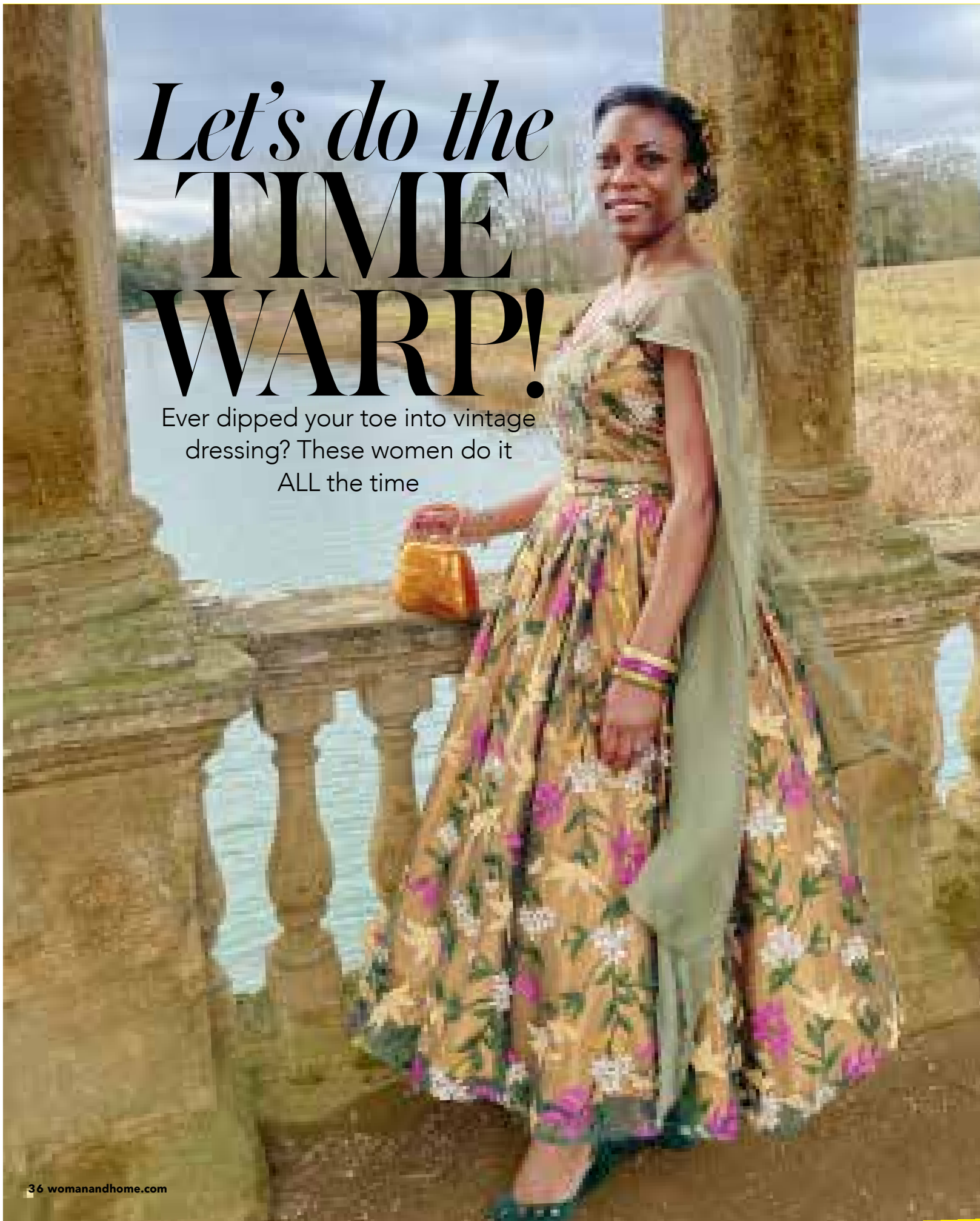


# Let's do the TIME WARP!

Ever dipped your toe into vintage dressing? These women do it ALL the time



## FABULOUS 50S

### 'I'M KNOWN AS "THE VINTAGE LADY" IN MY VILLAGE'

**Yana Prendergast, 50, creates personalised embroidery. She lives in Buckinghamshire with her husband, Andrew.**

When I was working as a reporter for a local newspaper, I had to attend a jive dancing course for a feature. I loved it, and the outfits the teacher wore. As I continued jiving and attending dancing events, my eyes were opened to how beautifully people could dress.

I started wearing the full skirts with petticoats at home a few days a week, as I loved how they twirled, and they made me feel feminine. Eight years ago, my husband said, 'I don't know why you don't wear 50s clothes all the time, you seem so much happier.' I realised he was right, and those words were a light-bulb moment. Since then, I've dressed in a 1950s style every day.

I'm known as 'The Vintage Lady' in my village. I'll even wear my top hat to the post office! I can't walk around without people stopping to chat to me: mothers whose children think I'm a Disney princess, older people who want to talk about life in the 1950s or people who think I'm part of the experience at nearby Bletchley Park.

Every night I pick out my outfit for the following day, which includes the all-important accessories: shoes, stockings, bangles, brooches, hair flowers, earrings, gloves and snoods. I adore the Dior 1947 New Look and, in 2019, I visited the V&A's Dior exhibition eight times, which inspired me to learn to sew my own

dresses, which I did throughout lockdown. Now, my 1950s wardrobe is 60% reproduction wear and 40% made by me. And learning to sew has added to my network of friends who share the same passions.

Dressing in 1950s style has increased my confidence. It's enabled me to develop a personal style that makes me feel good about myself. Lots of people tell me they wish they could dress like me, and I reply, 'What's stopping you?' Wear what you want, even if it's just for one day.

✦ See more of Yana's stunning outfits at [instagram.com/modern\\_life\\_vintage\\_loves/](https://www.instagram.com/modern_life_vintage_loves/)

### MY VINTAGE GEMS

**My top piece of clothing**

**A self-made duchesse satin and wildflower tulle dress.**

**My favourite music**

**Clarence 'Frogman' Henry and his rhythm 'n' blues track, 'Ain't Got No Home.'**

**Who's your heart-throb from way back?**

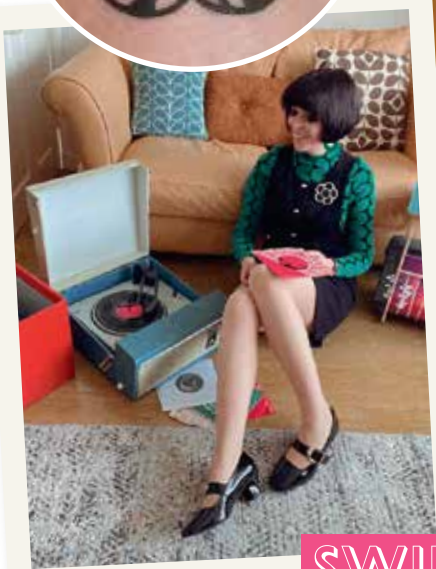
**Cary Grant - it's the chin!**

*'Dressing in 1950s style has increased my confidence; it makes me feel good about myself'*



WORDS: MICHELLE ROWLEY





in our experience

## SWINGING 60S

### 'I LOVE THE ERA'S SENSE OF FUN'

**Jocelyn Gough, 45, lives in Ayrshire with her three children, aged 16, 13 and 11.**

I was a teenager during the Britpop era and that music was influenced by 1960s bands. When I started listening to these bands, I completely fell in love with the decade and its style. I loved the colour and sense of fun: everything was embraced, and boundaries were broken. Young people were dressing differently from their parents for the first time and there was an optimism and sense of adventure that I think we've lost. I wanted to bring some of that back. The music drew me in, but the fashion is now a huge part of me, too.

Most of my wardrobe is second-hand, consisting of either original 1960s pieces or replicas. Looking after the original pieces is a bit hair-raising, as I'm scared of damaging them in the wash. I treasure my Mary Quant vintage scarves

as I've loved her since I was a teen at art school. When she died last April, it felt like the right time to get a Mary Quant tattoo. One day, my dream is to have an original Mary Quant dress.

I dress in a 1960s style unless I'm running or working – I haven't gone as far as 1960s exercise gear just yet! Otherwise, I'm always dressed in my favourite era. I'll happily go shopping in my white

tights, but will choose darker tights if I want to tone it down. My kids used to ask me why I don't dress like all the other mums, but now they pick things out for me that they think I'll like. They're far more embarrassed if I arrive at the school gates in my running gear!

When I go to Mod Weekender events and soul nights, where I enjoy listening to 60s bands with fellow fans, I'll ramp up the bold, colourful make-up and plastic jewellery. I live in one of the windiest places in Europe, so it's not easy

to keep my hair in place, but a birdcage umbrella helps.

I'm actually quite a shy person. I can show who I am through my clothes, which often prompts a conversation that I might not have had otherwise. When you present yourself the way you feel your best, you have better interactions with people, feel more confident and have a better day.

✦ Check out more of Jocelyn's 60s style at [instagram.com/modernist\\_magpie\\_](https://www.instagram.com/modernist_magpie/)

### MY VINTAGE GEMS

**My top piece of clothing**  
**My Mary Quant vintage scarves.**

**My favourite music**  
**I'm a lifelong Beatles fan.**

**Who's your heart-throb**  
**from way back?**

**Either Steve Marriott**  
**(Small Faces) or Brian Jones**  
**(Rolling Stones).**

*'I'm actually quite a shy person'*





in our experience



## BOLD 70S

### *IT'S PART OF MY IDENTITY*

**Jacqui Burdett, 57, is a clothing pricer from London. She lives with her son Levon, 14.**

Since my teens, I have loved music from the 50s to the 70s with a rock 'n' roll feel, which has determined my fashion style. I started with the 50s, progressed to the 60s, then found myself in the 70s. My mum used to say that one day I'd catch up to the modern day, but I've been dressing in 70s-inspired fashion for the last 20 years – it's become a part of my identity.

I'll only wear something from the modern day if it has a 70s feel. I could never wear a puffer jacket, for example, I wouldn't feel like me. To keep warm, I might wear my tan suede coat or a pair of 1970s ski overalls with a slight flare. As I've got older, I have toned it down a lot and I'm moving more into a softer bohemian style. I don't feel I can dress like rock singer Joan Jett anymore, like I did when I was in a band.

One of my greatest bugbears is that when people go to a 70s party, they

just want to look like Abba, but there was so much more to fashion at the time than that – hippy, rocker and disco, for example. Most of my clothes are over 30 years old and still going strong, as they're good quality and made without plastics. Most of them are sourced from vintage shops, charity shops, flea markets and

Facebook groups.

My friends have similar music and fashion tastes, therefore I don't stand out with them. On the street, I get positive comments from strangers, especially older people.

As I look completely different to the other parents at my son's school, I did ask him if I was an embarrassment to him. His reply? 'No way, all the girls in my school think that you're really cool.' Now my son likes 90s fashion, and I can't understand why that is! However, I guess it's the same as when my mum didn't understand why I chose to wear clothes from her era.

*All the girls in my school think you're really cool'*



### MY VINTAGE GEMS

**My top piece of clothing**  
A black crêpe Ossie Clark dress, given to me by a very good friend.

**My favourite music**  
An Australian punk band called The Saints, who formed in 1973.

**Who's your heart-throb from way back?**

I love how Keith Richards looked in the 1970s, so cool!