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Alternative Easter Ideas

Jane Lawrenson • Wed, Mar 27, 2013

Looking for an alternative to Chocolate eggs this year? Look no further!

IDEAS FOR EASTER

If you are bored of sending a chocolate egg each year, why not plan to send something different this year instead?

I have been searching around for some different things to do, make and of course, eat and here are my picks for a fun Easter break.

Author and queen of felting, Gillian Harris – founder of the beloved Gilliangladrag brand - is proud to announce a new line of felting kits to complement her existing range of products and felting books that allow the arty and crafty among us to create stunning accessories, homewares and gifts, simply and easily.

Elemis Pro Collagen Oxygenating Night Cream

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Following on from last year's best selling "Chirpy Chappy" Needle Felted Birdy Kit, the new Needle Felting Kits, distinguished by its trademark twist of vibrant colours and contrasting textures, typical of

ETHICAL LUXURY

M&J SCENTED CANDLES

Gilliengladrag's flamboyant design - includes "Monsieur Saucisson" a cute needle felted sausage dog brooch kit as well as lots of other designs. These are fun to make at home over the holidays both as something to keep the kids occupied and as gifts. You could also pay a visit to the studio and make it a fun day out!

Gillian Harris, author of Complete Feltmaking and Carnival of Felting, runs various courses from her studio at The Fluff-a-torium in Dorking: The Fluff-a-torium, 20 West Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1BL. Tel: 01306 898144. The kits are also available to buy at major retailers including John Lewis, as well as at other independent stores in the UK From £12.75

If you can wait until May (but book now) there is a great new cookery workshop in town. School of Wok is a London-based cookery school headed up by chef Jeremy Pang, offering lessons in cuisines from all over Asia which including Thai, Vietnamese, Indian and Japanese. School of Wok aims to be educational, fun and incredibly different to what is currently out there!



The first of its kind the school teaches you an assortment of cuisines and recipes that you can cook to perfection in a wok; from Indonesian through to Indian and Vietnamese, the choice is endless. It is perfect for friends and families who would like to learn how to learn how to cook their favourite oriental food. The School of Wok (www.schoolofwok.co.uk) do fabulous 1 hr, 3 hr or full day courses (including a tour of China town) and they have gift vouchers, ideal for present ideas especially with Father's Day coming up.

If chocolate is your thing and can't imagine Easter without it then you will love the new products from Amelia Rope. This is a chocolate collection which is all about quality, taste, purity and indulgence. Beautifully wrapped bars and cubes tied with ribbons and in a range of flavours from roses to nut (my current favourite is the Dark Peppermint) there is something for everyone here. Take a look at the website www.ameliarope.com

Stockists include Wholefoods, Selfridges, Liberty and independent stockists across London and beyond including Mia Wood in Kew. RRP from £5.60

Staying with the chocolate for a moment, I want to recommend a gorgeous new flavoured popcorn from Joe and Seph's. A gourmet style popcorn in every possible flavour, both sweet and savoury and perfect for mixing and matching, movie night is calling out for this!

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I love the Milk Chocolate flavour as an alternative (and healthier option) to an Easter Egg. The popcorn comes in pouches, tins or lovely glass jars, so it would make a lovely gift too. Find out more on the website and get picking your combinations! www.joeandsephs.co.uk
 Full list of stockists on website – including Mortimer and Bennett in Turnham Green Terrace and Squires Garden centre in Twickenham RRP from £2.95

I couldn't mention Easter in one of my columns without slipping in some beauty products! For fun ideas look to Lush Cosmetics who have a whole Easter bath range, including Easter Bunnies, carrots, hens and eggs - all smell gorgeous and Lush-y and are hand made. I love the Henata Bath Bomb £4.50 which has 'fun' written all over it! Like a Pinata for the bath, smash it against the side of your tub to reveal a mini ballistic egg, and a blooming big bunch of soap paper flowers. The kids will love these themed gifts and they make a change from the usual offerings!

And finally, enjoy a guilt free chocolate fix with some lip-smackingly gorgeous beauty treats. Here are some lovely choccy inspired beauty products that I would be very pleased to receive as well as give as gifts. For an extra nice touch, wrap in pretty paper and pop them into a small basket.

Bourjois Délice de Poudre is a subtly iridescent bronzing powder with a delicious chocolate-scent and ultra-soft texture. £6.99, www.boots.com

Mavala's Dark Brown Nail Polish (£4.10 Debenhams) is a deep chocolate shade that looks great on toenails.

**Benefit Big Beautiful Eyes (£24.50 www.benefitcosmetics.co.uk or the boutique on the High Road) is a palette of four chocolate-coloured eye shadows with a guide to achieving the perfect eyes. Also from Benefit Cosmetics is the deliciously named Sugarlicious (£24.50), a lovely little box of natural lip and cheek shades, perfect for the first flush of spring and a healthy sugar rush.
 Worth buying for the Sugarbomb lipgloss alone!**

Parfumerie Generale Musc Maori (£81.50 www.lessenteurs.com) is a blend of coffee flowers, musk and amber. It uses bitter, unsweetened chocolate so isn't too sweet, and comes in a lovely, simple bottle. Start hinting now!

So there you go. Lots of treats for Easter and (hardly) a calorie in sight! Happy Easter!

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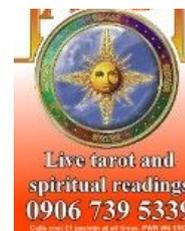
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[New Products For Spring - PART 1](#)
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