

London Evening Standard



Best for the 2012 Olympics | standard.co.uk

INSIDE TODAY



MAKE YOUR HOME A GREAT PLACE TO PARTY

Home Prop

PLUS BE PART OF THE ACTION AS JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATES THE THA

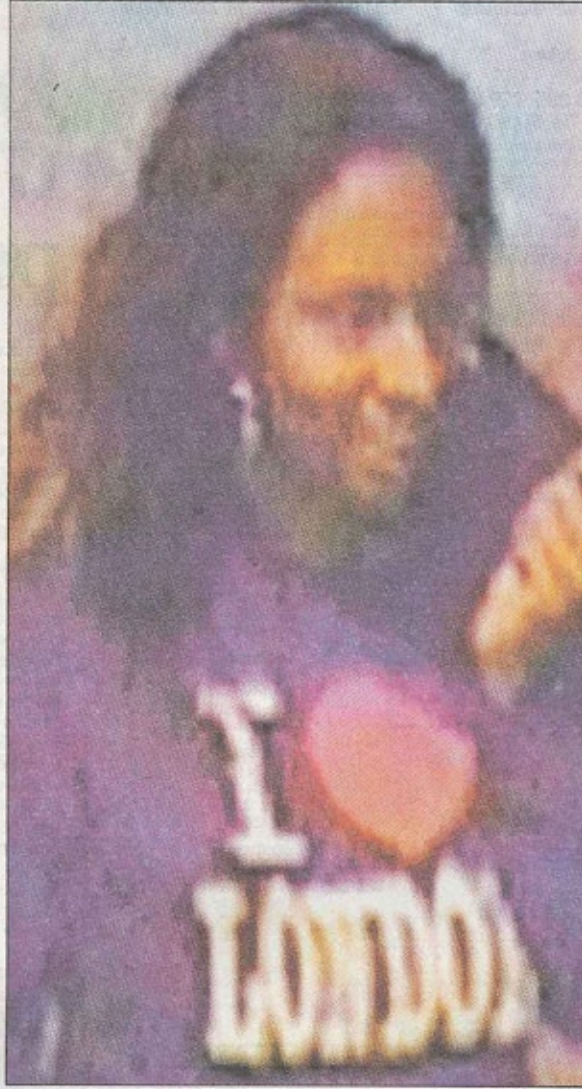
BOXING DAY HIT BY TUBE STRIKE

THREE MORE WALKOUTS IN NEW YEAR

Dick Murray Transport Correspondent

HUNDREDS of thousands of people face travel chaos on Boxing Day after Tube delays...

February 3 and February 13. Tube bosses are considering trying to obtain a High Court injunction to halt the walkouts, but a similar legal move failed last year.



Wednesday 14 December 2011

Homes & Property

What I want for Christmas

Top designers choose their gifts: Page 14



NEW THAMES HOTSPOTS **P4** CHEERS TO COMMUTER VILLAGES **P6** BARGAINS ABROAD IN 2012 **P8** SPOTLIGHT ON CHIGWELL **P16**



Let's party at my place

Page 10

Homes & Property Comfort and joy

homesan

Festive fun on a (slightly) tighter budget

MAKE YOUR HOME A GREAT PLACE TO PARTY

'Tis the season to be savvy for Made In Chelsea's Cheska Hull. Decking the halls of your Yuletide party pad shouldn't break the bank, she tells **Amira Hashish**

FOR reality TV star Cheska Hull it's time to celebrate: she has secured a contract for the third series of *Made In Chelsea*, bagged a handsome boyfriend, model Richie Elms, and found a flat with her best pal Ollie Lock.

Like so many of her friends she has put the flat-buying plan on hold until there is a property climate change, but is planning to deck the halls of their rented pad and have a party.

"My friends and I normally go to our family homes in the country at Christmas but it's been a year of cutbacks and so a lot of us are staying in town to work. We are all going to hold parties and we want our apartments to look amazing."

With the highest-ever numbers of young Londoners renting their homes we teamed up with stylist to the stars Simon Stewart, director of luxury interiors brand Charles Burnand, to create a special renters' guide for a festive home makeover that won't leave drawing pins in the ceiling or (mostly) break the bank.

GET COLOUR CREATIVE

Traditional colours work best. Reds and greens should be the staple, but you can create different looks every year with accents changing from red, green and gold, or red green and silver. Metallics look fabulous in candlelight.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Cover your Christmas table with home-made crackers. You can buy kits online (from £2.99 for six; partypieces.co.uk) and put in your own personalised gifts. To make people feel wanted and for an extra dinner-party touch, cut out your own placecards from coloured cardstock and write your friends' names on with gold or silver pens.

SOMETIMES, THE ONLY WAY IS CANDLELIGHT

Whether you choose a cluster of tea lights or lead crystal hurricanes, candles are a must. For maximum impact group them together. Invest in the best-quality candles that your budget will allow, as they burn better, smell nicer and their scent lasts longer. The DL&Co Jardin Fruiterier range not only look divine, they smell delicious (from £20; charlesburnand.com).

GO CRAZY WITH COSY CUSHIONS TO CUDDLE

A TOP accessory for a cosy Christmas (which you can use all year) is a fun and stylish cushion. Cheska splashed out on hers: "I adore the alphabet cushions from Jonathan Adler and I can rearrange them during the year." (£110 each; jonathanadler.com). But for more affordable cushions to cuddle up to, go to Homebase for its red "Love" option (£9.99) or to good-value Matalan for a mongolian red faux fur version – a bargain at only £8 (matalan.co.uk).



SO NICE TO TOUCH

SMOTHER sofas in soft fabrics: texture is key to the luxe look. Mix faux fur throws with a few metres of smooth-metallic fabrics tucked among the cushions (buy inexpensively off the roll at Peter Jones or John Lewis (johnlewis.com)). The White Company makes a sumptuously soft faux fur throw in chocolate and almond (£100; thewhitecompany.com) or Next has a similar, more budget-friendly range (£40; next.co.uk).



FIZZED: coupe glasses, left, £36 for two; gold-edged tumbler, below, £140, both from Charles Burnand. POP champagne, £15, right, from John Lewis

SPLASH OUT ON 'CHAMPAGNE'

IN A moment of madness Cheska fell for champagne tumblers – the decadent 24 carat-edged Sieger Sip of Gold version (above right) at £140 from Charles Burnand (charlesburnand.com). She also loved the LSA Savoy coupe champagne glasses, also from Charles Burnand (above left, £36 for a pair, as before). Good glasses make good-value fizz taste outrageously expensive. Have a ridiculously huge supply of Pommery POP Champagne (right, £15, johnlewis.com) nicely chilled before your thirsty guests arrive.



RED APPLE:

DL&Co La Petite Pomme Rouge candle, £30; charlesburnand.com

great selection of images with winter themes available (from £250; gettyimages.co.uk).

IT'S NOT CHRISTMAS WITHOUT A GARLAND

A garland is a must, and you can make them so glamorous. For the budget version buy an artificial blank garland and just add decorations such as sprayed cones, which you can tie on with fine wire or twine – or use good old Blu-Tack. Push into the Blu-Tack some tangerines and holly. But if you are feeling flush, Jennie Mann will make a beautiful garland for you from £20 a foot (jenniemann.com).

GET SMART WITH ART

Pick the right festive prints to add that cool edge to the décor. Cheska splashed out the bespoke Swarovski horn wall art (£1,500; charlesburnand.com). But a striking photograph can be just as effective. Photo library Getty has a



MAKE THE TREE YOUR CENTREPIECE

A FRESH Norway spruce smells wonderful. You can buy one from any London garden centre but, as a general rule, be ready to pay about £20 for a basic three-footer. The secret, Cheska discovered, is to pile on the sparkle – more is definitely, erm, more. Buy loads of good-quality soft-white lights, as many as you can afford. Homebase has a huge range (from £3.99; homebase.co.uk). Lucky Cheska had the help of Charles Burnand's bespoke styling service.





Checks wears: Ariella Couture gold dress (£690, ariella.com). Brilliant fox ring (£495, bybrilliant.com) and Roamer Swiss Elegance watch (£295, roamer.ch). Hair by Neville Hair & Beauty (nevillehairandbeauty.net). Make-up by Bella Campbell (bellacampbell.com). Slipper chair by Morrow (£1,350, uk.jonathanadler.com)

**STOCKINGS**

Christmas would not be complete without a stocking. But rather than the traditional red felt option, branch out with one of Sarah Perry's personalised, embroidered designs – big style on a budget (£29, notonthehighstreet.com/saraperrydesigns).



TIEBACKS AND TRIMMINGS: from ribbons to wreaths, VV Rouleaux (vrouleaux.com) in Sloane Square and Marylebone stocks the little details for the finishing touch.

**BARGAIN HUNT**

check out Homebase, where these Elements zest bubble-base wine glasses, left, are £3.99 each (homebase.co.uk), and Dunelm Mill for candle holders that cost just 39p each, right (dunelm-mill.com).



BAUBLES: high-end baubles and decorations from Georg Jensen (Johanne Heart Christmas Decoration, pictured, £30) and Vera Wang (Wedgwood Snowflake Relief Bauble, £25), are bestsellers at John Lewis this year. But you can create a similarly luxurious look for less with the John Lewis Diamanté Wreath Tree Decoration (£3) and the John Lewis Crackle Bauble in Cream (£3.50). Find out more at johnlewis.com



TABLE DRESSING: accessorise with silver and gold metallic bowls for drama on the festive table. The Conran Shop's brushed brass range (conranshop.co.uk) has everything from apple boxes to dessert dishes (from £35).

**BE CREATIVE**

TAKE a woodland walk to find holly, twigs and pine cones, then buy a can of glitter paint (£6.98, diy.com) and get spraying. Tie cinnamon sticks with red ribbon and hang them on your tree. Buy bags of walnuts and bright-orange clementines and throw them down the centre of the dining table between clusters of tea lights (from £3.50 for eight; amazon.co.uk). Have rows of tea lights in small, jewel-coloured glasses on your mantelpiece. Fill the base of a hurricane lamp (from £15, marksandspencer.com) with cranberries and stick a pillar candle (£1.50, also from M&S) in the middle. All gorgeous, beautifully scented and cheap.