

One in eye for this new fashion look



by Marie Clair
SHE'S ON
YOUR WAVELENGTH

I CAUGHT up with an old friend over the Easter break. She was visiting from the Netherlands, where she lives with her husband.

As we chatted over coffee she began telling me about the latest craze over there - eyeball jewellery.

As I choked on my muffin I said: "You're winding me up."

"No, I'm not, honest. It's been in all the papers in the Netherlands. It's the latest fashion trend. And it's set to sweep the world."

I struggle to put Optrex in my eyes, I thought - never mind eye jewellery.

"It involves tiny ornaments inserted directly into the eye," my friend told me.

"It's daring and eye-catching, so to speak - but not for the squeamish."

"You're right there," I told her. "My mother can't even get her contacts in. So what do they look like?"

"Little jewels, about three-and-a-half millimetres across. You can get heart, star and stud-shaped designs, and they sparkle when light shines on them."

"You can get that for free in Glasgow on a Saturday night. It's called a twinkle in your eye from too many Bacardi Breezers," I replied.

She went on: "Six women and a man have had it done in the Netherlands. I think it costs around £330."

It also turned out that two Dutch eye surgeons, Dr Gerritt Mellis and Dr Bob Ververs, performed their first procedure on a 36-year-old model six months ago.

When I told my friend that she seemed to know a lot about the matter, she said she was thinking about getting it done.

"I've got some literature in my bag with me," she added. "I'll let you read it."

As she produced the leaflet I wondered if she'd spent too much time out of Scotland. Maybe I should persuade her to return to Glasgow.

The leaflet told me that a small incision is made in the cornea - the transparent covering of the eyeball - and the jewellery is inserted. It's made from a special type of platinum that the eye will accept.

The whole procedure takes about 10 minutes and patients are given a local anaesthetic eye drop to numb any pain. Afterwards, they may feel a faint burning sensation for a day or two before any discomfort usually vanishes.

In time the jewel becomes part of the eye - even blood vessels start growing over it. The accessories can be removed using the same surgery.

"Sounds interesting, but not for me," I informed my friend.

We paid our bill and made our way out, but as we were saying our goodbyes, a street-cleaner came by, and dust from his brush blew into my friend's eye.

As she rubbed it, she squealed: "Oh my eye, I've got a bit of grit in my eye."

I looked at her and smiled. "If you're having trouble with grit, God help you when you have a sparkly star jewel in it!"

We laughed so much, there were tears in our eyes.