

Client: Hillgrove PR
Source: The Guardian (Main)
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Page: 25
Reach: 305240
Size: 576cm2
Value: 5218.56



Chain gang

'I'm not interested in stones ... we melt everything'

As another glass of white wine was poured in Kath Munro's packed house in the commuter village of Chipstead, Surrey, her female guests eagerly watched the representative from **Ounces2Pounds** eye up their gold.

The representative, Alyson Smith, tipped out one guest's bags of jewellery on to the table and started rummaging through it.

"I'm not interested in stones because we melt everything down and get rid of the stone," she said, pushing a jewelled ring to the side.

She then picked up a rather hefty necklace and poked it with a contraption that tells the representative whether or not the item of jewellery is

made out of gold. It turned out it was and, according to Ounces2Pounds, was worth £250.

A wave of excitement passed round the room as the other ladies imagined what their broken chains could be worth.

The lucky owner, Sue Barclay, said she had no idea it was worth that much. "I didn't really think about it except for the fact that Kath [Munro] said that she made £200 at the last party," she said.

Munro decided to have the party after attending a friend's last year. She made more money than she had expected and was also enticed by the fact

that she would get commission from holding her own party.

Since Smith started working for Ounces2Pounds in September, she has been rushed off her feet.

"Before Christmas it was really busy. I've been travelling all around the country and have even been to Ireland," she said.

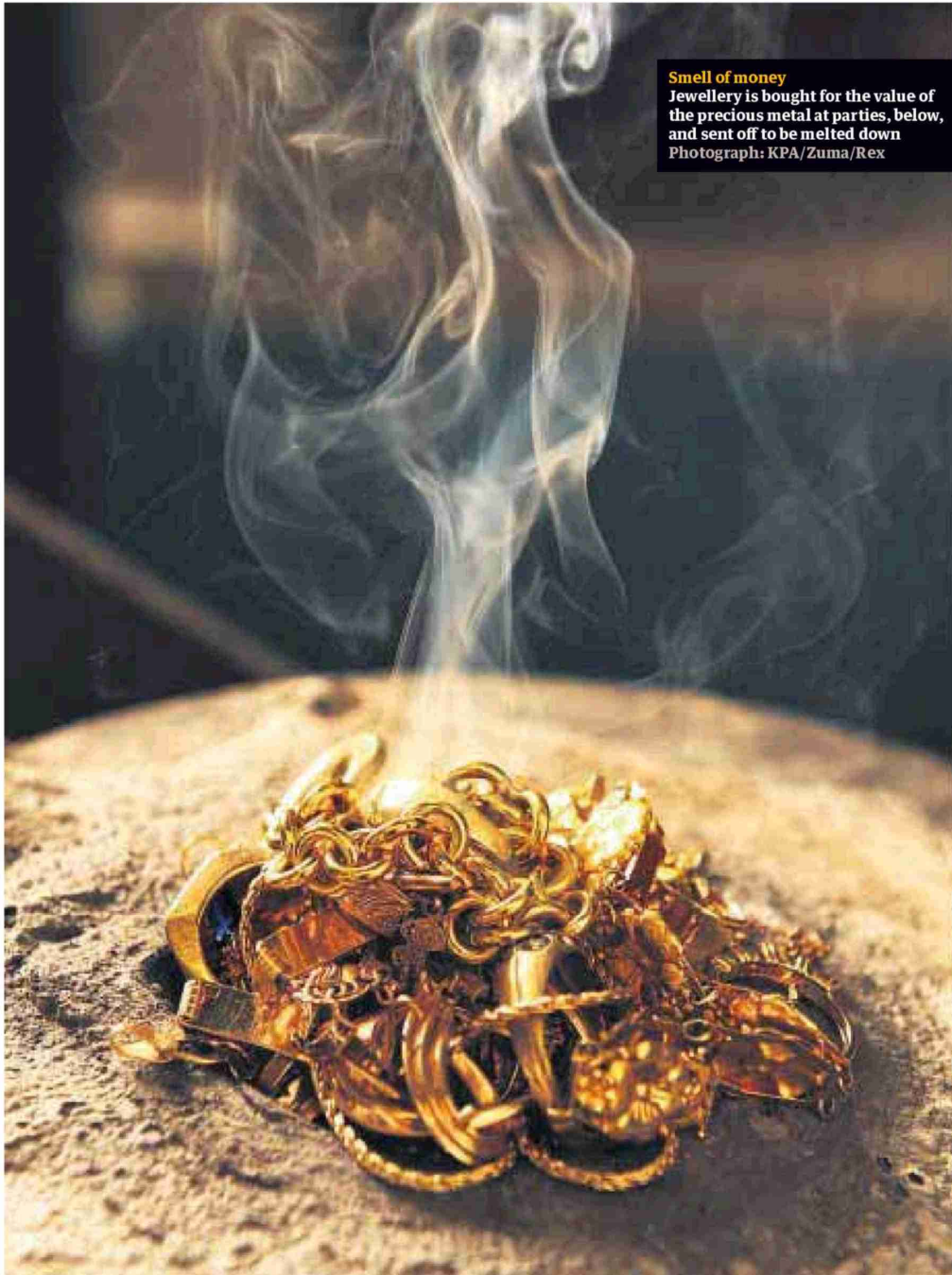
"It's really nice to get together with your girlfriends and have the chance of making money from things you never use."

As the party came to an end, a few of the ladies put their names down to host a party of their own in the coming months.

Kathryn Hopkins



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Smell of money
Jewellery is bought for the value of the precious metal at parties, below, and sent off to be melted down
Photograph: KPA/Zuma/Rex