FREE

# Masters of their Craft

In the Heart of South Somerset



Somerset's hottest new destination, a beautiful courtyard with a wellbeing centre, artisan gift shop and café serving, amongst other things, these mouth-waterers...

Homemade Belgian Waffles with Maple Syrup & Smoked Bacon, Sourdough Stone-Baked Pizzas, Salmon Gravlax Avocado & Pea Shoots Salad, New York Deli Beef & Pickles Toasted Sandwich. All served in a cool café setting with an outdoor terrace.

You're missing out if you haven't been...

jordanscourtyard.co.uk/café-and-terrace kitchen@jordanscourtyard.co.uk 01460 298608

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This booklet is funded by BIS Business Support Fund, commissioned by South Somerset District Council Area North. Compiled by Pauline Burr and Giles Adams

#### More information about places to visit and things to do in the area can be found at www.discoversouthsomerset.com Twitter @VisitSSomerset Facebook/DiscoverSouthSomerset

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### THE CRAFT MASTERS

The history of South Somerset is reflected in the levels and moors, and in the lives of the people that live there. The River Parrett flows through flat meadows and the surrounding hills yield hamstone and blue lias quarried for many years for buildings that add so much to the character of the area.

Within these buildings, skilled craftspeople fashion the local natural resources. These materials reflect the earth around us, often to be used within yards or a few miles from where they came. Within this landscape are also the sounds of creativity. A chisel on wood, a brush on canvas or even a folk singer recreating the songs of Cecil Sharpe, some of which were collected at Hambridge over 100 years ago.

This booklet contains a selection of businesses that use their creativity and talent to turn these resources into things we need in our daily lives.

For more information about South Somerset, visit www.discoversouthsomerset.com

Picture: Ian Lewis, www.ianlewis.photography

Charles .







A R Purnell, Somerton www.arpurnell.co.uk

Ham & Doulting, Ham Hill and Charlton Adam www.hamanddoultingstone.com

> Harvey Stone, Ham Hill www.harveystone.co.uk

> > Ham & Doulting Stone, Ham Hill

## CHIPS OFF THE BLOCK

#### Tom Clark explains his background and life as a stonecarver.

I began carving in 1974, first as a monumental mason and then as an ecclesiastical mason serving an apprenticeship at Chichester Cathedral. I became self-employed in 1981 and over the years have worked on many large and interesting restoration projects including St. George's Chapel in Windsor, Westminster Abbey, The National Gallery, The Public Records Office in London and Ely Cathedral.

In the early 1990s my focus shifted to the development of my own sculptural pieces, inspired largely by travels to India and Egypt as well as my love of medieval art. My orginal designs sell to private and corporate clients worldwide and through a number of galleries across the country.

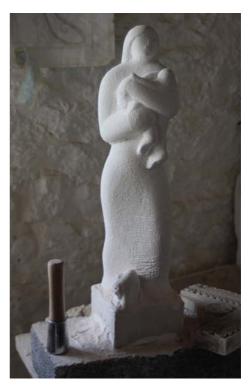
I regularly accept commissions and this has increasingly led to the making of bespoke fireplaces in both traditional and contemporary designs.

I feel especially passionate about making this forgotten skill accessible to all and promoting the satisfaction derived from the creative process and the creation of an end product that can be shared and enjoyed by others. To this end I regularly run stonecarving courses, both at my studio and off-site at various locations across the south of England, including a series of relief carving courses at the V&A in London.

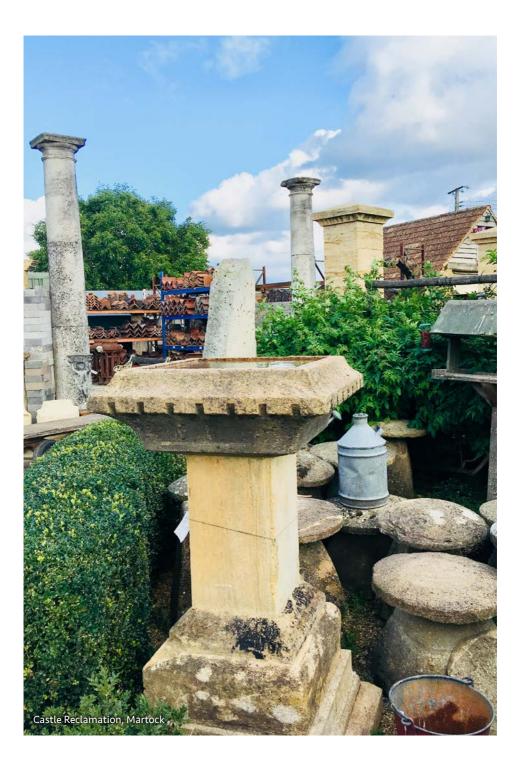
In particular I have had very rewarding experiences with local schools where the children have enjoyed seeing the finished sculptures emerge from the raw materials and recognising the significance of their own involvement. I live and work at Hurst Barton near Martock, where my 16th century hamstone house and grounds host a collection of workshops. This has supported the number of collaborative projects I am able to engage in and the opportunities for inviting students onsite to partake in sculpture and stonecarving courses.

Also on location is a showroom where my sculpture and carvings are on permanent display and which also houses a select number of exhibitions through the year.

#### www.tomclarkstonecarver.co.uk







## STONEWORK

Castle Reclamation, Martock www.castlereclamation.com

Tom Clark, Hurst Barton www.tomclarkstonecarver.co.uk

Nicholas Durnan, Drayton www.nicholasdurnan.co.uk

James Thurtle Flagstone Restoration, Langport www.flagstonerestoration.co.uk



### STONE LOVE

James Thurtle introduces his company, Flagstone Restoration.

Shunning the 'new build' route, I have spent the last 30 years restoring and repairing older buildings, using traditional tools and materials. I have had the privilege to work along-side some great characters and craftsmen who were more than keen to pass on their knowledge. In the 90s I took some time out to study English and History at St Mary's University College, Twickenham. I started working part time for a restoration company to help pay the fees and ended up staying for seven years, working on some beautiful buildings in and around Richmond, Teddington, Chelsea and Putney.

Moving back to Somerset in 2000, I took on a barn conversion and looked to settle down. My daughter was born in 2001.

In 2005 I took on the position of head mason for a private property developer, spending a year restoring the stonework to Langlands Farm House in Kingston. When this came to a close I set about pooling all of my knowledge and experience into a specialist business – Flagstone Restoration was born.

Flagstone Restoration is a small, craft based company that specialises in restoring original,

in-situ flagstone floors to their former glory. We work with Blue Lias, Welsh Pennant, Hamstone and Purbeck on a regular basis.

Flagstones were referred to as "the lungs of the house" regulating the moisture content of the ground floor and walls, enabling the building to breath as a cohesive whole. Our aim is to strip back the many years of ingrained dirt, grime and contaminates, opening up the pores of the stones, breathing new life into the sub-structure of the building. As a result, not only does the floor breathe as intended, it helps to remove any damp odour, often associated with older buildings.

Much more than a cleaning service, our company provides a full restoration service for any natural stone floor. We pride ourselves on attention to detail, drawing from many years in the conservation of stone. Using dustless technology, we have a number of mechanical options at our disposal, cutting down on time and cost to the client.

The old pointing is always removed and replaced with a lime putty based mix, ensuring maximum breathability. We use our blended 'Somerset Mix' for the majority of Blue Lias floors, which has been toned down to be easy on the eye.

www.flagstonerestoration.co.uk

Yandle & Sons, Martock

6.03

## WOODCRAFT & JOINERY

Bancombe Joinery, Somerton www.bancombejoinery.co.uk

Chameleon Bedrooms & Kitchens, Somerton www.chameleonbk.co.uk

Country Style Furniture, Martock www.country-stylefurniture.co.uk

Dave Appleby, Long Sutton www.daveappleby.co.uk

Eternal Kitchens, South Petherton www.eternalkitchens.co.uk

Heartwood, Langport www.heartwood.co.uk Hamwood Crafts, Montacute www.hamwoodcrafts.co.uk

Hummerston Ward, Thorney www.hummerstonward.co.uk

J. Symes & Son, Somerton www.jsymesandson.co.uk

T.J. Reed, Langport www.tjreed.co.uk

Jozef Mesar, Barrington www.jozefmesarwoodcarver.co.uk

## LOG ON TO WOOD TURNING



Dave Appleby explains his love of working with wood.

My craft is woodturning, a form of woodworking that uses a lathe to create objects like bowls, platters chair legs and candlesticks. A lathe is a machine which spins the work piece so woodturning differs from most other forms of woodworking in that the wood is moving while a tool is held steady and positioned to cut and shape it as it rotates.

I haven't always been a professional woodturner but working with wood and particularly woodturning was an important part of my life. After a day in the office I could unwind by retreating to my workshop and use my hands to create items both functional and artistic.

In 2001 I switched careers and became a professional woodturner and soon found myself demonstrating around the area and providing tuition in my workshop. My enjoyment is making artistic pieces for galleries which I have at the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen in Wells, Ace Arts in Somerton and Yandles gallery in Martock as well as further afield in Dorset at Dansel Gallery in Abbotsbury.

Working with timber that would otherwise go on the log pile for burning is a particular joy. It is the ultimate in 'recycling' to turn an apparently useless piece of wood into a functional and artistic item.

I often take commissions from people who have had a tree down in their garden that has a special significance for them and their family - they want pieces made as a reminder of that relationship with a 'living' tree.

The Peat of the Somerset Levels hides a very special wood 'bog oak', buried in floods over 5,000 years ago it occasionally comes to the surface when a farmer is digging out the rhynes or ploughing his fields. It is hard to dry successfully but when turned and finished it has a deep rich ebony colour and is quite a treasure.

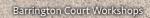
The different grain, texture and colour of woods never cease to amaze me. Every piece of wood is unique.

Cutting into a piece of timber to reveal these features is part of the excitement and I always try to allow what is revealed to influence my work. Knots and natural splits are not imperfections but opportunities. I am constantly looking to create beautiful forms and develop new carving textures in the wood, incorporating gold leaf or natural materials like leather if it feels right.

www.daveappleby.co.uk

Dave Appleby





### Artisan workshops at Barrington Court

There are five independent artisan workshops located in the old farm buildings along the avenue at Barrington Court where visitors can appreciate traditional craftsmanship and creativity.

Here you'll find Barrington Pottery, Jozef Mesar - Master Woodcarver, Holland Chairs, Andrew Clarke - Goldsmith and Barrington Patchwork.



#### **Barrington Pottery**

Paul Jessop specialises in simple, elegant and practical slipware pottery. In Paul's words, "Here at Barrington Pottery we love to make Traditional Hand Thrown Pottery, the type of pottery that your granny would have used, but our pots are designed for use in modern living, whether it be baking, cooking, eating or just having a cup of tea with friends, doing any of these things is enhanced if you're using our hand made pottery."

www.barringtonpottery.com



#### **Holland Chairs**

Holland Chairs started over three generations ago as boat builders. As the desire for wooden boats fell into decline with new fibreglass boats being used the company evolved to traditional cabinetmakers. This art was refined to the English Windsor and country chair-making company of today, producing handmade chairs of bespoke design. All Holland Chairs are made entirely in their Somerset workshop and each chair is made individually for every customer.

www.hollandchairs.co.uk



#### Jozef Mesar

Jozef is a Master Carver who learned his craft in Bratislava. He sent up his own business in 1992, working on private commissions including ornate reliefs, crests, shields and statues. He later spent over seven years teaching wood carving.

Jozef was invited by Stuart Interiors at Barrington Court to work on their major pieces of 16th century reproduction carved furniture including linen fold panelling.

#### **Andrew Clarke Designs**

Andrew Clarke creates hand crafted fine jewellery using gold silver and platinum. You can see his work on Instagram - @aclarkedesigns



#### **Barrington Patchwork**

Barrington Patchwork stock a wide selection of fabrics, including Fabric Freedom, Makower, Moda and Oakshott. There is also a good selection of quilting notions, Finca threads, cutting mats, rotary cutters and batting; and some beautiful ribbons. A series of workshops is also available.

www.barrington-patchwork.co.uk

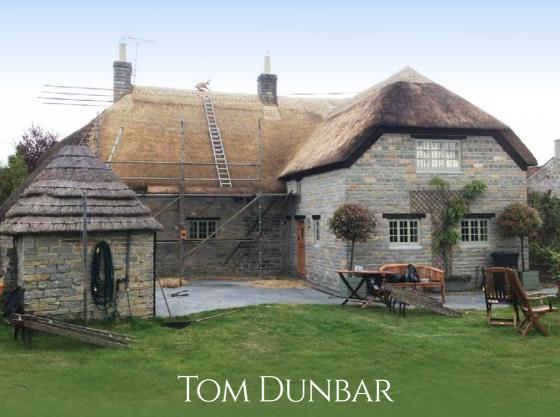


www.jozefmesarwoodcarver.co.uk

### NIGEL BUNCE

Nigel's thatching career started in 1989 as an apprentice to a New Forest Master Thatcher. Attending Knuston Hall Thatching College, as part of his apprenticeship, Nigel trained utilising all the traditional thatching materials, including long straw, combed wheat reed and water reed. After completing his apprenticeship, Nigel travelled extensively throughout the United Kingdom, Holland and Germany before settling in Somerset in 1996. Demand for Nigel's work however is extensive and often takes him all over the UK.

www.nigelbuncethatcher.co.uk



Tom Dunbar grew up on the Somerset Levels and studied at Cannington Agricultural College to do the National Certificate in Agriculture. Following an apprenticeship and then working with Jack Lewis, a well-respected Master Thatcher working around the Somerset Levels, Tom worked alongside Nigel Bunce, later forming Dunbar & Bunce.

"Nigel and I have spent many years working together to secure a fine reputation for our work. We have both recently started families, so after many years of collaboration and hundreds of jobs carried out, we are both now setting out on our own new journeys, still holding the highest respect for each other"

www.tomdunbarthatcher.co.uk



Mark Melbourne fires the Kiln at John Leach Pottery, Muchelney.

### CLAY

Dennis Chinaworks, Shepton Beauchamp www.dennischinaworks.com

> Ellis Pottery, High Ham www.sites.google.com/site/ ellispotteryofhighham/

Muchelney Pottery www.johnleachpottery.co.uk

Barrington Pottery, Barrington www.barringtonpottery.com

Westend Pottery, Littleton www.westendpottery.co.uk

## The Wheel Spins in High Ham

Rob Ellis gives some background to his love of pottery.

I first became interested in pottery in 2002 when my wife persuaded me to accompany her to a nightclass run by David Brown (dbpottery of Merriott) at Yeovil College. The early weeks of hand-building slab pots and coiled vases did little to stir my enthusiasm; then I tried my hand at 'throwing'!

After a few terms I had become hooked and decided to invest in my own wheel and kiln. I have now taken over the garage and conservatory as my workshop/display space with an assortment of wheels and kilns fitting amongst the paint pots and garden tools – a truly rustic affair! I juggle my pottery around a full-time job but I hope one day to swap my desk for a potter's wheel.

My work is mainly functional kitchenware, including mugs, jugs, teapots and bowls, although I also like to throw larger, more challenging pieces and am always looking for ways to enhance my pots by adding facets, texture and simple decoration while retaining the basic, traditional forms I have always preferred.

All of my pots are hand-thrown. Until recently they were all fired to stoneware in an electric kiln but I have now built myself a small gas reduction kiln where many of the pots are now glaze fired to Cone 10. The main glaze colours include blues, tenmoku, copper reds and celadon green. I also use simple wood ash glazes which vary according to the specific type of ash used. I enjoy experimenting with the endless possibilities of reduction firing and am constantly grappling with the unpredictability that this method of firing



brings. A larger gas kiln is currently under design and when complete, will help increase the volume of pots I can produce.

I am a member of the Westcountry Potters Association and 'Ellis Pottery of High Ham' can be found at local street fairs and in selected shops or you can view my pottery, by appointment, at home.

Sara's role is selling the pottery so you will probably meet her at the local street fairs. She does dabble with the making side although her pieces are usually heart shaped (and lean away from my philosophy of each piece having a function – 'being pretty' would be her answer). Sara's range includes mugs, jugs, bowls, buttons and necklaces with colours including blues, whites, reds, pinks and purples.

www.sites.google.com/site/ ellispotteryofhighham

## Glass As You Like It



Will Shakspeare is one of the country's best known glass blowers. He has been featured regularly in the press and on TV including Inside The Factory, Kirstie's Homemade Home and Kirstie's Homemade Christmas with Kirstie Allsopp, and in the Telegraph Magazine with David Nicholls.

Will set up Shakspeare Glass over 25 years ago and has supplied many galleries and well-known stores in that time. He has also worked in Central and South America as a consultant in glass production and design for various NGOs. In more recent years he has been joined by his wife Kate who generally looks after the trade side of things. Will works with a small and very talented team of glass assistants, and has fantastic help with all other aspects from some fab locals.

Will says of his work: "I make a wide range of different designs which are constantly evolving. I deliberately design glass with a random factor, an aspect that is beyond my control. I try and use colour so that it affects the final shape of the piece in a natural and fluid way. In doing this I have to work with the glass rather than completely imposing my own constrictions." And on inspiration "There is something magical about water, from just wondering why the bath always drains one way to the awesome destruction of the ocean.

"I have always loved rock pools; I have albums of photographs taken over the years of different pools in different places. They fascinated me when I was small and they still do.

Now the flow of the tide is becoming an intrinsic part of my work, both in pools and the sea. The reflection of sunlight as the tide pulls back and forth on the plants and creatures in the water is something that has eluded me with a camera or pencils. To me it seems plain to use glass as a medium for this expression. Glass captures the qualities I love about the sea and water in a fluid way as no other can. "I am also getting more influenced by the landscape around the levels, the relationship and colours of the sky and land. I love looking at what joins them, the rhynes, reeds and willows."

#### www.shakspeareglass.co.uk



### GLASS

Glassification, Ilminster www.glassification.co.uk

Shakspeare Glass www.shakspeareglass.co.uk

Sally Kent www.sallykentglass.co.uk

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#### For Every Cloud Creative Workshops

#### Calligraphy

Learn the art of beautiful writing.

#### Printmaking

Plan, design and cut lino to create an original piece of artwork.

#### **Experimental Textiles**

Explore different techniques such as screenprint, foiling and dyes to create samples.

#### Book Binding

Make a hand-stitched hardback book with marbled end papers.

#### Screenprinting

Create artwork from a photograph or line drawing for use on textiles and paper.

#### **Paper Making** Use traditional methods and natural ingredients on this fun workshop for all ages.

**Design Your Own** Bespoke hen parties, corporate and children's workshops catered for.

Bow Street, Langport, TA10 9PR Phone: 01458 251475 Email: foreverycloud@icloud.com www.foreverycloud.co.uk



### GIFT & CRAFT IDEAS

B.B. Discount Shop, Somerton

Cocklemoor Gift and Craft Shop, Langport

Dennis Chinaworks, Shepton Beauchamp www.dennischinaworks.com

Eustace & Arthur, Langport www.eustaceandarthur.co.uk

For Every Cloud, Langport www.foreverycloud.co.uk

Little Poppet, Martock

Hamwood Crafts, Montacute www.hamwoodcrafts.co.uk

Hattie & Heid, South Petherton www.hattieandheid.co.uk

> Lafleure, Langport www.lafleure.co.uk

Mrs McGregor's Craft Emporium, Somerton www.mrsmcgregors.com

> Muchelney Pottery www.johnleachpottery.co.uk

Shakspeare Glass www.shakspeareglass.co.uk

Somerton Hobbies, Somerton

Stationery House & Gifts, Somerton

The Gifted Co, Somerton

Westend Pottery, Littleton www.westendpottery.co.uk

Yandles www.yandlesartandcrafts.co.uk



## MUSGROVE WILLOWS

Musgrove Willows is a family run business, founded in 1928. Michael Musgrove, along with his wife Ellen, is a third generation willow grower. Having accumulated many years of specialised knowledge and experience, handed down by his father and grandfather, Michael is passing the knowledge to son Jack, the fourth generation and youngest willow grower in Somerset.

Based on the Somerset Levels, world-renowned as the home of the willow industry, the Musgroves, from their Willow Fields base, grow 100 acres of over 60 willow varieties and run a host of educational courses. All of their crop is processed at home, using traditional methods and working sensitively with the environment, ensuring ultimate control and quality.

The willow is used by many different people for a wide variety of projects. Musgrove Willows is a leading supplier of willow to independent basket makers, art colleges, schools and youth organisations, retail and commercial customers. Musgrove's willow is regularly distributed all over the world and used by the National Trust, Natural England and the RSPB.

Traditional Somerset bundles of willow are used for basketry, sculpture, craft and hurdle making. Many different varieties and colours of willow are available for ornamental use and flower arranging.

Living willow has become very popular as a form of fencing and garden decoration. Tailor-made kits are supplied ready to plant with instructions, available January to April.

Hand woven willow coffins are made with willow from sustainable withy beds and are appropriate for burial, cremation, woodland and green burial sites.

www.musgrovewillows.co.uk

## Coates English Willow

Tucked away in the rural village of Stoke St Gregory in the heart of the Somerset Levels, the Coate family have been growing withies on the moors since 1819 and making willow baskets and willow charcoal for almost 50 years. The unique wetland environment of the Somerset Levels and moors is perfect for growing willow as well as being a haven for wildlife. Basket making willow has been grown here for two centuries, and it is now the only area left where it is still commercially grown and processed for the production of baskets, furniture, garden items and high quality artists' charcoal.

If you are curious about how the baskets are made, you can join one of their guided tours.

Hear the whole willow story, from planting a willow sett, to finishing a basket. The very special museum is free of charge to wander around and wonder about the days before plastic when baskets were used for virtually everything. It is full of baskets, willow curiosities and artefacts from over 100 years ago.

For those not into shopping, perhaps a Willow Walk exploring this special landscape would be a great alternative. There are 3 different paths you can choose from and the Willow Sculpture Trail is a popular feature with the children.

www.coatesenglishwillow.co.uk



## Hats Off To Superb Talent



Fruitbat textiles is an award-winning hand crafted textiles company based in the heart of Somerset.

Charlotte Martin, creative director of the business, graduated from the University of Creative Arts, Farnham, specialising in weaving and spent four years working with Beverley Edmondson Millinery, where she developed many skills in both textiles and millinery. Charlotte is Somerset born and bred and her work, colours and textures, are totally inspired by her local surroundings.

She mixes her own dyes and weaves the fabrics. She is a trained milliner. Charlotte is based in her workshop in a creative corner of Ilminster. She is hugely passionate about keeping traditional crafts alive within the country and she works hard to educate society about the skills and standards needed to create traditional hand crafted pieces.

Charlotte's designs are made using natural fibres. She believes this approach is kinder to

the environment and allows her to replicate the colours and textures that inspire her throughout the year.

Living in an area of outstanding beauty, Charlotte's work is motivated by the seasons - whether it's the bluebell fields of spring; the beautiful dusk light on a ham stone building during summer; the leaves and trees and rich, rusty oranges of autumn; or the magical light of a frosty, winter morning - Charlotte manages to capture the look and feel of these stunning environments in her dying and weaving.

She creates hand woven and dyed luxury accessories for both men and women. Her often bespoke, unique pieces range from scarves and wraps, flat caps and other casual style hats, to occasion wear such as hats and fascinators. She also takes commissions.

#### www.fruitbattextiles.co.uk









Lafleure has a strikingly different, fantastic selection of beautifully crafted pieces for your home. Everything is carefully chosen with imagination and an eye for beauty, style and practicality to provide you with the unique and perfect.

In 2002 Susan Khan chose to achieve her perfect work-life balance, satisfying her love of every aspect of interiors and her dream of having her own shop. At the same time being able to work with her passion for colour, texture, touch, style and design. This can be seen throughout the extensive range of furniture, lighting, accessories and gifts.

Choosing Somerset over London, the Corner Shop in Langport provided the perfect central location, being set amongst talented crafts people and artists who produce the individual pieces, which make Lafleure unique. Lafleure now occupies shops with unique product offerings opposite each other at the top of the High Street.

Whether they be new or reupholstered, the luxury custom-built sofas and chairs are sourced here in the UK. Lafleure's first priority is comfort, so you can relax in the knowledge that they are the highest standard with quality guaranteed. Susan has exceptional, individual, hand-painted French furniture and mirrors. As well as, a wide selection of good lighting, a must for every home!

Thoughtful and special, perfect presents are chosen with the recipient in mind, you can be sure that you'll find something that they will love.

Lafleure can help with anything from a statement piece of furniture to complete a room, to updating a whole house. You can be starting from scratch or downsizing, the advice is always friendly, informative and focused on what you want to achieve.

Susan also provides bespoke services such as handmade tables, made-to-measure curtains & mirrors and reupholstered sofas, working with talented local artists and crafts people. That's why she is here, in Somerset.

Lafleure pride themselves on excellent service, attention to detail, quality workmanship and the personal touch. It is a friendly business where many customers are known by their first names and new customers are always welcome.



#### www.lafleure.co.uk

Life Interiors & Antiques Boutique, Somerton

11/1

### INTERIORS

Arttus www.arttus.com

Emily Bizley www.emilybizley.co.uk

Hossack & Gray www.hossackandgray.co.uk

Helen Izzard Designs www.helenizzard.co.uk

Lafleure www.lafleure.co.uk Sarah O'Malley Upholstery www.sarahtomalleyupholstery.co.uk

McKay Upholstery www.mckay-upholstery.co.uk

Stuart Interiors www.stuartinteriors.com

Suttons www.suttonupholsterers.co.uk

Willow Interiors www.willowinteriorssomerset.co.uk

Living Pretty www.livingpretty.co.uk





Thelma andra

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If you can keep your head when all about you Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can brust yourself when all men doubt you, Sut make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting, Or being lated, don't gives way to hating, And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:
If you can dram- and not make dreams your master; If you can dram- and not make dreams your master; If you can dram- and not make the same;
If you can dram and not make the same;
If you can think- and not make the same;
If you can thear to hear the truth you've spoken musted by braves to make at ray for foot,
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken musted by braves to make at your beginnings and stoop and build can you winnings marisk it or one turn of pitch and tos;
If you can bear to four there to not being they you foot,
If you can bear to four the truth you've spoken musted by draves to make at your beginnings and stoop and build can your beginnings and stoop and build can your beginnings and stoop and build can your beginnings and so do when there to nothing in you.
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with Xings- ner love the cannon, touch, If you can thill which says to them: 'bloid on'.
If you can thill which so have to fast a sum of given the you, J al men count with you, but none to muck; If you can fill the unforgiving munte with sub yecondit worth of intence run, Jours is the zarth and everything that's in it, and-which is more- you'l be adman, my son



# Stratospheric Talent

Donna Vale explains her creative work and talent.

I set up For Every Cloud in 2013, a creative venue based in Langport, a small town in the heart of the Somerset Levels.

I graduated in 2012 with a First Class Honours degree in Art and Textiles. Teaching was an ambition, the premises were a dream and then suddenly everything fell into place. My business mission statement 'where friendship and creativity meet' sums up the ethos of what I do. A place where people can learn, have fun, relax and make friends, I also believe in an environment where visitors don't feel overwhelmed.

Within the premises there is a shop and gallery where a pop-up shop stocking local art and crafts features alongside my own. Workshops are held in the gallery space and a studio, which is also used to teach screen printing.

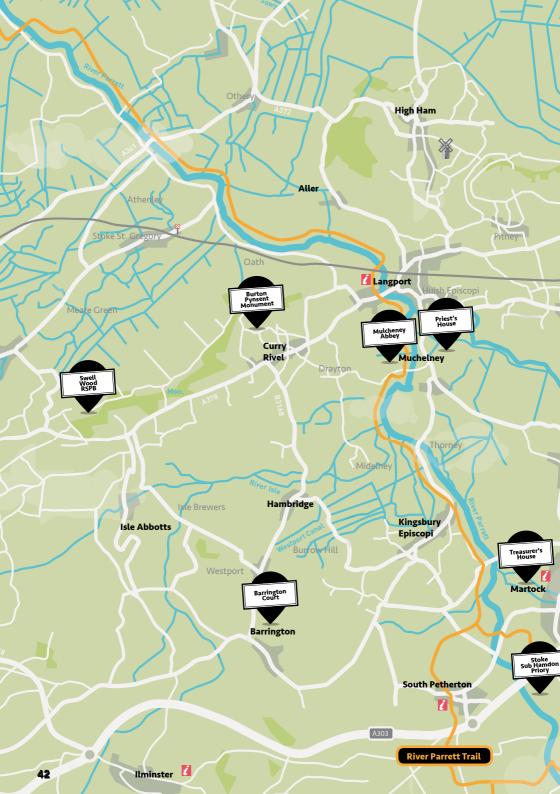
Both spaces can be hired by tutors who bring their skills to teach popular classes such as needle felting. My workshop list is varied and attracts people from as far as London, France and Denmark who come with friends and family to stay in this beautiful part of the country, booking days to make and take....and of course have tea and cake.

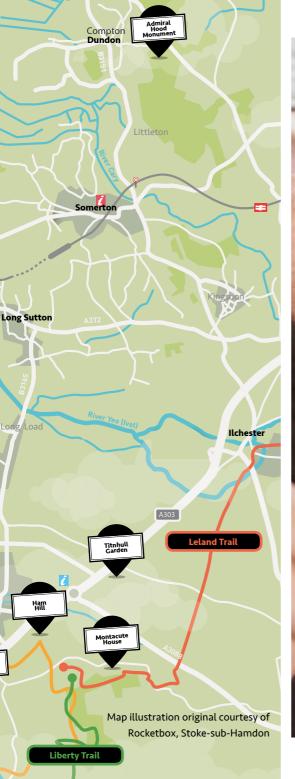
From experimental textiles to bookbinding, etching with Perspex to indigo dyeing, I thoroughly enjoy helping students grow. Through the winter months it is the calligraphy tuition that keeps me warm. So much emotion comes from the skill of writing beautifully and seeing the smiles on people's faces when they get results really makes my day. I work alongside local B&B's and cafes to provide an all-round experience, there is something for everyone. Offering bespoke events for hen parties, corporate functions and children's birthdays and more recently, a summer school for adults.

Alongside workshops I create bespoke calligraphy and stationery for weddings, sublimation printing for personalised gifts and sign writing.



#### www.foreverycloud.co.uk







# History In Your Hand

Southcombe Gloves has been supplying, designing and making gloves since 1847. Based in the picturesque Somerset village of Stokesub-Hamdon where they have been since their foundation, Southcombe own and operate a tannery, a glove factory, a warehouse and a head office which are all run by a team of dedicated and long-serving staff. A fifth-generation family owned and run company and the oldest family run glove company left in the UK, Southcombe are known for their product knowledge and expertise. You can be assured that Southcombe gloves will be skilfully cut to give a flexible fit and made from great quality leather with immaculate finishing.

Southcombe are justifiably proud of the quality of their gloves. True product experts, they carefully oversee every step of the design, material selection, production and finishing process to ensure that the end product meets their exacting standards. Only the best quality skins are used to make the premium leather that quality gloves demand. All Southcombe's styles are individually cut by skilled craftsmen to ensure the very best possible fit, the pieces are then passed to the sewing department for assembly. Whether sewn by hand or machine the process can appear complex with a minimum of sixteen separate cut pieces per pair to assemble but this is all part of making the perfect pair of gloves.

By purchasing a pair of Southcombe Gloves you are helping to support British manufacturing. The factory in Somerset employs a local team of skilled leather producers, glove cutters, makers and finishers. These craftsmen and women are involved in the production of many of the glove styles presented on Southcombe's website **www.southcombe.com.** 



Southcombe Gloves

### Fashion

ABC Wedding Dresses, Langport www.abcweddingdresses.co.uk

Bespoke of Somerton www.bespokeofsomerton.co.uk

Blooms Forever, Somerton www.bloomsforever.co.uk

Concept Products, Somerton www.conceptproductsltd.co.uk

Coastal Blue Clothing, Long Sutton www.coastalblueclothing.co.uk

Jules The Jewels, Somerton www.julesthejewels.co.uk

Norton Sewing Services – Stoke-sub-Hamdon www.nortonsewingservices.co.uk

Wedding Belles Bridal Boutique, Somerton www.wedding-belles-bridal-boutiquebridal-shop.business.site

Southcombe Gloves, Stoke-sub-Hamdon www.southcombe.com

> Tom's Place, Long Sutton www.tomsplace.co.uk

Top Notch Vintage, Somerton www.topnotchvintage.co.uk

Made to Sew, Hambridge www.madetosew.com

# A SELECTION OF COURSES

Ace Arts www.acearts.co.uk

Barrington Patchwork www.barrington-patchwork.co.uk

Barrington Pottery www.barringtonpottery.com

Bluebell Antique Furniture Restoration www.bluebellantiqueandvintagefurniture.co.uk

> Tom Clark www.tomclarkstonecarver.co.uk

Dave Appleby, wood turning www.daveappleby.co.uk

Glassification www.glassification.co.uk

Helen Izzard Designs www.helenizzard.co.uk

Sally Gent - Glass www.sallykentglass.co.uk

Made to Sew www.madetosew.com

Jozef Mesar, Barrington www.jozefmesarwoodcarver.co.uk

Nicholas Durnan, stonecarving www.nicholasdurnan.co.uk

For Every Cloud, creative www.foreverycloud.co.uk

Shakspeare Glass www.shakspeareglass.co.uk

Julia Thompson, jewellery, silverwork www.juliathompson.co.uk

> Vintage DooDahs, High Ham Frenchic furniture painting www.vintagedoodahs.com



### Reaping Success From Sewing

Aneka Truman is the owner of Made to Sew. Under the Made to Sew brand Aneka teaches sewing classes in-person, sells stylish dressmaking patterns and sewing supplies on her website www.madetosew.com, and shares a wealth of knowledge through online classes and free sewing tutorials on YouTube.

Aneka launched Made to Sew in 2013, with an education from London College of Fashion and a background in the fashion industry. Aneka started Made to Sew to help inspire people to take up sewing as a hobby, and to teach professional sewing and fitting techniques, helping her students to create 'wow' garments they can be proud of. The majority of students attend her classes to get help finishing their garments, fitting them correctly (to their individual figures), and making garments that look handmade and less homemade!

Aneka launched her YouTube channel (madetosew) in 2015, with the aim to support her in-person sewing classes. Offering videos for complete beginners to more advanced dressmaking techniques and couture tips. The channel has grown expediently and now has 170,000 subscribers from across the world. This world-wide influence has enabled Aneka to travel the world to teach her in-person sewing classes; classes that provide expert tuition, helping students to make professional looking garments.

#### www.madetosew.com





Sarah O'Malley Upholstery, Isle Brewers

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# ANTIQUES AND UPCYCLING

Bluebell Antique Furniture Restoration, Martock www.bluebellantiqueandvintagefurniture.co.uk

Castle Reclamation, Martock www.castlereclamation.com

Country Style Furniture, Martock www.country-stylefurniture.co.uk

Curious Collectables, Somerton 01458 273755

Hambridge Antiques www.hambridgeantiques.com

> Lafleure, Langport www.lafleure.co.uk

Langport Clocks, Langport www.langportclocks.co.uk

Life Interiors & Antiques Boutique, Somerton www.life-england.co.uk

Market Cross Antiques-Somerton www.marketcrossantiques.com

Shades of Grey, Somerton www.facebook.com/shadesofgreyfurniture/

Tinhouse Home and Garden Antiques, Somerton www.tinhousehomeandgarden.co.uk

Veelyn, South Petherton www.veelyn.co.uk

Vintage DooDahs, High Ham www.vintagedoodahs.com



Lydia Needle

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# Be All and End All

#### Lydia Needle explains her remarkable work.

I'm a textile and mixed media artist from Somerset. I work with a range of found, salvaged and beach-combed materials combined with wool but it is always the wool itself that inspires my practice. All of my work has an emphasis on the environment and sustainability and my current major creative project is called, 'FIFTY BEES: The Interconnectedness of All Things' and was devised to showcase the plight of the British bee.

The FIFTY BEES project began because I came to realise how very ignorant I was about bees, despite my lifelong interest in the natural world. My primary focus throughout the project is to research and to learn as much as possible about our bees.

To this end, I sculpt small, individual art pieces from wool and thread inside a range of wonderful vintage containers; so far there are one hundred sculptures but I am aiming to complete 262, one for each of Britain's species of bee. The containers as these are a vitally important part of the FIFTY BEES project. Not only are they the frames for the artwork but they are also like characters in the story so they have to talk to me and I have to fall in love with them a little bit in order to be inspired to work into them, to transform them into something new and unique. The size, shape, sound, touch and, sometimes, even the smell of a container helps me to decide what creature to build inside.

For each of the FIFTY BEES exhibitions, another fifty artists, makers, writers and musicians produce one new work in response to one of my bee pieces, in order to give a fuller illustration of the diversity of our bee population, how endangered it is and how our pollinators are completely interlinked with our ecosystem.

www.lydianeedle.com



# Inventive Use Of Space

### Rob Thompson outlines his work as a furniture maker.

I moved to a smallholding in Somerton from Surrey in 2011. My background after a design degree was designing and making film and TV props and models, I then moved into special effects. I spent a lot of time pattern making and manufacturing carbon components for motorsport. I started designing and making furniture for myself, then friends and it grew from there.

I have a fully equipped workshop including spraying and can work in a range of materials in addition to traditional hardwoods such as mdf, plywood, metal, plastics and carbonfibre. I also have access to modern production techniques such as CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) for accurate repeat components. After a customer makes contact I generally visit and talk through their requirements. At this point we can discuss the best way to go around their project. I can create built-in and freestanding pieces. We will decide if it should be solid timber, incorporate sheet material such as mdf, veneers or plywood etc. I will bring along a range of sample materials and finishes to help the process. If a spray finish is required I use furniture grade water based paints and can match any colour. Once I have enough information including an idea of budget I can produce drawings and accurate costings. Drawings can be by hand or created on a computer.

All jobs are made at my workshop and delivered as near to finished as possible. I try to minimise the time spent in the house to reduce the dust and disruption.

www.robthompson.co.uk 07764 935412



Vintage DooDahs

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Lovely old things for sale...

Vintage DooDahs

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Langport Clocks

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### WHERE TIME DOES NOT STAY STILL

Langport Clocks is owned and run by Steve Brown. Originally from the north east of England, Steve originally trained and worked as a bespoke guitar maker for Overwater Guitars. This experience led him to make guitars for many of the best musicians and stars of the time, including most notably Dave Gilmour of Pink Floyd.

Around 1987 he moved to Langport in Somerset where he worked as a partner within an international clock restoration business. The workshop in Langport worked almost exclusively for the clock trade and furnished two connected retail outlets in Kensington, London and Madison Avenue, New York. Throughout the life of this partnership Steve worked on many of the best clocks in the world including antique clocks made by notable makers such as George Graham and Thomas Tompion. Setting up Langport Clocks in 2013 Steve now offers a more retail focused, visible and approachable service. Set within the Shakspeare Glass and arts building, Steve offers clock and cabinet restoration services as well as bespoke horological commissions.

With an eye on sustainability it is also possible to up-cycle many old and un-desirable clocks, re-designing them or re-finishing them for a more modern and contemporary lifestyle.

As well as restoration, Langport Clocks also strives to offer a selection of restored antique clocks for sale. And with a wealth of experience in clock restoration, if a customer has a particular style, colour or design in mind, Steve will endeavour to source a clock to suit requirements.

www.langportclocks.co.uk 07557 442229





# ARCHITECTS

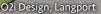
Graham Vincent Architecture Norton Sub Hamdon www.grahamvincent.co.uk

John Wratten Associates South Petherton www.johnwratten.com

O2i Design Langport www.o2idesign.com

Paul James Architectural Designs Martock 01935 826805

Tandem Architects Drayton www.tandemarchitects.org



## Creating Gardens



Somerset is still very much in contact with the land. A county of market towns, villages, small farms, small fields, hedges and wild flowers, the landscape with its hills, the open moors, the levels and the waterways. Somerset is home to so many producers of quality foods and drinks, all making their living from the land.

Nonetheless for many people our busy lives can take us away from that close connection to the land. Even here there is a need to be aware of environmental issues. Our gardens are a way we can address this.

#### More Than a Garden

Based in Compton Dundon in a very original Somerset longhouse, More Than a Garden is a small garden design practice led by Kate Towers. Kate has been creating gardens in Somerset for almost 20 years, qualifying with distinction from the Garden Design School at the Bristol Botanic Gardens.

More Than a Garden has moved away from traditional design methods to work more closely with people, involving them directly in the design process. In this way they become more connected with their gardens, and have the knowledge and confidence to care for them and develop them as they evolve.

Kate draws inspiration from nature, walking the hills, paths and waterways of Somerset to understand what works; the soil, the plants, the geology and the climate. Somerset has experienced extremes of weather with the floods and the recent dry summer. Garden design in the 21st century needs to understand what works in this changing climate and what gardens are for in our modern lifestyles.

Working with Kate is Nicky Gibney who brings a focus on health and wellbeing to the practice. Contact with the land and nature play an important role in our health. Gardens, however large or small can nurture and provide a place to relax and unwind from the stresses of life. Working with nature rather than fighting it can bring a balance to our lives. More Than a Garden run a range of workshops looking at natural dyes, edible weeds and medicinal plants, and yes, garden design too.

www.morethanagarden.uk

More Than a Garden

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Greenshutters Nursery

### Flora

Ailsa Rose Designs, Huish Episcopi 07745 468400

AYR Gardening Services Shepton Beauchamp www.ayr-gardenmaintenance.co.uk

Badbury Flower Co, Isle Abbotts www.badburyflowerco.com

Beverley Landscaping, Langport 01458 241560

Blooming Linda's, Somerton www.bloominglinda.co.uk

Paul R Brunsdon, High Ham www.paulrbrunsdon.co.uk

The Flower Loft, Martock www.theflowerloft-martock.co.uk

> Flower Magic, Langport 07999 488084

Flower Preservation Workshop, Somerton www.flowerpreservationworkshop.co.uk

Greenshutters Nursery, Fivehead www.greenshuttersgardencentre.com

Healing Garden Design, Langport 01458 251153 Kelways, Langport www.kelways.co.uk

Little Thatch Florist, South Petherton 01460 242840

More than a garden, Compton Dundon www.morethanagarden.uk

Landscape My Garden, Somerton www.landscapemygarden.co.uk

Martin Kiddle Driveways, Somerton www.martinkiddle.co.uk

Moondown Nurseries, South Petherton 01460 241448

Patricia Marrow Landscaper, Somerton 01935 840232

Simon Land Gardens, South Petherton www.simonlandgardenservices.co.uk

Andrew Tabor Landscaping Design & Construction – South Petherton www.andrewtaborlandscaping.co.uk

Willoway Landscaping services, Isle Brewers www.willowayls.co.uk

Windmill Farm Flowers, Pibsbury www.windmillfarmflowers.co.uk

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C K Garden Sculptures

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### OUTSTANDING IN THE GARDEN

Chris Kampf studied at Leicester Poly gaining a BA Hons in jewellery and silversmithing back in 1988. He designed and made jewellery for three years before joining The Steelworks, which gave Chris a wonderful opportunity to weld various designs: desks, wall art, lighting and a selection of weird animals, all from the Camden Lock gallery. In 1993, a move to Covent Garden and the creation of Rex The Mouse brought a whole new audience which has kept Chris busy for the best part of twenty years. While Rex is still going strong, Chris' eyesight needs a rest from the intricate welding Rex requires.

Larger designs had been brewing in his mind. Garden sculpture was the outcome and the success of the first sculptures in the spring of 2013 gave Chris the confidence give them their own website. Based on natural forms, Chris' simple interpretation of leaves and buds in steel, stand out well against a garden backdrop. His designs have 360 degree interest, framing plants and buildings, while the steel surfaces reflect both sky and vegetation.

Living in Martock and working from a shed in the garden has allowed Chris to keep up his ethical stance. There is a wonderful selection of businesses locally including a well-stocked timber yard, metal works and powder coaters. All are great to work with and put up with Chris looking for scrap and off cuts.

The making of these sculptures has taken several twists and turns but Chris has settled with mig welding the strips of mild steel (sometimes recycled) to a thick steel rod, bending and sanding before welding on to a steel plate. Once aged for 4-5 weeks in the garden, which requires many sprays of water to advance the rusting process, the 'Rustic' sculptures are finished with a couple of coats of specialist oil for protection. This also gives them a natural darker brown sheen. Some sculptures are mounted on green oak plinths while others are staked directly into the ground, as if they are growing from the soil. These are called 'Lawn' sculptures which also are suited to various locations in the garden such as under trees or in beds where plants can grow around them. To complete each piece, Chris has saved lead from the roof of his house, cut into square coins and stamped with a CK. These are attached to the sculptures as his signature.

#### www.ckgardensculptures.co.uk

01935 827836





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#### www.johnleachpottery.co.uk



# World Class Chocolates

#### by Rosie Inge

At the risk of embarrassing her, I have just met the most elegant, gracious, compassionate and modest lady – and she makes the best chocolates In The World. Jane Swayne only started in 2014 but she has created something very special in her Gilbert & Swayne hand-made chocolates.

Chocolate came into Jane's life when she stayed with her eldest daughter in the Hague; it was her husband's birthday and she wanted to make something for him, since he is a well-respected Maker – of bagpipes, flutes and whistles. Her daughter's friend is a chocolatier who helped her make some chocolates – tarragon and seasalt – which were superb, and much appreciated. She made more for friends and eventually realised she wanted to learn properly. After an initial course at Meneer Chocola in the Hague, she completed her training with World Master chocolatier Ruth Hinks of Cocoa Black.

She equipped the top floor of the barn in which Jon makes his musical instruments, and now, with a new chocolate fridge installed (they had to take the staircase down to get the fridge up!), she is able to increase production. Only the best ingredients are used – Fair Trade and Single Origin specialist chocolate, herbs from the garden in summer (expanded with a new greenhouse), Somerset Cider Brandy, Eau de Vie and Kingston Black Aperitif from Julian Temperley and special collection coffee from Reads of Sherborne.

The process is complicated and difficult with many chances for mistakes – getting the

right ratio of sugar crystals to raw chocolate, temperature control on the three melting tanks, the tempering, the thickness of the shells (too thin and they won't easily come out of the moulds – too thick and there's not enough room for the flavoured ganache).

The packaging is a very high-class co-operation with Jane's sister in law Dinah Swayne who is now her next door neighbour. A professional book conservator, she sources the glorious end papers from Florence, then covers the boxes in the Italian Collection with consummate skill. They themselves are collectors' pieces and customers have been known to return these boxes for refilling. The Classic Collection comes in discreet black boxes, each hand written with 'Gilbert & Swayne' in gold lettering by Becky Price, a calligraphist in the village who will also write personal messages on the boxes. The latest collection is the Jewellery Boxes, one, a cube, opens up to reveal three tiers of treats encased in a Liberty handkerchief: another offers boxes within a box, with three 72 chocolate cubes plus space to include the donor's own bottle of champagne or homepressed apple juice; others are big enough to take up to 100 chocolates - the ultimate spoiling present.

If you want to curry favour with anyone you will quadruple your success rate by giving them some of Gilbert & Swayne's chocolates: Guaranteed.

www.gilbertandswayne.co.uk 01458 851253



### DISCOVER SOUTH SOMERSET ON FILM

Walking along country footpaths, trying your hand at crafts, visiting gardens, eating and drinking, enjoying music and performances or running free - these are just a small selection of activities that are popular in South Somerset. You can see more about planning fun with families, discovering heritage or experiencing nature in a series of short films about South Somerset. There's loads to do.

See here: www.discoversouthsomerset.com/videos.aspx



Angela Naunton Davies

### ARTISTS

Angela Naunton Davies Painting, Printmaking www.anauntondavies.co.uk

Marcus Jubb Sculpture, Mosaics, Painting www.marcusjubb.co.uk

> Heidi Warr Ceramics www.heidiwarr.co.uk

Pauline Rook Photography www.rookphoto.co.uk

Julia Thompson Jewellery, Silverwork www.juliathompson.co.uk

Jane Rollason Printmaking www.janerollasonart.com

John Gammans Painting www.johngammans.co.uk

Rosie Darrah Painting and printmaking www.rosiedarrah.com

Chris Kampf Sculpture and metalwork www.ckgardensculptures.co.uk

Sally Kent Glass www.sallykentglass.co.uk Mary Vanderplank Painting www.maryvanderplank.co.uk

> Ashar Painting www.asharart.co.uk

Mark Nesbit Mixed media tracyartcourses.wordpress.com

Tracy Nesbit Sculptures and interiors Tracyartcourses.wordpress.com

Sarah Chalmers Painting www.sarahchalmers.co.uk

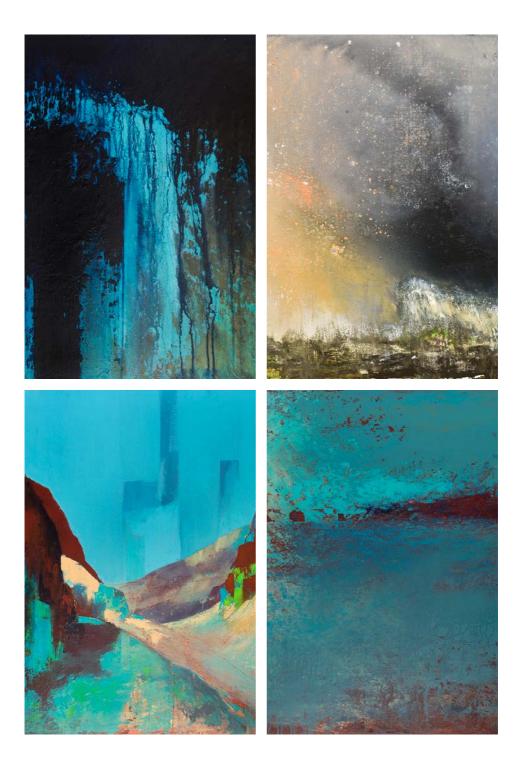
Kate Norton Mixed Media Katenorton.artweb.com

Sarah Trevithick Textile and mixed media www.raggyroux.co.uk

Dave Appleby Woodturning www.daveappleby.co.uk

> Liz Biesty Printmaking www.lizbiesty.com

Ann Fagan Printmaking www.annfagan.co.uk



### John Gammans



My artwork is my way of trying to distil and bottle a remnant of something that has taken my breath away or caused me to be in awe, but most importantly created an emotional response.

I want my artwork to represent the derived emotion of the subject, to convey something of the feeling, not to dictate, but to start a personal narrative, like a memory to the observer.

My inspiration is the natural world, especially the weather and it's effect on light and colour in landscapes. I have come to realise that it is the formation and erosion created by the natural world that is my greatest inspiration. The formation of a weather systems to create beautiful dramatic skies to the erosion, caused by the same, that creates our landscapes, coastlines and forests.

The manner in which I work is very representative of the very thing that inspires me. I try not to make too many conscious decisions, relying on instinct and feeling more than anything else. I hardly ever use brushes, choosing to work preliminarily with palette knives, rags and anything else that is at hand. I like to encourage happy accidents, forming layers of paint and powdered pigments before using several invasive techniques to create erosion.

I feel that my artwork is my own little time capsule, recording my personal perspective of this world, capturing my emotions and speaking a million words where I cannot. I hope that my artwork will resonate with others and invoke something of the awe and majesty that sparked within me.

I have paintings in private collections in the UK, US, Canada and Finland. For the past two years I have had pieces hung at The Atkinson Gallery, Millfield.

www.johngammans.co.uk

Julia Thompson

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## ANOTHER SOMERSET JEWEL

Julia Thompson embraces living on the wild side allowing her idyllic surroundings to inspire much of her contemporary jewellery design. Unusual, full of narrative and ethical, Julia uses traditional hand fabrication techniques to create her designs working in recycled sterling silver and Fairtrade Gold. Adornments range from small silver trinkets, to large bespoke statement pieces of timeless natural elegance which incorporate a unique selection of hand-picked quartz gemstones presented in attractive branded eco packaging.

Julia is a member of The Somerset Guild of Craftsmen, a Fairtrade Registered jeweller, and in 2012 was awarded the British craft & design Selected Silver Award in Jewellery &



Precious Metals. She trained at Wimbledon School of Art London and is a Designer Maker Honours graduate in Three Dimensional Design. Further to this Julia studied the art of silver jewellery design in Mexico, before a part time apprenticeship with a renowned Hatton Garden trained Silversmith whilst she set up her jewellery business and brand.

Never idle, Julia takes to the road in the summer with her classic caravan and bespoke marquee to host silversmith workshops. Returning to her studio in the autumn she opens her doors to run small group evening classes and bespoke wedding /civil partnership ring courses for folk who wish to make their own. Working closely with clients, Julia offers an exclusive design service and has undertaken private commissions since 2006. Achievements include an exclusive major silver restoration project for an original Archibald Knox Liberty Cup, a

collection designed specifically for The British Museum London, and currently working on a designer piece for The London Royal Opera House.

www.juliathompson.co.uk

Fisherfotos, Wearne

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Angel Eyes Photography, South Petherton www.angeleyesphotography.org.uk

Bill Bradshaw, Langport www.billbradshaw.co.uk

curiousbygeorge, Langport www.curiousbygeorgephotography.co.uk

Danielle Reeder, South Petherton www.daniellereederphotography.com

FisherFotos, Wearne www.fisherfotos.com

Jake Beamson, Langport www.jakebeamsonphotography.co.uk

Mark Dennis, Compton Dundon www.markdennis.com

Pauline Rook, South Petherton www.rookphoto.co.uk

> Phil Flowers, Somerton www.pffoto.com

RT Photographic, Martock www.rtphotographic.com

Smooth Pixels, Somerton www.smoothpixels.co.uk

## Graphic Design, Web Design & Illustrators

Design Somerset, Somerton www.designsomerset.com

Fat Punk Studio, Langport www.fatpunkstudio.com

Hannah Marchant, Long Sutton www.hannahmarchant.co.uk

Hutt River Design, South Petherton www.huttriver.co.uk

iWood Web Design, Somerton www.iwoodwebdesign.co.uk

Molini, South Petherton www.molini.co.uk

Rocketbox, Stoke-sub-Hamdon www.rocketboxdesign.com

Rouse & Maple-Langport www.rousemaple.com



Small Blue, Kingsbury Episcopi www.smallblue.net

Smudge, Martock www.smudgestudio.co.uk

Somerton Computing, Somerton www.somertoncomputing.co.uk

Squiggle Graphics, Hambridge www.squigglegraphics.net Stable Design, Martock www.stabledesign.co.uk

Teapot Creative, Hambridge www.teapotcreative.co.uk

Somerton Printery, Somerton www.somertonprintery.com

Thoroughbred Design & Print Ltd, Martock www.thoroughbreddesignandprint.co.uk

Teapot Creative

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