

news from

# WALFORD MILL CRAFTS

AUTUMN / WINTER 2011

*Handcrafted Gifts  
Made by Individuals for Individuals*



Dionne Swift



Jessica Sherriff



Paula Rylatt

# Inspire



Rebecca Fraser



Julia Roxburgh

Vanessa Conyers



*November 5th until December 31st 2011*

# HRH THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER COMES TO THE MILL

CHRISTINE FLETCHER-JONES , CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Wednesday 12th October was a very special day for those involved with Walford Mill Crafts. We welcomed back HRH The Duchess of Gloucester after 25 years to celebrate the anniversary of crafts at the Mill. The visit over-ran and lasted over an hour.

The Duchess opened the Mill back in 1986, under the guidance of the Dorset Craft Guild - the plaque is still there to see today. This time round, the Duchess unveiled a new commemoration wooden sculpture, made by Karen Hansen, co-curator of the touring Women Work - in Wood exhibition, embedded with a slate sign from Joules Signs. This sculpture can be seen at the gallery entrance. It will be relocated to the new bridge once it is built.

The Duchess met and greeted over 50 guests, including staff, volunteers, trustees, neighbours and Friends of the Mill. 40 school children from Allenbourn Middle School, Queen Elizabeth Secondary School, Wimborne First School and St Michael's Middle School, were also involved in the visit by waving flags and presenting flowers and The Duchess spent time chatting informally with them.

Christine Fletcher-Jones, Chief Executive, who accompanied The Duchess around the craft centre, said " it was an excellent opportunity to share our passion about crafts with The Duchess and she was enamoured with the range and vibrancy of the crafts on offer, in particular she was delighted to meet the resident makers."

Guests commented on how The Duchess was so genuine and at ease with everybody, which was underlined by her final speech, where she made reference to being thrilled to return here after 25 years.



Gloria, part of a patchwork workshop group that was presented to The Duchess said, "It was fabulous and she was the most charming person I have ever met. She was so natural and interested in our work. It was a real honour."





Above left: The Duchess unveils a commemorative wood sculpture & plaque and then requests to talk with the makers.

Above right: The Duchess meets the Chairman of Dorset County Council, Mr John Wilson, Chairman of East Dorset District Council, Councillor Derek Burt and Mrs Burt, Joint Chief Executive of East Dorset District Council and Christchurch Borough Council, Mr David McIntosh and The Mayor and Mayoress of Wimborne, Cllrs Robin and Sue Cook.

Left: Christine Fletcher-Jones helps The Duchess with some early Christmas shopping in the gallery shop, an unscheduled part of the tour!



Left: The Duchess meets Mary Bird's patchwork group  
 Above left: Debby Kirby presents The Duchess with one of her beautiful silk scarves.  
 Above right: The Duchess expresses her delight by wearing her gift! What a compliment to Debby!

## WATCH OUT FOR..

New style exhibition and workshops brochure for 2012. Brand new workshops, include paper sculpture, fascinators and the return of popular workshops including silver clay, animals in wire and woodturning.

Our 2012 exhibition programme will feature an exciting range of craft exhibitions, with a mix of international crafts, inspirations from local geology with EXLAB2, plus a celebration of Caroline Parrott's year long challenge, Make52.

## ARE YOU LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER? DO YOU HAVE GREEN FINGERS?

We always have opportunities for people to offer their time, skills and energy to help us support the running and events at Walford Mill Crafts.

For 2012 we would love to start a gardening club, when a small social group can work on the gardens on a Tuesday morning for 2 hours once a month. In return we will offer tea and cake to all volunteers. If you are interested please call Nicole on 01202 841400.



## CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP - CAROLINE PARROTT, EDUCATION OFFICER

Festive Flowers with Susan Davies!

Come along to one of our fabulous floristry workshops. Susan will be teaching professional techniques to help you produce a wonderful hand-tied Christmas door wreath, or a table arrangement to add sparkle to your Christmas table.

During the workshops you will learn to moss a ring, tie in a selection of seasonal foliage, add decorations such as fir-cones, cinnamon sticks, fruit, and finish with a seasonal bow of raffia or ribbon.

- \* Tuesdays 6th and/or 13th December
- \* Time: 10.30am to 1pm
- \* Cost: £15 each plus materials

Caroline our Education Officer said: "I had no experience of floristry, yet enjoyed the workshop immensely, it was just what needed to get in to the Christmas spirit and I couldn't believe how beautiful the wreath looked throughout Christmas."



## EXHIBITION FOR 2012 - JEWELS FROM BRAZIL JANUARY 14TH - FEBRUARY 26TH

We are so pleased to welcome JEWELS FROM BRAZIL to the gallery in January. This exhibition is brought to the UK by Christine Fletcher-Jones and a number of other partner venues as a result of their trip to Brazil in 2010. The exhibition will feature contemporary, beautiful and stunning pieces of jewellery made from materials found in the maker's environment, including recycled plastics, to tree bark.

The exhibition will also feature work from Textiles students at AUCB.



# INSPIRING GIFTS & SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS

HAZEL EVANS, GALLERY SHOP MANAGER

Christmas is coming and here in Walford Mill, Dorset's leading craft venue, we are getting ready for our fabulously inspirational Christmas exhibition 'Inspire'. This year's exhibition will be a festive emporium of contemporary craft with something for everyone, from the inspiring inexpensive to collector pieces.

Our handmade gifts are made by individuals for individuals which makes us the 'must visit' venue for your Christmas shopping. This year our exhibition will be bigger and more diverse than ever with over 50 new makers featuring desirable gifts from a range of disciplines including textiles, glass, wood, ceramics, jewellery and more, all in our exceptional historical craft lead environment.

## Art inspired Christmas Cards

Our fantastic selection of Christmas cards is now in the shop. With beautiful artist cards, note card sets and prints, our 'not found on the high street' stationery is becoming more and more popular with customers stocking up on our beautiful designs.

## Stocking Fillers and Small Fancies!

Our range of desirable hand-crafted smaller items are ideal for this year's stockings and we have a great selection of inexpensive items for the original touch that also favours the wallet!



## Christmas Wreaths

made by Susan Davis will be available to buy and commission throughout the Christmas exhibition. Susan will be demonstrating during the season too. Drop into the shop for more details and to see examples of her work from the beginning of November.

## SPECIAL SEASONAL EVENTS:

### Inspire - until 31st December

### Christmas Celebrations - Saturday December 3rd - 10am - 5pm

Featuring a great selection of guest on-site makers demonstrating their craft.

Europa String Choir will be playing in the gallery from 11am-1pm.

### Late night shopping - Thursday 1st and 8th December - 5-8pm

Our ever popular seasonal soiree will enable you to come and shop with us after work and look forward to seeing you for a lovely relaxed retail evening.

## Marvellous Millinery!

We are delighted to welcome Simon Meanwell-Ralph as a guest maker. Simon will be demonstrating his magnificent head attire and corsages; plus some extravagant festive inspired designs to accessorize your seasonal party outfits. Commissions welcomed.

Demonstrations: first Saturday of each month with additional dates on Wednesday 16th November and Wednesday 14th December



The Walford Mill team modelling Simon's Marvellous Millinery!

## CREATE REVIEW - NICOLE HABGOOD, MARKETING OFFICER



This year's CREATE took showcased the talents of over 15 different makers. Despite the bad weather over 1500 people attended.

CREATE aims to provide makers with the opportunity to promote themselves within the local community and for visitors to see the amount of time, skills and passion that goes in to making these lovingly crafted items.

Demonstrations included the show stopping unveiling of Bill Crumbleholme's Raku fired pots, Wendy Nutt's intricately beautiful silver jewellery and potter/teacher Linda Browne encouraged people of all ages to come and have a go at clay sculpting. Adding to the ambience of the day, music was provided by Stephen Godsall and resident musicians Europa String Choir.

For more pictures please visit our facebook page!

CREATE is an annual event, if you would like to be considered for next year or would like any further information about the event please e-mail [admin@walfordmillcrafts.co.uk](mailto:admin@walfordmillcrafts.co.uk)



## NEWS FROM DEBBY KIRBY

Debby has been busy working to prepare a number of new designs, woven pictures and introducing new pieces, including lights.

Drawing on her influence from her recent travels to both New York and Florence, Debby clearly reflects these in her new designs and colours.

Her studio is full, bursting with colour, with stunning and unmistakable gifts and treats for all the family.



## NEWS FROM KATHRYN ARBON

Kathryn's newly painted studio will bring a breath of fresh air when shopping for Christmas gifts this year. Easily walked past, Kathryn's Gatehouse studio is a little gem.

A new range of gemstones set in silver pieces and silver range plated with 18ct gold, are just beautiful and make a perfect gift for someone you love.

Alternatively Kathryn's range of bangles, pendants and earrings made of aluminium feature her unique dandelion clock design.

