

Christmas

Debbie Graham goes on a shopping spree to find gifts produced in Warwickshire

Made in Warwickshire



Guide Dogs and Leamington Spa based Venture Photography collaborated to produce a beautiful 2012 calendar. With proceeds going towards the charity that helps so many people regain their pride and confidence, the calendar captures in photographs some of the beautiful and fun-loving pooches that one day will guide their owners towards a better lifestyle. It is available at Venture Studios, Leamington Guide Dog Centre, Starbucks in Regent Court Leamington Spa, Walnut and Weave Leamington and Solihull, and online at: www.leamingtonguidedogs.org.uk



Bespoke furniture maker Sean Feeney from Stratford-upon-Avon, specialises in creating one-of-a-kind pieces to suit the client's required taste. "These range from visually stunning yet simple free standing pieces to complete schemes such as bedroom, dining and living spaces representing the finest quality and craftsmanship of their age, confirming their status as investments for the future," he says.

Tel: 01789 450519;
www.seanfeeneyfurniture.co.uk

Christmas and chocolate go together, well like Christmas and turkey, you simply can't have one without the other. And for the children (and some adults) this year Hamiltons Chocolates of Stratford-upon-Avon have developed the chocolate pizza, which makes a great stocking filler.

Andrew and Sheila Campbell of Hamiltons Chocolates have been making their luxurious handmade chocolates for over 25 years. They offer a superb range of gift boxes available in different sizes, and can be combined with champagne and fine wine for that special Christmas gift. Visit their shop in Stratford-upon-Avon to see their full range. **Tel: 01789 400940;** **www.hamiltons-chocolates.co.uk**



Everyone always needs socks for Christmas and ones made from Alpaca wool are extra luxurious. Rugby based

Toft Alpaca, create their own, non-itchy, clothing and accessories, including socks.

Tel: 01788 810626;
www.thoftalpacashop.co.uk

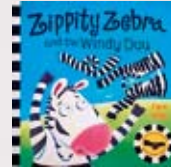




Portrait artist Hilary James, from Pebworth near Stratford-upon-Avon, specialises in drawing fine detailed human and animal portraits in coloured pastel and graphite pencil. Hilary can work directly from your favourite photos making it easy to commission a truly lasting and precious gift that is perfect for birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas.

Tel: 07790 994 380;
www.hilaryjames.co.uk

Stratford-upon-Avon based artist Claire Henley is not only a talented writer and illustrator of children's books but also a beautiful painter of coastal and countryside scenes. Her books bring an element of fun and colour, while her paintings make a beautiful present for a loved one.



Tel: 01789 261868;
www.clairehenleyart.co.uk



Take it from us every occasion requires cup cakes and Christmas is no different. Kerrie Dawson of Alcester Heath has launched her new business Truly Scrumptious, a store specialising in beautifully handmade cupcakes and occasion cakes. Kerrie, who was diagnosed with severe arthritis two years ago and has battled through treatment, is very excited about her new venture of bringing scrumptious handmade goodies to the people of Alcester.

Tel: 07512 321681;
www.trulyscrumptiouscake.blogspot.com



Flights of fancy; craftsman Brian Dawson of Austrey creates beautiful, hand-carved birds, designed to hang from the ceiling. A stylised form based on the seagull, each piece is carefully cut, smoothed, sanded and brushed to allow for the natural beauty of the wood to shine through. **Tel: 01827 830416;**
www.birdsunlimited.co.uk

Simple lines and soft, natural colours are what the pieces by potter Rachel Lavender, from Wellesbourne, are all about. With her work being as functional as it is decorative, each handmade item would make a beautiful fixture for every home, whether to be used in the kitchen as crockery or to be placed as décor in the living and dining room.

Tel: 01789 842049 or
07757 527821;
www.thelavendergallery.com



Paintings by Scottish artist Angela Webb, who resides in Leamington Spa, are mainly landscapes and portraiture. Her work demonstrates colour and a sense of energy through the use of texture and brushwork. Angela also works to commission, often depicting children, families and places, to create a piece bearing a special significance to the client. **Tel: 07801 258541;**
www.angelawebbart.com





Gravel Hill Designs, in Henley-in-Arden, creates beautiful wooden furniture out of reclaimed wood and timber sourced from sustainable. From potting tables to children furniture each piece has been made and finished to the highest standards. And if you are after a one-off special piece they offer a bespoke service.

Tel: 07772 435547 or 07792 322187;
www.gravelhilldesigns.co.uk






Designer and potter Penny Varley from Tysoe works from her studio in her garden, creating domestic ware that are practical and a pleasure to use, as well as larger decorative pieces for the home. At excellent prices, each design would make great stocking fillers this Christmas.

Tel: 01295 680700;
www.pennyvarleyceramics.co.uk






With the intention to breathe new life into discarded objects, Leamington Spa based jewellery maker Rosie Bill's pieces contain broken pieces of pottery set into silver to create unique and contemporary jewellery. Her pieces have become so popular they will be featured in 'Elle Collections' in Elle Magazine for their December issue, just in time for Christmas.

Tel: 0787 604 3737;
www.rosiebill.co.uk

A unique present, One Vision Imaging of Coventry offer a special jigsaw service to customers who wish to do more with a photograph than place it into a frame. Send them your picture of choice and they will print, mount and cut into a 300 piece jigsaw for you and your family and friends to put together at leisure.

Tel: 0845 862 0217;
www.onevisionimaging.com







Jewellery designer Nicky Townsend from Barlestone is the owner of the Enchanted store in Hinckley where she sells her own designs, including her popular unique flower charm bracelets. You can also request your own, individual bespoke service for the discerning client.

Tel: 0843 289 1420;
www.enchantedhandmadejewellery.com



For those who like pictures that are fun and colourful check out artist Dylan Izaak of Stratford-upon-Avon, who has become well-known for his unusual style, with his wonky buildings and long people. His work, which has become increasingly popular since his days as a street artist, is now on sale in galleries around the country and direct from his website. Dylan has also been selected as an official Olympic artist for the 2012 games.



Tel: 07590 065979;
www.dylanizaak.co.uk