

# Court Barn and Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen: Craft Partnership Scheme



## Applicant Information Pack

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# About Us

## Court Barn, A Museum of Craft & Design

Court Barn Museum celebrates the talented designers and craftspeople who have worked in Chipping Campden and the north Cotswolds since the beginning of the twentieth century. This is a story of the Arts and Crafts movement and its legacy, a story of how a small town in a beautiful setting became a gathering place for designers and craftspeople of national and international reputation.

The permanent displays focus on nine individuals or workshops including C.R. Ashbee, Katharine Adams, F.L. Griggs, Gordon Russell, Hart Silversmiths and Robert Welch.



## Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen



Founded in 1933, the purpose of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen is to foster and promote fine craftsmanship and good design. These aims came out of the vibrant Arts and Crafts Movement in the Cotswolds at the turn of the twentieth century.

The Guild's members are all professional makers. They are amongst the top craftspeople in the UK working across many disciplines including ceramics, glass, woodwork, textiles, jewellery and leather goods, creating unique functional and decorative objects. Members are dependent on sales and commissions for their livelihoods and many also teach, ensuring that craftsmanship and good design has a future.

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# What will the Craft Partnership Scheme offer?

Court Barn and the Gloucestershire Guild are delighted to be working together to offer this exciting opportunity to early-mid career makers living or working in Gloucestershire or surrounding areas.

Successful applicants will be partnered with an established member of the Gloucestershire Guild. The nominated partner will spend the equivalent of 5 days with the successful applicant, either in a mentoring capacity and/or providing relevant technical training. Successful applicants will also receive up to £100 per day to claim travel expenses towards meeting their Partners.

Applicants are invited to submit a proposal concerning how they would like to spend this time with their Gloucestershire Guild Partner e.g. whether they would like to receive mentoring, technical training or a combination of the two. Applicants must also identify why they wish to work with a specific Guild member and how the Partnership Scheme will benefit them towards progressing their careers. This scheme is kindly funded by The Radcliffe Trust.



Toff Milway



Liz Lippiatt



MacGregor & Michael

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# Gloucestershire Guild Members Available

## Neil MacGregor and Valerie Michael - Leatherwork



We are Neil MacGregor and Valerie Michael, making contemporary leather goods by hand in our Tetbury workshop since 1976. We have been members of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen for nearly 40 years. Craftsmanship and design are at the centre of our working practice, using making techniques honed over time with hand stitching at its heart. We have made a living as craftspeople in an age of consumerism, training many people along the way in not only the techniques but also the values inherent in being a craftspeople.

We can offer the opportunity to learn advanced leather working skills to an applicant already working as a maker who uses leather but who needs to push their design and making aims to a new level. Along the way we can share our experience to mentor the successful applicant if they need this support.

## Louise Pocock - Millinery

I currently work from my Studio in the beautiful Malvern Hills. It is inspiring being in an area steeped with rich landscapes and Arts and Crafts. Previous to that I was lucky enough to set up my millinery business in Chipping Campden where I had the pleasure in working closely with Court Barn.



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## Louise Pocock - Continued

What inspires me creatively is the strength and relationship of colour, combinations of materials, textures and unique shapes of the wooden blocks I find. Everything is handmade, blocking the felt shape through to hand producing each flower or feather trim. I study botanical silk flower making which enhances my skills for fine detail.

As a registered City and Guilds microcentre, I also teach recreational millinery from beginner to advanced levels. I believe that it is the 'secrets' of these traditional crafts we need to pass on to the next generation. My ideal mentoring candidate would be someone with basic sewing skills but with enthusiasm and ambition to join me in keeping the millinery tradition alive, while at the same time bringing in modern designs and style.

I can offer both discussions on the theory behind creative millinery as well as hands on practical training depending on the individual's requirements and skills.

## Toff Milway - Ceramics



I am a country craftsman working in Saltglazed Stoneware and have been a potter for over 55 years.

I have worked in the British Isles, Africa, America and short periods in France but in every case I have lived and worked in the countryside. I have worked in a GL postcode for 46 years and been at Conderton in the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for the last 38 years.

While my particular specialisation of domestic Saltglazed Stoneware might be of interest to a very few I believe my experience of "how to earn your living and sell directly to your customer" is of much greater importance and use to an aspiring craftsman. The greatest part of all I have made has been sold 'on the premises' in my own showroom.

I have been a Member of the Craft potters Association for 36 years and a Fellow for 30 of those years. I have been a Member of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen for 37 years and am now a Life Member.

Fame, I have none; a great way of life and a great standard of living I have achieved by using my own hands (with much 'management advice' from my wife of course!). I am only too happy to share my experience with anyone who can benefit from it.

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## Sarah Beadsmoore - Textiles



I studied Textile Design at Derby College of Art and was then based at Brewery Arts in Cirencester for nearly 30 years. In 2017 I moved to a garden studio at my home just outside the town. I weave silk scarves on an eight shaft countermarch loom and also dye the yarn myself using acid dyes. I occasionally make other products such as cushion covers, throws and baby blankets. I do not design on a computer, so all my weaving is really about colour, texture and simple patterns.

I would be happy to help a new practitioner with their design ideas, making, and general ways of producing their products.

## Jo Davies - Ceramics

I have been working with clay for about 25 years and specialise in wheel-throwing, creating shapes that are designed to be very tactile but simple in shape and surface. I have exhibited internationally and work with galleries and well-known brands like Mulberry, the National Portrait Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Heals and the Contemporary Ceramics Centre in London.



I am based in Herefordshire with a home-studio but also run a Teaching Studio in East London, which was where I was based for many years. The Teaching Studio specialises in wheel-throwing classes with help from a staff of dedicated tutors, and my book, *Electric Kilns for Ceramics: A Maker's Guide to Successful Kiln Firings*, was released last year. I am passionate about making my own range of ceramics but also about de-mystifying the subject for people wishing to learn more about it – this is why I became a council member for the Craft Potters Association, which promotes excellence in studio ceramics.

I am looking for someone who would like to expand their knowledge of ceramics and running a ceramics practice, who is based near Herefordshire or surrounding areas. I can offer training for practical ceramics activities like the wheel, clay preparation and the kiln, as well as professional advice on running a ceramics practice and creative, contextual discussion of projects.

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## Sarah Pulvertaft - Jewellery



I'm a jeweller using traditional jewellery making techniques to create pieces in silver and gold with repeated elements which move individually creating subtly undulating surfaces. I established my workshop in London in 1995 and now work in rural Oxfordshire. I sell my work at selected shows, via my website and in a few galleries including the Gloucestershire Guild in Cheltenham, I've been a member of the Guild for 8 years.

I have experience of both being mentored in mid-career and mentoring others in the early years of their practice as part of various Crafts Council programmes. These experiences inform my view that the person seeking mentoring should have a clear idea of what it is they'd like to gain from the experience. I'd be happy to mentor anyone who sees something in my work or experience that they think would be useful to their development and progression.

## Liz Lippiatt - Textiles

I am a designer and traditional silk screen printer of fine cloth with a particular interest and expertise in creating texture with her own specialist techniques for printing devore silk velvet. I have spent 44 years running my own printing business, working on collections for large fashion companies world-wide and for fashion couture. My focus now is on small scale customized commissions for fashion couture and high-quality accessories for interiors.



I have a well-equipped vibrant studio I share with textile makers of various disciplines in Stroud. I would be pleased to pass on my knowledge of devore print to an enthusiastic early-mid career working craftsperson interested in traditional methods of screen printing, offering technical help demonstrating my methods of devore print and depth of colour through print, resist and overdye.

I am a loyal member of the Gloucestershire Guild and committed to continuing and sustaining traditional arts and craft skills in the creative industry.

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# Who is eligible to apply to the scheme?

Our interpretation of craft is very broad and we are excited by both contemporary craftsmanship and interesting applications of traditional craft techniques. Part of your application will include identification of a Guild member you wish to work with and why – your craft practice may match that of your chosen Guild member, or, if different, explain in your application why you have chosen to work with a particular member.

Applications are welcomed from anyone living or working in Gloucestershire, but also others outside of Gloucestershire who have connections with the county, or can explain why they would like to be considered as an exception.

## Applicants must be:

- Aged 18 or above at the time of application
- Able to demonstrate a high level of skill, a strong body of work and experience within their chosen field
- Intending to contribute to the local craft industry in future



## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

We welcome applications from all talented craftspeople, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or nationality; and particularly encourage those with protected characteristics that are under-represented in the craft and design sector to apply.

Court Barn and the Gloucestershire Guild are committed to promoting equity, diversity and inclusion through all our practices, seeking to ensure that all paid and voluntary opportunities are appropriately advertised. We are committed to appointing on merit and to removing barriers to available opportunities.

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# How to apply

## Application Form

The full application form for the Craft Partnership Scheme can be downloaded from Court Barn's website in a Word doc format.

- Q1:** Personal and contact details. Please include your website and/or social media handles which are relevant to your craft practice or business.
- Q2:** Optional question which provides you the opportunity to state why you wish to be considered for the Craft Partnership Scheme if you do not live or work in Gloucestershire. You might have some other connection to the county or live or work in close enough proximity to travel to meet your chosen Guild Partner.
- Q3:** Provide details concerning your education history, relevant to your craft practice or business.
- Q4:** Provide details of past employment, voluntary experience or other relevant experiences including commissions, exhibitions or residencies you consider relevant to your craft practice and application.
- Q5:** Short, introductory question which provides the name of the Gloucestershire Guild member you wish to partner with and a brief description of your proposed intentions e.g. whether you wish to receive more technical skills training or mentoring support.
- Q6:** Explain in greater detail why you have chosen to work with a particular Guild member - what it is about their skills/experience/background which interests you? Also provide a provisional plan of how you wish to divide the allocated time.
- Q7:** Use this question to assess what you hope to get out of the scheme and how this might link with future career goals e.g. will the time with your chosen Guild member provide you with additional skills. Any goals you set should be within the SMART format - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound.
- Q8:** Details of two referees who can speak of your skills in a professional capacity.
- Q9:** In addition to the application form, please also send us **either** a PDF or Word document with 5-8 high-resolution images of your work including short descriptive captions for each image of, **or** 5-8 individual images with detailed name descriptions.

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# Timetable and Application Process



Please fill out the application and return, along with additional photos of your work in Word, PDF or individual formats, to the Project Administrator Olivia Tracey by email using the address [admin@courtbarn.org.uk](mailto:admin@courtbarn.org.uk) by **Tuesday 2 April 2024**.

Interviews with members of the Court Barn and Gloucestershire Guild teams to be held at Court Barn in Chipping Campden during the week commencing **22 April 2024**, exact date(s) to be confirmed.

Candidates notified about the results of their applications by **Monday 6 May 2024**.



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