

The OT Times

OLD TUDORIANS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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OLD TUDORIANS – HABEO UT DEM Diverse Designers



Antonia Stewart (Lazenby)

I left university with a degree in History of Art and History and immediately went to work in interior design. I had always enjoyed the combination of an art and academic mix and in interior design I found just this - my job gives me the opportunity to combine my artistic side with business and a high level of organisation. In 2005 I set up my own company - Antonia Stewart Ltd - following 7 years working as an apprentice and now I have a successful small business in London working on high end residential projects mainly in London and the South of England.

Our work, and client base, is very varied. We have recently completed a specialist fit-out of a brand-new 4,000 sq ft apartment in Candy and Candy's One Hyde Park and are now working on the complete refurbishment of a sixteenth century rectory in Oxfordshire. We have also just finished a Victorian townhouse in Battersea that we were doing alongside a modern new-build house in Moscow. Rather than working in a particular style, each project is tailored to the needs and lifestyles of each client, which has enabled us to build up a diverse portfolio in both traditional and contemporary styles.

Luckily all our work comes through word of mouth and repeat commissions which I believe is an indication that we make the journey of a property's refurbishment an enjoyable one for all concerned!

www.antonienstewart.com



Caroline Butler (Bell)

As a slightly shy girl at Tudor I had a tendency towards Art and Design and after a gap year with Project Trust in South Africa, I started a degree in Art Education at Cardiff University and discovered paper-making with an array of plant materials. After another year, when I was Artist in Residence at Milton Keynes General Hospital (and when I met my now husband of 15 years), I went on to Reading University to do a teacher training PGCE.

Having spent 5 years as a secondary Art teacher in Hampshire, I decided to enrol on a two year Garden Design qualification at Sparsholt Agricultural College and following the births of my son and daughter, I embarked on a WRAGS training year. This involved spending 15 hours a week doing practical training in horticulture in a very modern Christopher Bradley-Hole garden near Henley-on-Thames, where I now live.

Next came a competition to win a year's mentoring and scholarship to work with garden designer and presenter, Chris Beardshaw, where I had to design a garden based on the 'Atom' along with 16 others. I surprised myself by winning and was subsequently awarded a RHS Silver Gilt at the Malvern Autumn Show. For the Chelsea Flower Show 2012, I was given the brief of vitality and energy and produced a design that showed woodland regeneration where a large tree had fallen, as well as featuring a colourful swirling Perspex and steel sculpture to fit into the design - I was awarded a RHS Silver.

www.carolinebutler.co.uk



Chloe Forbes-Cable (Gardner)

Although I come from a family of artists, I always tried to ignore my creative yearning. After 4 years at Edinburgh University, I worked in marketing for magazines and then newspapers, becoming a brand manager of The Sunday Times. However this good career start was jeopardised when I met a lovely Scotsman and his dog who lived in Brazil. I followed my heart and spent 5 years in Brazil and at last started painting. Eventually I married the Scotsman and we moved back with our 3 dogs to live in a cottage on the edge of a wood on a beautiful beach near Edinburgh. I was very much a full time mother, although I continued painting as a hobby and became inspired by our Scottish surroundings, the flora and fauna and by the curlew feathers I picked up on daily walks with the dogs.

As well as painting in bright coloured acrylics, I turned the feathers I found or were given into animals and patterns. I sent a Christmas card of a stag and people enquired about buying the picture so I decided to make prints.

Opportunities arose and things took off from there. Soon I found I had a small business and was very thankful for my marketing and business roots. In June I was featured on BBC2 Scotland. Now I do over 80 greetings cards designs, cushion covers and ceramics as well as prints and originals.

www.chloegardner.com