



a reflective craftsman



AUTUMN 2013 ISSUE 7 NEWSLETTER FOR DR. THOMAS HAWSON DESIGNER/MAKER/ARTIST

B U S I N E S S

Since establishing his cabinet-making business in 1997, Tom is discovering the market has been moving and his ambitions and ideas have changed considerably. Market changes in the craft sector and the lack of commissions in Tom's order book have forced a change in his business model and previous practice. The fact that he owns and runs his own workshop and no longer pays rent for workshop space has changed things too, overheads are high and planning for the future more complicated. Giving time to his children and family commitments along with the additional administration of running his own workshop, time at the workbench is less than it used to be.

Tom's vision for his business is slowly consolidating and growing. Currently he is prototyping a small range of furniture to exhibit and hopefully generate orders for items from the new range and more one-off commissions. Between making prototypes he still continues to design and make to private commission.

Providing courses and learning opportunities within the workshop is also a growing part of the business. So far, Tom has employed visiting artist Kenneth Le Riche to teach a weekend life drawing and painting class (April 2012), this year he has employed our resident artist Sally Hackett to run the puppet making workshop and he has tutored traditional spoon and trough making courses. These courses, however, have not proved very profitable, but Tom feels it is a good way to widen the audience of his work and indirectly it is proving to be a successful marketing tool. Recently a man visiting the workshop to find out about the kayak making courses informed his mother of Tom's furniture commissioning service. This visit led to the man's mother ordering a duet piano stool.



Duet Piano Stool.

Christmas Present Show 9th Nov

Thomas Hawson - Jenny Ozwell - Alec Stevens - Fergus and Freyja

Hundalee Mill Farm, Jedburgh, Scottish Borders

9th November 2013, Doors Open 10AM - 5PM

Viewing of giftware any other time by appointment: 01835 869931

TIMOTHY HAWSON

1948 – 2013



In the spring, Timothy Hawson, Tom's dad, passed away. At the beginning of his retirement Tim helped Tom build his workshop; in fact without the promise of Tim's help the workshop would not have been built to such ambitious standards. The time spent building the workshop alongside his father was mostly fun and very memorable. Father and son both hoped the workshop would become a place of inspiration and opportunity for future craft makers and artists and that their shared effort would be enjoyed by others during residencies on the guest bench. After Tim died, Tom was inspired to start the Timothy Hawson Memorial Summer Residency project, inviting applications for summer residency in the mill.

Tim in heatpump ground loop manifold hole, pressure testing and fixing the leaks!

SUSTAINABLE LECTURING EXPERIENCE

This winter Tom was asked by the local textile college, Heriot Watt University, in Galashiels to prepare and deliver a 12 week lecture series to 189 first and second year textile students in contemporary and contextual studies. Given three weeks notice and preparation time Tom hastily planned and prepared a lecture series titled: *Sustaining The Human Envelope: Architecture, Furniture and Clothing*. The lecture series was based on issues of sustainability in the broad context of art and design. To the predominantly consumerist, fashion orientated minds of the students, issues of sustainability were new. The first three weeks of introducing the lecture series and spelling out the rel

evance of sustainability was the hardest. When the penny dropped in the majority of the minds of the students and they began to find references of fashion designers responses to the issues of sustainability, the mood changed. At the end of the lecture series Tom had the pleasure and privilege of reading and marking all 189 reflective learning journals of the students. It was evident that all Tom's hard work was not in vain and despite receiving a little negative feedback at the beginning, all of the students seem to have been inspired to think a bit differently and find a positive position to tackle sustainability within fashion and textiles.

As an inexperienced lecturer, Tom found it impossible to deliver this two-day a week lecture series job and continue maintaining his business interest. The entire 20 or so weeks of this lecture series was spent sitting behind a computer 9 to 5, 5 days a week. The favorable hourly rate provided by the college soon diminished. That was the cost of my inexperience. Thankfully Tom was just filling a gap at the college for that one semester and does not aspire to make it a habit.

TOTALLY COMPLETED MILL WORKSHOP

Having started work on commissions early last year some of the remaining work on the mill's refurbishment was left incomplete. Over the summer and into the autumn of 2012 the incomplete state of the mill grew from being a mild irritation to Tom, to standing squarely in the way of

progress. With the help of a local joiner Neil Christie, of Ancrum, the remaining internal wall and stair cladding was completed. Neil completed most of the work himself at an inspiring speed, all to the exacting standards and specifications demanded.

Now more than comfortably accommodated for in the mill, Tom has no excuses or distractions from growing his business.



Mill workshop and stairs.

PROGRESS IN THE POTTERY

first exhibition and new goals



Bowl by Jenny Ozwell

Jenny's Wheelhouse Pottery, despite being only a one-day a week interest, has been growing and, given the hours put in, at a profitable rate. Some of her stock is now exhibited at the 'Gallery in the Alley', in Jedburgh. Jenny's pots sold well at the 'The Steading Exhibition' at the home of Paul Grime and Helen Kemp this summer. Much to Tom's surprise Jenny sold more than himself and Sally Hackett (artist in residence at the mill) during the first open studio exhibition at Hundalee Mill Farm this summer! So it seems Jenny has slowly but surely been perfecting her pots, but will she give up the 3 day a week job for her art? Having been asked the question, what ambition do you have for your pottery, 'I don't know, but I would like to ask a higher price', is the answer. So buy Jenny's pots now while they are still going for silly cheap prices.

Jenny's Wheelhouse Pottery wares are permanently on display and for sale at the mill, by appointment, and soon, it is hoped, available at the South Dean Village Hall Art show.

LIFETIME GUARANTEE

This spring, clients from 1999 returned their much loved but broken dining chairs for repair. This service was offered to them for free, but it was admitted by the clients that their children may have been rather rough with the chairs and offered to pay for their repair. Tom happily met them halfway and repaired the chairs at half the price of the work.

Tom is happy to make it clear his products come with a lifetime guarantee.



Chair under repair.

SALLY HACKETT AND ALEC STEVENS

This year's summer residency offered to young artists and designer makers to spend the summer here at Hundalee Mill Farm and share the studio facilities with Tom and Jenny, received six strong and eligible applications. The selection process was not an easy one. Sally Hackett from Glasgow, a recent graduate from an illustration degree at Dundee, was selected and has enjoyed the summer residency so far. Sally has been making use of Jenny's kiln and produced some very creative pottery including many figures in clay 'Homage to Bosch 1480'. Homage to Bosch 1480 is the result of weeks of work modeling the figures from the famous painter's images of heaven on earth. Sally has also taken the opportunity to try her hand at woodcarving making the most of her host's knowledge in the area. With a request for material to carve from Sally, Tom took great pleasure in employing Sally to help fell a sycamore tree on the farm and secure for her the required material. Sally was a little shocked and surprised in the amount of work and waste there was in acquiring a piece of wood fit to carve. Tom and Jenny would like to thank Sally for her inspiration and hard work. They would also like to thank Sally for her assistance in preparing and putting on our first open studio exhibition.

Alec Stevens, another applicant for the summer residency has been invited to join us in October and November this year and be a part of our Christmas Present Show (9 Nov). He would like to develop his woodworking knowledge and make use of the fully equipped workshop. Alec recently graduated from Brighton and has been very active making new work this summer and amongst other things has been an artist in residence at the National Craft Centre in Spalding. Based in Paris he is looking forward to finding inspiration in the Scottish countryside. Out of his residency with us, in his own words, he hopes to, 'explore a new location, to find interesting people and stories and expose them through making, To work hard in a flexible but focused way, to make connections, to breath Scottish air.'



Image and figures, Sally Hackett



Image and carved wood artifacts by Alec Stevens

SKIN-ON-FRAME

COURSE ALMOST BOOKED!



Inside view of one of Tom's Kayaks.

It seems the skin-on-frame kayak building course is still of interest to a few. Two potential customers came to see Tom in the spring to see for themselves what was on offer. Impressed by the facilities and the potential hospitality they left with a commitment to get back in touch. As yet they have not booked their course but Tom remains optimistic and looks forward to the potential of running a course.

Timothy Hawson Memorial

SUMMER RESIDENCY

2014

@ Hundalee Mill Farm, Jedburgh, Scottish Borders

In the private Studio and Workshops of Thomas Hawson, Designer/Maker/Artist and Jenny Ozwell, Studio Potter.

Applications are invited from undergraduates, recently graduated and postgraduate students from art and design related courses. Ideally suited to someone looking to develop their craft-based-practice in a rural landscape. However, applications from all levels and disciplines of academic and vocational training in art, craft and design welcome.

This residency is offered for summer 2014 between early June and late September. In return for accommodation and access to workshop and studio facilities, the resident is required to work 1 day or 8 hours a week in art and design related employment for Thomas Hawson. The resident is also expected to help prepare and exhibit in the Hundalee Mill Farm's Open Studio Event, dates to be confirmed. The Open Studio Event will be an opportunity for the resident to exhibit and sell work. Workshop facilities and studio space available to the resident includes:

Furniture making workshop with guest workbench and tools with access to machines and appropriate training provided as and when required.

Pottery with guest potters wheel, and use of kiln.

Use of Counter Marche Loom, small drop weight Viking loom, warp frame, spinning wheel and sewing machines.

Studio space for painting and drawing upstairs in the living area of the mill studio, shared with office.

Basic metal working area, provided in barn.

Access to internet via Wi-Fi.

Use of video camera with professional sound quality and video editing Mac computer.

Materials can be provided in small quantities but large-scale requirements to be negotiated.

Accommodation is available in the mill studio with self-catering facilities; meals can be shared with the family for a negotiable contribution.

Please fill in application form ([click to download](#)) and return for our consideration.

Deadline for applications 19th April 2014

CHUCKLE

OUR NORDIC FOLKBOAT

Since Tom was a boy busily studying the classified ads in Classic Boat Magazine, he has never stopped dreaming of owning his own wooden yacht. In the spring of 2012 a friend of a friend asked him while talking of their shared interest in sailing, why he had not bought himself a Folkboat. This reminded Tom of a conversation he had had with a member of the boatyard team at the Roskilde Viking Ship Museum in Denmark, in 2004. While apprentice at the boat yard as part of his Ph.D. project Tom was taken sailing for an afternoon with Carson, the museums plant fibre rigging specialist. Carson had insisted that when Tom finished his Ph.D. he should acquire himself a Folkboat, a camper-van of the sea. Not understanding what Folkboat was but remembering Carson's insistence, the name Folkboat was not forgotten. When Tom was reminded of the name Folkboat in 2012 and enlightened as to its meaning as a famous class of boat, he wasted no time in researching the Folkboat legend. Within a few weeks Tom was in correspondence with a man willing to part with his much loved but neglected Folkboat in the knowledge that it would be well taken care of in exchange for fair words and money from selling Tom's under used sea kayak. Without delay, in April 2011, Tom trialed Chuckle from her berth in Exeter to his yard at Hundalee Mill Farm, one month's work was spent on her refurbishment. At the time Tom did not have much in the way of income from commissions and cash dependent summer excursions for the family did not look exotic. So was swapping a sea kayak for a 25' family cruising yacht needing some work a good idea or not? Tom, perhaps blinkered by his affection for wooden boats, feels the venture has been a great success, and thankfully, the family has also enjoyed sharing the spoils of his enthusiasm and hard work.

As a means of sharing his experience in this boat venture, Tom has kept a blog with an emphasis on how to develop young children's interest in family cruising off the south east coast of Scotland. Follow the link below to find out how he has got on so far. Blog link:

<http://nordicfolkboatchuckle.blogspot.co.uk>



Fergus and Freyja trying out the new ladder on Chuckle, anchored at Coldingham Bay

FERGUS AND FREYJA

toys for sale



Fergus' Woodpecker

Fergus now 8 years and Freyja 6 years old, son and daughter of Tom and Jenny, are becoming more and more accomplished in the workshop. This spring and summer they have been manufacturing toys to display for sale at the open studio exhibition. With schoolwork now taking more and more of their time and daddy working harder to get his business going the little time they have in the workshop is much more focused and productive. With very little encouragement from their father Fergus and Freyja have shown great discipline in designing and making their own toys and arranging their display of wares for sale.



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