

EXCLUSIVE WITH THE FAMILIARS AUTHOR, STACEY HALLS | **CREATE** YOUR OWN WILLOW LANTERN | HYGGE HOSTING **AT HOME**
GET **CREATIVE** WITH J-CLOTH PIXEL ART | PIMP UP YOUR CUSHIONS WITH POM POM **CRAFTS** | PLUS MUCH, MUCH MORE...

SPOT ON

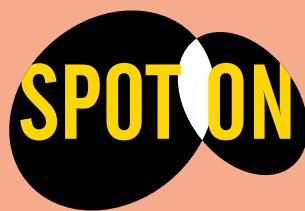
AT HOME

CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES
25
TO YOUR
DOOR



COLOUR IN
THE COVER

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY CATH FORD



WELCOME TO SPOT ON'S **At Home** edition

Welcome to Spot On at home. At this time of the year, the Spot On team are usually out and about in rural village halls and libraries bringing fabulous performing arts events to your doorstep, but this autumn we wanted to try something a little different.

We have linked up with the wonderful Lancashire-based Hopeful and Glorious who work with talented artists, designers and makers from across the North to bring you a whole range of craft and art activities you can do at home. Make a bookmark (pg5), pom-poms for a cushion (pg11) or a willow lantern for your house or local village hall (pg8). If you like painting and drawing, there's some pixel art (pg4) and a surprising new use for coffee (pg10). You can even build your own theatre (pg12).

If you're in the mood to immerse yourself in a good story we have a fantastic interview with Lancashire born author Stacey Halls (pg3) and illustrator Cath Ford celebrates the county's mobile library service (pg6). You can also find out more about our latest season of Spot On Stories and how to host your own hygge storytelling party (pg7).

We asked some of our favourite Canadian artists who have previously toured all the corners of the county for their fondest Lancashire memories. We guarantee you'll feel proud of our landscape when you've read what they have to say (pg13).

Finally, we are able to bring this to your door thanks to the wonderful Lancashire Library Service. We're also grateful to the national network of rural touring providers who have helped fund this publication. We look forward to creating many more.

We'd love to hear what you thought, and see what you made! Get in touch with us via phone, email or social media.



For more information please contact:

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‘Lancashire shaped who I am’

AN INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR STACEY HALLS

Spot On’s Rob Howell chats to the best selling author of *The Familiars*

Stacey Halls is the Lancashire born and bred best selling author of *The Familiars*. Spot On Director Rob Howell was lucky enough to catch up with Stacey on her way home from the pet shop, to ask how Lancashire has shaped her writing.

Although she’s lived in London for about ten years now, Stacey still feels an incredibly strong connection to Lancashire ‘It’s where I’m from so I will always have a relationship with it no matter if I’m there or not. It’s one of the very few places I can properly relax. When the train is approaching Lancashire, I can just feel the tension leave my body and my shoulders.’ And while the big city has a lot to offer, nothing can compete with walking in the hills above Rawtenstall. ‘I’ll always have that connection to the landscape. I feel that it has absolutely shaped who I am. That connection will always be there no matter where I am in the world. Living in London is very different and I spent the first 18 to 21 years of my life in Lancashire saying ‘I can’t wait to leave this place, it’s boring’ and now I’ve lived away from it for so long I’m like, ‘when can I go home and go for a walk and go to the pub?’ I just love being back.’

Stacey told me how important Rawtenstall Library had been in forming her as a person and a writer. She would take out piles of books - often re-reading them. ‘Libraries are just the most wonderful places and I do worry about future generations and the future of writing if more and more libraries close. That’s how I discovered my love of reading and therefore of writing. If I hadn’t had a library in my local town I might not be who I am today. It sounds quite trite, but it’s one hundred percent true.’

Stacey is known for her best selling historical novels. *The Familiars* is set in Lancashire and is about the Pendle witch trials. Her second, *The Foundling*, out

now in paperback, is set in Georgian London. When reading *The Familiars*, I was struck by the attention to historical detail. I wanted to know how she approached her historical research. She stressed that she is writing fiction and strongly defends her right to be creative with history, ‘I want the story to feel authentic but I don’t want it to read like a history book.’ In *The Familiars*, the only facts that she loyally stuck to were the dates and the names of the accused. She points out that, no matter how detailed your research,

you still don’t get to the real truth. ‘You never hear the side of women from history. Most history is point of view journalism, so I don’t worry too much about that’. The book’s heroine, Fleetwood Shuttleworth, did exist but there is no evidence that she had any involvement with



When the train is approaching Lancashire, I can just feel the tension leave my body and my shoulders.

the accused or their trials. One thing Stacey was clear about was that she did not want to use authentic, early 17th century Lancashire dialect. ‘It would have read like a completely different book and I wouldn’t have known where to start to acquire that knowledge.’ Contemporary English makes it more readable and more like a book that Stacey would choose to read herself.

The Foundling is wholly fictionalised but extensive research on Georgian London at that time: the Foundling Hospital, food, drink, gambling, crime, slang etc. have framed and informed the story; ‘One of the things that I just had to include is the fact that lions lived in the Tower of London and you could make payment of a dead dog to go and see them.’

I wanted to know what tips Stacey would have for people wanting to write for themselves. She started by saying ‘write a book you want to read.’ Stacey is also a journalist and acknowledges that this has been a good way of getting over her self consciousness as a writer. ‘You have this perfect novel in your head but it never comes out on the page how you want it to.’ She writes a lot and keeps a journal. ‘I like to jot things down - I mean pen and paper as well. I’m not one for writing on my phone at all. I think that there is something about the physicality of writing on paper. I think that the brain works at the same time as your hand.’ She says to take your time, ‘don’t think that you need to finish a book in two days - that’s not going to happen.’

‘I’m very much a planner, I like to know exactly what’s going to happen, I plot it all out on index cards. It’s good to have the full picture in your head but don’t feel like you have to have every single corner sorted. It will come to you.’

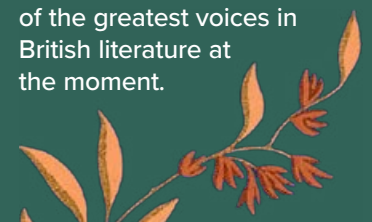
She is a big fan of the pomodoro technique which advocates 25 minutes of concentration followed by a break. ‘You can get so much work done in that time’ though she stresses that there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to writing.

The Familiars and *The Foundling* are available now in all good bookshops and from your local library.

ONCE YOU’VE FINISHED THE FAMILIARS AND THE FOUNDLING, THESE ARE STACEY’S TIPS FOR A GOOD LANCASHIRE READ.

If you’re looking for more on the Pendle Witches, I would recommend ‘Mist over Pendle’ by Robert Neil, that’s a very different interpretation to mine. It is told from the point of view of Roger Nowell who is actually the hero of the tale and a sympathetic narrator. I would also recommend ‘The Daylight Gate’, which is again based on the Pendle witch trials and is by Jeanette Winterson who is one of my absolute favourite authors.

If that’s too many witch books then I would recommend ‘Why be happy, when you can be normal’ also by Jeanette Winterson. It’s her memoir of growing up in the 60s/70s in Accrington. She’s one of the greatest voices in British literature at the moment.



J-Cloth Pixel Art

JASON TAYLOR TURNS THE EVERYDAY INTO ART



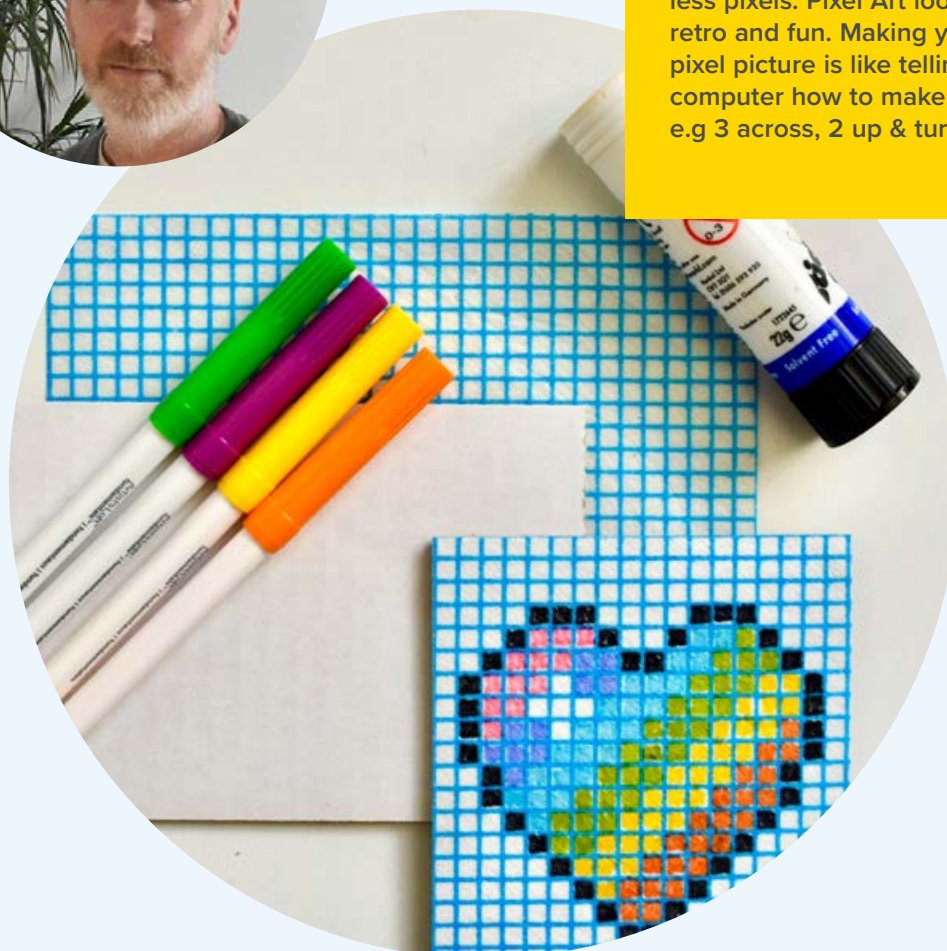
A pixel is the smallest single part of a digital image. Sometimes seen as a small square. Pixel art is sometimes called '8 Bit Art' as old computers and games used less pixels. Pixel Art looks blocky, retro and fun. Making your own pixel picture is like telling a computer how to make an image. e.g 3 across, 2 up & turn it red.

This project idea was developed by Jason Taylor, an artist and designer who reuses everyday objects to make unusual products and sculptures.

The idea of using a J cloth to draw on came from his Everyday Objects project where he made something everyday for a year in 2012.

Jason has exhibited and sold work around the world and also provides creative workshops recycling tin cans.

Web : www.jasontaylor.co.uk
Instagram/Twitter : @jasonmade



MATERIALS LIST

Multi purpose cloths (J cloth)
- ones that have squares
(not diamond shaped cloths)

Cardboard

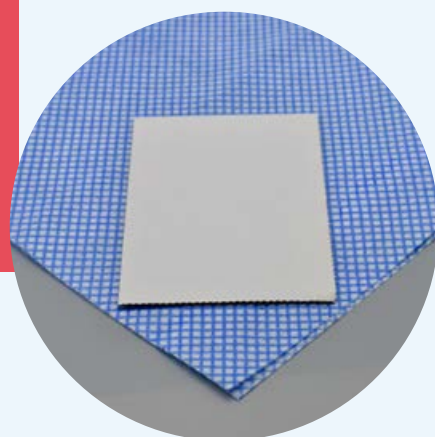
Paper

Glue stick

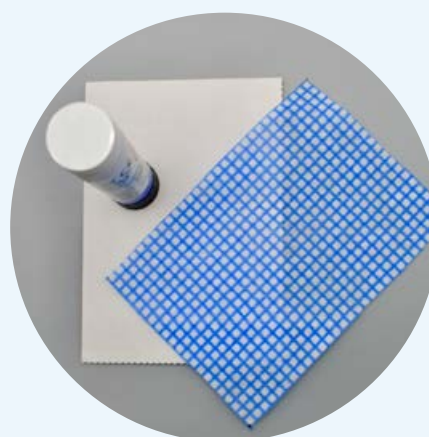
Scissors

Felt tips

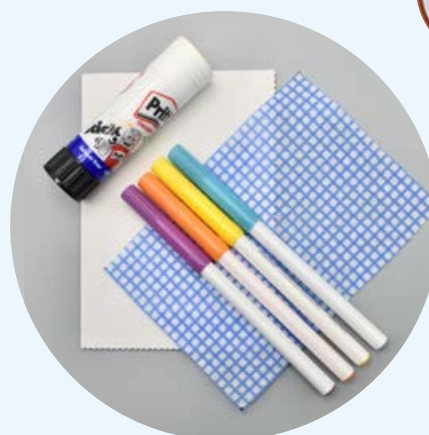
INSTRUCTIONS



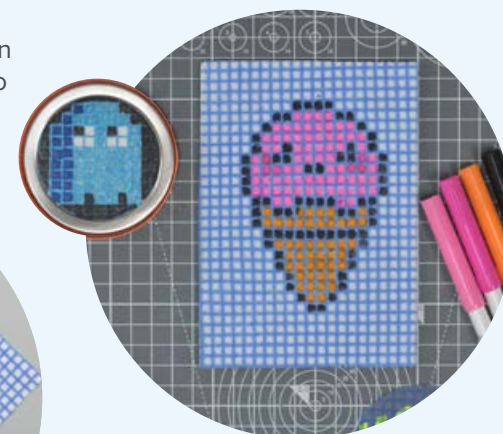
- 1 Cut a piece of cardboard and a piece of paper into a 10cm x 14cm rectangle (roughly postcard size)
- 2 Glue paper to the cardboard - the white paper will help make the colours stand out
- 3 Now place cardboard onto the cloth and line up the squares on the cloth. Draw round the cardboard on cloth and cut cloth out



- 4 Apply glue all over the card on the white side, stick cloth onto card and smooth it out



- 5 Choose a design or just get colouring inside the squares with felt tips - you can search for designs by searching for 'pixel art' or '8 bit art'



- 6 When you have finished colouring you could carefully cut out your design and make it into a fridge magnet or a badge. If you leave it as a rectangle you could use it as a Postcard
- 7 Repeat and try different designs and shapes of cardboard. Larger ones also make great wall clocks.

TOP TIPS

- Iron the creases out of the cloth first
- To plan it out you can count the squares and put a dot of colour in each square first before you start colouring in.

Make a bookmark



Diana Morrison is a textile artist and tutor who works within 2 distinct areas in her practice. She mainly designs and produces ranges of functional design led textile items from scarves, jewellery and covered books to sell in galleries and at trade and retail fairs, utilizing hand dyeing, print and stitch.

Natural forms inspire these ranges and she often uses actual plants as resist images for her prints. Diana sells her work in a variety of outlets in the North West.

Diana also works in a more 'Fine Art' oriented way producing wall art and installation pieces with Decorum Textile Artists and their work can be seen on the Decorum Textile Artists Facebook page.



She regularly teaches workshops both as an individual tutor and with Decorum and may be contacted for bookings on dianamorrisondesigns@gmail.com

Online shop:
dianamorrisondesigns.etsy.com

Instagram / Facebook:
dianamorrisondesigns

MATERIALS LIST

- ⊗ Fabric piece measuring 22.5 x 5.5cm
- ⊗ Fabric piece measuring 15 x 2cm
- ⊗ Piece of felt measuring 22.5 x 5.5cm
- ⊗ Piece fabric in a contrasting fabric measuring 20.5 x 3.5cm
- ⊗ Piece of bondaweb measuring 22.5 x 5.5cm
- ⊗ Piece of bondaweb measuring 20.5 x 3.5cm
- ⊗ Piece of bondaweb measuring 15 x 2cm
- ⊗ Piece of medium weight iron-on Vilene measuring 22 x 5.5cm
- ⊗ 5 small buttons
- ⊗ Hand stitch needle and embroidery thread

INSTRUCTIONS



1 Copy or trace the shape of the plant from the illustration onto the paper side of the 15 x 2cm piece of bondaweb



2 Iron the Vilene onto the back of the felt, using the iron for about 8 seconds then iron the bondaweb onto the back of each fabric piece by placing the rough side (not the paper side) against the fabric and iron for about 5 seconds. In each case use dry heat and not steam



3 When the fabric cools, cut out the plant shape from the smallest fabric piece and peel the paper backing away from all 3 fabric pieces

Right Side/ Wrong Side — this refers to the different sides of the material. The right side is the side you want to be showing on the final bookmark. The wrong side is the side you don't want to see on the final bookmark.

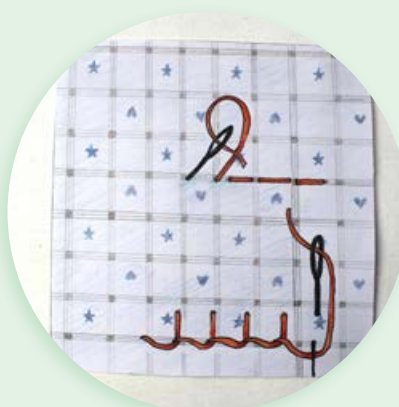
Bondaweb — great for mending and patching clothes, you can get a roll for a few pounds in any craft or sewing store or online.



4 Place the largest fabric piece onto the stiffened felt with the wrong sides together



5 Place a dampened cloth over the cotton fabric side and press carefully to bond the 2 pieces together



6 Place the medium size (contrast) fabric piece on the top of the largest fabric piece with the right sides facing up; position carefully and press with a damp cloth to bond the pieces together. Then place the cutout plant shape, right side facing up onto the contrast fabric panel and position carefully as shown in the illustration. Press again with a damp cloth securing and bonding the layers as before



7 With the needle and thread and using the stitch diagram as a guide, go around the edge of the plant shape and around the edge of the central (contrast) fabric panel with a running stitch. If you have a sewing machine you may use a straight stitch to outline this central panel instead

8 Using the needle and thread, apply a blanket stitch edging to the bookmark. There is a diagram for the stitch construction. Alternatively, if you have a sewing machine you could zigzag stitch around the edge instead

9 Sew on the 5 buttons to decorate as shown in the illustration.

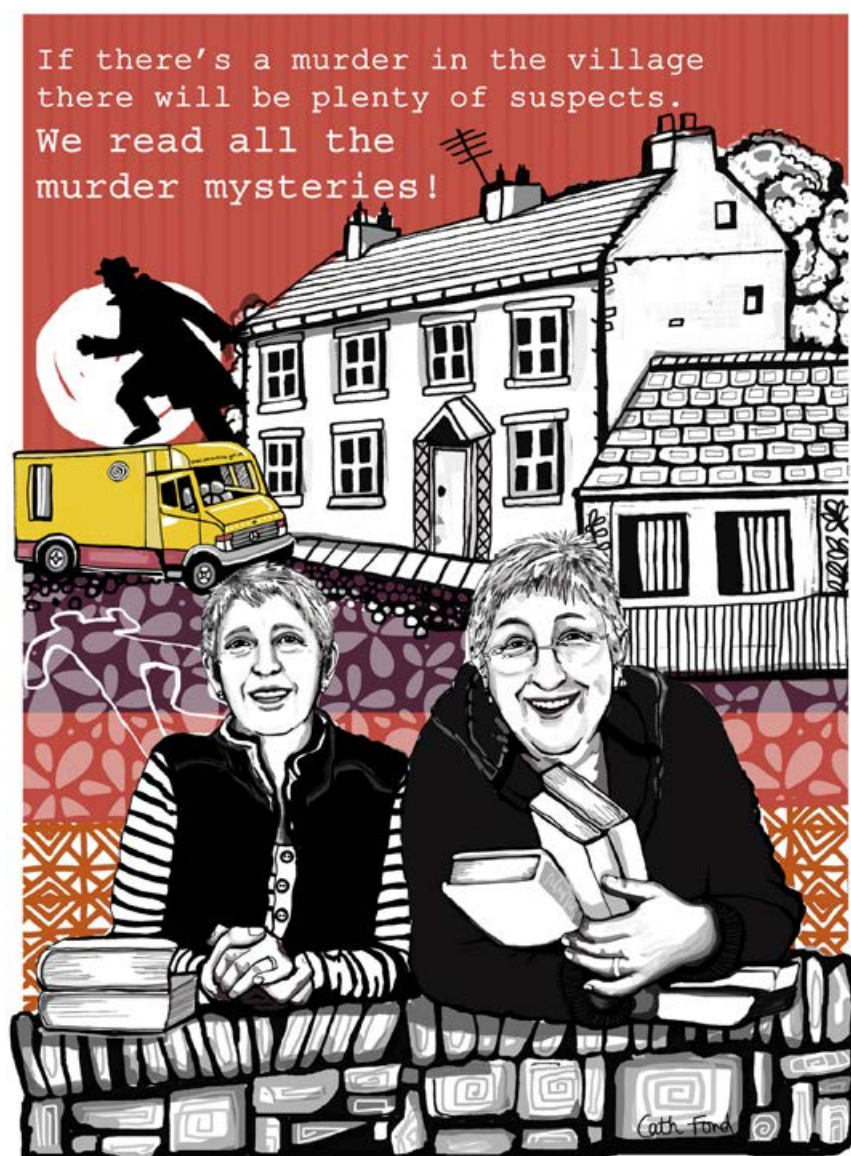
Adventures on Lancashire's mobile libraries

A couple of years ago, Spot On sent illustrator Cath Ford off on a drawing adventure on Lancashire's mobile libraries. Now, when many people and communities have felt more isolated than ever, Cath reflects on just how important that mobile service is.

I am so proud to be a Lancashire Lass and the opportunity to spend time travelling around our beautiful, diverse county with the mobile libraries was a real gift.

With the mobile libraries I visited the vast, open coast, the hills and mills of Rossendale, the terraced streets of Preston, the flat farmland of West Lancashire, the picturesque villages of North Lancashire and, finally, closest to my home in Blackburn, the communities in and around Langho.

The most valuable thing I learned was just how important the Mobile Library service is to people who use it. I know this is no surprise, but it really is a lifeline for people who are unwell, isolated or disabled. It is a social event with people sometimes meeting friends and neighbours in the library and chatting with the librarian who knows their stories, whether they need help or not and their taste in books. The regular visits give people something to look forward to, which is so important for good mental health.



Isolation isn't restricted to people living in geographically remote locations. I met someone who lives on a street full of people on the mobile route in Preston. For her, the closing of the local newsagents meant the severing of one of her remaining links to her local community. Simply going to buy the paper each day was part of her maintaining independence, she was a visible part of the neighbourhood and her presence contributed to the richness and diversity of her street. She was an absolutely lovely woman, vibrant, intelligent and kind. The Mobile Library is now even more important in her life. Its visit every three weeks is a vital link to the outside world. She is able to make choices, give feedback and share a passion for stories with someone who appreciates her and her ideas.

At another of our stops a woman told me that when they moved to the area and knew no one, they came on to the mobile library and met other borrowers who have since become friends. Now they all go for coffee together after each visit. One of the same group said that 'If I won a million pounds on the lottery, I wouldn't move house and that's because of the mobile library'.

Wherever it is, the mobile library is a special place where people browse, catch up with neighbours and share a passion for books.

It seems that no two days are the same for a mobile librarian, and I think this is part of the joy for those who take on the job. I can definitely see that attraction. You are pretty much your own boss, get to travel around some of the most beautiful parts of our county, meet people who are really happy to see you and share with them an opportunity to escape, learn or just be entertained.

I imagine that there aren't many librarians who have to negotiate their way round narrow bends, face oncoming huge trucks or reverse around an inconsiderately parked car to get the library to its location.

CATH'S TOP TIP FOR ARTISTIC ENDEAVOUR

My A Level art teacher, when we would complain of 'lack of inspiration', would remind us that 'art is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration'. So, put in the hours and try some new ideas. Some will be successful, some not. Do more and ponder less.

'If I won a million pounds on the lottery, I wouldn't move house and that's because of the mobile library.'

Host @ Home



Spot On's Stephie Jessop encourages you to delve into our **Spot On Stories** online and even consider hosting a storytelling session of your own with friends.

When lockdown began and we could no longer bring fantastic performing arts to village halls and libraries, we wanted to find a way of still bringing theatre to Lancashire audiences. In partnership with Lancashire Libraries we created 'Spot On Stories'. Ten minute shows filmed just for you by some of the fantastic artists who have (or should have) toured with Spot On. For ten minutes, wherever you are, you can lose yourself in a really good story.

This Autumn we're hosting our second season of Spot On Stories - and this time they're just for grown-ups. We know when you hear storytelling, you might think of children's tales, but the power of listening to a good story is universal. It's how our ancestors built communities, and passed on important life lessons. It's how we make sense of the world around us and connect with friends and family. Storytelling is something we all do every day, whether it's recounting a much-loved family memory at a special occasion or recounting our day at work. Storytelling brings people together.

And, even though we've all spent so much time at home this year, as the nights get longer, and the weather turns, you can't deny the appeal of a cosy Autumnal night in. What better time then than to host your own Spot On Storytelling party? After all, is there really anything else left to watch on Netflix?



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

Choose one (or more) of our Spot On Stories to get you started from our website:

www.spotonlancashire.co.uk/spot-on-stories

3-6 people each armed with a good story - how you define a story is up to you. They could be fictional, personal, local legend or scary!

Blankets, tea lights and a cosy atmosphere - or if you're meeting via zoom, why not choose a thematic virtual background!

A good internet connection if you're meeting digitally!

Refreshments. You'll need snacks and a drink. This may be alcohol or a cup of steaming cocoa.

HOW TO HOST YOUR PARTY:

Create a cosy atmosphere - if you need some inspiration, look up the Danish trend of 'Hygge' lots of candles, blankets, and comforting home cooked food (and a glass of red wine, might help get the stories flowing!)

Gather your friends and family around the fire (or your computer screens) and watch one of our Spot On Stories to set the tone. If you're a brave group and fancy a twisted tale or two we recommend Gav Cross or Cat Weatherill. There's plenty of stories to choose from on our website, and we'll be releasing a new story each week starting in October.

Once you've listened to your Spot On Stories, take it in turns to go around the room and share a story each. We're leaving how you define a story up to you! You might want to theme your evening (how about family legends or Lancashire tales) or leave it open and see what your guests bring!



Willow Lanterns

Julie Livesey of Pip Cottage is a keen maker of beautiful and functional hand-made objects such as baskets, mats, sculptures and living willow structures that can be made with all things natural and recycled such as willow, rush, paper and rags. Julie regularly sells at craft fairs and markets from Accrington to Lytham, and she runs a series of workshops around Lancashire. For the most up to date information on where to find Julie or join a workshop please visit her website or facebook page.

Julie also undertakes research into Lancashire basket-making and is always happy to chat with anyone who has knowledge or photos they would like to share on basket-making in old Lancashire.

Web : www.pipcottage.co.uk
Instagram/Facebook : [@julieatpipcottage](https://www.instagram.com/julieatpipcottage)
Email : julie@pipcottage.co.uk

Julie Livesey helps us shine a light on Lancashire with this willow craft



We have 40 kits containing all you need to make your own lantern including willow, a base and an LED candle. These are FREE to the first 40 readers in Lancashire that apply. Send your name, email address and phone number to hello@spotonlancashire.co.uk or phone 01254 660360. We will arrange for your kits to be delivered for collection from your nearest library.



MATERIALS LIST

**provided in the pack*

Fifteen 5 foot brown willow rods*

One round wood base 9-12cm diameter with between 9 and 11 holes around the edges*

30cms of string*

Battery T-light*

Secateurs

Scissors

Ruler or tape measure

Pen

Bath or large container/trug of cold water to soak the willow

Stones or pans of water to hold the willow under the water when soaking

Optional - jam jar approximately 3cm smaller diameter than wood base

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Preparing the willow - Fill a bath or container with cold water to soak the willow and weigh it down with a couple of stones or pans of water to hold the willow under the water for five days. Wrap the willow in a towel, blanket or sheet and leave to 'mellow' overnight ready to use the next day



- 2 Insert the willow rods through the holes in the wood base leaving at least 10cm of the thick ends sticking out the bottom of the base

Tie the thin ends tightly together with string. Bend the thick ends of the sticks at right angles under the wood base to kink them and then place one behind the other so they stay secure and form a 'foot'. Bend the last stick so that you can push it under the first rod bent down so the rods do not come undone. This is called a trac border



- 3 We are going to weave the sides around each upright with a pairing weave by bending a weaving rod in half and placing it around the first upright with the two ends sticking out in front

The weaving rod poking out to the left of the first upright is bent in front of the first upright, behind the second upright and out to the front, then the other rod that is now to the left of the second upright goes in front of the second upright, behind the third upright and out to the front. Repeat this weave around the lantern until you have gone twice round. You may have to start another weaving rod the same way if you run out before you have gone around twice. Tuck in the ends to secure. Untie the string. You can place a jam jar on the base and use sticky tape to hold the uprights in place if wanted. Repeat the pairing weave 12cm up from the base, or just below the top of the jar



- 4 To make the top border, measure and mark each upright with a pen 13cm up from the base. Bend each upright at the 13cm mark and remove the jar. Make a trac border by passing one upright behind the next, and so on, and bend the last one to secure the border like you did to make the 'foot'
- 5 To finish, use the secateurs to cut the long ends of the willow. Be careful to leave a stump sticking out at the ends so the willow weaves do not come undone. Tie the ends of the string to opposite sides of the lantern and place the candle inside. Well done, hang up and enjoy!

These instructions help you to learn how to make a wood-based willow lantern suitable for a battery t-light/candle. Please note this lantern is not suitable for use with a real candle or T-light with a flame as it can catch fire.

Paint with coffee

Sally Dempsey
proves that
coffee isn't just
for drinking



Having recently finished Fine Art studies at college, I have taken the opportunity in lockdown to do more creative projects for the fun of it, and without any restrictions on what I can and can't do. I have really enjoyed creating my own cards especially as I couldn't get to a card shop. It has been nice to take the time to make personalised cards for friends and family.

In a time when it is difficult to share a brew with friends this card painting tutorial shares a new way to enjoy a coffee with loved ones.

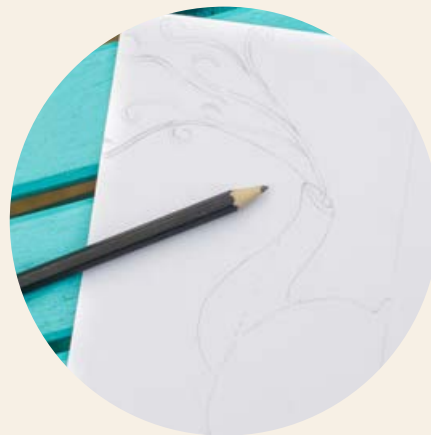
For commission enquiries please contact :
hopefulandglorious@gmail.com



INSTRUCTIONS



1 Put 5 different amounts of the coffee granules in separate piles onto a large plate. Dilute with water so they make different shades to paint with



2 With a pencil draw a semi-circle that meets both the top and right-hand edges of your paper. This is the body of the teapot. Draw a line underneath to make the teapot base



4 Draw two 'S' shapes from either side of the spout to represent spilling tea

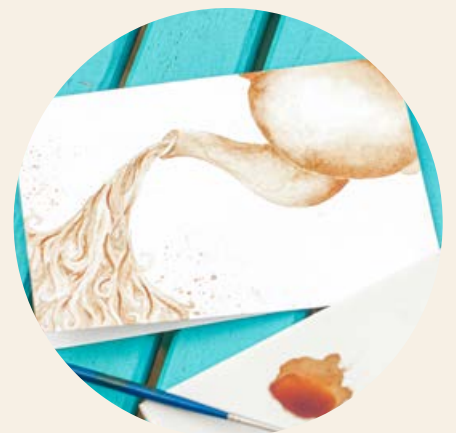


5 Now time for some fun. With the paintbrush add lots of random swirling shapes of coffee in a variety of sizes and shades within these two 'S' lines



6 Start painting with the darkest shade of coffee on the rounded body of the teapot gradually lightening towards the middle and darkening again on the other side

7 For the spout, start in a dark shade, where it meets the teapot, before gradually lightening towards the tip of the spout



8 Where the tea is spilling out of the spout use a mixture of solid coffee tones as well as a gradient style to fill in the swirls

9 To finish off flick the lightest coffee colour to indicate splashing tea.

MATERIALS LIST

- Instant coffee granules
- Pencil
- Paintbrush
- Water
- Rubber
- Thick paper or card with a rough finish ideally cartridge/watercolour paper



Pimp your cushion

Fawziyah Raja gets set to pimp up with pom poms



I have a Degree in Textiles and a Postgraduate Degree in Surface Pattern Design & Textiles.

Inspired by the world and its mysteries, my soft furnishings and products are a culmination of dark, rich and opulent colour themes, with a focus on sensory and tactile surfaces, created with an interest in sensory therapy for people living with Dementia and Alzheimer's.

My products are all handmade with the intention of creating beautiful pieces of art for everyday living.

Here, Fawziyah offers us a crafty and creative project to jazz up your old cushion covers with colourful handmade yarn pom poms and tassels.

Instagram : @fr_surfacepattern_textiles_

MATERIALS LIST

- Yarn of your choice
- Pom pom makers or cardboard cutouts
- Notebook
- Scissors
- A cushion cover and cushion inner
- Sewing needle and thread or a hot glue gun
- Extra embellishments (optional)



Step 1: Making pom poms

Using a pom pom maker, wrap your chosen yarn around the half segments.

Cut around the circumference of the pom pom maker and use a 10cm strip of yarn to tie around the circumference which will hold the wrapped yarn in place.

Separate the pom pom maker and trim stray yarns for a perfect ball shape.



Step 2: Making tassels

Using a notebook, wrap your chosen yarn around one edge multiple times.

Use a 10cm strip of yarn tie and secure on one end of the wrapped yarn.

Remove from the notebook and tightly secure the yarn.

Cut through the other end of the secured yarn.

Trim any longer threads.



Step 3: Attaching to the cushion cover

Using a needle and thread or hot glue gun place the pom poms and tassels onto the cushion cover to your desired preference.



Alternatively;

Cut out two circle cardboard cutouts and follow the same process.

Sandwiching the cutouts together, wrap the yarn in a circular motion.

Snip the yarn between both cardboard circles.

Tie a 10cm yarn strip between the cutouts to secure the pom pom.

Remove the cardboard and trim for a perfect ball shape.



Cardboard Theatre

Elizabeth Emmens-Wilson
brings the theatre to your table
in this cardboard craft

My name is Elizabeth Emmens-Wilson and my ethos is to use sustainable, reclaimed materials to create thoughtful, hand made, personal and unique ceramics, jewellery items, gifts, cards and decorations.

My ceramics are decorated using reclaimed onglaze colours, lustres and glazes. My embroideries, whether done by machine or hand, utilise both reclaimed fabrics and threads.

The glass lens decorations are made from engraving my designs onto reclaimed glasses lenses. All my packaging is all hand made out of reclaimed paper and card. I repurpose my bubble wrap from supermarket fruit and veg aisles! My greetings cards and craft packs are made from reclaimed and found paper. All the ribbon I use is also reclaimed.

You can find me on Facebook, Instagram and on my website : www.elizabethemmens-wilson.co.uk



MATERIALS LIST

- Cardboard box with lid (shoebox or a vegetable box)
- Flat large pieces of cardboard (look in the egg sections of supermarkets for these)
- Craft knife, metal ruler and cutting mat
- A hot glue gun or PVA glue
- Pens or paints to decorate your theatre (I used black, white and grey marker pens)



- 1 Use the width of your ruler to draw a border around the lid of your box. Using your craft knife cut out the central panel - this hole is your 'stage space'
- 2 Measure out two slots running the width of your box, one 1cm away from the back edge of your box, the other 1cm away from the front edge. You will need to make a slot 1cm away from the front edge of your lid as well. Cut these slots out from your box and lid using the craft knife. Make the slots wide enough to slide other pieces of cardboard in and out (your set, props and puppets will be operated through these slots)
- 3 Cut similar slots in the sides of your theatre and cut those out



- 4 Secure the lid to your box using glue. If you are using PVA glue, allow it to dry thoroughly, making sure that the slots in your lid and base line up
- 5 Measure the length of the slots along the top of the box and also measure the height of the box. Cut out two pieces of your spare cardboard into a rectangle using these measurements. Leave some extra height to make a handle at the top of your panel. One of these will be your safety curtain and one will be your interchangeable backdrop. Use your pens or paints to decorate your panels. You can make a new backdrop for every different story you want to perform!



- 6 Using the leftover spare cardboard, cut some irregular shapes leaving a 90° angle on one side. Cut a small rectangular notch out of the bottom edge close to the corner. These will be your scenery. Decorate with your paints or pens
- 7 To make the sign for the top of your theatre, measure the width of your box, add 6cm then cut out a section of card. Mark the centre of your card and also mark the last 3cm from each end. Using a circular object, like a plate, make a curved edge in the centre of your piece of card. Add scrolls on either side of your curved sections, then cut it out and decorate your sign. Once it is dry, fold over the extra 3cm on each end and glue to the top edge of your box so that the sign wraps around both top corners



- 8 Fill up your theatre with little toys or paper puppets! Stick pokey barbecue sticks to the back of your toys using masking tape and manoeuvre them through the side slots!

Lancashire, The view from Canada

Spot On's Lyndsey Wilson went back to some of our old friends to ask for their impressions and memories of this sometimes wet and windy place we call home.

It is easy to take the remarkable county of Lancashire for granted when you see it everyday but for some of the Canadian performers that have toured with Spot On over the last 20 years, Lancashire will always hold a special place in their hearts.

The Polyjesters, who toured with us twice in the noughties, are remembered fondly by many of our audiences, almost as fondly as double bass player, Jason Valleau, remembers our Lancashire pubs. He recalls with affection '... everyone turning their heads to see what the heck just rolled in from God knows where. We were instantly welcomed and enjoyed hand drawn pints of ambrosia and delicious cheeses, breads and Lancashire hotpots.'

And he's not the only one who was impressed by our hospitality and Lancashire fare. Step dancing family band The Fitzgeralds, from Ottawa, have sweet memories following their 2017 tour. 'We bought a home-made custard recipe back and have been making it for our friends ever since!'

Whereas Rebecca Perry and husband David Kingsmill told us that, '...in Clitheroe we had an excellent coffee at PARLR, then the lovely surprise of a grand piano for our show at the library, a delightful and engaged audience and then back to PARLR for amazing cocktails and chatting with the bartender. Such a great blend of performance, culture and community.'



Ian Sherwood

Lancashire's landscape and wildlife also left a lasting impression. Jean-François Dumas of French-speaking Quebecois step-dancing band, Bon Debarras, was amazed by **'the quantity of wild rabbits running on the road when we came back at night after the shows. And in the daylight; sheep everywhere! All the very small and winding roads and the millions of kilometres of fences made of rocks. I felt very comfortable in this wild and wonderful scenery.'**

Musician Ian Sherwood, fell in love with the coastline: **'... what sticks with me the most were the views and strolls in Lytham St Annes.'** Dylan Bell recalls Dunsop Bridge. **'Tucked away in the mountains, you couldn't imagine anything more idyllic English country. We arrived several hours early... had lunch at Puddleducks, then a thoroughly enjoyable concert at the village hall. What a beautiful place, we can't wait to come back!'**

It's clear that our Canadian visitors were well looked after, for some it wasn't just the place they fell in love with, but the people. Marc Morin from Montreal Guitar Trio fondly reminisces about **'visiting small communities and being so welcomed by them...sharing their table, home cooked food and stories. Meeting all those people has been a very rich and wonderful experience.'**

Whether it's custard recipes or just a selection of photos to look back on and cherish, the Canadian artists who have toured to Lancashire over the past 20 years all have very warm and happy memories. They all want to feel Lancashire soil under their feet again some day and combine it with another tour.



All the very small and winding roads and the millions of kilometres of fences made of rocks. I felt very comfortable in this wild and wonderful scenery.



Hopeful — AND — Glorious

Based in Lancashire, Hopeful & Glorious love to work with talented artists, designers and makers from across the North to create opportunities to showcase and sell great quality original products. We team up with arts organisations and Lancashire venues to produce enjoyable events celebrating handmade work from across the North. From emerging designer makers to established artists we aim to offer events and social media which raise the profile of creatives and highlight the astonishing array of great quality work made locally.

We've loved supporting Spot On Lancashire's 'At Home' magazine selecting a great mix of creative projects to do at home. We hope you enjoy making them! Each year (pandemics permitting) we organise a small number of events. We keep it to just a few so that each one is an enjoyable, well crafted event that everyone can enjoy. This year we haven't been able to have any in-person events but we have been starting some online markets which we are putting together

with the same care and attention to detail that we put into our other events.

Our next online market will be our Winter Fair Online starting at 10am Friday 20th November and running until 5pm on Sunday 22nd. There'll be lots of enjoyable demos, meet the maker sessions as well as the opportunity to see and buy great work. Although we'd love to be having face to face markets one of the positives about the online fairs is that the makers can offer gift wrapping and send straight to your loved one, which is a definite plus in the current situation. Hopefully, next year things will be a bit more back to normal and we aim to be back curating the makers market at the National Festival of Making and then later in the year returning to Lytham Hall for our annual fair.

To find out more sign up for their newsletter through the Hopeful & Glorious website or follow us on social media.

Web : hopefulandglorious.co.uk

Instagram : [instagram.com/hopefulandglorious](https://www.instagram.com/hopefulandglorious)

Facebook : [facebook.com/hopefulandglorious](https://www.facebook.com/hopefulandglorious)

Twitter : twitter.com/hopefulandglorious



Lancashire 2025

Spot On is really excited to be supporting Lancashire's bid to become the UK City of Culture in 2025. The team behind the bid has launched a new website – Lancashire2025.com – where they are encouraging all 1.5million residents of Lancashire to not only back the bid, but to actively get involved in its development. Log on to Lancashire2025.com to find out more and see what you can do to support this exciting opportunity.

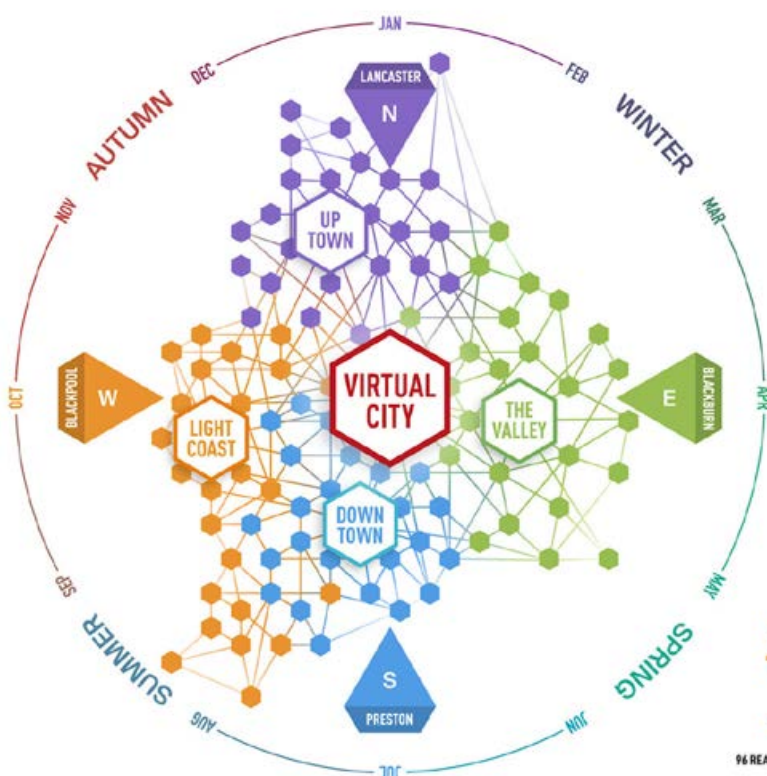
The bid has the ongoing support of Lancashire's local authorities, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and the county's universities.

Lancashire 2025 bid director, Debbi Lander, says that it will be "much more than a bid for a year of culture. It is a bold new vision for culture, commerce and creative communities. It is about connecting the different identities of Lancashire to reshape a better, creative, more sustainable way of living in the UK."

Lancashire 2025 is looking to recruit key roles to help drive the bid forwards. These include a citizen engagement manager, a programme manager, a projects producer and an administration and project co-ordinator. Further details, including job specifications and closing dates, can be found on Lancashire2025.com.

The Lancashire 2025 team will be presenting their bid to the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in 2021. **Back it now at Lancashire2025.com**

"much more than a bid for a year of culture. It is a bold new vision for culture, commerce and creative communities. It is about connecting the different identities of Lancashire to reshape a better, creative, more sustainable way of living in the UK."



What's On This Autumn

Have you missed your Spot On performances? Have no fear, we're working on some small pop up events so **check our website and sign up for our newsletter** to receive updates. In the meantime take a look at some shows that don't require hand sanitiser or a 2m rule.

OCTOBER

Digital Commission



ELLIOTT FLANAGAN Monument

AVAILABLE VIA
SPOTONLANCASHIRE.CO.UK FROM
TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER, 7PM

Commissioned by Spot On, Digital Artist Elliott Flanagan took inspiration from our 25-year archive. Made during lockdown, 'Monument' poignantly celebrates Spot On's unique and creative role in rural Lancashire. Created from archive photos, interviews and footage taken during Elliott's daily lockdown rural walks, Monument is an homage to a precious thing that will no longer be taken for granted - the shared experience of watching a live Spot On show.

Rural Touring Dance Initiative - Digital dance season



PROTEIN DANCE Border Tales

FRIDAY 9TH—THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Protein's smash-hit commentary on multicultural Britain seen through the eyes of an international cast, is told through dance, live music and dialogue compiled from the performers' personal experiences. With this broadcast we contribute to breaking down the walls of silence that uphold and sustain 'borders' around the world.



UCHENNA DANCE The Head Wrap Diaries

FRIDAY 16TH—THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER

Hair – worn long, worn short, worn wavy or in braids – is the subject of The Head Wrap Diaries, a funny and uplifting dance theatre show by Uchenna Dance. Meet stylists Linda and Riyah who will take you on a hair journey that will have you laughing out loud, thinking about your own (and everyone else's!) hair while you learn a thing or two about afro hair, straight from the hairdresser's chair.



LANRE MALALOU Elephant In The Room

FRIDAY 23RD—THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER

Something's wrong. Can't get out of bed, can't concentrate, can't shake the mounting tension. Something unspoken is building up, leaking out, taking over... Fusing physical theatre, hip hop dance and spoken word, Elephant in The Room is an explosive solo that explores the mental health crisis and the phenomenon of toxic masculinity.

All three events will be available via: www.ruraltouring.org/rtdi-share-a-show/

NOVEMBER

STUTE THEATRE You Don't Know Me But...

BOOKINGS AVAILABLE VIA
SPOTONLANCASHIRE.CO.UK
3RD, 4TH & 7TH NOVEMBER

SIX SHOW SLOTS AVAILABLE PER DAY
(BETWEEN 3PM & 7PM)

Age suitability: 16+



'You Don't Know Me But...' is a telephone theatre play, written and performed by winning theatre maker Sophia Hatfield and directed by BBC Radio Director Gwenda Hughes.

Meet Vick. Caregiver, Mother, Partner and Daughter. You've almost certainly walked past her in the street, stood behind her in a queue or driven past her in your car. Today, take the time to delve a little deeper. Experience a day in her life. Hear her thoughts and feelings as a busy day at work slowly uncovers a deeply buried memory of care.

Inspired by real memories and interviews from a care home in Stoke-on-Trent, this play tells the hidden stories of care across generations. Celebrating the dedication and spirit of workers and residents in care homes across the UK this intimate one-woman audio play is performed live over the phone, giving audience members a unique and moving theatre experience in their own homes.

Book your tickets, enter the virtual auditorium and prepare for an immersive live experience like never before.



spotonlancashire.co.uk

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PRINCIPAL FUNDERS



LOCAL AUTHORITIES



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