

This month, I am continuing with the theme of British Designers and looking at John Garland-Taylor.

The face behind the name: John Garland Taylor

by Sally Thornton

Things to know about John Garland-Taylor

1. John has worked at the bench for over 50 years, originally as a blacksmith and armourer. During this time he had worked on many collections including those at Warwick Castle.
2. In the 90's he started branching out from restoring antiques and armour into making jewellery, firstly in copper and then in silver.



David & John in their workshop



Florence heart pendant £98

3. Eight years ago he was joined by his son David who, under the guidance of his father, has been learning the craft.



Morgan bangle from £110 & ring from £49

4. One of the interesting features in many of their designs is the hammered effect on their silver work. The subtle textures are made in this process and applied with various hammer faces to form different textured finishes.

5. John's favourite pieces are the fairy bangles which are from the first collection that he made. John's wife wore them for the first time when going on holiday and when on the plane the light reflected off them creating little fairies dancing in the cabin. He now makes them in 4 different widths and they are perfect for stacking.



Fairy bangle from £49



EZ cufflinks £96

6. Whilst John and David concentrate on silver work, they will make their designs in gold but this will need to be a special order.



Zoe bangle £129

7. The 'GT' armourers' mark, which is the shape of an intertwined G and T from Garland Taylor, was originally developed to distinguish different pieces of armour John restored. This mark is still used today to 'brand' his jewellery, underpinning its unique and unusual heritage.



Lucy earrings from £65

8. This armourers' mark that can be found on the larger pieces should not be confused with hallmarking. Just like AA Thornton they also have their separate sponsors mark which will be applied when an item is sent to the assay office for hallmarking..

The hammered effect which is a distinctive feature is known as planishing. As I trained as a silversmith myself I know how difficult it is to master the technique and ensure you achieve the desired result.



Pencil twist necklace from £45

9. John has a small team in his workshop where he works with David, Jemma and Hannah and hand make all their pieces themselves. As all pieces are handmade, bangles in particular can be ordered in a size to suit you.

10. He has been based in Hatton for around 35 years and when he first came there it was a working farm with only workshops. It remains a lovely rural setting which is just as well as they all love dogs. They have two golden Labrador puppies called Oskar and Ruby who are in and out, often playing in the park.

Silver bangles ideal for layering



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