

ADVERTISING FEATURE

HOMES  
& ANTIQUES

# AWARDS WINNERS

We're delighted to announce the winners of the Homes & Antiques Awards 2013, as voted by you. Drum roll, please!

FEATURE **GEMMA HALL, ALICE HANCOCK & ELLIE TENNANT**  
PHOTOGRAPHS **LYDIA EVANS & JO HANLEY**

HOMES & ANTIQUES  
ANTIQUES SHOP OF  
THE YEAR 2013  
**GEORGIAN ANTIQUES,  
EDINBURGH**

When Padraic Dixon set up shop in a former bakery in 1978, little did he realise that Georgian Antiques would one day become a leading destination for antiques

aficionados. Padraic's brother John became a partner in 1981 and the firm has since expanded dramatically. 'Today, we have 18 employees in a five-storey, 50,000 sq ft former whiskey warehouse,' says John. 'And every inch of it is filled.'

He's not joking. You'll find everything from antlers to curling balls, but the firm's speciality is Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian furniture, with an extensive Scottish collection by the likes of William Trotter and Robert Lorimer. A team of cabinet makers and French polishers restore items to a very high standard, something customers clearly appreciate. 'Most are UK-based but we have a regular collector from Tasmania and a customer in China who recently bought 7,000 pre-1930 golf clubs for £140,000,' says John.

This loyalty is not surprising given John's commitment to the business. He sits on the board of directors for LAPADA and is curating two in-house exhibitions for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. 'We know what our customers like,' he says. 'We've been doing this for 30 years. We stick to what we know and do it well.'

**Georgian Antiques**, 10 Pattison Street, Leith Links, Edinburgh, EH6 7HF. 0131 553 7286; georgiantiques.net

HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Glass Etc**, 22 Rope Walk, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 7NA. 01797 226600; decanterman.com

**Robert Young Antiques**, 68 Battersea Bridge Road, London, SW11 3AG. 020 7228 7847; robertyoungantiques.com



HOMES & ANTIQUES  
ANTIQUES CENTRE OF  
THE YEAR 2013  
**BRACKLEY ANTIQUE  
CELLAR, BRACKLEY**



Thirty thousand sq ft filled with antiques might seem a bit much to some, but Brackley Antique Cellar in Northamptonshire is anything but intimidating. Having grown out of Jim Broomfield and Debbe Perry's passion for collecting (they each have collections numbering in the thousands – Jim of commemorative ware and Debbe of Beatrix Potter figures), it's wholly a labour of love.

Walking around the labyrinthine interior – an underground car park they took four years to renovate – you can hardly avoid stumbling upon a bargain. A bevelled 1940s hall mirror is just £20, while a leather Chesterfield armchair tucked in a corner is tagged at a tempting £325. Off the main section, which is carefully organised by type, there's a retro-style gift area, 'Ruby Tuesdays', while up a few stairs on the other side is a recently opened furniture gallery.

Visiting coach trips have been a regular feature since they opened in 2000 but, despite their popularity, Brackley remains a family-run and locally focused place. 'The people of the town have been so supportive,' says Debbe. 'When I went out to local businesses to ask them to vote for us, people would say, "We already have!"'

And with the other half of the car park ready to develop, the pair have exciting plans. A small museum in support of a local charity is mentioned, as is an extension to the already-busy café. 'We're always thinking of new things,' Debbe says. 'It's really about how we can make it a more pleasurable shopping experience.'

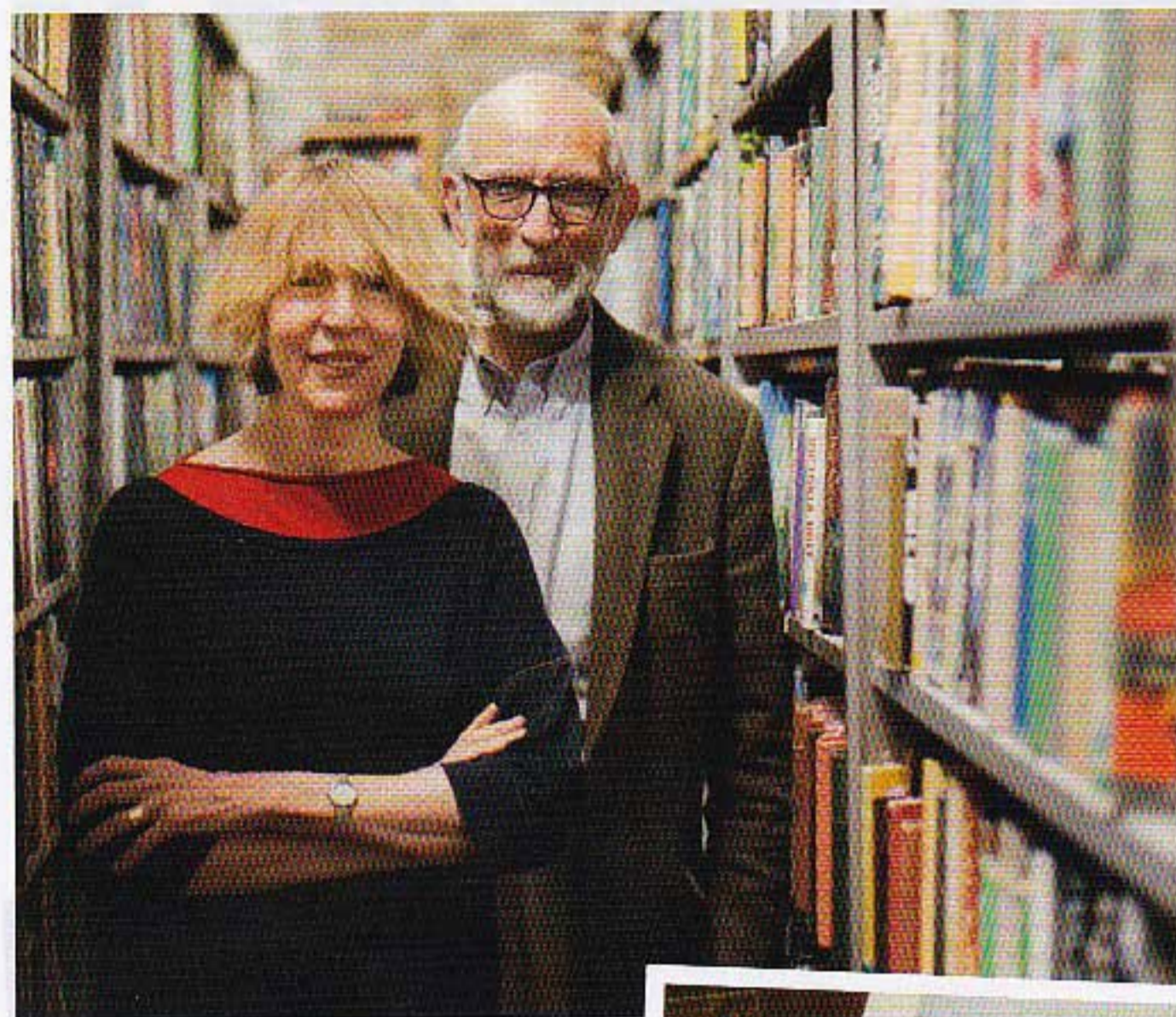
**Brackley Antique Cellar**, Draymans Walk, Town Centre, Brackley, Northamptonshire, NN13 6BE. 01280 841841; brackleyantiquecellar.co.uk

HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Hemswell Antique Centres**, Caenby Corner Estate, Hemswell Cliff, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 5TJ. 01427 668389; hemswell-antiques.com

**The Swan at Tetsworth**, Upper High Street, Tetsworth, Oxfordshire, OX9 7AB. 01844 281777; theswan.co.uk





**HOMES & ANTIQUES  
VINTAGE SHOP OF  
THE YEAR 2013  
BARTER BOOKS,  
ALNWICK**



A bookshop might seem an odd choice for the shortlist of the *H&A* Vintage Shop of the Year award, but Barter Books oozes so much charm we just couldn't leave it off – and clearly other people agreed. Driven by the passion of book-lover Mary Manley and her husband Stuart, what started as a small store in the Victorian waiting room of a former railway station in 1991 has expanded to encompass the entire building: ticket office, waiting rooms and all.

The walls have been replastered and repainted, the decorative ironwork cleaned and the station clocks mended. A model train clickety-clacks around a track suspended from the ceiling and a crinkled 'Keep Calm and Carry On' poster (an original, happily discovered in a 'job lot' box bought at auction and now the shop's unofficial motto) hangs on the wall. Between two bookshelves is a stone 'filtered water' basin, with brass cups attached by chains that were once used by railway customers.

'It's a bit of luck what you'll find,' says Mary of their books. 'A well-known magician came in recently and cleared out the magic section!' Staff have a near-encyclopaedic knowledge and there's always something for collectors, including vintage Wisden Cricketers' Almanacks and New Naturalist books, but many people wander in simply to enjoy a slice of cake from the onsite bakery or to relax in front of the fire – something that's encouraged. 'I want it to be a place people can come and be left alone,' smiles Mary.

**Barter Books**, Alnwick Station, Wagon Way Road, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 2NP. 01665 604888; barterbooks.co.uk

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

**Edward & Vintage**, Beech Cottage, Chapel Lane, Tissington, Derbyshire, DE6 1RA. 01335 390537; edwardandvintage.co.uk

**Rennies Seaside Modern**, 47 The Old High Street, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 1RN. 01303 242427; rennart.co.uk



**HOMES & ANTIQUES  
PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
2013  
THE BARN,  
LONG MARSTON**



It was during the final year of her criminology and psychology degree that Laura Scott realised she'd much rather be selling antiques. 'I used to go around centres with my mum and nan at the weekends, and would collect old postcards. I remember thinking it was wonderful that you could read a snapshot of someone's life a hundred years ago, and how sad it was that these cards were now sat in antiques centres gathering dust.'

During her finals, Laura sent letters to antiques shops all over the UK. Among the responses was one from The Barn in Long Marston and, except for a dabble in the recruitment industry, she's been working there ever since, finally buying the centre in 2011.

Under her calm guidance, and with a new logo and website, business has boomed. Visitors come from as far afield as Korea to browse the airy aisles, and customers love the range of goods. 'Every time you go in, the stock has changed,' says one. 'If you see it, buy it, or you will have missed it.'

Laura is keen only to bring in dealers she thinks customers will like, and it's an inspiring mix. Walking through the old barn doors feels like strolling onto the set of tens of different interiors shoots, and the emphasis is on giving old finds a new life. Pieces range from vintage Jaeger jackets through 1940s haberdashery cabinets to – when *H&A* visited – a hanging skeleton display hook. 'Well, you just never know what people will use!' laughs Laura.

**The Barn**, Station Road, Long Marston, Warwickshire, CV37 8RP. 01789 721399; barnantique.co.uk

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

**Honeycombe Antiques**, 17 Exchange Street, Harleston, Norfolk, IP20 9AB. 01379 854567; honeycombeantiques.com

**Nostalgia at No 1**, No 1 Market Place, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5AZ. nostalgia-stonehouse.co.uk