

WELLINGTON H2A PRESENTS

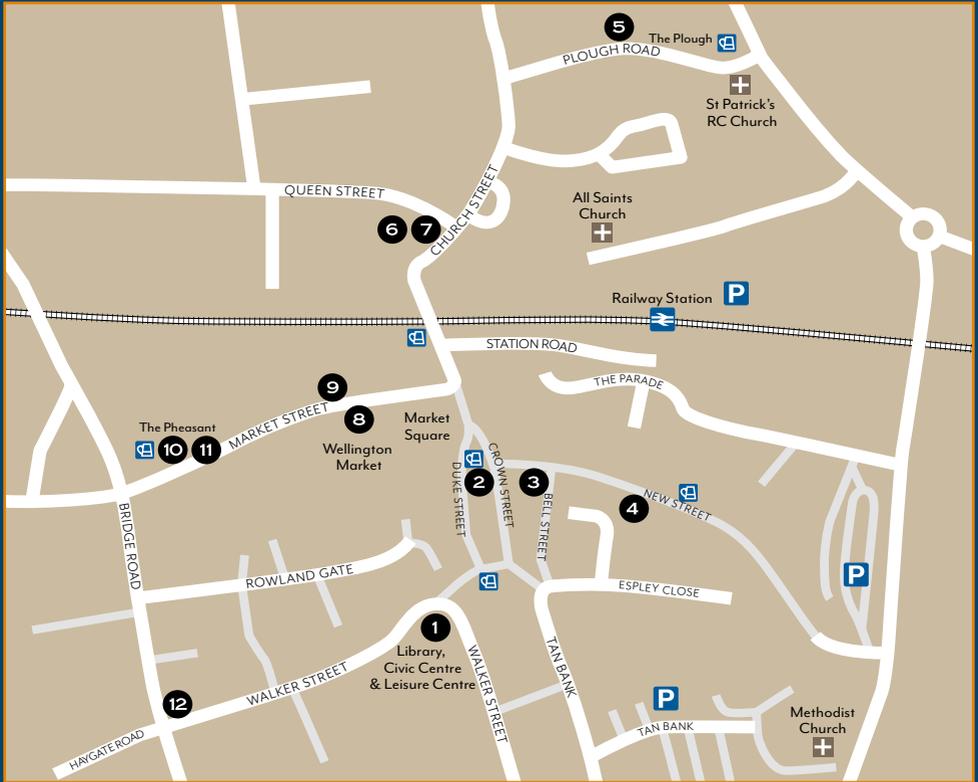
THE MAKERS' DOZEN MURAL TRAIL

12 windows into Wellington's creative past



Also featuring a directory of
60 modern-day Wellington makers

www.madeinwellington.co.uk



Acknowledgements

The Wellington Makers' Project is led by the volunteers of Wellington H2A (Heritage & Arts Alive). The historical information is based in part on primary research we have conducted over the last decade, but we are indebted to much research and writing already undertaken by Wellington History Group and Wellington LA21, and in particular Allan Frost and Marc Petty. Thanks are due also to the Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers; Judy Meeson and members of the Corbett Family; and Barry Trinder and Geoff Cox for their study of local inventories published as *Yeomen and Colliers of Telford*.

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Rob Francis, Spring 2018

Introduction

Wellington has always been defined by its makers. Its craftsmen, its manufacturers and its creatives have served and shaped the town for over a thousand years. This short guide shines a light on just a handful of those makers, past and present.

The first part takes you on a tour of the new Makers' Dozen Trail – twelve painted windows that invite you to peer into scenes from the town's making past, painted by Paula Woof. The second part of this guide brings us bang up to date with a directory of over 60 modern-day makers active in and around the town today – from butchers and brewers to potters and portrait painters.

The Makers' Dozen Trail

Take a walk along our trail and you'll find a series of historic makers peering out at you from windows on the sides of old buildings. This guide will tell you a little about each of them. Some found fame and fortune through the things they made, whilst others were normal working people largely forgotten by history. We remember some for their craftsmanship, some for their industriousness and ingenuity, and others for their creative talents as artists, writers and musicians. In some of our scenes you'll also see other interesting characters from the town's past, but it's always our makers who take centre stage.

Together, their personal stories testify to the way in which craftsmanship and creativity have always been woven into Wellington's history. They also remind us that, even in ordinary-looking places, intriguing and sometimes extraordinary lives unfold. You can find out more about Wellington's makers – along with other information about the town, its events and attractions – at www.madeinwellington.co.uk.

CHILDREN WANTED FOR BEE-HUNTING EXPEDITION!

Poor Alison the bee-keeper has lost her honey bees – there are five hiding in our mural trail, each one in a different mural. Can you help her find them? Look carefully – some of them are very high up!



A medieval hornworker at work



John de Charleton of Apley Castle, as depicted in a 14th Century window at St Mary's Shrewsbury

Begin the trail outside Wellington Library on Larkin Way...

1 Walker Street / Larkin Way: The hornworker on the corner

Walk down Larkin Way until you reach the corner with Walker Street. On your left is a terraced cottage thought to date from the 1300s – making it the oldest-known building in the town. Archaeological excavations in 2010 unearthed evidence of horn-working from this period, suggesting that a hornworker lived and worked close by. Here, in the first of our painted windows, we imagine the scene in about 1350 when our unnamed hornworker is hard at work.

He is joined by aged local knight John de Charleton (1268-1353) who is trying out a new hunting horn. Once a member of the king's household, John is by now enjoying a quiet life back at Apley Castle a couple of miles up the road. Students of Wellington's Charlton School will recognise the emblem on his tunic.

Animal horn is a natural thermo-plastic which is pliable when heated, and since ancient times it has been used to make a range of household objects including drinking vessels and combs, buttons and buckles, as well as basic musical instruments. In the mural you can see some of these wares hanging out in the sunshine.



Animal horn and bone fragments unearthed here in Walker Street

Horners were often working in close proximity to tanners as both relied on the processing of animal remains. These were trades usually relegated to the fringes of settlements, and the street name of nearby Tan Bank has always implied that tanning took place here on what was, in the 14th Century, the edge of Wellington. Sadly we know little of the tanners, hornworkers or other craftspeople working in medieval Wellington, so artefacts like these horn fragments have been important in confirming their presence.

We know more about Wellington's tanners a few centuries later thanks to the wills they wrote and the inventories taken after they died. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the town's tanners included William Trustram, Thomas Cooke, Barnaby More, Thomas Marygold and Jenkin Evans. Tanner Richard Jones, who died in 1689, was a wealthy man boasting a home with fourteen rooms including a barn, a tannery, a malthouse and a brewhouse – a reminder that whilst it was a messy, smelly business, tanning could also be very lucrative. Around three hundred years after our unknown horner, tanning was still going on in this part of town – we know that at least one of Wellington's tanneries was located here in Walker Street in 1690.

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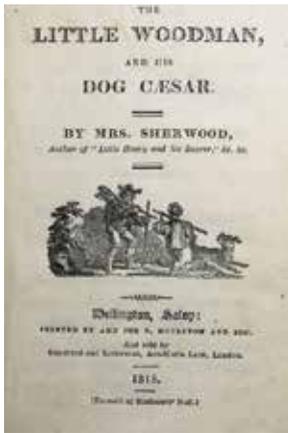
The trail continues across the road and down Duke Street. Look up as you come to the black and white timber-framed building (the rear of The White Lion) and you'll see the next mural...

2 Duke Street: Frances Houlston, printer & publisher

The year is 1811, and you're looking up at Mrs Frances Houlston. She is the proprietor of F. Houlston & Son the Publishers, based at a shop nearby in the Market Place. Frances Houlston started her business as a printers and bookshop with her husband Edward, probably in 1779, but following his death in 1800 it was mother and son who made the ambitious leap into publishing. Their earliest-known publication, now held at the British Library, was a version of Robinson Crusoe in 1804. In the years that followed, F. Houlston & Son built their reputation as publishers of moralising literature that appealed to a growing evangelical mood. Not only was a woman at the helm of this thriving business, but their best-selling writers were also women – Mary Sherwood and her sister Lucy Cameron amongst the most prolific. The firm was doing so well by 1826 that the family funded construction of a

The interior of Houlston's bookshop in Market Square – then called Market Place – in the 1820s





One of Mrs Sherwood's many Houlston publications



Patrick Bronte

new chapel in nearby Tan Bank (a white building which still stands). A year earlier they had opened a new branch in the heart of London's print trade, Paternoster Row.

The Wellington printers and bookshop continued until 1850 when it changed hands and became Hobson's – remaining as such until the 1980s. In London, meanwhile, the Houlston imprint lasted until the early years of the 20th century. But who is Frances talking to at the window? This is Reverend Patrick Bronte who briefly served as curate at Wellington's parish church. Frances has published two small collections of his poetry – 'The Rural Minstrel' and 'Cottage Poems'. He's very excited to see his work in print for the first time.

Neither collection launched Patrick into an illustrious writing career, alas. Some years later, far away in Yorkshire, literary success would be more forthcoming for his daughters Anne, Emily and Charlotte – the celebrated Bronte sisters.

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Continue into Market Square, and while you're there see if you can spot the ceramic tile depicting a printer in the doorway of Tui – this was the shop once occupied by Houlston's and later Hobson's. Return to the trail by turning back into New Street. The modern-day cobblers shop you can see just ahead on the corner with Bell Street was once an outbuilding of The Crown Inn, the main part of which is now 2-4 Crown Street, just around the corner. Probate inventories for the inn-keeping Judgson family show that The Crown was open for business at least as early as 1700, so would certainly have been known to the young men in our next mural...

3 6 New Street: Nathaniel and Andrew Plimer, clock makers and artists

The scene is set in 1778 on the day the Plimer Brothers left town. Here they are, hiding in the doorway – Nathaniel (born 1757) and Andrew (born 1763) who had both been apprenticed to their clockmaker father, also called Nathaniel. We don't know where in town they were based, but trade directories from the following century highlight New Street as a hive of activity for craftsmen in wood. Theirs was a trade that combined the precision of watchmaking with the skill and creative flair of cabinet-making. Grandfather clocks of this period, made by Plimer of Wellington, can occasionally be found on sale today.

The two brothers chose a different path, however, and both left their home and their father's trade behind when they were young men. Accounts suggest that they travelled for over two years throughout Wales and the West of England with a group of gypsies. They must already have had artistic ambitions as, when they arrived in London in 1781, they didn't just look for work at any old household. Andrew found a position as a servant to Richard Cosway, the most revered miniaturist painter of the age, and Nathaniel was apprenticed to royal enameller Henry Bone. Both were ultimately trained by Cosway and went on to become highly successful miniaturist artists in their own right. A quick online search of their work reveals a vast portfolio of finely painted cameos of Regency high society, and today as then it is expensive and much sought after by collectors. Exactly why the brothers left home and under what circumstances is unknown. Was it planned or hurried? Did they leave with their father's blessing? Our scene imagines them sneaking away with no more than a few possessions – including their precious paint brushes, a hint at their future careers.



Self-portrait of Nathaniel Plimer (Junior)



Caroline Price by Andrew Plimer

Late-18th Century Clock made by Plimer of Wellington. Image courtesy of Corner Farm Antiques, Weston Heath



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Richard Groom Junior in old age

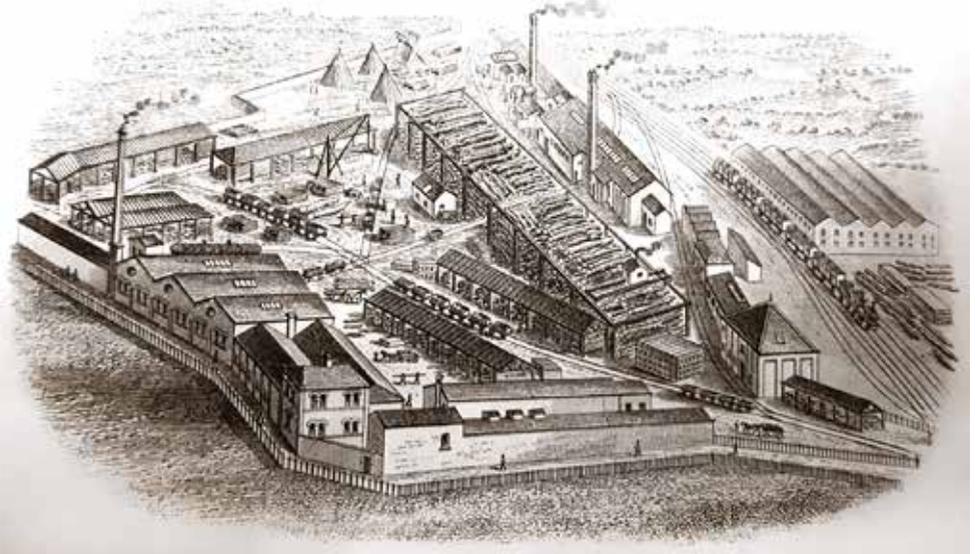
Continue up New Street until you almost reach the top. Look out for Allum's Jewellers on your right, where our next historic maker is ready to greet you from an upstairs window...

4 48-50 New Street: Richard Groom, basket weaver and timber merchant

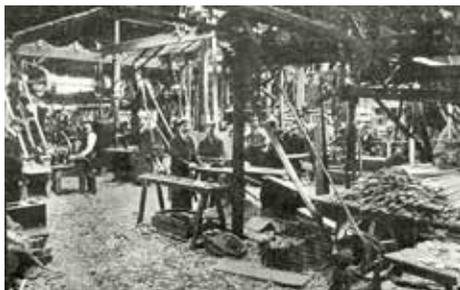
The year is 1842, and Wellington is Shropshire's principal wood-working town. New Street in particular is teeming with craftspeople engaged in woodworking trades – there are at least 16 men in New Street trading either as chair-makers, wood turners, coopers, joiners, cabinet-makers, timber merchants or wheelwrights.

At least three of them are members of the Groom family – John the furniture-maker, Edward the wheelwright and the man you can see peering out of this window, Richard. He is a basket weaver who, since 1835, has also been operating as a timber merchant. Whilst looking up at this scene, bear in mind that all the items you can see could have been made in this very street – not just those made from wood, but everything down to Richard's jacket, his hat and his pocket watch – and even the nails hammered into the wall.

Grooms' Timber Yard in Bridge Road as it appeared in the late 19th Century.



Richard's timber business went on to thrive under the management of his sons Thomas and Richard Junior (see photograph), and in the 1860s operations moved from New Street to premises off Bridge Road. Here they made products ranging from clothes pegs to heavy civil engineering timbers, and were reputed to be the country's largest timber buyers. They are remembered today in Groom's Alley.



The Groom's Manufacturing Mill, 1905

The rise of The Grooms says a lot about Wellington's growth during the nineteenth century. In those early decades, they were traditional craftsmen working from a modest high street workshop. By 1900, theirs was a thriving industrial enterprise with customers across the country and overseas – enabled above all by the arrival of the railway in 1849. When this family of industrious Methodists moved into Dothill Hall – one-time home to The Foresters, Wellington's lords of the manor – it was a sign that this was a town where land and 'old money' was slowly giving way to newly-moneyed manufacturers.

Wellington's wood craftsmen continued to prosper throughout the Victorian period and into the 20th century. While The Grooms built their timber empire, the Stone family of cabinet makers made a similar transition from mid-century New Street workshop to edge-of-town factory. In 1910 their Crown Works in Orleton Lane was making cabinets wholesale. And from 1890s, Henry Addison's Waterloo Works – also in Orleton Lane – was turning out great quantities of school and church furniture to fill the huge number of new schools and churches being built. Stones' and Addisons' businesses did not survive the Second World War, whilst The Grooms continued into the 1970s.

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Retrace your steps down New Street. Once you reach the bottom, walk through Market Square and up into Church Street. Turn right up the few steps that take you through the lychgate war memorial and into the churchyard. Continue up the path, passing All Saints Church on your left. Look out for the unusual cast iron memorial to the Corbett Family – more of them later. Exiting the churchyard where it meets the main road, turn left and follow the wall so that you pass St Patrick's RC Church, then turn left into Plough Road where you'll find the next window.



Wrockwardine Church, the nearest place to Wellington where their bells still hang

5 2 Plough Road: John Clyberie, bell-maker

You're all the way back in 1590. Elizabeth I is on the throne, William Shakespeare is writing his first play, and here in Wellington John Clyberie is casting his first church bell.

The Clyberie family were casting church bells in Wellington for a century, beginning here near the end of the 16th Century and ending on the eve of the 18th Century. It has been suggested that John set up his foundry where the former Charlton Arms now stands, just around the corner from this spot in Plough Road. There doesn't seem to be any evidence for this, however, so in truth we have no idea where in Wellington he lived and worked.

John died in 1605 and was succeeded by Thomas and William – by now spelling their name 'Clibury'. They were in turn succeeded by another Thomas in 1642, and Henry in 1673. A man named Bradshaw appears to have been the last to run the business in the 1690s, perhaps also a relative. We know from documents in the National Archives at Kew that in the early 1700s, Wellington had a pewter-maker called Bradshaw – so this may be the same man.

The tenor bell at Beckbury Church, made by The Cliburys in 1615.



No bells were cast between 1642 and 1650, suggesting that the Civil War interrupted production – either because churches were not commissioning new bells during the turmoil of that period, or because the firm had switched to casting cannon. By the time it closed its doors in 1699, the business is known to have produced bells for over 70 churches in Shropshire alone. Wellington's own church was not amongst them, but in neighbouring Wrockwardine three of the church's six bells were cast by various generations of the Clibury family. You can also find Clibury bells in the churches at nearby Wroxeter and Upton Magna.

There were Cliburys bell-casting in Holt and Walsall in the later 1600s as well – suggesting that, having learnt the trade, some sons moved away to start their own businesses elsewhere.

How did the Clibury family make their bells?

- Then as now, bell metal would have been an alloy of about 80% copper and 20% tin. Traditionally, gold or silver coins were thrown into the furnace during casting as this was said to improve the tone.
- Like bell makers before and since, The Cliburys would have cast their bells using a two-part mould consisting of an inner shape (core) and outer shape (cope). Once the cope had been lowered over the core and clamped into place, they would have poured molten bell metal into the space between the core and the cope. Holes in the top allowed gases to escape.
- It would have taken several days for a bell to cool fully. At that point, the core and cope would have been removed and the excess trimmed off.



*Fourth bell at St Lucia's,
Upton Magna, made by
Thomas Clibury II*

Research and images courtesy of the Shropshire Association of Church Bellringers and www.shropshirehistory.com

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Continue along Plough Road (or retrace your steps if you took the shorter, step-free route earlier). Turn left down Church Street towards the low wall that encircles the churchyard. As you pass the junction with Queen Street, look up at the red brick building and you'll see our next two windows...

6 19 Church Street: Samuel Corbett Senior, iron founder and Samuel Corbett Junior, music-maker

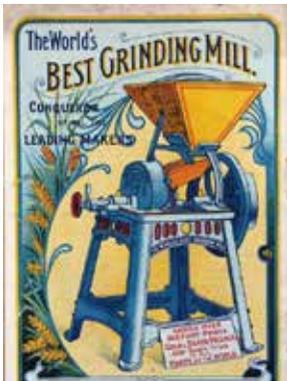
The year is 1876 and you find yourself at what was then the office of The Wellington Journal, the local newspaper established by Robert Leake in 1854. At the first floor window are two men by the name of Samuel Corbett. One of them is Samuel Corbett Senior, born in 1819 to a brick-maker father and who trained as a blacksmith and

S. Corbett & Son, Church Street





Corbett's original 1861 patent.



whitesmith. In 1853 he bought property in Park Street which became the site of his iron foundry and by the time of the 1861 census, he was employing 18 men and five boys. The second man visible here is one of his sons, Samuel junior, who is sitting at the piano.

The elder Samuel also had an ironmongery shop here on Church Street, on the plot now occupied by a hair salon. In our scene, he is waving at customers entering his shop. By the time of his death in 1885, the business was amongst Britain's best-known manufacturers of agricultural machinery – their prize-winning grinding mill iconic in their advertising. The Park Street business of S. Corbett & Son survived until 1974, whilst the ironmongery business – as W. Corbett & Son – expanded into the manufacture of galvanised tanks and other agricultural equipment, and still survives today at modern premises in nearby Hortonwood.

And what about Samuel Junior, the family's eldest son? Blinded by injury at just three months old, he did not join the family business but instead forged a career as a musician. He studied at Cambridge University and later gained a doctorate in music – the first blind student to do so. Throughout his life he worked as a teacher, an organist and a conductor. The young Samuel we see here is aged 24, and he has just published piano music for 'The Wrekin Polka' and a song celebrating 'Captain Webb the Champion Swimmer'. He played the inaugural performance of the new All Saints Church organ in 1879, and served as organist at Wellington's other Anglican church, Christ Church. He was later the organist at churches in Derby and Bournemouth, where he spent his final years.

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For the next window in the trail, just look up...

7 19 Church Street: Hesba Stretton, storyteller

This is Sarah Smith, the daughter of Wellington's first postmaster. Here in 1876 she is aged 44 and by now a best-selling author of children's stories. She has been writing under the pen name Hesba Stretton since she was 27 – 'Hesba' being an acronym of her own and her siblings' names, and 'Stretton' an homage to her favourite Shropshire village of All Stretton.



Hesba Stretton

Her breakthrough had come in 1859 when one of her short stories – The Lucky Leg – was secretly sent off to the Household Words magazine by Sarah's sister, Elizabeth. The magazine's editor, none other than Charles Dickens, wrote back to say he liked it and wanted more. Hesba Stretton's career blossomed in the years that followed, reaching its peak with the story Jessica's First Prayer which originally appeared as a serialisation in the Sunday at Home journal in 1866. After attracting scores of letters from captivated readers, it was published in book form and went on to become a worldwide hit, selling at least 2 million copies by the time of Hesba's death in 1911.



*Hesba's best seller,
'Jessica's First Prayer'*

By the time she is pictured here, Hesba had been living in the South East for almost a decade, but made return visits to her ageing father. This scene imagines her reading one of her books with local boy Samuel Parkes Cadman who, aged 11 at this time, was working down mines in the Old Park area. Sunday School had fostered a love of reading and learning, and Wellington school master John Bailey saw promise in Samuel. Fast forward to the 1920s, and you would find him as a Congregationalist minister in New York City, a hugely popular preacher, newspaper columnist and pioneering 'radio pastor' regularly broadcasting to 30 million Americans. Walk across the iconic Brooklyn Bridge today and you'll see signs for Cadman Plaza – named in his honour.

*Samuel Parkes Cadman in
New York*



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Continue walking down Church Street and just before you reach Market Square, take a sharp right into Market Street and pause when you reach Number 7 for the biggest window of the trail...

8 7 Market Street: The Wellington Cobbler & The Wrekin Giant, mountain-makers

This backroom of a modern-day butchers shop has been transformed into the front room of a medieval cobbler's shop. And this isn't just any cobbler – this is the legendary Wellington Cobbler who, along with an angry Welsh giant, was responsible for creating The Wrekin. Do they qualify as true Wellington makers? Well, the making of The Wrekin was a pretty important event for our town, and lots of people told us they wanted to see them in our trail, so here they are.

Walking along Watling Street one day, the cobbler came across a weary Welsh giant carrying a huge shovel of earth. Enquiring what he was doing, the giant replied that he had a grudge against the Mayor of Shrewsbury and was on his way to damn up the Severn and flood the town. Thinking quickly, the cobbler – who had many good customers in Shrewsbury – told the giant that he still had an awfully long way to go. 'Look,' he said, emptying his sack of shoes for mending. 'I've worn out all these shoes walking back from

The Wrekin from Neves Castle, near Wellington



there!' Despondent at this news, the giant threw down his shovel of earth next to the road and scraped off his boots before skulking off home to Wales. The two mounds he left became The Wrekin and The Ercall hills.

In this scene, we see the cobbler back at his shop, telling his fellow traders of his extraordinary encounter moments earlier. In the background stand the newly-formed hills and in the distance, the giant can be seen heading for home. In an homage to Wellington Market, the astonished traders pictured here represent the sort that could have been found in Wellington at the time the Lord of the Manor was granted a Market Charter in 1244 – a potter, a cheesemaker, a butcher, a grocer and a lady selling eggs and butter. An itinerant Welsh minstrel strums away in the corner. Those familiar with Wellington today may recognise some of the faces.



Medieval cobbler at work

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This road existed in the Middle Ages, at some point became known as Butcher Row and was eventually renamed 'Market Street' following the building of the new Market Hall in the 1860s. And that leads us to our next scene, just across the road at the side of Cake Box...

9 22 Market Street: Thomas Taylor the brewer and John Barber the market-builder

We're back in Wellington's Victorian boom years – 1870, to be exact – and brewer Thomas Taylor is standing in the doorway of his newly opened Wrekin Brewery, tankard in hand. Taylor's new venture offered further proof that brewing was becoming big business for Wellington. Until the mid-19th century, brewing in Wellington had taken place on a domestic scale, not only in pubs but in people's own homes – look through Wellington inventories of the 17th century, and brewing equipment often appears. Things changed in 1852 when The Shropshire Brewery was built on Wellington's Holyhead Road, opposite the Old Hall. Eighteen years later, Thomas Taylor followed suit with his Wrekin Brewery, initially in this very building, before moving to new premises at the far end of the street (pictured) where Wilko's now stands.



The Wrekin Brewery's second, larger premises at the bottom of Market Street

This original building became the brewery's offices, and in 1903 passed to Charles Ensor as the base for his Wrekin Mineral Water Works in 1903. He was one of several 'pop' manufacturers in the town in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. After 1917 the business was acquired by O.D. Murphy, enabling his Pop Works on Holyhead Road to dominate the local soft drinks market. Murphy also acquired The Wrekin Brewery, building up the business and with it a portfolio of ninety pubs across the region. In 1966, after almost 100 years, Greenall Whitley bought the business and The Wrekin Brewery disappeared.



John Barber, auctioneer

But let's get back to our scene in 1870 and find out who Thomas is talking to. This is auctioneer John Barber, whose business in Church Street alongside the railway line still survives as Barber's Estate Agents. Barber is looking across at the Market Hall – itself just a few years old at this time. He had been instrumental in building the Market Hall in 1866, securing the future of a medieval institution which had been homeless since the demolition of the old Market House, in the Market Place, in about 1806. Barber's Market Hall still stands today, housing scores of small businesses.

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Brewing in Market Street – and Wellington – ended in 1969, but returned with the arrival of a new micro-brewery in 2014. Fittingly it's here in Market Street, directly opposite the old Wrekin Brewery site at The Pheasant pub. And that's the next stop on our trail...

10 The Pheasant, Market Street: Norah Wellings, toymaker

Here we find two 20th Century Wellington makers – one a native and one passing through. This scene imagines them having a celebratory drink in the summer of 1945 as the Second World War comes to an end.

On the right is Norah Wellings, considered by many experts to be the finest ever English designer of soft toys. She began her career with the Chad Valley Company here in Wellington in 1919 and, in partnership with her brother Leonard, founded the Victoria Toy Works in 1926. Norah initially rented an office at the family plastering business in Victoria Avenue, where she began to manufacture dolls with just six employees. The venture proved so successful that the company was soon able to acquire new premises at the former King Street Baptist Chapel in 1929, eventually employing around 250 staff and establishing a reputation for quality that quite literally traversed the globe.

By 1930, business had grown sufficiently for the Victoria Toy Works to open a London showroom which handled trade in the south of England and sales from the British Industry Fair, where the company had first exhibited in 1927. She was asked to design the dolls for the famous Christmas toy window at Harrods, and went on to supply products to leading department stores around the world. At the height of production, around 70% of items manufactured at the King Street plant were made for export. Many other dolls found their way abroad via shipping companies, such as Cunard (who sold Norah's creations on practically all of their ocean going liners) while some 100,000 were supplied annually to the Royal Navy, the company's largest individual pre-war customer. Norah designed dolls specifically for the purpose and the Jolly Boy Sailor, which featured the name of each individual ship on its hatband, went on to become the company's most recognised product. Look carefully and you'll see several of Norah's most popular designs on the shelf behind her.

The business was severely dented by the war and it never fully recovered. In the years that followed, cheap imports intensified competition and, when Norah's beloved brother died, she decided to close the business – destroying her designs rather than selling them on.

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Norah Wellings at work, 1930s



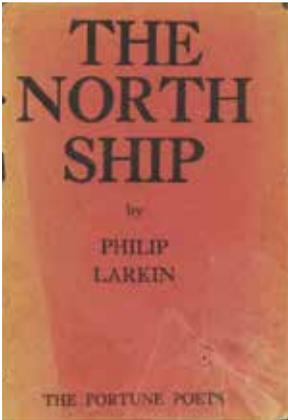
Norah's popular Sailor Boy design



'Harry the Hawk' doll



Philip Larkin as a student



Larkin's first poetry collection

11 The Pheasant, Market Street: Philip Larkin, poet

In 2008, more than twenty years after his death, The Times named Philip Larkin Britain's greatest post-war writer. Here in 1945, aged 23, Philip Larkin is just beginning his writing career whilst working away by day as Wellington's reluctant librarian. His first novel, *Jill*, is being prepared for publication, and this is also the year of his first poetry collection, *The North Ship*. The poems it comprises have been penned by Larkin between 1942 – the year before his arrival in Wellington – and 1944.

Having been rejected by the military due to flat feet, the recently graduated Larkin took the job of town librarian here in Wellington. He found a building that had changed little since its opening in 1902 – complete with its original, and presumably quite elderly, caretaker-librarian! Amid dusty shelves piled high with long-withdrawn titles, Larkin found himself single-handedly maintaining not only the library's inadequate stock but also its faulty boiler and gas lamps, over the course of a working day which ran from 9am until 8.30 in the evening. The time he was able to dedicate to his own writing proved invaluable, however, and the three years spent in Wellington were crucial in his development as a writer, as well as moulding his attitudes towards life, love and relationships.

Sometimes controversial, the greatest critique of Larkin here in Wellington is that he described the town to a friend as 'a hole of toad's turds'. But we're not ones to bear a grudge! And after all, he did speak more fondly of the town in later years, returning in 1962 to open the new library extension.

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The trail is almost at its end. Leave The Pheasant's beer garden, cross to the other side of Market Street and at the junction turn left into Bridge Road. Continue with the old Clifton Cinema on your right, cross the top of Rowland Gate and pause when you reach The Taj Mahal Restaurant...

12 19 Bridge Road: Thomas Wright, dyer

The year is 1660, and Thomas Wright is at work in his dye house. Thomas is at least the second generation of cloth dyers in his family – his father Francis was a Wellington dyer in the early 1600s, his son Francis will follow him, and another Thomas Wright, recorded as a dyer in 1702, may well be his grandson.

The Wrights' business was located just around the corner from here in Walker Street, probably in buildings that were known as Wright's Tenement. Dying had been taking place in Wellington since the Middle Ages and, by the 1600s, was a significant business for the town. We know that the Wrights were prosperous thanks to inventories taken when they died. Thomas lived in a comfortable, well-furnished home, and his dye-house was large and well-equipped. So detailed was the inventory that we can reimagine his workshop in some detail – two vats, two furnaces, one lead vat and two troughs – and there was yet more in his press-house. In fact, every object you can see in this scene was listed amongst his possessions after he died in 1662.

In this era before synthetic dyes, fabric was coloured by dyes sourced from nature. Amongst Thomas's stock were various kinds of plant material with names barely familiar to us today: madder and redwoods to make red, woad and logwood to make blue, fustic to make yellow and logwood, galls and sumack to make black. Indigo from India was used to supplement woad in creating blue dye, the best originating in Lahore.

In the background you can see an Indian dye merchant showing off his stock of indigo to Thomas's wife, Magdalene. Its unlikely that any such trader ever made it

Dyers at work around a dye vat



Rev. Richard Baxter





A late 17th Century family

all the way to Shropshire, but his presence reminds us that trade with the sub-continent brought the colours and scents of the East even to small towns like Wellington. And who's that standing in the doorway? This is Reverend Richard Baxter, the influential theologian born at nearby Rowton whose teaching won him many influential friends – and enemies – in this age of political and religious turmoil.

Sponsored by: The Taj Mahal Restaurant, 19 Bridge Road, Wellington TFI 1DZ
Expertly prepared Indian cuisine in a tranquil, contemporary setting.
01952 249555 / www.tajmahaltelford.com

Congratulations! You've wandered through eight centuries of Wellington's history and peered through twelve windows into the lives of some great makers. Turn left into Walker Street and keep walking so that you pass the old library on your right, and before you know it you'll be back at the new library in Larkin Way. If you've enjoyed your time-travelling trip and want to find out more about Wellington's makers past and present – as well as events and other things to do around the town – visit www.madeinwellington.co.uk.

DID YOU FIND ALL ALISON'S BEES? Check the answers below...

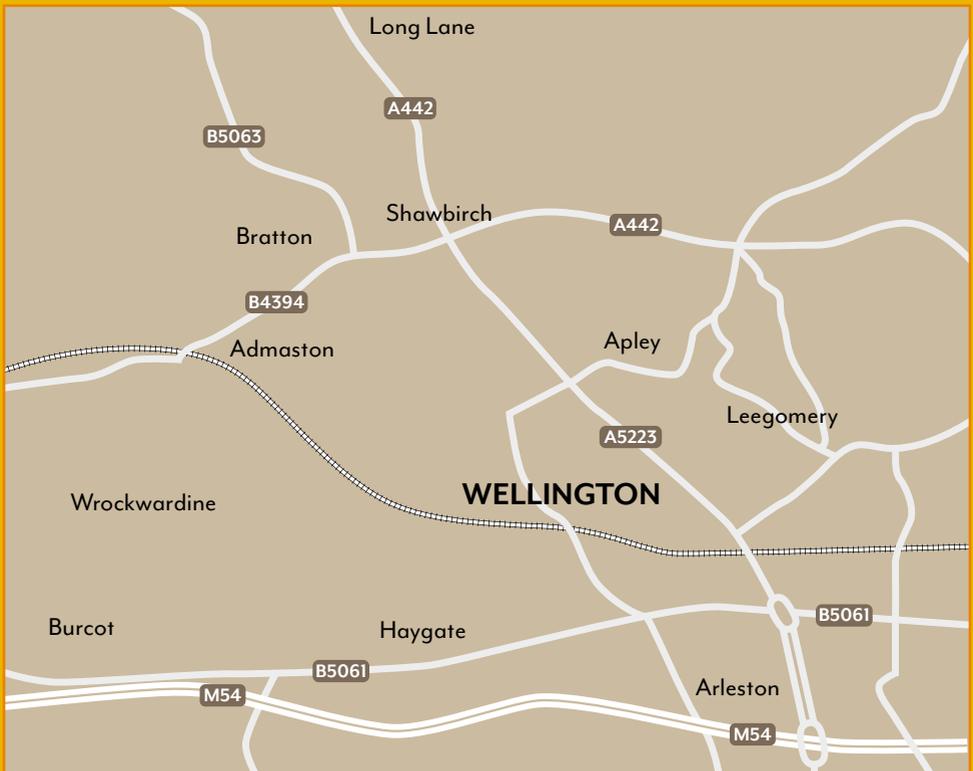
1. The horner; 2. The Plimer Brothers; 3. Thomas Groom the basket weaver; 4. Thomas Wright the dyer; 5. Hesba Stretton the writer; 6. Thomas Wright the dyer

WELLINGTON'S MODERN DAY MAKERS

From butchers to brewers, portrait painters to potters, this is your guide to Wellington's local makers today.

This directory focuses only on those businesses which make the products they sell, but the town is home to many more great independent shops and tradespeople, along with pubs, cafés and restaurants which we simply didn't have space for here.

All those listed can be found in Wellington or its surrounding villages (it doesn't cover the wider borough). Where businesses are listed as 'home-based' or 'workshop only', this implies that they have no public-facing sales area. In many cases, contact details are based on existing publicly available listings which we cannot guarantee are up to date. There will inevitably be some omissions from this list – and changes over time – so keep an eye on the online version at www.madeinwellington.co.uk.





Steve Preston of Rowton Brewery

FOOD & DRINK MAKERS

BUTCHERS

Cherrington Farm Butchers

**6A Hordley Road, The Brooklands,
Wellington, TFI 3NR**

Farming at nearby Cherrington since 1891, the Crow family run shops at Wellington and Shawbury. Here they offer a range of products including the Cherrington grass-fed beef and sheep, a wide range of cooked and cured meat, pies and ready-meals which are all hand-made at their shop.

01952 253313 / www.cherringtonfarm.co.uk

Hills the Butchers

2 Duke Street, Wellington TFI 1BJ

Butcher Chris Hill has over 30 years' experience and here at his Duke Street shop you'll find Chris and wife Carol serving a range of locally-sourced meat, including sausages and burgers made on the premises.

01952 251414

Ken Francis Quality Butchers

9 Market Street, Wellington, TFI 1DT

Ken first donned his butcher's apron at 9 Market Street for a Saturday job in 1969. Here you'll find locally-reared beef, pork, lamb and poultry, along with hand-linked sausages, hand-pressed burgers and home-cooked meats, all made on site. Voted Wellington Retailer of the Year, 2014.

01952 249966 / www.francisbutchers.co.uk

Morgan's Country Butchers and Smokery

**34 The Chestnuts, Waters Upton near
Wellington, TF6 6NP**

Established in 1896, Morgan's is a traditional family butchers which now boasts its own smokery producing a range of smoked meats, fish, cheeses, oil and garlic.

01952 541239

Search and contact via Facebook

BAKERS

Apley Castle Cakes

Home-based in Apley, near Wellington

Beautiful bespoke celebration cakes for all occasions, classic flavoured cupcakes and cakes to share with friends.

07543644173

Search and contact via Facebook

Cake Box

22 Market St, Wellington, TFI 1DT

Cake Box is dedicated to producing high quality egg-free, vegetarian cream cakes for all occasions, ready for collection in as little as half an hour.

01952 245960 / www.eggfrecake.co.uk

Catherine's Bakery

**Wellington Market, Market Street,
Wellington, TFI IDT (Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat)**

Get your daily bread at Wellington Market, where you can find a range of loaves, rolls and cakes made at Catherine's Bridgnorth premises.

Cheryl's Cake Boutique

**6a Bagley Drive, The Brooklands,
Wellington**

Cheryl specialises in making bespoke showpiece cakes and cupcakes for weddings and other celebrations, all prepared on site at her cake shop.

07800 515149

www.cherylscakeboutique.vpweb.co.uk

Jo's Cupcakes, Cookies & Cakes

**Wellington Market, Market Street,
Wellington, TFI IDT (Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat)**

Homemade cakes available for sale and made to order

07904 274948

Yeaman's Bakehouse

Home-based in Wellington

Home-baking to order including cakes, pies and pastries.

Search and contact via Facebook

Zainz

Home-based in Wellington

Samosas, pakoras and other authentic Punjabi-style treats, selling at local markets and fairs.

07952 817189

Search and contact via Facebook

BREWERS

Finney's Brewery

Home-based in Wellington, available at local pubs

Ken Finney first started home-brewing over 30 years ago, but in recent years his knowledge and apparatus have become rather more sophisticated. Now a fully licensed micro-brewery, Ken sells his beer to a small number of local pubs including The Wrekin Tap, The Pheasant and The Platform Ale House.
01952 412224

Rowton Brewery

**The Pheasant Pub & Brew House,
54 Market Street, Wellington**

Rowton Brewery has been supplying traditionally brewed real ales since 2008, based at the Preston Family's farm in the hamlet of Rowton, just north of Wellington. In 2016 the business expanded their brewing operation into premises at The Pheasant in Wellington, where you can always find their beer on tap – and made with water drawn from the Preston family's own borehole.

www.rowtonbrewery.com

ART & CRAFT MAKERS

ARTISTS, CERAMICISTS AND SCULPTORS

Jacob Chandler, sculptor in metal

Home-based in Wellington

Jacob's work focuses on the transient, capturing the most dramatic point of an action, the tipping point from one moment to the next, be it physical or mental. As well as being mentored by artists and sculptors across the country, Jacob has forged working relationships with leading industry experts in metal fabrication, computer aided design and manufacture and galleries. Jacob exhibits nationally and internationally.

www.jacobchandler.co.uk

Charlotte Clark, designer-maker

18 Queen Street, Wellington, TFI 1EH (workshop only)

Charlotte creates curiously macabre designer ceramics to complement your home, from functional dinnerware to statement cushions and quirky ornaments. All pieces are hand decorated using stunning bone china and are kiln-fired at Charlotte's Wellington workshop.

01952 929678
www.charlotteclarkdesignermaker.co.uk

Lindley Fallon, ceramic artist

The Belfrey Arts Centre, Princes St, Wellington, TFI 1JG (workshop only)

Lindley's painting and sculpture reflects her love of and respect for wildlife. Her particular passion is creating hares in all shapes and sizes.

lindleyfallon@gmail.com

Mike White Pots

The Belfrey Arts Centre, Princes St, Wellington, TFI 1JG (workshop only)

Mike experiments with colour, texture and glaze to produce his beautiful mugs, pots and moon jars.

Search and contact via Facebook

Naomi Middleton Ceramics

Home-based in Wrockwardine, near Wellington

Naomi is a contemporary ceramicist based just outside Wellington. Her work takes inspiration from the landscape close by.

Search and contact via Facebook

Rasa Eggerton, ceramic artist

The Belfrey Arts Centre, Princes St, Wellington, TFI 1JG (workshop only)

Ceramics artist and teacher Rasa sculpts animal commissions, predominantly dogs, and exhibits with The Shropshire Guild of Contemporary Crafts. Contact ceramicsinspirations@gmail.com

Sharon Griffin, figurative artist in paint and ceramics

The Belfrey Arts Centre, Princes St, Wellington, TFI 1JG (workshop only)

Sharon is a figurative artist who specialises in fine art painting and ceramic sculpture. Sharon exhibits at galleries and events around the UK.
07828 650783 / www.sharongriffinart.com

Sue Sheppard, ceramic artist

The Belfrey Arts Centre, Princes St, Wellington, TFI 1JG (workshop only)

Describing her work as 'quirky and rustic', Sue specialises in sculpting characterful ceramic animal figures in white stoneware.
Search and contact via Facebook

Suki White, ceramic artist

The Belfrey Arts Centre, Princes St, Wellington, TFI 1JG (workshop only)

Suki's 'Lines in the Landscape' series experiments with drawing on clay. As well as ceramics, Suki's work incorporates painting and printmaking.
Search and contact via Facebook

Angela Edwards-Sowden, artist

Home-based in Leegomery, near Wellington

Angela is an artist and art instructor working in oils, acrylics, watercolours and pastels.
01952 253072 / www.angelasowden.co.uk

Bob Spendlove, artist

Home-based in Leegomery, near Wellington

Bob has been painting and exhibiting his emotive scenes of local landscapes for twenty years. Bob also specialises in commissions featuring classic vehicles. An experienced tutor, Bob has taught painting for over 15 years.
www.bobspendlovearts.co.uk

House of Evie, illustrator

21 Market Street, Wellington, TFI 1DT
(Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat)

Julie Sankey is an illustrator and crafter whose work includes designing cards and creating children's bedroom and nursery pictures. Her shop also hosts work made by her network of crafters.
07387 552314 / www.houseofevie.co.uk

Jackie Coyle Art

Home-based in Wellington

Jackie's mosaic work uses a wide variety of materials including glass, ceramic, china, buttons, beads and her own hand-fused glass pieces to create interest, movement and texture. Her paintings, meanwhile, are inspired by her family and the ancient landscapes around the UK.
07507 600170 / www.jackiecoyleart.co.uk

Paul Janczykowski Art

Home-based in Wellington

Paul studied at Birmingham College of Art before a career in art teaching in Shropshire. He paints landscapes and townscapes – real and imagined – including several of Wellington and The Wrekin.
www.pauljanczykowskiart.com

Robert Guy, artist

Home-based in Wellington

Robert has been a professional artist since the late 1980's and has completed many fine art commissions and also produced numerous illustrations for commercial companies. Robert moved to Shropshire in 2000, where he is now in great demand for his portraiture of various subjects and for his skills as an accomplished art tutor.
01952 878573
www.portraitguild.com

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Eleta Newby Photography

Home-based at Bratton, near Wellington

A wedding and family lifestyle photographer, Eleta looks to shoot images that tell a personal story.

01952 240909

www.eletanewbyphotography.co.uk

Flowerdog Photography

Home-based in Wellington and available at Botanique, Church St, Wellington

Photographer Sabina Hopkinson specialises in capturing scenes from the natural world, including close-ups of flora and fauna. These are available as cards, prints and canvases.

www.flowerdogphotography.com

Jo Edwards Photography

Home-based in Apley, near Wellington

Jo specialises in weddings, family portraits and corporate events, her photographic style developing and maturing since she started her business a decade ago.

01952 250909 / www.joedwardsphotography.co.uk

Lisa Webb Photography

Home-based in Wrockwardine, near Wellington

'Alternative' wedding photography which captures beautiful, relaxed and creative images.

07969 745526

www.lisawebbphotography.co.uk

Nick Burch Photography

Home-based in Wellington

Nick has been a full-time professional photographer for over twenty years. He uses both digital and film equipment and specialises in the wedding and commercial sectors.

01952 641770 / www.nickburch.co.uk

Nicola Gough

Home-based in Aston, near Wellington

Real, relaxed, informal and creative wedding photography

07847 186848

www.weddingphotographyinshropshire.co.uk

Simply Magical Photography

Home-based in Wrockwardine, near Wellington

Beautiful fairy photos taken in a unique 'enchanted forest' complete with forest animals and bird song – a magical experience for children.

07875 719054

www.simplymagicalphotography.co.uk

Snap Weddings

Home-based in Apley, near Wellington

Affordable, professional wedding and event photography by Mitch Morgan.

07970 884888 / www.snap-weddings.co.uk

Steve Addison Photography

Home-based in Wellington

With several years' experience across commercial, industrial and advertising, Steve now focuses on event and portrait photography.

07961 352057

www.instantprinteventphotography.co.uk

Tim Preston Photography

Home-based in Wellington

Wildlife photographer Tim captures stunning scenes from nature, including images from Wellington's treasured wild places at Dothill, Apley and The Wrekin.

Search and contact via Facebook



Sharon Griffin of The Belfrey Pottery

Tina Corfield Photography

Home-based in Wellington

Tina is a photographer and digital artist with a creative eye for colour and composition, and specialising in the natural environment. Her images are available to purchase as mounted or framed prints, handmade canvas prints and complementary gift cards, all in a variety of sizes.

01952 240624

www.tinacorfieldphotography.com

Wrekin Arts Photographic Club

The Belfrey Arts Centre, Princes St, Wellington, TFI 1JG

Formed in 1977, the Club has over 50 members and continues to welcome more, whether they are new to the hobby or active professionals.

There is a comprehensive programme of events, lectures, demonstrations and displays from some of this country's top photographers.

www.wrekinartspc.com

MAKERS OF CANDLES AND SOAPS

Honeycomb Crafts

Home-based in Wellington

Run by experienced beekeeper Sue Watkins, Honeycomb Crafts makes a wide selection of products using honey and beeswax, including candles, furniture polish and leather balm. Sue has safety certificates for her hand creams, soaps and lip balms.

Search and contact via Facebook

Melts and More

Wellington Market, Market Street, Wellington, TFI 1DT (Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat)

This business makes highly-scented wax melts, wax brittle and candles by hand, using quality soy wax and fragrances.

www.craftsandgifts.co.uk

Powerful Organic

The Little Business Co., 17 Market Square, Wellington

Powerful Organic produces a range of organic and vegan soaps, shampoos and other body care products. At the time of going to print, these are available to see, smell and buy at The Little Business Company.

www.powerfulorganic.com

Jewellery makers

Allum's Jewellers

48-50 New Street, Wellington, TFI 1NE

Onsite engraving, jewellery repairs and expert jewellery-making all go on in Andrew Gordon's workshop at this long-established family-run business.

01952 244983

Lloyd's Jewellers

2 New Street, Wellington, TFI 1NE

Amongst the range of gold and silver jewellery on sale at their Wellington shop, goldsmith and jewellery designer Edward Lloyd is responsible for crafting some of the finest pieces himself – including the exclusive Shropshire Lad collection, inspired by the poetry of A.E. Housman.

01952 249632 / www.lloydjewellers.co.uk

Tinks Treasures, beading and jewellery design

2 Crown Street, Wellington, TFI 1LP

Pam at Tinks Treasures makes all sorts of crafts, specialising in jewellery. She also sells a wide range of beads and findings to supply home-makers, runs beading classes at her Crown Street shop and can be booked for jewellery evenings.

07956 774884

Search and contact via Facebook

WORKERS IN TEXTILES

Creative Upcycling

Home-based near Wellington

Every item is crafted by Clare, who searches for preloved garments in cashmere, silk, tweed and vintage linen. Carefully cleaned, very little goes to waste as even buttons and zips are reused.

Clare also buys new Harris Tweed which is a by-product of a furniture upholstery business. 07960 889065

www.creative-upcycling.co.uk

Eat Pray Crochet

Home-based in Wellington

Initially inspired by her granny back in Poland, Kasia's love for crochet creations has led her to design her own patterns for toys, scarfs, bunting and more.

www.eatpraycrochet.com

Nell Makes

Home-based in Wellington

Nell's designs involve fabric, crochet and knitting and are characterised by their use of bold, vivid colours. Products range from heirloom blankets for £100 to quirky crocheted coaster sets for £10 and greetings cards, hair clips and bookmarks for £5 or less. Nell is happy to create custom orders, small or large, and all items can be made to match customer requirements.

www.nellmakes.co.uk

Nevil Road Designs

Home-based in Wellington

Nevil Road Designs help people to celebrate life events with unique, handmade collage, embroidery and upholstery. Specialising in bespoke pieces, Nevil Road Designs creates works from scratch as well as using fabulous fabrics to breathe life into old furniture.

07522 579216

Search and contact via Facebook

Rosemary's Curtains

Store 2, Wellington Market, Market Street, TFI 1DT (Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat)

Rosemary's Curtains sell made-to-measure & ready-made curtains and blinds 07860 152723

Search and contact via Facebook

The Creative Sewing Room

32 Market Street, Wellington, TFI 1DT

Run by Andrea, a seamstress with 20 years' experience, this family business provides tailoring and alterations on clothes and home textiles, along with embroidery services.

07743 396076

www.thecreativesewingroom.co.uk

Top Tailor

2 Bell Street, Wellington, TFI 1LS

Dress-making, tailoring and alterations. 07549 650641

Search and contact via Facebook

WORKERS IN WOOD

Adam Stanley Carpenter and Joiner

Home-based in Leegomery, near Wellington

From hardwood floors to made-to-measure wardrobes, call Adam Stanley for all your carpentry and joinery needs.

01952 250574

www.adamstanleycarpenterandjoiner.co.uk

Alliance Joinery Ltd

11a Queen St, Wellington, TFI 1EH

For more than 35 years, Alliance Joinery Ltd has been providing commercial and domestic customers with a range of joinery services from replacement windows and doors to bespoke staircases.

01952 243243 / www.alliancejoineryltd.co.uk

Market Frames

**Wellington Market, Market Street,
Wellington** (Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat)

This family business has been making picture frames for over three decades, and frames everything from football shirts and sports memorabilia to cross-stitches, tapestries and oil paintings.

07905 752957

Raby Sawmill

Uppington, near Wellington, TF6 5HN

Raby Sawmill supplies green oak for building, renovation and restoration projects. Working closely with architects, builders and designers it supplies customised, bespoke beams which are cut and machined to customers specifications.

01952 740296

Shed City

14 Whitchurch Road, Wellington, TF1 3AG

Garden rooms, garden stores, potting sheds and playhouses – Shed City manufactures them all at its Wellington workshop.

01952 270070 / www.shedcity.co.uk

Steve Lowe, basket maker

Home-based in Wellington

For decades, Steve has been using English willow to craft traditional baskets that are both beautiful and durable. All types and sizes can be made to order, and Steve also undertakes basket and handle repairs.

01952 255395

Wellington Carriage Company

Long Lane near Wellington, TF6 6HD
(workshop only)

For more than 50 years Philip Holder has rebuilt historic horse drawn vehicles, many of them now in museums and private collections all over Britain. He is a woodworker with a wide knowledge of Britain's native woods, a Yeoman of the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights, and a talented upholsterer and a painter.

01952 242495

www.wellingtoncarriagecompany.co.uk

Wooduoso

Home-based in Wellington

John Painter is an engineer by training as well as having many years of experience in woodworking. He applies his precision engineering knowledge and skills to ensure that his designs are straightforward, sometimes unusual, and always robust. John can also design and construct individual items on request and will be pleased to discuss your ideas with you.

07528 272643

Check regularly on www.madeinwellington.co.uk for news of Wellington fairs, specialist market events and new venues in town where you can find the work of local makers on display and on sale.

THE MADE IN WELLINGTON PROJECT

Look up as you walk around Wellington's conservation area and you'll certainly see some fine buildings. But look closely and you'll see some faces too, peering out from a series of twelve painted windows – our Makers' Dozen Trail. Each window depicts craftspeople, manufacturers and talented creatives from the town's history – and all with a story to tell.

This booklet, written by Rob Francis for Wellington H2A, brings those stories to life – from the medieval horner to the Elizabethan bell-maker, the 18th Century clockmakers who ran away from home to the 20th Century toymaker whose toys travelled the globe. Together, their stories show how craftsmanship and creativity have always been woven into our town's past.

The booklet also includes a directory of sixty modern-day makers working in and around Wellington today – from butchers to brewers and potters to portraits painters.

So join us on a time-travelling trip around the town to discover who made what in historic Wellington – and what we're still making today.

SUPPORTED BY TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL'S PRIDE IN YOUR HIGH STREET FUND.



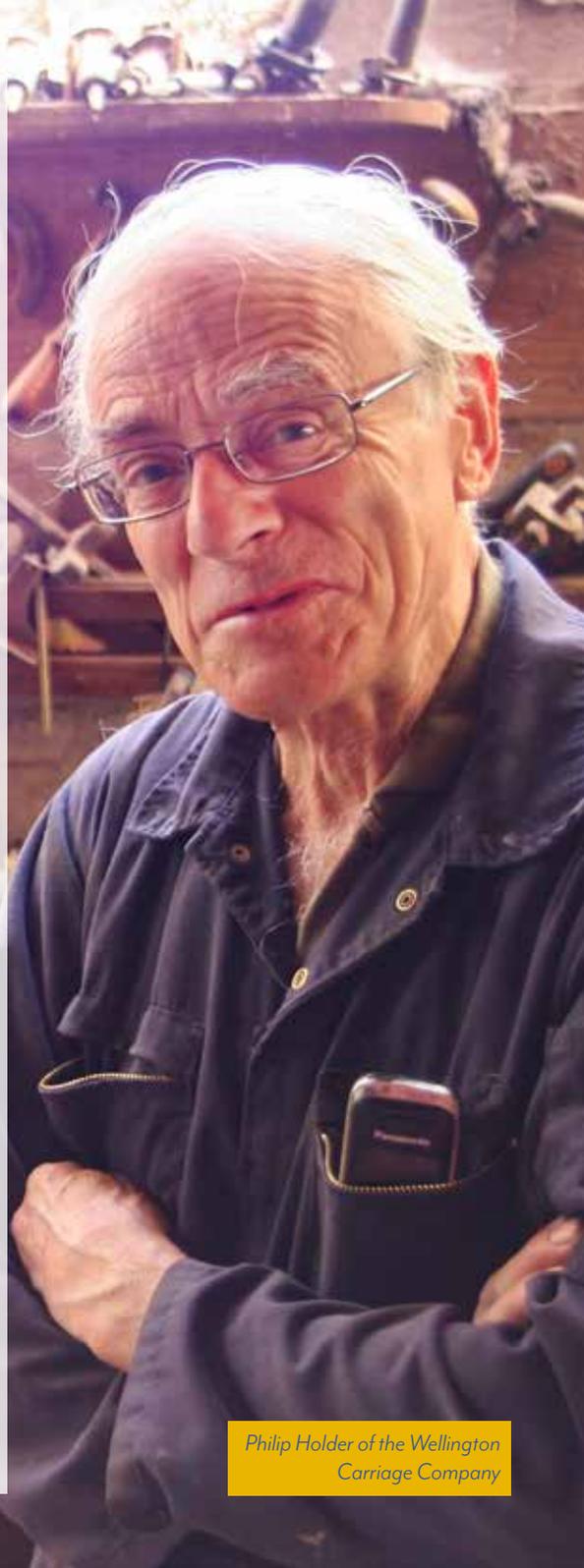
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WELLINGTON HERITAGE & ARTS ALIVE **H2A**



Philip Holder of the Wellington Carriage Company