

# Andrew Humphries Jewellery



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**SARAH FEELEY marvels at a magpie's delight. Pictures by EMMA SOLLEY**

**T**here are shops where we dash in and dash out on autopilot – and then there are shops which are so enticing we walk out of our way just to peek into their window, where the stock seems to call to us from across the street, and where we daydream of walking in clutching an oversized lottery cheque declaring “I’ll take the lot”.

Andrew Humphries Jewellery in Topsham is the latter.

Inside this shop, everywhere you look gems sparkle as if winking at you. It’s a magpie’s dream.

Andrew was born and raised in Budleigh Salterton and he still lives locally with his wife Lisa and three

children Harry, Ruby and George. He began his jewellery training at a workshop in Exmouth where he worked for 15 years. He did his apprenticeship there, learning how to create custom fine jewellery and also how to do repairs on all kinds of different pieces.

He opened Andrew Humphries Jewellery in Fore Street, Budleigh Salterton, in 1999 and its success prompted Andrew and Lisa to open a shop in Topsham’s Fore Street last year, having long admired the town’s charm and beauty.

Both shops stock a large range of high-quality jewellery in myriad styles ranging from contemporary to antique made in gold, silver and platinum, many of the them handmade by Andrew in on-site



workshops and the rest handmade by a variety of designers and manufacturers from all over the world.

And for that very special and personal piece, Andrew can create unique jewellery to a customer's exact specifications, taking them step-by-step through the process and using his experience to bring their ideas to life. "We can show the customer loose stones to look at and choose from," he explains, "and talk about the design of the piece before I go and make it, creating a unique piece."

"People come to us for engagement rings, wedding rings, anniversaries, and it's really nice for us to be part of these occasions."

"We've built up a loyal clientele over the years, including different generations of the same families."

As well as hand-making jewellery, the firm specialises in jewellery repair and restoration, all carried out in house. With over 25 years of experience, Andrew has worked on a wide range of jewellery and is able to call upon this knowledge to tackle any jewellery repair, whether on an antique or a modern piece. And the company also uses the talents of a local expert to repair watches.

Another thriving side of the business is watches. Customers can buy them brand new, and the company also buys and sells pre-owned quality watches such as Rolex, Cartier, Omega and Breitling. All watches come with a 12-month guarantee, and this is incredibly popular with customers.

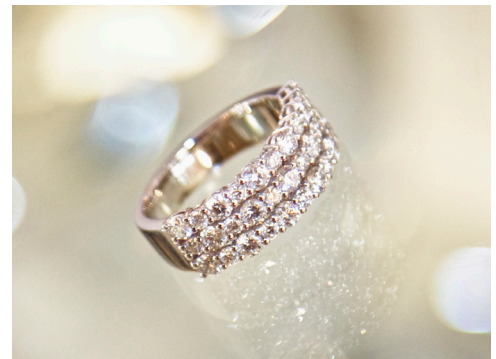
"We try and offer a very broad service," says Andrew, "not just sales, not just watches. We're your local jewellery specialist, and I know an awful lot from working on so many different pieces of jewellery at a bench, so when I'm selling them I know what I'm talking about."

"A lot of our custom is return business, and we've always been really honest with our customers. I know a lot about diamonds, and we can source all sorts of things for people from the contacts we've made over the years."

"We're getting busier and busier, and we always offer a personal service, that personal touch. And our stock is always, changing, especially the watches and the antique jewellery." **EL**

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Andrew Humphries with his wife Lisa and brother-in-law Steve Cowley who works at the shop



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