

Complimentary

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May 2016

# Society



## *Tuning in to Radio One's Scott Mills*

*Celebrity DJ talks about Exeter's Big Weekend and taking to the airwaves*



**INTERVIEW: Denise Van Outen**

*The TV presenter on her love of Bristol Fashion Week*





Country Knole Interiors

## *Pile it on or pare it back, grey is the most versatile colour right now and it is here to stay*

By Mel Thorne of Country Knole Interiors

This month we have decided to take a closer look at the use of the colour grey within interiors. Shades of grey have proven to be a big hit over the past year or so and show no signs of disappearing any time soon.

It is somewhat of a controversial colour as some people find it quite depressing. It was this attitude that prompted me to address the "drabdest colour in the palette".

As grey doesn't have a "personality" of its own, paired with any other colour, it allows that colour to be visible while grey

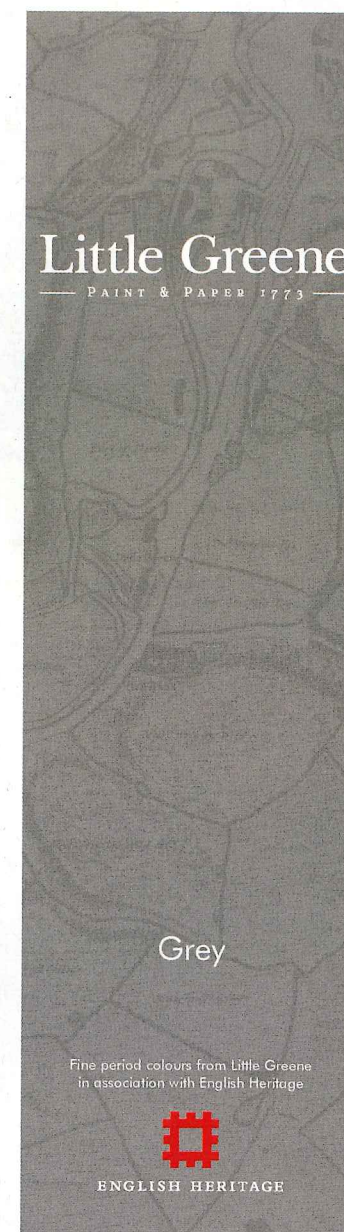
takes a back seat. The key is to choose a grey that is from the same harmonious tone as the rest of the colours you are using. That way it will blend and not jar or drain the other colours within the scheme.

Grey is a versatile shade that runs from near-back gunmetal at one end of the spectrum to the palest pastel at the other. If using grey on walls, think about the mood you want to create. You may prefer a darker, dramatic feel over a bright and airy scheme but whatever look you are aiming for pick your shade accordingly.



One of the joys of this colour is that it can be as masculine or feminine as you like depending on how you use it and what you put with it – a quality that makes it very adaptable. Should you aspire to a more country style, vintage inspired look, consider introducing powdery tones to temper the grey. If you would prefer a stronger more contemporary look, a richer tone of grey on the walls can work pared with strong accent colours such as burnt orange or 2016's colour, Masala within the scheme.

Decide on how and where you are going to use pattern. If you choose plain, painted walls you may want to introduce florals or stripes on curtains or blinds; bed linen or carpet. Some people prefer to limit pattern to these easier-to-change elements of a room rather than decorating with it, but florals, damasks and smart stripes in tones of grey can be stunning in an interior. A well chosen wallpaper can be the making of a distinctive interior.



Approach a room in grey scale as you would think of a monochromatic outfit, such as a grey dress. With no further information, you might picture a corporate uniform: dull, austere, and gloomy. But pair that dress with a shimmery, sequined charcoal cardigan, a faded black leather jacket, and a handful of thick silver chains and you have something else entirely! The results can also be more tasteful and sophisticated than a similar outfit in louder colours.

Grey scale is markedly more flexible than colours, you can pile grey on or pare it back, and it will continue to meet the mood.

For more interior advice visit Mel Thorne at Country Knole Interiors, 59 East Reach, Taunton, TA1 3EZ – 01823 352077.

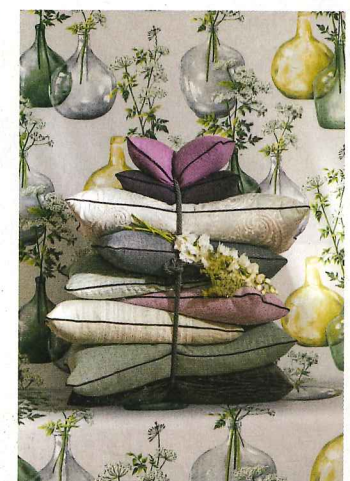
**Showroom open:** Tuesday to Thursday 10-5pm and Friday 10-3pm, Saturday by appointment, [countryknoleinteriors.com](http://countryknoleinteriors.com), [enquiries@countryknoleinteriors.com](mailto:enquiries@countryknoleinteriors.com).

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