

SOMERSET LIFE

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10 secrets OF THE SOMERSET LEVELS

DISCOVER

One of the oldest craft
guilds in the UK

How you can help save
our butterflies

Our gorgeous county
town on foot

HIDDEN GEMS

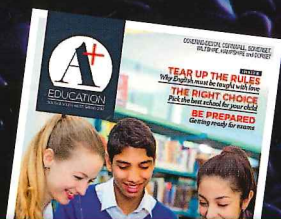
THROUGH THE LENSES OF OUR READERS

Spend the
weekend in
YEOVIL

Our top places
to stop for
GREAT COFFEE

11

Days out
with mum



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OUR WINNER
IS REVEALED

COVER IMAGE: HINKLEY BY PAUL LEAMON

£3.45



LEADING LADIES



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KATE MACEY The Firehouse Somerset

Owner & Manager of The Firehouse Somerset and Proprietor of Living Pretty Teashop & Home Interiors.

Kate & her family lovingly restored the village pub with a modern twist yet kept the traditional charm to create The Firehouse Somerset.

Whats the secret to success?

There is no real secret just a lot of hard work, enthusiasm and determination with some blood, sweat and tears thrown in for good measure!

Having my family work with me has been the reason for our success as we're all on the same side striving for the same result. We really value and care about the team of people who we work with as without them we don't have a business and it's all about the people in this industry.

How do you have a work life balance?

It is difficult to have a work life balance when you live on the doorstep of your business that's open 7 days a week and also run a teashop and home interiors

business but we just about manage it. We have a fantastic team who work with us as well as my family in the village so we can feel confident to leave it in their hands.

Who inspires you most, either in work or at home?

Surrounding yourself with happy, positive and energetic people is a good inspiration. I have this through members of the team and lots of our lovely customers.

I have to say my parents are my true inspiration, they have been married, lived and worked together for 40 years - now that's an achievement!

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SAMANTHA JACKSON Cooper Associates

Cooper Associates provide award winning mortgage advice throughout the South-West with offices in Taunton, Exeter and Bristol. Samantha Jackson is the firm's Managing Director.

What is the secret of your success?

Company culture is the most important aspect for achieving success within our business. We invest heavily into every single member of our firm from a training and development perspective and we are totally transparent with our strategy. All individuals are working towards the same clear objectives and more importantly, know how significantly we value their importance to our firm. There's also no substitute for sheer hard work.

How do you achieve a work/life balance?

By accepting that sometimes the balance is skewed. There are times when work, and the hours required, have to come first and other times when a personal commitment needs to. I do not view work and life in isolation from each other and adapt according to where my attention is most needed at that time. As a

firm, our team have lifestyle afternoons every month to ensure they can take a break from the office and do something during our hours that inspires them.

Who inspires you most, either in work or at home?

Our clients remain a source of inspiration for me. They are a brilliantly diverse mixture of individuals, business owners and companies who are all striving towards their own goals. Watching their progress, their hard work and helping them to achieve results over the years makes everything worthwhile.

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MELLONEY THORNE Country Knole Interiors

Country Knole Interiors is run by Melloney Thorne an interior designer and stylist. Providing a personal service creating desirable and stylish interiors offering a wide range of quality products, which can be tailored to individual needs.

Everything we do our attention is in the detail. From country cottages to Georgian town houses, to golf clubs, hotels and restaurants, I believe any interior can look beautiful, it just takes thoughtful and considered design that inspires.

What is the secret to your success?

I do not think I have a secret to my success except a lot of hard work and a desire to succeed! Working with clients as I would wish to be treated is a big must for me. Taking time to understand their needs is crucial to creating a scheme that will work for them as well as look fabulous. Developing good relationships with our suppliers is also key to delivering good customer service.

How do you achieve a work/life balance?

With 2 small children and a business to run this can be very tricky at times! I try to keep work within working hours and when I am at home my focus is my family. Technology does mean that I can stay in touch with suppliers and clients when I am out and about which is great.

Who inspires you most, either in work or at home?

My family inspire me to succeed and I am driven to make them proud. My husband is incredibly supportive of the business and he always makes time to help me. My hardworking ethos comes from my parents who worked 24/7 in the hospitality trade so I learnt a lot from them.

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