

Fusion

Five Resident Artisans at Fusion

Fusion is located in a contemporary new building, completed this year, rising distinctively out of the footprint of some of the original buildings at Jackfield Tile Museum; its opening marks a new and exciting period in the history of Jackfield.

The centre is home to two glass artists, internationally renowned David Keenan and Nikki Williams who works with colleagues under the name of Kinki Glass.

David Keenan 01952 884563 david@glass-sculpture.com www.glass-sculpture.com

David Keenan trained as a glass artist at the Mark Studios in Cheshire and later spent eight years working on a glass artwork project in the West Indies where he developed the contemporary style that now dominates his work. Specialising in handmade commissioned work, he has created several sculptures as gifts to royalty, including Her Majesty The Queen. His contemporary glass artwork is held in prestigious collections and has been shown at numerous glass exhibitions around the world including New York, Puerto Rico and London. Each piece is unique in design and shows how glass can be used to create a perfect fusion of balance, form and movement.

Kinki Glass – 01952 882244 nikki@kinki-glass.co.uk www.kinki-glass.com

Kinki Glass is a small family business driven by glass artist Nikki Williams. The open studio shop adopts traditional glass making skills of blown and hot forming techniques to produce work that is both dynamic and contemporary. Nikki's vibrant and free flowing style has ensured an ever growing client base both here and abroad where new ranges are always eagerly awaited. Her love of her work is evident in the collections, which are inspired partly by the material itself and its amazing qualities, but also by moods and visions from the world around her. Nikki works the glass into an object of intrigue and beauty, which is both strong and fragile.

The building is also home to **Malcolm Sier (01952 823939)**, a sculptor, letter carver and memorial artist working with the finest natural slates, sandstone and limestone from the British Isles. While studying fine art and sculpture, Malcolm found his greatest inspiration from stone and went on to develop his skills in architectural carving and has worked with some of the UK's finest letter artists. He now welcomes commissions ranging from heraldic relief work, sculptures and sundials to plaques and memorial designs.

At the **Cat on The Wall** (01952 883461 simon@syfap.co.uk www.syfap.co.uk), visitors will find a range of arts and crafts for purchase as well as bespoke picture framing along with paintings and art classes by local water colour artist Paul Hopkins. *Framing by Mandy* is a custom picture framing service offering a huge choice of over four hundred different mouldings and mount boards from which to choose. Mandy, who has framed everything from needlework and artwork through to football shirts, cricket bats and even components from Formula One cars, will quote for any job however large, small or unusual.

There's also a needlework corner, *The Stitchery*, offering yarns, patterns, kits and accessories for knitting and embroidery, and handmade jewellery by Jane and Steve from Hedgerow Designs of Bridgnorth featuring delicate leaves, flowers, fruit and ladybirds. Other items on offer at the Cat on the Wall include a printing service by Smith York Fine Art Publishing giving local artists the chance to reproduce their work in an affordable way, or be transformed into greetings cards.

The **Bicycle Hub** (01952 883249 info@thebicyclehub.co.uk www.thebicyclehub.co.uk) tandem construction and bicycle hire centre is also located at Fusion. Owner Peter Bird has devised a series of circular and linear routes to encourage visitors and residents to the Ironbridge Gorge to hire a bike and experience the valley's true beauty at a leisurely pace. Special discount packages including a full day's bike hire and an annual Passport into the Ironbridge Gorge Museums are also available from here.

But the Bicycle Hub is not just a hire centre, visitors can book consultancy time with Peter who will advise on buying their own bike and cycle training or they can join a bike maintenance course. Peter has also nurtured a special interest in tandems which he makes and hires through the Tandem Experience.

Entry into Fusion is free but the workshops are independent businesses with variable opening times and are closed on Mondays. It's opposite Jackfield Tile Museum, part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, for which entry tickets are required. On certain days visitors to Jackfield Tile Museum can see the skilled factory workers from the Craven Dunnill Company manufacture tiles on the site and on selected dates try their own hand at a drop-in tile decorating workshop.