



Kerry Jordan



## Treat for dogs at Hatfield House

Tails will be wagging at the news of a new pet boutique in Stable Yard at Hatfield House. Slumbering Hound has been launched by Dee Stringer who founded the accessories brand for dogs (and their owners) five years ago.

The former puppet and prop maker in the film and TV industry began by making 'snuggle sacks' and blankets for her rescue greyhound, Aston. She then expanded to create personalised pet products and soft furnishings for friends before taking the plunge and setting up an online shop.

As well as her own designs which also include cushions, dog bandanas and bespoke gifts, the Stable Yard store has products from

other independent makers including eco-friendly grooming items, collars and leads, plastic-free poo bags, treats and illustrated cards.

'For many years I've been working from my kitchen table, selling via my website, so I'm thrilled to have the shop where I can grow the business,' the 50-year-old said. 'Hatfield House is breathtaking with wonderful grounds for dogs to enjoy and The Stable Yard has shops, a groomers and restaurant, making it a perfect day out.'

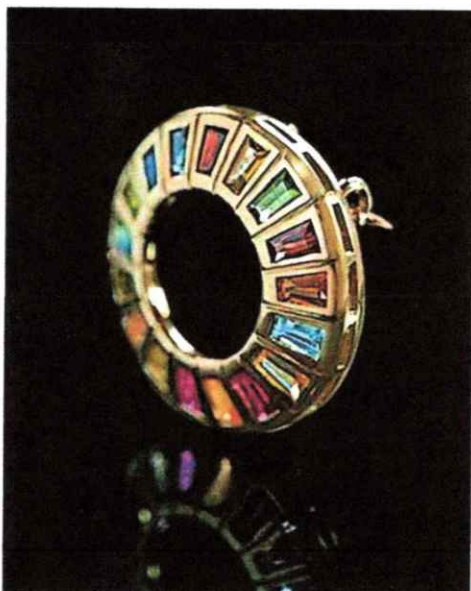
You can watch Dee create her products in the in-store workshop. She also plans to offer sewing and craft workshops later this year. See [slumberinghound.com](http://slumberinghound.com)

### GOLDSMITH'S WORK SHINES

Work by a goldsmith apprentice has shone out at the 'jewellery Oscars'. A brooch and pendant, designed by Maisie Sale, an apprentice at Harriet Kelsall Bespoke Jewellery, won silver in the Fairtrade category at the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council Awards 2020. Judges called her design 'stylish and adaptable'.

Maisie, 22, who joined the business in 2018, took 75 hours to handcraft the piece (left) with an emphasis on sustainability. She used Fairtrade 9ct yellow gold while the 17 tapered baguette gemstones represent each of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

'I'm extremely thankful for all the teaching and faith from the skilled people around me,' Maisie said. See her and her fellow apprentices at the Harriet Kelsall shop, studio and workshop in Hall's Green.



### BUSINESS PROFILE

*Jane Marland, wills, trusts and probate solicitor, and co-MD, at HRJ Foreman Laws Solicitors, Hitchin*

#### How did you start in business?

One of my first roles was in a large insurance company. While there, I often had to work with the legal team and found what they did very interesting. So, I switched tracks and never looked back.

#### What's your motivation?

The history of HRJ Foreman Laws Solicitors can be traced to 1591, so we're highly motivated to maintain its esteemed reputation and then pass the mantle of success on to the next generation. At the same time, it's important for me to continue to practise as a solicitor. I meet the most inspiring people every day, yet they may be going through one of the most difficult times in their lives. I'm driven to help and to make a difference to them where I can.

#### The biggest challenges?

Like most businesses, the digital age presents the biggest challenge of our time. We must embrace it, while ensuring our client data is compliant, secure and safe. The internet also presents its own challenges for anyone who is seeking legal services. Sadly, we regularly see clients who weren't fully aware of what they were signing up to when they purchased a DIY service online. For example, they didn't fully understand the implications of what they had agreed to when appointing Lasting Powers of Attorney or they did not get advice on inheritance tax exemptions and overpaid as a result, or they've found out their wills are incorrect or incomplete at a time when they least need more bad news.

#### Most valuable lessons?

You can't do everything. Appreciate the strengths and skills of others and know when to delegate. Importantly, take time to understand and learn the skills and interests of your people. It's amazing what hidden talents you can uncover.