

# Hertfordshire Life

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October 2007

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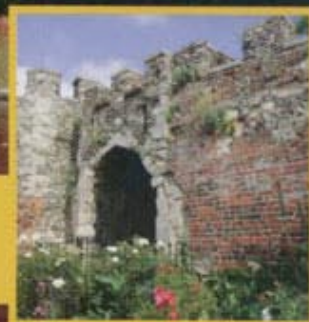
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# The questionnaire

Jewellery designer Harriet Kelsall tells Hannah Gray about shopping in Bishop's Stortford, scaffolding, and the view from the top of St Albans Cathedral

**How old are you?** 36

**Are you Hertfordshire born and bred?**

I was born in St Albans and grew up there. I went to St Albans High School.

**Tell us about your family.**

My husband, Tim, was also born in Hertfordshire and owns a film sound company which does lots of film and TV work, such as *The Queen* with Helen Mirren. We have one son, Thomas, who has just turned two and is a lovely little boy who really likes music, bath-time, being tickled and playing with balls.

**Do you have any pets?**

We have a crazy ex-RSPCA Burmese cat called Rosie who thinks she is human, another more sensible cat called Tiger and some tropical fish.

**Where do you live?**

We live in a hamlet near Royston.

**How long have you lived there?**

We have only lived there for about a year and previously lived in Weston near Baldock.

**Tell us about your business.**

I own and run Harriet Kelsall Jewellery Design Ltd. We specialise in bespoke jewellery and engagement, wedding, eternity and commitment rings in particular. As well as leading the company, I still work on a lot of jewellery design projects personally too and we employ 32 people. We also launched our new web-based brand for dress jewellery in June at [www.Purple-Label.com](http://www.Purple-Label.com). It is doing really well in the run up to Christmas too which is great.

**Where do you work?**

I am mainly based in our Halls Green



design studio which is a fantastic converted Tudor barn set in the middle of some stunning Hertfordshire countryside. It is a good example of farm diversification and has just been shortlisted for the Country Landowners Association centenary buildings award. It is also close to some lovely pubs for nice lunches. I am also based at our Cambridge shop at least once a week.

**What inspires your jewellery designs?**

We have six designers working with us and I would say that we are all particularly inspired by natural forms and also by the needs and personality of each customer. I personally am also very interested in historic influences in design and enjoy looking at period jewellery and bringing a modern version of an older idea into the collection, for example our Mizpah jewellery and our Cross of St Albans jewellery.

**What are your hobbies?**

I love spending time with my family. I also enjoy classical music and have just

joined the Fairhaven Singers in Cambridge. I like photography, reading, gardening, visiting art exhibitions...all sorts of things – the list is endless!

**Do you have any hidden talents?**

I hope so! I do have a certificate in scaffolding. How mad is that?

**Who or what is your greatest inspiration or hero?**

Gerry Robinson for business, Mary Portas for retail, Paula Radcliffe for drive and determination, and my sister Laura for motherhood.

**Where are the best views to be had in Hertfordshire?**

I love the view from the hill near Therfield across the farmland towards Ashwell and also the view from the top of St Albans Cathedral is spectacular.

**What is your favourite town in Hertfordshire and why?**

St Albans because it is where I grew up and it is a lively and interesting city. I also went to Bishop's Stortford for the first time recently and thought it was a great place to go for shopping.

**Describe Hertfordshire in one sentence.**

Green, hilly, friendly and hard-working.

**Who or what are the greatest loves of your life?**

My wonderful son Thomas and of course my lovely husband Tim.

*For more information, visit [www.hkjewellery.co.uk](http://www.hkjewellery.co.uk)*

*Harriet's shop is open every day except Sunday. On Saturday, November 24, she will be hosting a charity open day in Halls Green when visitors can watch the makers at work and talk to the designers.*