



Sheep baubles from the National Trust



MAKING YOUR PRESENTS FELT

Cumbria's wealth of artists, craftspeople and independent shops makes it easy to find extra special gifts for family and friends

Pursuing the perfect present can be daunting but Cumbria is full of people and outlets which make it easy to buy a thoughtful gift, at the right price, and with minimal fuss.

For handmade gifts, Made in Cumbria offers a rich array of ideas. From pickles to jewellery, ceramics to textiles and beers to candles, it showcases the stunning work of local craftspeople. Check out Hawkshead Relish Company, Strawberry Bank Liqueurs and Made in Cumbria hampers at www.madeincumbria.co.uk.

Browsing for presents is great fun at the county's many locally run craft fairs. Those held in the run-up to Christmas include the Winter Gift Fair at Dalegarth on Saturday, November 12 (11am-8pm) and Sunday, November 13 (11am-3pm); the Christmas craft fair at The Greenhill Hotel, near Wigton, on Sunday November 13; the craft fair at Sizergh Castle, Kendal on Saturday, November 26 and Sunday, November 27; and Christmas Crafts at

The Brewery, Kendal, November 25-27.

And for foodie friends and family grab some fresh, last-minute gifts at Kendal Christmas Farmers' Market at the town's Market Place on December 23 or Brampton Christmas Farmers' Market on December 24.

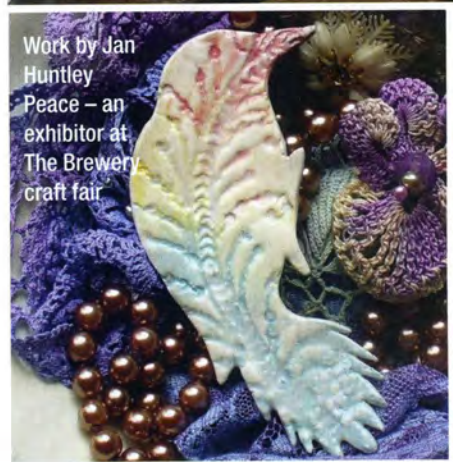
Cumbria has an abundance of people and places offering original, unusual and high-quality gifts: Lanercost, near Brampton, has mini hampers and planters filled with jam or coriander and decorated with a chalk board to add a personal message or grey wicker bottle baskets filled with Geltsdale beer. See www.lanercost.co.uk.

Poppi Red at Hawkshead and Windermere sells a bone china mug, in a presentation box, with lettering such as 1) Make Tea 2) Draw Up Plans for Evil World Domination 3) Eat Biscuits. Available from www.poppi-red.co.uk.

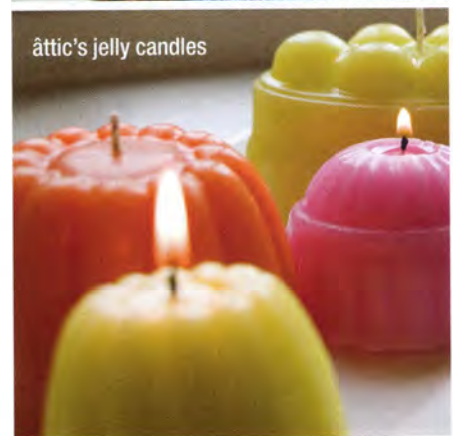
Ann Martindale is part of the Crafts of the North group based at Keswick. She ➡



Filled planter at Lanercost



Work by Jan Huntley
Peace – an exhibitor at The Brewery craft fair



attic's jelly candles



Slate coasters from âttic

Ann Martindale embroidery



Cushions by Melanie Mayho, another exhibitor at The Brewery



Christine Rose bunting



Poppi Red mug

produces striking hand-embroidered cards, advert calendars and wall-hangings using lace, beads and ribbons. She says: "People love the build-up to Christmas and are looking for very personal gifts. They appreciate the individuality of our work."

The group's unique Cumbrian creativity includes Christine Kendall's exquisitely-decorated goose, emu and ostrich eggs, Paul Nixon's wood-turning and Vivienne Coleman's pencil drawings (she also does commissions). See www.craftsofthenorth.co.uk.

The âttic (stores in Ambleside, Grasmere and Windermere) stocks wooden gift tags in the shape of robins, hearts and snowmen; deliciously scented candles; decorative tealight holders made from recycled glass and locally made body products in lavender and chamomile. See www.the-attic.co.uk.

If you are looking for something for the difficult to please, The National Trust has a Coniston Gondola 'engineer for a day' experience and gift vouchers which fund conservation or cultural work in Cumbria. Also available are cute sheep baubles designed by NT employee Keira Sirr-Hovendon.

For other ideas head to NT shops at Beatrix Pottery Gallery and Hill Top, Hawkshead; Grasmere Information Centre; Sizergh Castle, Kendal or Wordsworth House and Gardens at Cockermouth. See www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Glynnis Maguire, owner of Windermere's Scarlett Ribbon shop, loves gifts which "look nice and have purpose... things you wouldn't buy for yourself". Her stock includes fabric notebooks and Lucy Backhouse toiletries and this year she is making hand-painted peg rails to give to friends and family. "I often customise gifts, adding a hair-clip or vintage brooch from my shop," Glynnis says. See www.scarlettribbon.co.uk.

Christine Rose, of Christine Rose Designs, Appleby wraps her own Christmas gifts with brown parcel, plain white or red paper. "I decorate with a wooden heart, add a name and tie the parcel with some of East of India's ribbons."

At her shop Christine offers handmade personalised bunting – lovely above a child's bed – which also comes in plain or in festive colours and letterings. See www.christinerosedesigns.co.uk.

Cumbria's treasure troves of gift ideas also include Keswick's The Soap Co. and Bath House at Kirkby Lonsdale; jewellers Wave and H Hogarth in Kendal; Jopsons Jewellers in Carlisle; George Banks Jewellers in Bowness; Detail in Windermere; Vickerstown Interiors in Barrow; Shirley C Lingerie in Windermere; and Gallery H and Posh Sardine, Arnside. Or you could pop across the county borders for jewellery at Banks Lyon, Lancaster and Berry's in Newcastle.