

Transforming you home? Jaro Design is here to help

With 28 years in the business, Janet Cathro knows a thing or two about 'turning your house into a home' and with the recent opening of her new shop in Main Street, Strathaven, she is bringing her natural flair for the business and her warm welcome with her.

"I had a shop in Hamilton for three years, but before that I was 28 or 29 years providing a mobile soft furnishings service," explains Janet, who has recently moved to Strathaven with her husband from Motherwell, and is soon to be followed by her daughter Lynzi.

Pop into Jaro Design Studio and have a chat with the self-confessed 'cushion queen', whether you are looking for curtains, cushions, blinds or wallpaper. They also have stunning gifts, occasional pieces and plenty of ideas to transform your home. It could be just a room you are looking to redecorate, or a whole new look, but you can be sure of sound advice and plenty of ideas.

Janet is self-taught and became interested in sewing when her mother gave her a sewing machine at the age of 16 but comes from a long line of talented ladies – her mother was a tailor and her grandmothers were both tailors in the early 1900's, a very unusual profession for women in that era.

Over the years, she has built up a loyal customer base but has also worked for some big commercial clients, including the GPO building in George Square, Glasgow. She attributes her success to her friendly approach and her flair for colour.

"I believe that clients know what they want, even when they say they don't! My talent lies in asking the right questions, not ignoring what the client wants and listening to them. Inevitably you are working closely with the client, which builds a good rapport with them, and that helps with the job in hand.

"There's no charge for us coming out to have a chat – it doesn't cost you anything to talk. And sometime you'll get the client and other times you won't. It's an opportunity to do business."

The mother and daughter duo also

provide another service – wedding gift lists. Janet explains: "We build gift wish lists for bride and grooms which is an alternative to large department stores gift list services. It's a bespoke service, so Lynzi and I will go out and speak to the bride and groom and find out a bit more about them and give them ideas to either upgrade what they have within the home, or maybe a complete makeover.

"It can be everything from cutlery and pots and pans right up to decorating a room, vouchers, lighting – all sorts.

There is a free gift wrapping service and we also deliver the gifts at a time to suit the wedded couple," she adds. Janet and her family have been overwhelmed by the support they have received on arriving in Strathaven.

"I remembered visiting Strathaven when I was a child and have fond memories of the park and also playing in the Pipe Band competitions when I was 11! My husband and I were ready for a change – we were looking for somewhere with a strong community - and Strathaven came top of our list."

agent and by September, not only did they have a new house but potential premises on Main Street. The building, as you would expect, has been given the Janet 'makeover' and is warm and inviting.

It's clear that Janet loves what she does and now with her daughter Lynzi, 31, about to join the team it sounds like a winning combination. Pop in for a chat, a cuppa, plenty of inspiration and let the personal shoppers for your home take care of it.



Jaro Design Studio is open 6 days a week at 5 Main Street, Strathaven. Open 9am-5pm.

Telephone (01357) 520597

You can visit www.jarodesign.co.uk

All photos on this page were taken by Colin Smith Photography

A chance conversation with their estate