

# West

17.11.2018



Blue Tit



Nuthatch



Wren

House Sparrow



Great Spotted Woodpecker



Chaffinch



Great Tit



Jay



Starling

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

SOME OF THE THE SOUTH WEST'S MOST TALENTED MAKERS FLOCK TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST EVER EXETER ETSY CHRISTMAS MARKET

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Green Finch



Song Thrush



Robin



Blackbird



Goldfinch



Pigeon



Coal Tit



Bullfinch





Lovers of high-quality handmade items rejoice. The first ever *Etsy Made Local Exeter Christmas Market* is coming to the Exeter Phoenix on the first weekend of December. Over 45 talented local Etsy sellers will be exhibiting. We chat to three of the talented folk who will be selling on the day, and find out why this event should be at the top of your Christmas shopping to-do list.



# ONE of a

# KIND



## Claire Lowe

### CLAIRE LOWE JEWELLERY

Claire Lowe (35) is a contemporary jewellery designer and owner of Claire Lowe Jewellery. She lives in Exmouth and has three children Layla (10), Dylan (7) and Fraser (2).



*Claire says:* I graduated with my degree in jewellery design from London Metropolitan University in 2005. I loved getting to study something I enjoyed so much and I have been creating and making ever since. We moved to Devon two years ago after living near Heathrow in London for years. I think this area is fantastic. I have met lots of other makers and we often have events and get together. I think the

people of Devon are also wonderfully enthusiastic about supporting local and independent makers.

I've often taught jewellery making courses in the evening to supplement my income and am considering doing so again, I am just currently looking for a suitable venue. My design work is mostly part-time as I have to balance it with being a mum. My two eldest are at school, and Fraser goes to a childminder two days a week so I do manage to find about 10 hours a week to myself where I get stuck in. I juggle a lot and work around them





# Sarah Frances

## SARAH FRANCES ART

Sarah Frances (33) is an artist and illustrator. Sarah lives in Brixham and produces a range of watercolour illustrations, paper goods and accessories.



**Sarah says:** I've been creating for about five years now. I've always loved drawing and art but I lost touch with it for a few years after I finished school. I found myself living to work not working to live. It was when I was between jobs a few years ago that I

started drawing again and treated myself to a watercolour set. Things just grew from there.

Watercolour is still my go-to medium but I have started to use wash quite a bit, and I do lots of work digitally too now. Technology is so good now that I can draw straight

into an iPad, it's fantastic. I get a real kick out of thinking that something I have drawn in my little house is being enjoyed by someone in another part of the world.


I moved here from Norfolk at the same time as my parents last August and I still work from home part-time as a financial administrator. I am really enjoying living in the Westcountry. I have done a few art shows and it is wonderful to meet like-minded people. I'm very excited for the Etsy market. When you run your own business it is easy to get wrapped up in

yourself and isolated but at these events I can go and meet people I have admired online.

When I create I usually produce pieces that I know I would like or buy. My work consists of things I like to look at - patterns, buildings, designs. My stall will be a mixture of all that I offer. I have two Christmas cards available this year, one hand-drawn and one digital. There will

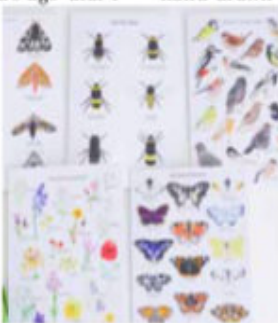
also be prints, cards, and two calendars with some brand new designs. I have recently been focussing a lot on mental health awareness. I did a kickstarter campaign for pins that read 'The Invisible Illness Club' after my mum and I were both diagnosed with fibromyalgia. They have been doing very well. I think I would like to

continue to do more along these lines. I don't like getting bogged down doing the same thing so variety is key to me staying inspired. Right now I am enjoying the calm before the storm. Christmas can be a very busy period for me, last year I was packing parcels for five hours straight one evening. It's tiring but also wonderful that people are enjoying my work.

 @sarahfrancesart  
[www.etsy.com/uk/shop/sarahfrancesart](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/sarahfrancesart)




  
I'll be doing all my Christmas shopping at the event. It's so special to be somewhere where everyone is so passionate and you can buy one-of-a-kind items that are handmade with love



and our family life, that's what makes it so perfect for us. It's also wonderful to still have the outlet and to have something to focus on that is just about me.

My creative process is quite organic. I never plan my designs or draw anything up in advance. I focus on colour and shapes and the piece develops as I work. I'm very excited to exhibit at the Exeter Etsy Market. I have been selling on Etsy itself for five years and I also have my

own shop on my website as well as being stocked by several independent shops and galleries. I think the people who buy my work are creative, they enjoy simple pieces, colour and they also prefer to buy directly from a maker. I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone in December.

 @clairelowejewellery  
[www.etsy.com/uk/shop/Claire-LoweJewellery](http://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/Claire-LoweJewellery)





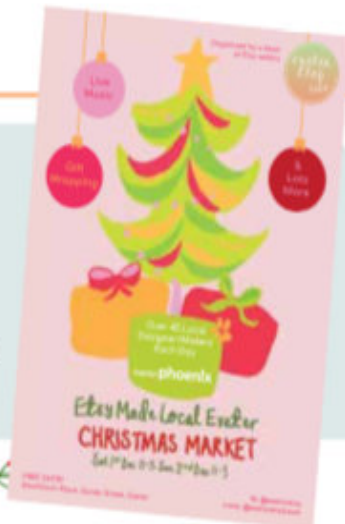


## THE ETSY MADE LOCAL EXETER CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Exeter Phoenix from Saturday December 1 (11am-5pm) to Sunday December 2 (11am to 3pm) Entry is free.

► We recommend getting there early, as the Bristol event has been known to generate a queue around the block. See you there!

Instagram: @exeteretsyteam



## REBECCA BRUTON

### REBECCA BRUTON TEXTILES

Rebecca Bruton (36) is a Textile Artist who lives in Yeovil. Rebecca has recently been awarded the Somerset Artworks Emerging Artist of 2018 award.



*Rebecca says:* I'm really pleased with my recent award, it feels like things are gathering momentum for me. I had a big gallery show off the back of it and next March I will exhibit at the Contemporary Textile Fair in London. I joined the Exeter group because my mum

lives in the city. It's nice and easy for me to drop the kids off with her and then go to meetings or events. The Westcountry has so many exciting makers, but because of the rural nature of the area we tend to be quite wide-spread which could make staying in contact difficult. However, everyone is incredibly supportive of each

other and makes an effort to get to events and meet-ups.

When I was a girl my nan had a treasure trove of haberdashery. It was in a wooden box and I used to love the smell of the fabric as I opened it. I did my degree in fine art and focussed on creating with textiles. Then I became focussed on paying the bills so moved across into teaching. I've been a teacher for all of my working life and for many years there was no spare time to create. It was when I had my little girl and went part-time two years ago that I picked it up again, and I haven't looked back.

I had to build things up slowly and social media such as Instagram has been hugely helpful. I now have over three thousand Instagram followers. I think this is in large part because what I do is so unusual. I essentially use my sewing machine to paint, the thread is the colour and the background is the fabric I sew on. It's essentially free motion embroidery. I only use vintage fabric. I inherited my nan's fabric collection and I visit a lot of vintage fairs too. I'm more at home drawing with my machine than I am with a pen, and I do custom work to commission as well as the pieces you can see in my store.

I'm beyond excited for the Etsy Made Local Market. There are going to be so many exhibitors there who I have admired online for a long time. I'll be doing all my Christmas shopping at the event. It's so special to be somewhere where everyone is so passionate and you can buy one-of-a-kind items that are handmade with love. It's true what they say, that every time you buy from an independent someone does a happy dance. It really does make a difference.

Instagram: @rebeccabruton and

@rebeccabruton\_

www.etsy.com/shop/rbrutontextileart

