

# Branching Out

## A beautiful celebration of autumn

Devon Guild of Craftsmen, Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey, Devon,  
TQ13 9AF

Exhibition runs Saturday 5 October – Sunday 17 November

[www.crafts.org.uk](http://www.crafts.org.uk)



**This inspiring exhibition celebrates the best of autumn: trees, forests, wildlife – and making.**

As the days shorten and the leaves turn to the most vibrant colours, we celebrate autumn. Devon Guild Members took the theme of wood and created beautiful pieces, from handmade prints to furniture to porcelain. Branching Out showcases the work of ten Members and Associate Members and one collaboration.

Woods and trees are often cited as inspiration for rural makers. Devon Guild of Craftsmen challenged their Members to interpret the theme as tightly or loosely as they liked, in order to extend their design and making skills.



Branching Out showcases work by the following SouthWest based makers:

Carol Ballenger, photography  
Kate Toms, mixed media  
Sam Pickard, printed textiles  
Edward Wild, furniture  
Philippa de Burlet, porcelain

Paula Youens, printmaking  
Judith Woodings, printmaking  
Anna Bowen, letter carving  
Hilary Burns, willow weaving  
Janine Partington, enamel and leather  
and one collaboration: Hilary Burns & Ambrose Vevers, collaborative furniture

We chose the theme of wood - as trees are vital to our future. Britain was one of the first countries to be deforested, losing the bulk of its trees some five millennia ago to the first Iron Age settlers. By 1900, we had barely 5% tree cover. The Forestry Commission has managed to double this over the past 90 years, but we remain one of the least forested nations in Europe, second only to Ireland. The furniture makers in this show both use sustainable methods in their making. Ambrose uses locally sourced materials and also manages a woodland and sawmills all his own timber. Edward sources rare and interesting timbers, wherever possible or uses more sustainable alternatives including old source timber.

We also know that trees absorb carbon dioxide, making them vital in the fight against climate change. A recent study recommended that planting billions of trees across the world is by far the best and cheapest way to tackle the climate crisis. This can start with truly appreciating the trees around us and their natural beauty, brought to light in this exhibition.

### **Additional information:**

Exhibition open daily, free entry.

*Images: Janine Partington, enamelling; Judith Woodings, printmaking.*

### **University study**

Professor Tom Crowther at the Swiss university ETH Zürich led the study cited. It said that two-thirds of all the emissions that have been pumped into the atmosphere by human activities could be eliminated by planting large numbers of trees, a figure scientists describe as “mind-blowing”.

### **About**

Devon Guild of Craftsmen is an acclaimed exhibition space for contemporary craft and design as well as a leading charity for [craft education](#). Located in Bovey Tracey, our large craft centre offers inspiring exhibitions and [events](#) for people to buy, make and learn about contemporary craft.

**Notes for Editors/Press Contact:** For high resolution images and further details contact: [andrew.north@crafts.org.uk](mailto:andrew.north@crafts.org.uk), [laura.wasley@crafts.org.uk](mailto:laura.wasley@crafts.org.uk) or [anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk](mailto:anna.trussler@crafts.org.uk) at Devon Guild of Craftsmen.

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