

Member profile

If you would like to be featured, contact Graham Clarke at: theguild@thegmcgroup.com

CARL HUGHES CARPENTER & JOINER

To say that *Carl Hughes* is good with his hands is a massive understatement – but, well, he did spend a lot of time at the nail bar!



GUILD NEWS: What is the business, and your role in it?

CARL HUGHES: I undertake all aspects of carpentry and joinery, both domestic and commercial. I specialise in bespoke, conservation and restoration joinery, but will take on any joinery project. I offer a full service from design and planning to making and fitting.

GN: Where did you learn your carpentry skills?

CH: I achieved the City & Guilds Craft Certificate in Carpentry and Joinery in 1991 whilst doing an apprenticeship for a local construction company. At the age of 22 I became self employed and sub-contracted to various local building companies. In 2000, I moved to London and sub-contracted to two companies undertaking loft conversions. After numerous direct requests to undertake loft conversions, I set up my own loft conversion company. I returned to my home town of Colwyn Bay, North Wales in 2003, where I worked for a local specialist kitchen, bedroom and bathroom company. Following this, I then set up my own business here. I generally work on my own, but my fiancée controls the office and the seemingly increasing amount of paperwork.

GN: Is there a busy time of year?

CH: Basically, my work has been on-going and constant throughout the years. Some customers prefer to book their work slot

months in advance, whilst other customers prefer to have their work undertaken as soon as there is an available slot in the diary. I am very conscientious about keeping all of my customers satisfied and do everything I can to ensure a smooth job with minimum disruption to the customer.

GN: Which completed jobs stand out for you?

CH: In all honesty, as most of my work is designed and created for the individual customer, my jobs tend to be totally unique and therefore all stand out in their own way.

I built a bespoke American white oak bookcase for a customer who had purchased a bookcase ladder on wheels as a separate item (pictured above left). I designed the bookcase to meet the measurements and technical specifications of the ladder. I now use four images of this bookcase as my company logo.

And I was assigned to build a curved nail bar with storage shelving hidden behind for a local beauty salon. The bar had to be at different height levels, so that it could be used for adults, children and disabled people (pictured above right).

GN: What is your typical day?

CH: I'm normally up at 7am checking through the paperwork. I leave at 7.30am most mornings to go and collect materials from suppliers. As I work seven days a week, I ensure I organise the materials I require for weekend

work whilst the suppliers are open (Monday-Saturday). I aim to be with the customer by 8.30am. I stay at the customer's property throughout the day and finish at approximately 5.00-5.30p.m. I then go to meet customers to discuss/measure up job enquiries. When I get home, I head straight to the office, where I return telephone/email enquiries, and to finish off quotations and invoices.

GN: What are your hopes for the future?

CH: My hopes for the future are to undertake bigger bespoke joinery projects. I have a real passion for bespoke joinery and love what I do. I am patiently waiting to take my game to another level. If anyone reading this article has a project for me, please feel free to contact me! I have worked very hard on the content of my website, which my web designer created for me – www.bespokejoinerysolutions.com. All of the images in the gallery are photographs of my work, and all of the testimonials are genuine.

Contact

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