

# ALL WOMAN - Feature

**She left London and settled in Halifax for a new life. Now Genevieve Thompson has a new love too.**

## Wicked Gen shows she's a real glass act

GENEVIEVE Thompson has achieved what many women can only dream about.

In the space of six years she's completely turned her life round and even has a new name, Wicked Gen!!!

First the 41-year-old escaped the rat race of London with her partner, Peter, headed north and settled in Halifax.

Now, two children later, Genevieve is forging a new career as a glass artist and inspiring others by passing on her skills through a range of courses held at her home in Swires Road.

Genevieve, who calls her new company, Wicked Gen Crafts, first got into glass 10 years ago as a hobby to relieve the boredom of her uninspiring IT job. She "fell in love" with glass to such an extent that she spent all her spare time going to evening classes, weekend courses and summer schools all over the country.

She specialises in fused glass (and to a smaller extent stained glass) and creates some amazing pieces in her basement studio and workshop. They range from keyrings and necklaces to bowls, platters, place mats, lamp shades and framed pictures. She sells them through a local gallery, her website [wickedgen.com](http://wickedgen.com), at craft fairs and from home and prices range from £12 to £85.



Genevieve specialises in amazing fused glass pieces



Back to the drawing board: Genevieve has completely turned her life around in six years

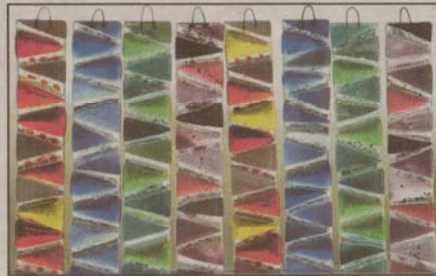
Glass fusing is the art of heating flat pieces of glass in a kiln to a temperature of about 800C until the separate pieces "melt" into a single piece of glass.

Leaded stained glass is the art of joining together flat pieces of glass using strips of lead.

Genevieve has two different kilns but tends to use her flat bed kiln for layered glass the most.

"Glass is amazing to work with. It offers so much colour and texture and this is what I love to play with. I enjoy fusing the most. When you put something in a kiln and it comes out completely different it really gives you the wow factor," says Genevieve, who admits to enjoying teaching almost as much as making.

"My courses are quite technical but at the same time great fun. My students really inspire me. It's wonderful how they all work with the same products but create such unique pieces," says Genevieve who says



students range from their early 20s to retirement age and come from as far afield as York and north Yorkshire.

"Glass seems to be really back in fashion but not many places offer courses these days which is why I get people from out of the area. Many of my students combine a course with an opportunity to look round Halifax and book into a hotel for an overnight stay."

Genevieve offers all sorts of courses from two hour

taster sessions at £25 to one day courses at £85, and two day courses at £180. This month is Craft and Design Month, a new initiative designed to raise awareness of the enormous amount of creative talent we have in the UK, and she's supporting it in a big way with open studio events, taster sessions and introductory courses in both fused and stained glass.

Her next fused glass taster sessions are on Saturday, May 28, from 10am to 12 and 2-4pm. Her studio will be open

to visitors at the same time so they can watch students at work and view her work. She has also got an Introduction to Fused Glass two day course this weekend, May 14 and 15. Students will learn lots of different techniques and go home with examples of their own work.

"Craft and Design Month is the perfect time to try something new and remind people how craft is not just important to the economy but also to our wellbeing and way of life. If we don't use the talents of people on our doorstep they will disappear forever," says Genevieve who is planning to start evening classes next month and offer a lot more taster sessions and courses towards the end of the year.

She has no regrets about leaving London or her new career. "Glass has become almost an obsession. I now go to sleep dreaming of it and wake up with it on my mind. So many ideas, so little time," says Genevieve who can be contacted on 07929 724349.

