

# THE BRIDGE

October 2024



**Burford Parish Church and the Warwick almshouses by night photographed by Alastair Thomas**

This monthly magazine covers people and events in our area of the Cotswolds, and is delivered free of charge to residents and businesses in Aldsworth, Asthall, Asthall Leigh, the Barringtons, Bradwell Village, Burford, Field Assarts, Fordwells, Fulbrook, Holwell, Northleach, Sherborne, Shilton, Signet, Swinbrook, Taynton, Upton, Westwell, Widford and Windrush with a wider national and international readership.

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## RETURNING WITH STYLE



Richard, Fynn and Tealent

On the face of it Burford and Detroit might seem to have little in common but both have figured in the working life of Richard Horne, a man with an extraordinary creative ability in an unusual field - designing and installing custom-made tiles and stonework.

His story begins in the heart of this area. He was born at Clanfield and attended Burford School until the age of 15 when he and his family emigrated to the USA. He completed his education at a high school in America after which he began work installing tiles in kitchens and bathrooms. After seven years he set up his own business, RJH Tile and Stone, with a team who all came from the UK and including a cousin. This led to co-operation with tile artist David Ellison, and their work together has led to awards for superior installation of tiles and stone, overall aesthetics and the interpretation of a distinctive design vision. Richard hand draws his designs and passes these to Ellison, who manufactures the tiles which Richard and his team install. His work is often based on historical architecture. His interest runs from the 12th Century onward. "The great cathedrals — anything to do with stone," he said. "The older I get, that is really what I enjoy looking at. I like to take it back as far as we can." Trips back to this country helped to inspire him. "I look at different structures, different cathedrals, and old houses," he said. "You look at details of how stonemasons used to be putting things together. It's more or less a lost art form as time goes on."

He has some amazing photographs of projects he has worked on. Although much of the work comprises places where tiles are often used such as kitchens, bathrooms and fireplaces, there are some surprises. These include a dog shower (next page), a bowling alley (in a private home), a stone bed (we'd all like to have one of those) and a wine store room which would not look out of place in one of the Byzantine churches in Ravenna. Even the bathrooms can contain surprises, such as a stone stool covering a drain outlet so that you can sit on it while showering. All contain remarkable detail which demonstrates the care which has gone into the design.

Throughout his 30-year sojourn in America Richard always intended to return to this country and a six week trip home settled his resolve. In 2022 Richard, his wife Tealent and son Fynn left America, leaving the US end of the business in the hands of his cousin. They arrived Burford and moved into a cottage in the town. Fynn now attends Burford Primary School. Richard has already received commissions for work here. Readers may have spotted two of his distinctive plaques in Priory Lane and a third is planned for the Cotswold Arms. He has built a barbecue for a house on The Hill. He has established links with local sculptor and stone mason Piotr Gargas who makes architectural pieces for him. In addition Richard and his business partner Robert Taylor are undertaking the refurbishment of a Grade 2 listed house, also in Priory Lane. Richard gets most of his work by word of mouth and this is already happening, but we are sure that architectural and interior design magazines will soon be on his trail. He is already leaving his mark on our area - literally.

More of Richard's work can be seen here as well as his website, [rjhstoneandtile.com](http://rjhstoneandtile.com)

*Editors*



Stone Bed



Wine Store

