



Photograph © Martin Pemberton



On the up

It's been a tough couple of years across the UK but that hasn't stopped this bunch of Bristol creatives. LAURA ROWE speaks to some of the entrepreneurs who have bucked the trend and started a new business in the city over the last 12 months



Clementine O'Shaughnessy (below) set up Hypnobaby with fellow hypnotherapist Miranda Prochazka last June



Hypnobaby

Opened: June 2010

The thought of giving birth frightens most women, quite understandably, but have you ever thought about the effect that the experience will have on the baby and how your reaction could impact on the labour?

Clinical hypnotherapists Miranda and Clementine certainly have and that is why they launched their group hypno-birthing courses in Bristol a year ago. The courses teach pregnant women techniques for labour, which aid relaxation, control and feelings of empowerment during the birth. Evidence shows that anxiety and fear can produce the fight/flight response and during labour this can mean stopping and starting and increased discomfort for mother and baby.

"Hypno-birthing is beneficial in many ways as it can relax the cervix, often shorten labour, lessen the need for drugs and intervention, raise levels of oxytocin and increase blood supply to the uterus," explains Clementine.

So far 25 hypnobabies have been born by mothers who have attended the courses. The next course begins on 5 July for five weeks and costs £175.

• The Natural Health Clinic,
39 Cotham Hill, Cotham
tel: 07717 170 865 / 07742 170 820
www.hypnobabybristol.com

Sweet Pea

Opened: July 2010

Ideally positioned alongside some of Bristol's most creative boutiques on Coldharbour Road in Redland, this pretty fashion boutique was opened in the summer of 2010 by glamorous Westbury-on-Trym mums Gemma Gallagher and

Emma Bourne and Gemma Gallagher opened Sweet Pea fashion boutique in Redland last summer



"It's the best decision we ever made opening Sweet Pea"

Emma Bourne.

The duo met four years ago in the playground and it was over coffee that they realised there was a need in the area for affordable and easy-to-wear fashion for mums, daughters and everyone in between.

"It's the best decision we ever made opening Sweet Pea – even in these tricky economic times. We are very excited to be nearing our first birthday and with the double celebration of the launch of our website, it's certainly a year to remember!" said Gemma.

• 127 Coldharbour Road, Redland
tel: 0117 924 5478
www.sweetpeafashion.co.uk

Andrew Morgan – one half of new Bristol estate agents and auctioneers, Hollis Morgan



Cox and Baloneys

Opened: July 2010

For anyone that hadn't already noticed, vintage is big business in Bristol, and the gorgeous Cheltenham Road boutique Cox and Baloneys is living proof of that.

Run by Amy and Joney, Cox and Baloney started life as a stall in the old Woolies Indoor Market on Whiteladies Road in 2009, before moving to their first shop in July of last year. Spread over two floors you'll find original vintage and pre-loved designer clothes and accessories for men and women. Some items are re-worked, some are vintage-inspired pieces by local



Amy Cox of Cox and Baloneys on Cheltenham Road

“Cox and Baloneys now includes a tea room and workshop space”

designers, but all have their own story.

There are also books (courtesy of Richard at The Mighty Miniature Bookspace at the front of the store) and vintage homeware including retro furniture, curtains and radiograms as well as their reworked handmade lamps and lampshades.

The shop reopened with a new extension in February, and now includes a tea room (with homemade cake and tea all served in vintage china, naturally) and a place for weekly workshops in everything from knitting to knicker-making, and hen parties and baby showers.

• 182 Cheltenham Road, Bristol
tel: 0117 944 3100
www.coxandbaloney.com

Hollis Morgan

Opened: July 2010

With nearly 40 years of experience between them, renowned auctioneer and estate agent Andrew Morgan, and Clifton College educated estate agent Oliver Hollis opened their first bespoke estate agency and auctioneers last summer.

Properties on their books range from prestigious Georgian flats to grand million-pound manor houses in the surrounding countryside in the Clifton and North West Bristol area.

“Having escaped the corporate way

of selling property, we are able to treat people like individuals and look after their best interests, as well as undertake local charity work,” explained Oliver.

• 9 Waterloo Street, Clifton
tel: 0117 973 6565
www.hollismorgan.co.uk

Clifton Print Services

Opened: August 2010

Set up by mother-of-three Sarah Gerardi, Clifton Print Services (CPS) has had a busy nine months since it first opened on

Queens Road in Clifton in August of last year. The team have quickly built up a reputation for top customer satisfaction, as well as working to tight deadlines.

Customers range from students wanting their hastily written dissertations printed, to restaurants and bars looking to update their summer menus.

“We are definitely seeing an upturn in sales and as we move towards summer we hope to finish our first year well ahead of target,” said Sarah.

• 99 Queens Road, Clifton
tel: 0117 973 3021
www.cliftonprintservices.com

The Clifton Fireplace Company

Opened: September 2010

Owner Oliver Clayson worked for prestigious fireplace and stove manufacturer Chesney’s of London for ten years before deciding to open his own shop in Clifton last autumn. “I saw an opportunity and took it!” admits Oliver. Now from his gorgeous Princess Victoria Street showroom in the heart of the Village, Oliver stocks some of the world’s most beautiful (and efficient) fireplaces and stoves, as well as upmarket BBQs and more. And, funnily enough, The Clifton Fireplace is also an official stockist of Chesney’s of London.

• 54 Princess Victoria Street, Clifton
tel: 0117 973 6474
www.cliftonfireplaces.co.uk

Rosemarino

Opened: November 2010

Filling the shoes of the old York Café in Clifton was always going to be difficult but



Martin Pemberton took the leap from enthusiast to professional wedding and portrait photographer this year

Photograph © Martin Pemberton



Ian Archer, along with his wife Judith, at Couch, are at the forefront of British upholstery design



The Rosemarino boys: Sam Fryer and Italian Mirco Bertoldi

the first venture from business partners and friends Mirco Bertoldi and Sam Fryer, Rosemarino, has certainly lived up to expectations.

The pair are familiar faces on the Bristol restaurant scene: between them they've worked at the Riverstation, Hotel du Vin, Spyglass and Goldbrick House. So, after ten years working for other people, with their combined experience and passion, they decided it was time to open their first Italian-inspired restaurant.

Rosemarino is now open seven days a week, serves breakfast, brunch and lunch; and aperitivo and dinner Thursday to Saturday. This eatery is chilled-out and laid-back, but without compromising on style, service or flavour.

• 1 York Place, Clifton
tel: 0117 973 6677
www.rosemarino.co.uk

Couch

Opened: November 2010

This might be one of the smallest shops in Bristol, but its owners Judith and Ian Archer are at the forefront of contemporary British furniture design.

The pair, who met at college while studying textile and design, travelled the world designing textiles, furniture

and interiors before setting up their own design consultancy in Clifton, Amba Design. The consultancy, which still runs alongside Couch, provides designs for premium brands across the UK.

The Clifton Arcade store was opened "so that we weren't always designing for other people" says Judith. Judith and Ian have designed every sofa and chair in their collection (the full set is available to see online) and they have recently become the official and exclusive Bristol stockist of Marimekko.

• Clifton Arcade, Clifton
tel: 0117 329 8436
www.couchdesign.co.uk

Martin Pemberton Photography

Opened: January 2011

Many people dabble in photography but it's another thing altogether to take the leap into becoming a professional. But, after four years of pursuing a childhood hobby, hotel restaurant manager Martin Pemberton decided to go for it.

Martin, now a wedding and portrait photographer, uses a mixture of natural light and flash to capture spontaneous and natural images. For him it is about capturing people's personalities. Perhaps

most interestingly though, Martin offers a 'suck-it-and-see' option for pre-wedding shoots. If you then decide to book Martin as your wedding photographer he will refund the cost of the session from the wedding package.

• www.martinpembertonphotography.co.uk
info@martinpembertonphotography.co.uk

Heart Space Studios

Opened: February 2011

After getting repeated requests for drawing and embroidery classes from her home studios, in February 2011 textile designer/ maker, author, and university researcher Janet Haigh decided to expand to a larger and commercial premises. Heart Space Studios was born.

Classes are now run from the Redland space by various different designers and teachers, including Janet, covering everything from textile art to contemporary bookbinding, silk painting, making ribbon flowers and felt scarves, and more. The programme offers full- and half-day courses from beginners upwards, for adults and children, and the space can also be rented out for craft parties. The most popular classes to date have been felt-making, indigo-dyeing and bead-making.



Stefan Gorda can help you find the perfect wine from his boutique in Clifton Village

• 4 Harcourt Road, Redland
tel: 0117 923 2391
www.heartspacestudios.co.uk

Q Wines

Opened: February 2011
Perched at the top of The Mall in Clifton is a little shop stacked to the rafters with some of the best wines from around the world. After years of sourcing wine for top hotels, former Hotel du Vin sommelier Stefan Gorda decided the public needed one place to buy good quality wine at a fair price. Stefan has tried every wine, is remarkably charming and laid back, and can help you find the perfect bottle for whatever occasion. He also does regular wine tastings, the next of which explores sparkling wines and champagne on 25 June in store.
• 33 The Mall, Clifton
tel: 0117 973 1009
www.qwines.co.uk

The Muset by Ronnie

Opened: February 2011
Such is the power of chef patron Ronnie Faulkner's reputation that two weeks before this restaurant's official opening back in February, it was packed. Without a doubt, the arrival of Ronnie's multidimensional cooking and relaxed style was the most exciting restaurant opening of the year. His team, including head chef Dave Underwood, are all exceptional. The atmosphere is fun and playful, the food is sophisticated but accessible. Definitely in CL's top five restaurants in Bristol.
• 12 – 16 Clifton Road, Clifton
tel: 0117 973 7248
www.ronnies-restaurant.co.uk/muset



Lisa Keating teaches corset making at Heart Space Studios

Amulet

Opened: March 2011
Amulet as a brand has been trading online since August 2008 but it was only in March of this year that owner and mum Hemali Modha decided to open her first stand-alone boutique on Cotham Hill.

Regulars to Hemali's barrow stall in Clifton Down Shopping Centre between 2009 and 2010 will know Amulet for its beautiful fairly traded jewellery. The new shop now also stocks premium clothes and accessories (think cashmere shawls and scarves, Owen Barry bags, Fever London dresses and more). Plus, Hemali has launched her own range of Amulet beauty products and 100 per cent plant wax candles (all are as organic as possible and produced locally).

"An amulet is an object that protects the wearer," says Hemali. "I believe that it goes beyond that: clothing and jewellery can make a woman feel confident, feminine and empowered. I want customers leave with something that not only makes them look good but feel good too."

• 20 Cotham Hill, Cotham
tel: 07850 266977
www.amuletojewellery.co.uk

Vintage Space

Opened: March 2011
"Our pieces are based on value, function, design and sustainability," says Vintage Space owner and former psychotherapist Paul Passelle, "and if we like them."
Paul moved to Bristol from London in 2009 and decided to go full-time with the passion for all things vintage. His eclectic collection of vintage and retro furniture is a valuable addition to the already quirky collection of independent shops in the Victorian Clifton Arcade. And, like many of the retailers in this pretty arcade, Paul is quite the character himself, too.
• Clifton Arcade, Clifton
tel: 0117 973 9905

The Wilde Bunch

Opened: April 2011
This nomadic floral design business officially launched on 1 April this year. The brainchild of Claire Nicholson, who has trained and worked with plants and flowers "forever", The Wilde Bunch is all about "unique style coupled with a tailor-made service at competitive prices".
Based in a BS8 barn the business is currently working through its online shop www.thewildebunch.co.uk and appearing at local wedding fairs.
Claire works with everything from Lily of the Valley to humble weeds but likes to stick to the seasons – so expect blooming roses, colourful delphiniums and fragrant peonies at the moment.
Claire and The Wilde Bunch will next



Ronnie Faulkner opened one of the most exciting and exceptional restaurants to arrive in Clifton in recent years in February



Claire likes her flowers to be Wilde

appear at the Bath Discover Vintage Wedding Fair at the Assembly Rooms on 2 October.

• tel: 07966 183530
www.thewildebunch.co.uk

Abbie Browne PA

Opened: April 2011

Ever wished there were more hours in the day? How about getting your own personal PA who will work as and when you need her? Abbie Brown, with more than ten years of experience in the field working for top filmmakers and entertainers, noticed this gap in the market and started offering her services in April. Abbie will help with anything from admin, housesitting, archiving and filing to taking minutes in a meeting, writing press releases and event management.

• 07761 827017
abbiebrowne@googlemail.com

Sphere Living Design

Opened: May 2011



Co-owner of Sphere Living Design in Clifton Brian Winward (store manager Simon Cunliffe is pictured on page 14)

One of the newest kids on the Clifton block, this luxury designer furniture store opened with much fanfare on Queens Avenue back in May. The showroom had a complete makeover and now features iconic furniture from leading brands such as Vitra, Fritz Hansen, Knoll Studio and Muuto. There are also accessories from Iittala glass, tableware, soft furnishings, ceramics and original art.

Owners Matthew Ellis and Brian Winward opened the store after finding it difficult to purchase genuine designer furniture pieces outside of London.

“We recognise that Bristol is a rapidly evolving city and a destination for discerning consumers who have an appreciation of lifestyle-orientated products; Clifton therefore provided the perfect location for Sphere Living Design,” said Matthew and Brian.

• Embassy House, Queens Avenue, Clifton
tel: 0117 929 2365
www.spherelivingdesign.com **CL**

Photos by Oliver Edwards;
www.oliveredwardsphotography.com



Paul Paselle with his eclectic collection of vintage and retro furniture at Vintage Space



Mark Olver will be appearing at the new festival this July

Bristol Comedy Garden 20-23 July, Queen Square

There's also a new festival in town this July. Expect everyone from Russell Howard to Ardal O'Hanlon, Stephen K Amos, Shappi Khorsandi and Milton Jones (you know, the weird one) at this year's inaugural Bristol Comedy Garden at Queen Square. Plus, homegrown talent Mark Olver will also be performing. Here's what he had to say...

Q. Tell us a joke.

This is the question all comedians hate. I do have jokes, about three, and if I told you a joke then I would lose 33 percent of my available joke outage. Also, I do quite a lot of contemporary mime, which does not translate well to the page.

Q. What place or street name in Bristol always makes you secretly chuckle?

There is a place up near Cribbs Causeway called Catbrain Hill. I've often fancied trying to discover why it's called this. Also, I really like Johnny Ball Lane down near the BRI. Oh, and Nepnett Thrupwell out near the airport.

Q. Who are you most looking forward to seeing at the Bristol Comedy Garden?

I think Russell Howard will be amazing. We started gigging together in Bristol, and it will be brilliant to see him in Queen Square. Actually, all the comics performing are brilliant.

Q. Describe your act in one line.

I do a lot of compèring and TV warm-up, my act on the Friday will be attempting to get the audience making so much noise that the tent raises from the floor!

• Bristol Comedy Garden will take place on 20 – 23 July in Queen Square; www.bristolcomedygarden.co.uk