

TOWN LIFE: TONBRIDGE

My Town

Nicky Silk, curtain and blind maker

How long have you lived in Tonbridge?

I've lived here for the last 15 years. Tonbridge has a great community. I'm proud to say that I'm one of the members of the Tonbridge Town Team and we help create community awareness and support and arrange local events. We also brought the Tonbridge Loyalty Card to the town and we're trying really hard to arrange a pop-up shop in the town (see page 46).

Tell us about your business.

I have my own curtain-making business, Silk Interiors, which I run with the help of my partner, Paul. I deal with all the sewing, measuring and quotes and Paul deals with the social media and website side of things. I started the business in 2005, visit: www.silkinteriors.co.uk.

Tells us about being involved in an episode of *60 Minute Makeover*

The ITV production team contacted me out of the blue and asked if I could help them out. The property was in Hildenborough and was one of the ones which had been affected by the flooding early last year. The couple who lived there had three small children and were in need of some help to get the house finished by the time they wanted to move back in.



Your favourite places to eat?

In Tonbridge there is the fantastic Finch House café (TN9 1TE), which is a great hit with my kids. I'm a big fan of the excellent Mexican in the town, El Mariachi (TN9 1TN). But further afield, I love the pubs in the surrounding areas, particularly The Carpenters Arms (TN11 0AD) and The Chaser in Shipbourne (TN11 9PE).

And your favourite shops?

Favourite shops in the town have to be Gorgeous George (TN9 1EL), which sells amazing gifts. Also An Enchanted Cake Or Two (TN9 1TX) on Barden Road, which makes all my cakes. 🍰