

Producers make use of the scents, flora and colours of Scotland

IT'S interesting to look at how basic utility products have developed over time into luxury items, with candles a prime example of this. Shearer Candles in Glasgow is the UK's longest established lifestyle candle company, originally founded in 1897.

The business has always been family run and when the last of the Shearers retired in 1972

the present owners, the Barnett family, took over and is now in its third generation.

"This is still a craft which is reflected very much in our high quality candles that contain only the finest ingredients," says Rosey Barnett.

"In the 80s candles became part of fashion and a luxury brand, with

customers not just buying for themselves but also as gifts, so packaging started to play a major role. Each candle has its own recipe with the inspiration for our chandelier candles, scented candles, or filled glasses all coming from the colours, forms and fragrances found in the distinctive Scottish landscape. Check www.shearer-candles.com



FROM NATURE

Gaelic for water, ishga comes from the pure, pristine shores of the Hebrides and this anti-ageing skincare range designed specifically for the spa market combines the natural resources of the Hebrides with locally sourced, nutrient-rich and sustainably harvested seaweed.

Renowned for its anti-oxidant, anti-ageing and



HIGHLANDS: Shearer candles and ishga skincare products are inspired by the wildest Scottish landscapes.

health properties, Hebridean seaweed contains a host of vitamins, minerals, trace elements and amino acids which are excellent for skincare. Respecting the natural environment, ishga has an exclusive licence to harvest seaweed throughout the Western Isles and works in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage and SEPA to ensure the harvest, both manual and mechanical, is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Leon Trayling Director & Co-Founder says: "The range has been developed

over a number of years combining science and natural organic ingredients, most importantly our sustainable harvested seaweed extracts. In this day and age it is important that the products not only deliver results but also minimise impact on the environment." ishga is also a good example of how Scotland's products sell worldwide with ease, while helping the local economy and allowing people to work remotely and effectively.

"Our production facility and lab is based on the



Taking pride in the NAME



Isle of Lewis where we are focused on creating jobs and opportunities for local people," says Leon.

"we have grown considerably in the UK in some of the most luxurious spas and there has also been a growth in the international market in Asia, US

and distribution in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. Check www.ishga.co.uk

Inspired by Scotland's rich heritage and natural beauty, well-known Scottish jewellery designer, Sheila Fleet OBE, has created some distinctively

Scottish designs.

Her Stag's Head collection features a kilt pin and cufflinks created in sterling silver with Moss enamel while her textured Matrix rings are made in yellow, rose and white gold. Sheila designs and makes her jewellery and



TRADITION: Sheila Fleet jewellery, *main image*, offers timeless elegance; the intricate creation of waxed cotton dates back to the 15th century in Dundee, *left*; The Kilt Centre is a trusted name, *inset*.

rings in her Workshop by the sea in the Orkney. She trained at Edinburgh College of Art and celebrates 50 years working in the industry this year.

You can find Sheila's distinctive contemporary and traditional jewellery and rings in Glasgow in the trendy Jewellery Room in Frasers.

SCOT THE LOT

The Kilt Centre in Hamilton is one of the few remaining that still makes handmade kilts, which it supplies all over the world.

Over the past 20 years directors Anne and Robert Mathieson have seen the demand for kilts increase and as they are renowned for also designing tartans they are much in demand with local authorities, whisky companies and pipe bands.

"That gives us a hallmark that people trust," says Robert. Halley Stevensons in Dundee has 150 years of history behind it, having been creating waxed cotton fabrics and canvas at its Baltic Works plant since 1864. Today it is the leading



specialists in the dyeing and finishing of waxed cotton fabrics and luggage canvas, with a legacy steeped in the local sailors and cloth merchants dating back centuries.

The history and even the name behind the company's factory are fascinating. Scottish North Sea herring fleets operating from east coast ports in the 15th century began treating flax sailcloth with fish oils and grease in an attempt to water proof their sails. Remnants of these sails were used as capes – the forerunner to the fisherman's slicker. The east coast Scottish textile manufacturers, many of who had

their own fleets of sailing ships, would bring in linen and flax from the Baltics, hence Halley Stevensons' Baltic Works.

The product range is full of possibilities, with base fabrics from flyweight to heavyweight – and even pure silk. There is a range of finishes, allowing the customer to choose the texture, appearance and performance they need and the company can also go beyond the standard range of colours to produce the shade required.

With years of experience, the development team is ready to deliver a unique, bespoke product, as Colin Gilchrist, director of Social Tailor discovered when he visited the factory. He says: "They've been trading since 1864 and yet 52 per cent of their staff are under the age of 25. A great testament to a forward thinking, innovative business that has learned to evolve with the needs of the market, whilst having the foresight to create, test and sample in their laboratory, potential new products." www.waxedcotton.com

Stretch out on the lawn

PEOPLE start thinking about moving home in spring, but rather than endure such stress JML Garden Rooms offer the perfect solution when more space is required. The company's sustainable, super insulated, multipurpose Garden Rooms are built to last, are eco-friendly and can be used every day of the year.

Planning permission is not usually required. Garden Rooms, offer a practical and beautiful solution to gaining much needed space. www.jmlgardenrooms.co.uk



EXPANDING: An extra room can be used all year.

SKYE SKYNS
ISLE OF SKYE

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HALLEY STEVENSONS

THIS ITEM HAS BEEN CRAFTED FROM AN ORIGINAL HALLEY STEVENSON FABRIC

WITH A HERITAGE AMID THE SEA FARERS OF THE NORTH SEAS HALLEY STEVENSON HAS BEEN SHELTERING GENERATIONS AGAINST THE ELEMENTS SINCE 1864

HALLEY STEVENSON HOME & DRY

"Halley Stevensons are the world's leading waxed fabric specialists and have been creating waxed cotton fabrics and canvas at their Baltic Works plant since 1864."