



Scrooge Candlestick, limited edition Velvet & Dash design.

PICTURES: Katharine Davies

Interiors expert Charlotte Starling tells Faith Eckersall of her quest to dig out the best of Dorset-made crafts for her business – and why rusty angel wings are a best-seller

HOME thoughts

It was the peerless designer William Morris who declared that we should have nothing in our home that we do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful. Buying bespoke and individually crafted items is one way of ensuring this but where to go, especially in the mad dash for Christmas? The same problem confronted Charlotte Starling when she first moved to Dorset with her husband, the writer Boris Starling, and their two children. "I was doing up our house and wanted to buy as much locally as possible," she

says. "I realised that while you may have to dig a little deeper to find it, there is so much here." As her house started taking shape, Charlotte, who had previously worked in television as a producer and director as well as having 15 years' experience in interior design, decided to put her newly-acquired local knowledge to use and launched her own website and online store. Named after the family's rescue greyhounds, Velvet and Dash, it started off showcasing her design talent – her home has featured in a number of



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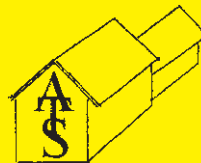


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