

Keith Hockin

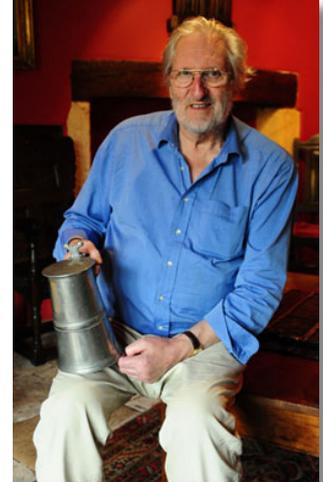
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Antique dealer, pewter lover, Stow-on-the-Wold



Stow-on-the-Wold is, at 800 feet, the highest of the local market towns and, with Moreton in Marsh, probably the best known of them.

It stands at the junction of seven major roads, including the Roman Fosse Way. At the height of the Cotswold wool industry, the town was famous for its huge annual fairs where as many as 20,000 sheep were sold at one time.



Keith Hockin, holding an 18th century Scottish flagon

The market square is vast, testifying to the town's former importance. At one end stands the ancient cross, and at the other the town stocks. Around the square the visitor is faced with a spread of Cotswold town houses and shops. Tucked away in the far corner, is an antique shop. Unfortunately, perhaps fortunately, when we were there, it was closed. It was a Wednesday afternoon.

'Keith Hockin' said the sign above the window; and peering through that window we could see - /ots of gleaming antique pewter. When, after we had got home, I made contact with Keith, he sent me this photo (below, right) of a display case in his shop, full of pewter, some of which, he told me, he had just bought.

"The flagon on the top shelf at the front on the right is what is called a 'beafeater' and dates from 1650-1700" he said.

"Next to it is a quart bud, then a pint bud, both 18th century.

"Fourth along from the right is an 18th century drinking tankard. Bottom right, with the wooden handle is an 18th century Dutch coffee pot; and the central display is a large, rare, 8-sided pewter dagrooned platter by John Townsend and Thomas Griffin (1777-1801).

"Pewter has been my, and my wife Pat's, love for many years", he told me. "I first got interested 50 years ago, when I was introduced to Bill



Keith Hockin. The Pewterer. Vol 8.1. February 2017

Cooper in Nottingham. He was the Pewter Society President in 1965/7.”

Keith was once on the Pewter Society Committee himself; now he remains a member and acts as the auctioneer at the Society’s meetings. We talked about the state of the trade. He said: “Business is slow at the moment [this was early December], though trades when they do take place, can be at high prices for quality items in good condition and no repairs.”

The link to his website is: <http://www.keithhockin.com/> .
The site says:

‘Keith Hockin Antiques has specialist stock of 16th to 18th century oak furniture, together with early wood carvings, early pewter, early brass, copper and ironwork; offered for sale in a Cotswold building, dating from the 16th century.’

On the site again: ‘In 1968 I became interested in old pewter and in 1970 with my wife opened our first shop at 76 Derby Road in Nottingham. ... We moved to Stow in 1976; now in 2017 we are still here happily offering quality antiques to customers old and new.’



I wondered out loud how many other shops one might find around the country specialising in old pewter. Keith thinks he might be one of the few people trading in pewter from a retail shop. If anyone reading this knows of anyone else, please tell me.

Oh, and the book in the case: *Pewter of the Channel Islands*. Written by Stanley C Woolmer and Charles H Arkwright, it was first published by John Bartholomew & Son Limited in 1973 (ISBN: 085152933X). I did not know that pewter had been made in the Channel Islands, so some research follows, though Keith suggested I would do better to look in Southampton!

Alan Williams

Photo of pewter: Keith Hockin.

Photo of Keith Hockin and the line drawing of the shop: Keith’s website. The tankard he is holding

Information about Stow: the Stow-on-the-Wold Information Office: <http://www.cotswolds.info/places/stow-on-the-wold.shtml>

Hockin Antiques: <http://www.keithhockin.com/> .

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