



Press Release
For immediate release

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Framing Royal Warrant “A Challenge and an Honour”

When Commended Framer Sue Ilett set about framing the Letters Patent, the document presented to the town of Wootton Bassett proclaiming its Royal status, even experts in the field could not provide a definitive procedure for the task.

“I knew this project would be something quite special, of course,” says Sue, “but quickly realised it would be by no means straightforward when experts at *Conservation by Design*, who work at very high levels for libraries, galleries and museums, told me they had never actually done this before!”

The heavy seal, which hangs from the bottom of the document by a silver plaited cord, would dictate how it would be framed. Conservation was the main consideration and the frame would need to protect the Warrant from fluctuations in temperature, humidity, pollutants and off-gassing – a naturally occurring release of gas from the materials used.

“Glass conducts temperatures easily,” Sue explains, “so I have used very high quality materials that will control this and ensure the document is in an environment that becomes neither too moist nor too dry.” The glass has been treated to be anti-reflective and shield the document from UV rays, to prevent damage or fading.

The document is mounted using special archival tape and the handmade frame has a black 100% cotton museum board lining and gold frame. These give the impression of the document and seal floating within the frame, which is approximately 3 feet wide and 4 inches deep.

“It is quite a dramatic effect and looks very impressive,” says Sue, “The entire document is visible and the chain of the seal is held in place with gold wire, which is soft, pliable, inert and secure.”

Sue is a local specialist, with a workshop in Highworth and *Sue’s Gallery and Framing* in Cricklade.

“It is so important to use the right materials if you have something of value to frame,” Sue warns, “I have seen football shirts stuck down with parcel tape that damages the fibres, is impossible to remove safely and expensive to restore.

I am delighted to have framed this very important piece of artwork and to have had the extra space in my workshop in Highworth. I was treating the Letters Patent with kid gloves!”

Sue is now sharing her experience and knowledge with other experts in the industry. “It has been quite a challenge, but an honour to have worked on this project.”

Town Clerk to Wootton Bassett Town Council, Johnathan Bourne is very pleased with the results. “Sue really has done a superb job. It looks very impressive and we know that it will be kept in pristine condition for years to come.”

Anyone wishing to see the framed warrant from Monday 17th October is advised to call the Town Council offices on (01793) 850222.

-ENDS-

463 words

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

For further information, please contact Johnathan Bourne at the Wootton Bassett Town Council office on 01793 850222.

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