

partners in design



In less than two years Scott Inness is already winning plaudits for its artistically designed gift and homewares collections.

At this year's British Craft Trade Fair the Argyll-based company won The Giftware Association's Award for Excellence for its Christmas in Design collection, judged to have "the most commercial viability as a gift".

For co-founders Gill Hastings and Jill Henderson the accolade is real vindication of their shared passion and design dream.

The pair were lucky to meet at a time when both were looking for a new channel for their ambitions. They were keen to realise a long held ambition to create and develop their own business, which would allow them to be creative, to work from the comfort of home – a bonus for working mums – and most importantly to have fun in the process.

Living just two miles apart in neighbouring villages overlooking the Gareloch on the west coast of Scotland, they met up for a coffee one afternoon and soon found themselves scribbling down business ideas on the back of a roll of wallpaper.

The process revealed not just an ideal combination of business skills and experience but also a shared passion for design and the desire to create beautiful 'must-have' products.

Combining their maiden names of Scott and Inness, the company was launched at the end of 2007 and they launched their first

collection to the trade at Scotland's Trade Fair in January 2008. Their joint aim was to develop a creative venture offering designs which were vibrant, striking and contemporary but most importantly uniquely theirs.

Jill explains: "Good design is the essence of Scott Inness and our use of traditional, even iconic, images with a contemporary design twist and attractive, vibrant colours epitomises our design ethos."

Their first collection 'Scotland in Design' was inspired by their love of all things Scottish and highlights their own unique take on the Scottish thistle, with designs in eye-catching Bramble, Raspberry and Blaeberry colourways. Initially tea towels, aprons and bags were used as the canvas for their designs.

Explains Jill: "We made a conscious commercial decision to choose tea towels, aprons and bags as the initial products as they appeal to many retail markets including giftware, cook and homeware and tourism. By offering good quality, affordable collections and ensuring that we have a "Made in the UK" label on our current ranges, we have experienced significant growth of our customer base in a trading year which has proven to be difficult for many companies."

This was followed in November 2008 with the launch of the Christmas in Design collection featuring their Hollyberry Tree design, which proved so successful it sold out in two weeks.

Exactly one year after their first launch the latest Scott Inness collection "Iconic in Design" was previewed at Scotland's Trade Fair 2009.

Warm ruby pinks blend with natural colour tones to create the new Rhubarb Rose range.

New bags have also been introduced over the past year and the company aims to continue to broaden its product offering.

"Scott Inness is passionate about creating a successful brand which is set on showing a creative blend of old with new and we will continue to develop more eye-catching and colourful designs and products over the



coming years for the UK and overseas markets. Our next exciting development will be the launch of our shopping website www.scottinness.com which will be active by early summer 2009," Jill adds.

For further information email sales@scottinness.com.

