

Period House

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 Lime in house restorations
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 Fabulous festive recipes
 Classic kitchen redesign



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 Chris Beardshaw talks topiary
 Discover a butterfly paradise



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 £3,000

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 PEV MANNERS, MD OF BELVOIR FRUIT FARMS.



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memorable must-have toys



**AT HOME IN THE
COUNTRY WITH
DESIGN LEGEND
DAVID MLINARIC**

TV SERIES FEATURES COUNTRY PROPERTY RESCUE 17TH CENTURY HAMBROOK HOUSE RESTORED
 STUNNING OLD NORFOLK FORGE CONVERSION GRADE II LISTED COTTAGE RIPE FOR RENOVATION





Willow wonders

Who said art was dead? Why not follow Kim Creswell and have a living sculpture in your garden or meadow?

Talented sculptress Kim Creswell has always had a passion for nature, which led her away from a conventional lifestyle and resulted in the creation of an inspiring collection of unique willow sculptures, some of which take root and grow into ever-changing and interactive features.

Kim accidentally stumbled upon the versatility of willow when, in her early twenties, she cut several willow poles in order to create a bender tent. When removing the canvas after living in the tent for the winter, she noticed that the frame had taken root and started to bud, which instantly gave her the idea of creating living animals which change and grow.

As the next ten years passed, Kim experimented with the hedgerow materials

which she gathered whilst travelling the country with her horse and bow-top wagon, making a living by selling her hedgerow baskets and willow sculptures on the side of the road. Kim and a friend built the wagon and when she painted it, she was inspired by the natural colours around her in the woods in spring, the bluebells, red campion, buttercups and wild garlic, as she says "Not traditional colours, but ones relevant to me."

Kim's work to date includes ambitious living willow sculptures such as centaurs, giraffes, giant wolves and eagles, which are commissioned in the winter months, while in the summer months, she concentrates on highly detailed non-living sculptures, which draw on the natural, yet vivid colours of the countryside.

Left Kim working on a live willow sculpture of a giant hare in the Ryewater Nursery Garden in Dorset.

Top One of a pair of impressive live willow baying wolf sculptures.

Above The towering wolves stand guard over a larger than life model of a butterfly pupae (chrysalis).

She also runs workshops for schools and private classes.

She mostly works on commission and there are several inspired examples of her work at the Ryewater Nursery in Dorset. She will also have work at The Butterfly World and has recently exhibited her uv willow sculpture 'Base Energy' in an exciting show in Bristol in aid of the Penny Brohn Cancer Care Charity.

She is currently rebuilding and painting another wagon as well as creating a living willow giant boar and a six foot standing bear. She has also created a white willow stag, a lurcher and a doe with a fawn and has been asked to be a guest instructor on English bush craft for Wilderness Survival.

Prices for Kim's work start at £65 for a goose and £100 for a small pig. **PH**

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