

6 STEP TOUR

Gobbins Crafts was launched as an Économusée in March 2021. Located in Islandmagee, framed by sea and stone on the stunning Causeway Coastal Route. Artisan Heather McFadden invites you to visit the bespoke studio and workshop to experience the traditional craft of jewellery making and even have a go yourself.

1 WELCOME AREA

Heather transformed an old pig house next to her family home into a fully equipped studio and display gallery. In this relaxed, intimate setting she brings 30 years' experience in teaching and goldsmithing to share the skills of jewellery making.

2 THE WORKSHOP

During each beginner session, under Heather's personal tuition, participants will be shown the basics of jewellery making and will go on to produce their own piece of sterling silver jewellery, a tangible and unique memory to take home. Heather offers bespoke classes for intermediate and advanced skills as well as one to one tuition.

3&4 AN ANCIENT CRAFT IN THE PRESENT DAY

The origins of goldsmithing in Ireland date to the early bronze age with many examples being found throughout the country. Medieval goldsmiths were highly esteemed for their technical knowledge and skill working with precious metals and rare stones. New technologies, such as computer aided design and 3D printing have revolutionised the jewellery industry allowing production of a finished model to occur within hours.

5 DOCUMENTATION

Heather's jewellery is fabricated by hand in the workshop using age old techniques, tools, and equipment. During your visit you will have the opportunity to discover Heather's inspiration behind her work, make your own piece of jewellery using these techniques and learn about the history of jewellery making from the storyboards dotted around the workshop.

6 RETAIL AREA

A stunning selection of Heather's jewellery is on display in the workshop and is available to purchase.

GOBBINS CRAFTS

Contact details

Gobbins Crafts
184 Gobbins Road,
Islandmagee,
Larne BT40 3TX

Opening Times

By Appointment only



This project involves a number of organisations working in partnership to promote food and craft tourism.



GOBBINS CRAFTS



Artisans at work
ÉCONOMUSÉE® | NORTHERN IRELAND

gobbinscraft.com

THE ÉCONOMUSÉE EXPERIENCE

The Économusée concept (meaning 'economic / working museum') was developed in Québec, Canada. Artisans of all kinds of traditional crafts have been brought together into an extensive and exciting international network.

The mission of the Économusée network is to promote and keep alive traditional crafts and skills, whilst ensuring economic growth within rural communities. It enables artisans to open their workshops, offering the public an interactive, recreational, and enriching experience.

Visit artisans of the Économusée network and learn about their history, local culture and heritage, traditional production techniques and contemporary products—all stamped with identity and originality.

Discover Artisans at Work!



TRADITIONAL TRADE

Handcrafted jewellery is still produced in artisan workshops throughout Ireland using many tools and equipment that have remained unchanged for centuries.

THE ARTISAN AND THEIR CRAFT

In 2016 goldsmith Heather McFadden founded Gobbins Crafts to share her passion for jewellery making with others. A variety of sources inspire Heather's work, from insects and the environment to literature and the moving image.

WORKSHOPS

Heather offers jewellery making classes from her studio to suit all abilities, from complete novices to those wishing to improve their skills. Bespoke classes and one to one tuition can easily be arranged on request.

NEW SKILLS

In Heather's half day jewellery making experience classes, visitors are taught the basic skills of jewellery making, enabling them to craft their own piece of silver jewellery to take home.



To reserve a jewellery making experience workshop or to discuss a bespoke workshop, check the website or contact Heather directly – www.gobbinscrafts.com

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