




Neil Barlow
Creative Consultant

e: neil@creative-output.co.uk

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About Me

I have a great passion for good design and typography and have always tried to show this in my creative work.

I thrive on working to tight deadlines and enjoy the spontaneity and creativity that working under pressure often throws up.

I am well practised in most design disciplines including branding, typography, advertising campaigns, creative thinking and am a confident illustrator and photographer. I am a competent user of the Adobe Creative Suite and am comfortable using both Mac & PC to work on.

Outside of work, I am a busy father of two girls, a big music fan, and as a result of a recent house move enjoy DIY projects.

I'm also a Scout leader and really enjoy helping the Scouts develop their sense of adventure and life skills.

I used to run a large WW2 re-enactment group. As part of this hobby, I was able to transfer my design and organisational skills when dealing with members of the group, professional photographers, filmmakers and TV production companies. I've also enjoyed designing self published photography books and helped out with layout and creative direction on magazines with a national circulation.

Education

BA (Hons) Packaging and Communication Design
Sheffield Hallam University 1995 - 1998

BTEC National Diploma in Exhibition & Graphic Design
Stoke-on-Trent College 1993 - 1995

BTEC First Diploma in Design
Newcastle-under-Lyme College 1990 - 1991

Seven GCSEs (Grade C and above)
Sneyd High School, Newcastle-under-Lyme 1984 -1989

Previous Employment

Senior Graphic Designer
Caboodle Technology. May 2021 - May 2023

My job at Caboodle was initially to cover a maternity leave period which then progressed into a full time position. The primary function of the business was the development of benefits platforms and my job was to deliver branding, graphics and marketing collateral for use on the customers website and app. The job also involved managing the work that came through the studio and the training of the junior designer. In my time at Caboodle I completed projects for big name clients such as JCB, Blenheim Palace, Wilko, Genus and Getir.

Freelance Graphic Designer
Note Well Creative. September 2020 - May 2021

I began work as a freelancer following redundancy. At this time I worked on the development of a bookings management App and website which involved branding, photography and illustration work. Work for other clients included logo design, Powerpoint presentations, the layout of a financial report and sales literature.

Senior Graphic Designer
Kindertons Accident Management. March 2007 - September 2020

The initial requirement at Kindertons was to build an in-house studio from scratch which could cope with the design, marketing and print requirements of a busy and ever expanding national company and all its clients.

Aside from the core Kindertons work, my first couple of years in the job saw me start to build up a healthy portfolio of external clients who were keen to use the studio for their print and web design projects. During this time, I was fortunate enough to undertake work for the Stoke on Trent NHS PCT which saw me involved in both local and national projects and I also picked up additional clients in the leisure, fitness, insurance and car repair sectors. The parent company grew into a large group of companies for which i've undertaken re-branding and re-positioning work, front end web design and development and the UX/UI aspect of App building.

My print management, budget control, photography and design skills all flourished during my time at Kindertons and having had the chance to work alongside a web developer and our IT department, I feel that I have gained a greater understanding of the production of websites and the code behind them.

Graphic Designer
Stephen Talbot Advertising. April 2003 - March 2007

Creative / Web Designer
The Department of Creativity. January - November 2002

Graphic / Web Designer
SMART (Europe) Ltd. May 2000 - December 2001

Mac Artworker / Designer (Temporary)
Pollendine Printers. November 1999 - February 2000

Branding / Graphic Designer
IMI Cornelius. June 1998 - May 1999