



# THE UK'S 50 BEST ANTIQUES & VINTAGE SHOPS

Where do you go to find a fabulous mid-century couch? Or an elegant Georgian sideboard? We ask five industry insiders to raid their little black books and reveal the UK's 50 finest antiques and vintage emporiums

FEATURE **ALICE HANCOCK** ILLUSTRATION **POLLY FERN**  
ADDITIONAL RESEARCH **BETHAN ANDREWS & ASHLEIGH DOYLE**

## CENTRAL &amp; EAST ANGLIA

**5 HOLLY JOHNSON ANTIQUES**

Zany designs such as those by Fornasetti and Peter Shire pieces contrast with stunningly-crafted Georgian furniture. A LAPADA and BADA member, Holly's a regular winner of best stand awards at fairs. Shop open by appointment.

\* Holly Johnson Antiques, The Woodwork Shop, Lyme Green Settlement, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0LD. 01260 253110; hollyjohnsonantiques.com

**6 MR BEN**

Mr Ben's, which was founded in the 1990s, is a stalwart of the Glasgow vintage scene. 'I have picked up some brilliant Loakes brogues, a super Wigan Casino-style canvas shopper and a truly individual tweed jacket all from this Glaswegian institution,' says Wayne.

\* Mr Ben Retro Clothing, Kings Court, 101 King Street, Glasgow, G1 2RB. 0141 553 1936; mrbenretroclothing.com

*'You'll need the whole day to do the numerous large centres'*

The Herts and Essex Antiques Centre

**7 RE**

The word eclectic might have been created for RE. Vintage German beer steins sit next to dainty gilt candlesticks while old woodwork catalogues lie atop vintage tea trolleys. Some of the stock is re-worked salvage, other pieces are vintage and there's some new too.

\* RE, Bishops Yard, Main Street, Corbridge, Northumberland, NE45 5LA. 01434 634567; re-foundobjects.com

**8 HERMAN BROWN**

'Just as it does in a designer fashion store, it really makes a positive difference when the buyer knows how to edit,' says Wayne. 'The owner of this shop can certainly do just that.' Herman Brown stocks high quality 20th-century fashion sourced on buying trips to everywhere from London's Brick Lane to Amsterdam and Seattle.

\* Herman Brown, 151 West Port, Edinburgh, EH3 9DP. 0131 228 2589; hermanbrown.co.uk

**9 THE HERTS AND ESSEX ANTIQUES CENTRE**

'Worthy of a day trip, you'll need the whole day to do the numerous large centres spread across this complex of barns properly,' says Mark. 'Whether you are a collector or decorator and whatever your budget, you'll be able to fill a display cabinet.'

\* The Herts and Essex Antiques Centre, The Maltings, Station Road, Sawbridgeworth, Herts, CM21 9JX. 01279 722044; herts-essax-antiques.co.uk

**10 DOE & HOPE**

James Gooch operates Doe & Hope from a lovingly restored historic barn and his business lives up to the romantic address. He has a unique selection of antiques, from neoclassical to Victorian gothic,' says Mark. 'Each tempts our senses and has a fascinating back story or romantically conjures up styles and desires of the past. It's food for the eye and mind.' Viewing is by appointment.

\* Doe & Hope, The Onion Barn, Shoe Cottage, 15 High Street, Blunham, Bedfordshire, MK44 3NL. 01767 640995; doeandhope.com

**11 THE BOULE-IN**

The Boule-in has two shops, one in Suffolk and one in Kennington, London. 'Here you'll find a perfectly on-trend, highly appealing selection of French decorative antiques,' says Mark. 'With a focus on the easy to live with, beautiful and affordable, everything on display is sourced in France and curated by a charming husband and wife team. Its ideal gifting territory - self-gifting included!' By appointment.

\* The Boule-in, 77 High Street, Bideston, Suffolk, IP7 7ER. 01449 740359; boule-in.co.uk (also at 16 Windmill Row, London, SE11 5DW)

