

Putting down roots



Emily Hurst meets up with **Jamie Michelle Pfeifer** to find out why, after working as a hairstylist all over Europe and America, Thame is the place where she has settled down.

Jamie Michelle Pfeifer is no stranger to Thame. “I had been working in local salons for about two years,” she says. During that time she built up a loyal following of clients. But she returned to Ohio in her native United States in order to get married.

“I actually met my husband in Ohio,” she says. “We came back to Thame in October 2009.” Her husband now works as a chef tutor at Le Manoir cookery school, while Jamie has been busy establishing her own salon in Thame Spa. “I’ve been lucky enough to welcome back many of my previous clients,” she says.

Although her career has taken Jamie all over Europe and America, she has decided that Thame is home now. Having trained as a hair stylist and technician, her subsequent travels found her at various times in Las Vegas, New York, Miami, Chicago, Milan and London, working with such internationally renowned names as Antoinette Beenders, David Adams, Vivian McKender and Jeffrey Paul.

Nowadays, as well as being a colour and cutting educator for an Aveda salon, Jamie is often asked to work on fashion show catwalk hairstyling and for film and television hairdressing. But it is in her Thame Spa salon (working with Redken products) that Jamie feels her true calling. “The most exciting part about opening up my own space is that I can give each client the time and attention that they deserve,” she explains. “Making sure each person feels unique, paying attention to detail and wanting each client to look their best is what drives my creativity.”

Customer service is clearly paramount for Jamie. Each client is offered a hand and scalp massage as part of the service. “The pre-cut consultation is hugely important to me,” she adds. “Talking over the style that best suits the shape of the face, along with the length, colour and texture of the hair, means that people can leave the salon looking their very best.”

Jamie’s real passion is the make-over. “Colouring, cutting and air-brush makeup,” she says. “I love creating a complete look. Air-brush makeup is fantastic as it stays on all day for that perfect look.”

Some of Jamie’s recent assignments have seen her doing ‘hair-ups’ for weddings at Le Manoir, Notley Abbey and Crazy Bear in Stadhampton. As well as attending Redken and Aveda shows in London.

Settled in Thame she might be, but Jamie has not stopped travelling. She has just come back from Thailand where she has been volunteering in Baan Unrak Children’s Village, putting her hand to any and every task from mixing cement to putting up fences. And not forgetting nearly 100 haircuts for the children and volunteers.



Jamie volunteering in Baan Unrak Children's Village, Thailand.

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