

ONLINE



watching him and seeing how he set his machines up whilst he was working on my leg. The guy is a genius.'

'Apart from myself, there are three others working from here. Amanda, Georgi Ward who also does the body piercing and Gary Witman who works on Saturdays, we are always busy and my first free slot is sometime in the middle of November. We all have our own styles of work, each specialising in different styles and subjects. My favourite type of work is stuff from the dark side, you know the sort of thing, demons, devils, aliens, predator and things with maggots. Anything nasty!' 'I'm quite a dark sinister person really.' 'My aim is to shock people, with my work. My ideal customer would be somebody who comes to me because they really want me to work on them.' 'I've got quite a few big custom pieces on the go at the moment. I don't just do the dark stuff, I have some very large colour pieces that I'm working on currently.' 'I also tattoo quite a few other tattooists as well, which pushes me on to do better work.'

Although Alan is self-taught, he agrees that the best way to get into the business is through a proper apprenticeship. 'I know how hard it is to get an apprenticeship these days. It was just as hard when I first started and I feel very sorry for them. I have between five and ten people asking for an apprenticeship a week. I am currently helping a chap open a studio at the moment. I really try and help as many people as I can who I feel have the potential to become good tattooists and want to do it for the love of the art, not for the money.' 'It's not good to learn by

