



your mistakes, it's good to learn by someone else's experience."

When I asked Alan where he drew the line to what he would and wouldn't tattoo his reply was very well thought out. "I don't like tattooing faces, I have done small pieces in the past. I don't mind the head because you can grow hair, but the face is everyone's cover to their book, if you're going for an interview, they are going to pre-judge you by what you've got on your face. No one is ever going to see you as the person, they will just see the tattoo first and make their mind up from that."

When he manages to get away from the studio, Alan relaxes by driving fast cars - not too fast officer you understand. He used to ride bikes but damaged his leg really badly so it's four wheels from now on. Alan also enjoys sinking a few beers with his mates, and finding good eating establishments as well as going to the odd tattoo convention for a change? Tattoos really are an all-consuming passion with him. And his commitment to the art of tattooing shows in his work.

One of the other artists working at Alzone is Amanda West. Amanda studied fashion and textiles and has formal art training, including fine art. Amanda started off her tattooing career as Alan's apprentice and apparently took to it like a duck to water. As she says "I'm a bit of a shy person really, when I was younger I used to play the violin and hated playing in front of people. I would get very nervous, but with tattooing I have found something that I can do whilst having people watching me working on them. I don't like the idea of working at conventions as I feel things get a bit too rushed. I like to spend a fair bit of time with my clients and appreciate the input that I can get into a design."

As you can see in some of the photos, her colour work is very impressive.

Georgi, another of Alzone's tattooists (and the resident piercer) sort of drifted into the job after she had moved to Gloucester with her