Liz’s education and interests from an early age have been mainly in arts and design.

Liz attended the School of St Mary and St Anne’s at Abbots Bromley, Staffs as an 11 year old boarder, and attended sixth form at St Mary’s High School in Chesterfield. Liz has a National Diploma in Art and Design from Chesterfield Art College, and gained a (hons) degree in Fine Art at Hull School of Art.

During and soon after her student years Liz spent two years travelling, studying and working in the USA, South America, India and Europe, gaining a wide range of experiences and knowledge of those places visited.

Since then, Liz has worked mostly in the arts fields as both a practicing artist and a designer. Her design work includes web design, graphic design and architectural design. As a professional artist Liz’s work has encompassed private commissions and public art, murals, teaching and resident artist in various youth clubs and schools.

From youth and community arts, Liz’s work became more graphic based. She designed, illustrated and typeset books for Scarthin Bookshop. Liz created posters and leaflets for local businesses and events, and even designed some of the first websites on the new internet. Liz and her husband Mike set up their own limited web design company which has been their main business for 24 years now. Clients include Powergen, Eon, Microsoft, Experian, bet365 and Cardano amongst many others.

**Building experience, Conservation areas and vernacular materials**

As a first-time buyer, Liz designed, built and project managed a significant home build in a conservation area, restoring and extending a stone farmhouse and its accompanying field barn, dry stone walls and historic ten-acre landscape.

The fields belonging to the house contain fluorspar mines and lead rakes, plus buried artifacts ranging from Roman votive objects, Elizabethan hammered coins through to Victorian silver buttons. The fields are early 18c. enclosures with limestone rubble boundary walls. Th meadows are intact with White Peak wildflowers intermingled with rare orchids and plenty of wildlife too. Its conservation is of paramount importance to Liz. Conservation of beautiful historic buildings and landscapes are her great passion.

By a twist of fate, the newly restored and built home won the ‘Budget Renovation’ award in 2005 from Period Living Magazine, and was featured in a nine-page spread.

As a result of the success of the building and renovation, Liz garnered a lot of interest from local people involved in design and renovation of their own projects. She was commissioned to design and build heritage extensions and new builds for clients in and around the village, so far, thirteen of them within the conservation area of Bonsall, the Peak District National Park and at Tansley.

With this experience gained building in limestone, and a talented local team of builders in tow, Liz founded the Bonsall Field Barn Project, a Charitable Trust that Restores and Protects Bonsall’s Historic Field Barn Landscape. So far, the Trust has restored 32 field barns, several miles of stone walls, gates, lime kilns, two Frameknitter’s workshops and a leadminer’s coe.

The Bonsall Field Barn Project won a Greenwatch Award in 2007, and a Derbyshire County Council Community champion award. It has been featured in Heart of the Country TV and many publications over the years.

With the Greenwatch prize money of £1000, Liz bought and fitted 16 roadside wooden field gates which completed an area of a restored historic landscape.

The Bonsall Field barn project has attracted international scholars. One student from Columbia University in New York did a research year studying the project, and wrote his masters degree thesis and PhD on the historic field barn and lead mining industrial landscape. Currently the former student is teaching Architectural Design at Glasgow School of Art, and is a Friend of the DHBT.

**Other community projects**

In 2009, Liz joined a small Bonsall group that put together an exhibition and pitch for the Calor Gas ‘Village of the Year’ award. It won the Best village in England that year. The prize money went to develop the Village Hall alterations.

Liz also co-founded the Bonsall Riders group. Apart from raising £10,000 for a hospice, the group raised grant money to restore four long bridlepaths including an old lead miner’s pack horse trail. The group had a footpath reinstated back to a bridlepath too by a campaign to Derbyshire County Council.

Liz engages in a lot of community work including the Bonsall Open Gardens committee for which she is Vice Chair. The committee raises approx. £3000 each year on the weekend, the proceeds go towards village projects, the school, church and OAPs.

Liz also helps to create the Bonsall Opera evening event, which raises money for the Bonsall Field Barn Project, Bonsall’s built heritage, and DHBT.

Liz has been a parish councilor, a member of the Bonsall Carnival committee and has helped to fight four legal battles in Bonsall, including a judicial review, to save its precious, unique environment.

**DHBT**

Liz has been a Trustee of Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust since 2014. She has been involved in campaigning, events, awards, exhibitions, graphic design and website production.

Liz also created a community gallery in one of DHBT buildings, as a way of involving the community in DHBT, creating goodwill and resulting in a higher valuation of the property at sale. £30,000 in five months, which then went towards the Wingfield Station project.

I have enjoyed organising public events and fundraisers, such as

* A three-night Dickens play at Hopkinson’s House over Christmas 2018.
* The Bonsall Field barn Project exhibition
* Aqueduct Cottage exhibition
* Art and Architecture Trail
* The Awards ceremony. Judging and organizing