I know what I like

Lovely Mug Ugly Mug

This is my favourite one

It's very chunky. It was given to me. My son gave me a couple of them a few years ago. Why do I, like it? Well I like it because it's a nice design and the colours are sophisticated. There are birds – they are funny bird.s They don't look like real birds but they are definitely birds. It's a nice sort of, not terribly sort of representative design, and a good colour. It's an interesting design. Very pleasant, very pleasing.

I think it's got a moniker on it. I don't know if you can see there… ? Yes, so that's presumably the artist -

One of the main reasons I like it is that it's dark inside- so this doesn't stain, and also it's quite wide mouthed. I'm not very good at drinking hot liquids. I find I'm often slow, with, other people (drinking) a cup of tea. I just don't like it being too hot, so this makes it cool down.

The only thing about that is that because I think it's chunky, if i'm sort of halfway through breakfast, I just like to heat it up in the microwave, you know and that gets very, very hot, too hot. The handle gets hot. It's very heavy , it might even be earthenware. That's the bottom there – it looks like earthenware doesn't it?

I Support
FWAG

I Support

My least favourite Is this one

Which is a standard one. It's narrow at the top.

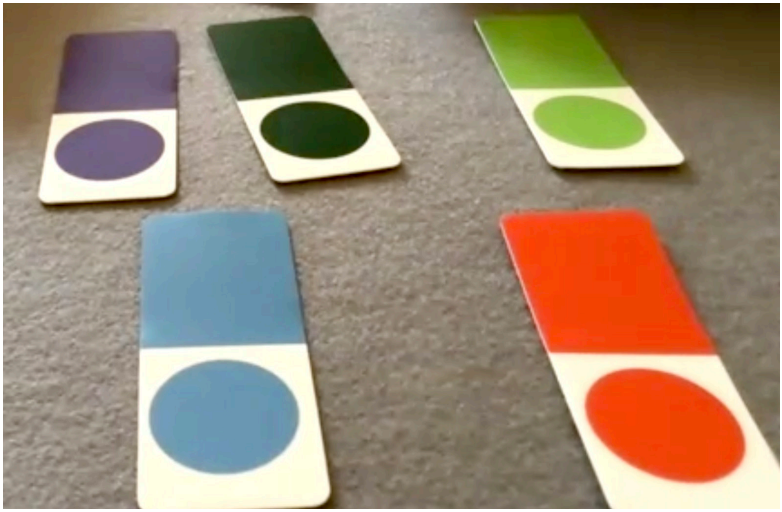
It's white inside and they stain like mad.

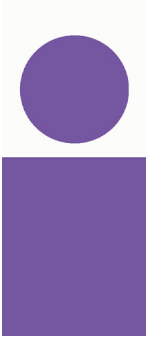
This is the standard commonest kind of mug I think.

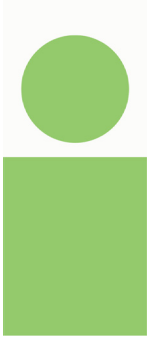
Is there anything about what it is on it that you don't like?

No not particularly. It says I support FWAG. I don't know if you know- it means the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. It's a group that (I'm not sure how well it's still doing) my daughter, who is a land agent did work for them up in Scotland. I know the Scottish FWAG is now defunct. I don't know what's happening to the English ones. Basically, they advised farmers and wildlife, on how to run their things well from an ethical point of view. From a green point of view. You could say they were a sort of NGO, you know. But that's incidental you know. It just happens to be a mug that was that shape with a bit of advertising and proseletysing I suppose.

Colour







Should I start with the ones I like?

I'm not going to choose vast amounts.

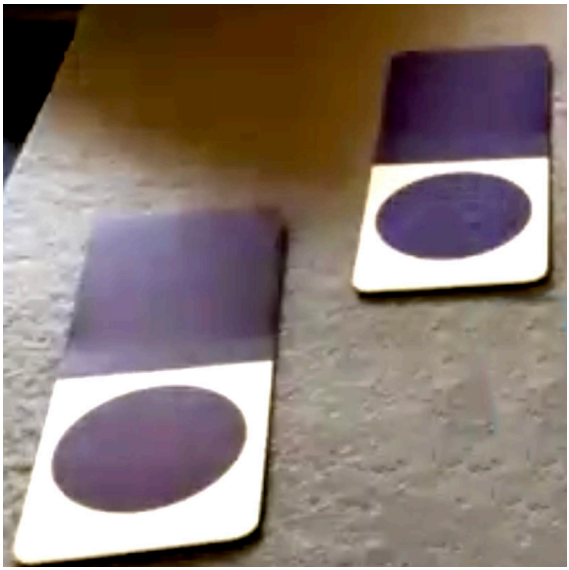
I've got five.

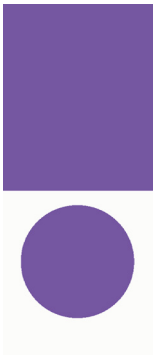
I think your colours are very blatant, there aren't many subtle colours there. Very upfront primary or verging on primary.

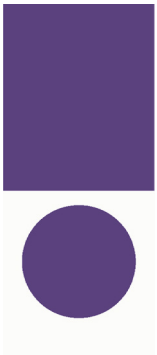
On the whole I prefer muted to blatant. I started off by trying to look for subtle colours amongst your range, but they are not really here -and obviously there's so many subtle colours it would be difficult…

That doesn't necessarily leave much in the way of positive results,

This certainly made me think more about colour doing this today because I don't really think about colour all that much - so that's something....







Purple (top right)- I mean everybody who grows old likes purple - when I grow up I shall wear purple, as the poet says. It's a poem that begins '*When I grow old I shall wear purple*'. I can't remember whose poem it is.*

I think if I have to choose something like a rucksack, or something like that – I have got the odd purple jacket. That's about it, probably. I just like it as a colour.

(Not decor) not as heavy as that, I can't imagine living in a room with purple walls.

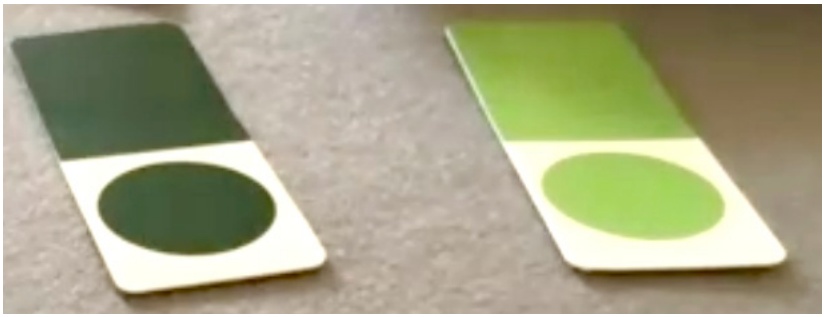
There's this one here, which I suppose you could say was less blatant, for instance. There on the bottom left. So perhaps in a way that's a more interesting colour. I don't know why I didn't choose it. I probably should have chosen that, but I didn't.

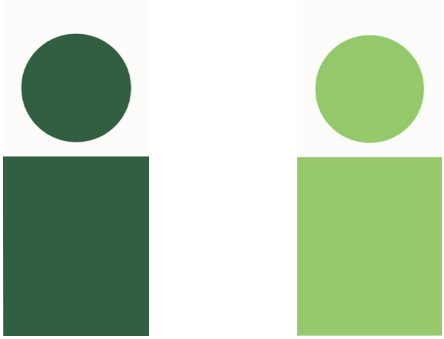
* Warning -poem by Jenny Joseph

(The purple collar) - I think that is just as it's happened .- I dont think I bought it because of that. I bought it more for the red.

There's a red amongst my colours. I do like quite like bright red. I wear it a lot, and although - most of my clothing isn't that, I do quite like this light red that you've got there, which is almost as though it has got a bit of white in it - I think red verging on, with a touch of white is more interesting than most reds.

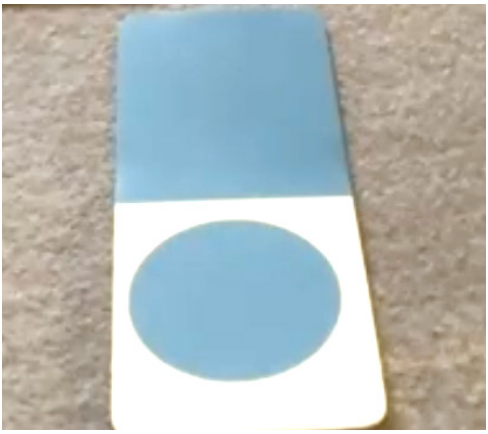
I wear quite a lot red. It's just a colour I like. You've got to choose a colour - something to put on you know. and the colour is flattering.

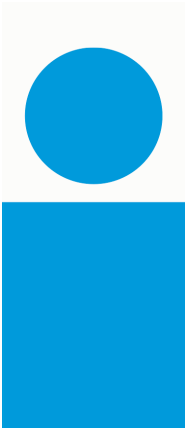


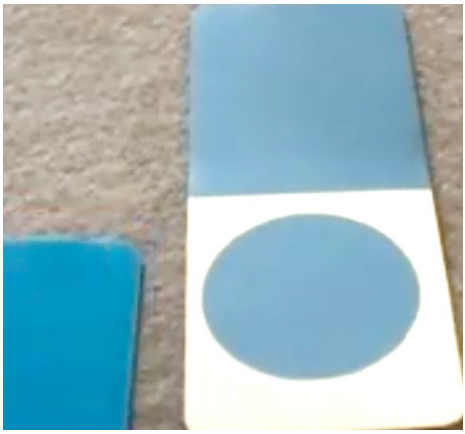


The dark green. I like dark green. I like wearing dark green I think it's an interesting natural colour and ditto the light green - which are the two greens I have got (here).

I just like green - no particular reason really. A restful colour you know, like nature.



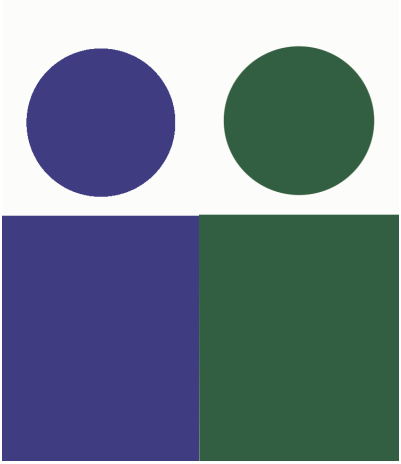




The Saxe blue

I think that's quite an interesting colour. It doesn't have any personal connections at all, but it's verging on turquoise which I think is quite a good colour for clothes.

That's a nice turquoise that's a nice relatively subtle turquoise as opposed to this one (bottom left) which is a bit blatant.

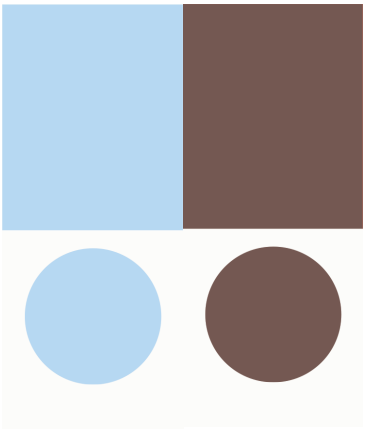


Colour combinations

I quite like a good dark blue and a good positive green together. I think that works quite well. When I got married my hat had blue and green ribbons on it and I chose the two going together.

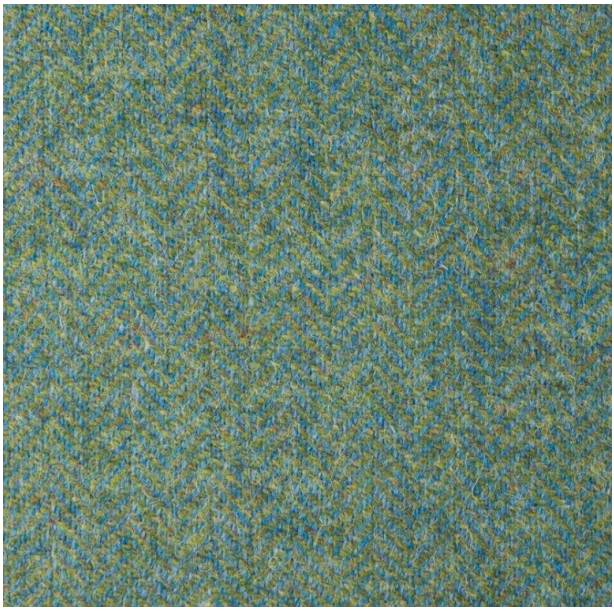
They weren't quite that blue or that green, but I think the startling-ness of the blue against the green is something I positvely like. That is certainly a combination. I had a hat made and it had blue and green ribbon on it.

I would wear both those colours but not as a combination, but it's not a very common one. You don't see much of it on offer. I suppose if a blouse turned up with those colour combinations, I might feel attracted towards it, but it doesn't happen. I mean you have to buy the clothes that the manufacturers produce.



I think pale blue and brown is quite nice.

I don't have any particular association with little reason to use it, but that's quite pleasing I think. Yes, just a pleasing conjuction

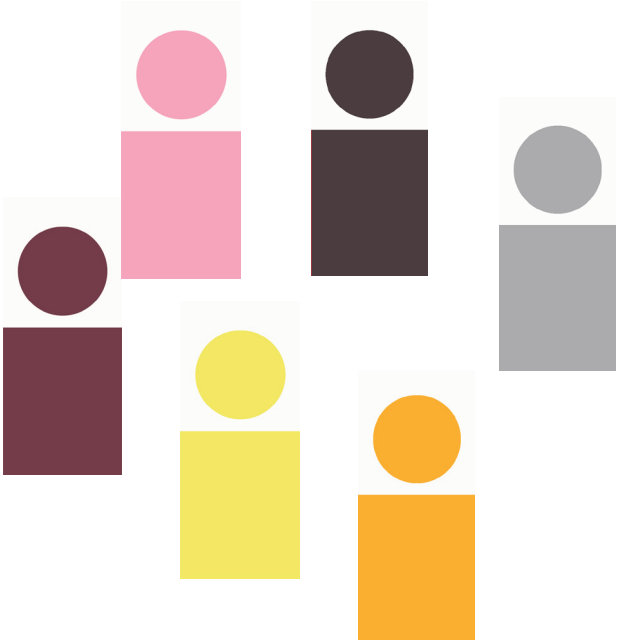


A combination I would choose that you haven't got here is, I think I sort of a grey-green and the navy can be very fetching. But you haven't actually got either of those two here, you know, but that would be one (combination) that I would feel pleasured by. A positive navy and a grey-green sort of colour.

The sort of colours that are betwixt and between - like say, a grey green colour you know, that's got both colours in it, but isn't definitely one or the other? It would be probably more turquoise, well... a softer green and a grey. The sort of colour you sometimes see it Harris tweed.

Walls - I would choose something white or off-white or greyish. These walls in my place are a pale grey, grey-blue.

Furniture, I don't know. I don't have any particularly strong feelings. It's just a question of what appears really. I've got two sofas in this room, one is a cream colour, the other is Saxe blue. Just as it happens, really - you choose a basic sort of theme and keep it pale. I think mostly that's the best thing, not to have anything too oppressive.

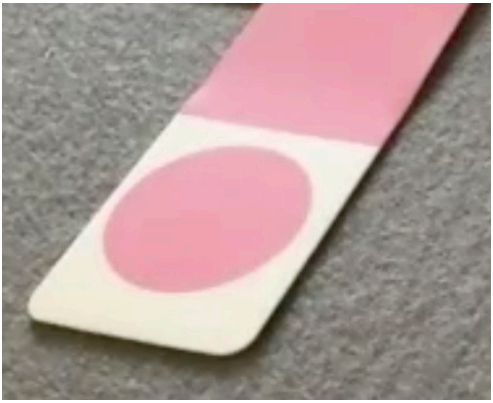


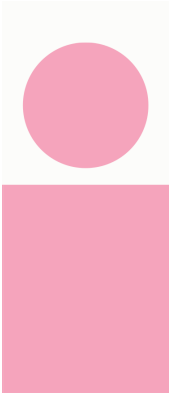
My least favourites

I can pick you out say five that I don't like, and I think I feel neutral about the rest.

All those are thumbs down.

I honestly can't remember much about what I wore when I was younger except my school uniform, which was maroon. Had you had - a decent maroon, I would definitely have put that into my least favourite colours but you haven't got a maroon.





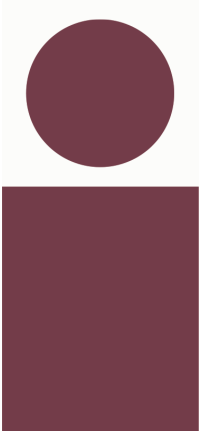
I don’t like pink

I don’t like pink, I occasionally wear it because it’s quite flattering for someone with grey hair. But this: ‘we should dress every little girl in pink’, I find extremely irritating. Thank goodness, I only have grandsons who are never going to wear pink!

It’s very, very, uninspiring and tedious. I think little girls will be talking about not liking pink for the rest of their lives. Like me, not liking maroon.

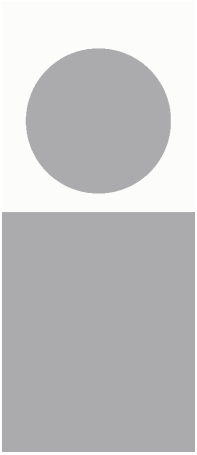
Little boys don’t get blue on the whole. Perhaps the little boys are less interested in clothes and their parents don’t wish to force it on them.

I never really liked it but I neve felt so strongly about it, but I react to it now because it’s on every little girl.



Brown - I just think it's dull and boring. I can't think of anything positive to say about it. It's oppressive if it's around windows and things like that, around window frames, unless it's an interesting natural wood or it has a bit of texture. Whereas that - there is no texture to that at all .

I wouldn't want to live with that, certainly.



The grey is very dull too.

That has got nothing much to say about it. much to say And everybody has great cars, you know, and you know, if you have a grey car you can't pick it out in a car park, I do not understand why so many cars are grey.

The manufacturers are very unimaginative

I just don’t terribly like yellow

I never ever wear it. It does nothing for my complexion. It makes people look sallow, you know. So I am just not very keen on yellow and any shape or form.

I don’t find it positive. It’s not a colour I feel positive about it any aspect of my life. Particularly that rather acidic limey green one

This one is verging on yellow yes, if it was a bit more orange...

This one is better - this has got a bit of pinkness in it

But this one here is just dead boring, I think.

Personal Space

I like to, I spend most my time in the sitting room, for most of the year that's where I spend most of my time. I do like to sit in my conservatory particularly in the autumn and in the spring, you know when it's warm enough but not too hot. Though it doesn't get all that hot because it's got a solid roof. It's not a glass house, - I do like my conservatory a lot, you know I would miss it if I moved, yes.

It's the view and the light. You can open the doors and you're half in the garden,you know. I don't often actually sit in the garden, I don't know quite why. I don't like being in the high sun though I can put up a parasol. I'm just very happy in the conservatory.

Reading, or you know, on the web or. something. I have an I-pad so I take it in there. I have a sort of a settee in the conservatory so if I'm in there I sit on that.

Are you a keen gardener?

I used to but I've rather given it up I find it a bit much, and I handed it over to a competent gardner. So I don't do very much I just do pots and things like that you know.

I do like having it a lot but I've lost interest in doing the hard work and well, I don't think I am physically capable of some of it. Also, it's mostly shrubs and they need pruning and you have the problem of getting rid of the prunings, you know. He takes that away, - he has taken quite a lot of stuff and when the leaves are down you know that's a big job clearing up leaves if you don't have a blower.

I've got lots of big trees I've got a great big- socking great old beech right down at the bottom- and an oak and other I've got an Ivy and a Virginia creeper on the side of the house and that produces lots of leaves - There is a lot of leaf clearing. So doing that you know was hard work. /anyway, he does it all now very easily with a blower.

Somebody did a PhD and analysed the green spaces of England. They came to conclusion that Sheffield had more trees and any other city in Europe. Not many people think about that when they think of Sheffield.

I have lived in this flat since ’94 but we have been in Sheffield since ‘76. My husband had died and - we had been in Saudi Arabia and I had come back and I lived for a short while in Riverdale road round the corner, where my son had a flat. I lived with him for a while and then you know I needed to have somewhere my own. So I bought this place and just been great suited me very well.

(These houses) they were the rich people -built them, you know. Mine was built by a family called Osborn and they were one of the family steel companies in Sheffield. It was a family house. in fact, a lot of them haven’t been to converted into flats, I think this is the only one on this road that has been flatted.. I know they have been around and about -but quite a lot of them are still one domain. Yes, it makes sense to convert them but you know a surprising number are still entire as it were.

I put some some of those (trees) in over 20 years ago you know. When I moved in I got a landscape gardener to come and do the garden, resort it you know. Put a fair amount in , yes, that’s right. But there are more mature ones around. I mean the the beech at the bottom is at least 100 years old.

I quite like a bit of space, very much so. I mean, I suppose, sooner or later, I will downsize, but I think I'd want you know, three or four rooms. So that people can come and stay. You need a bit of room- I don't think I'd like to move anywhere, I couldn't be outside. - I'd want to have at least a balcony or courtyard or somewhere to sit. Yes, that would be a very high priority. To have that availability, yes, definitely. Apart from that -basically you need a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and sitting room and it is very nice, as I say, to have that conservatory .

But you know I mean one's lucky one has lived where one chose you know. Hopefully that will carry on.

Well of course care homes to have sitting rooms, where people congregate. I don't know much about care homes actually. It can be positive - I know one or two people who actually enjoyed their care homes. They tended to be superior care homes with gardens and things and nice staff .

Do you enjoy cooking?

Baking yes, I do yes. I do carry on cooking for myself, I don't buy much pre-cooked food at all. - I enjoy cooking enough to keep doing it - eciding what you want to eat, sourcing it and producing it. 'A' - I enjoy cooking and 'B' I prefer my own food. I would hate to live on institutional food, definitely, yes. It's creative. I don't paint or sculpt but I can produce a decent meal.

I never have really grown vegetables at all ever. We had a big house up in Fullwood and a big garden there or I grew soft fruits and a few lettuces, but no, not a lot.

I have got in a bit of a rut yes, (but) I do look at recipes in the press and if there is something I like, I make a copy and do it. I think I've gone, like many people, I have gone more vegetarian -(I'm not vegetarian) but more vegetarian. So I found some reall good vegetarian dishes .I'm quite keen on making in bulk and then freezing it, you know. yeah, I have a lot of soup, and I make a big pot of soup and then freeze it. A lot of people who live alone do that.

Do you like entertaining?

Not terribly, no. When you cease to be a couple you don't get out to dinner parties and I don't miss it terribly you know, because often you were sitting there with people rather boring eating rather boring food. I have a few friends that I have round, and I go to them. But quite few really.

As a singleton, it's a different social scene. I don't know why dinner parties should be couples, but they are. It's stupid, absolutely stupid, but there it is. - I don't terribly mind because they were never my favorite sport, no. I mean, I like the people I like, but you know to go to a dinner party where you are just the wife of your husband, you know, I mean it's not my scene.

A lot of my social life has been going for a walk with people . That's where interaction - that's fine actually sometimes, if you are a singleton. If you're in a group you can circulate . Walk with somebody for some time and then move on to somebody else. That suits me very well.