

# The **WORLD** in our street

Interview with

## Teya Nilphetch of Thainamoon Massage & Beauty

The name of the business comes from the name of the village in Thailand which is where the original owner's partner's village was. Teya took over the business in September 2013 and has kept the name. She originally owned the Thai supermarket called Far East Flavour which was located in Brook Street opposite the salon but running 2 businesses required so much juggling and was too much so she decided to focus on the Massage.

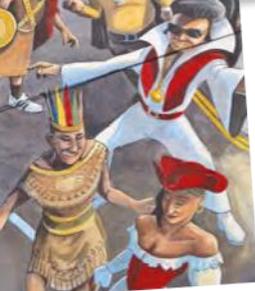
They specialise in massage treatment ranging from relaxing, deep tissue and they do waxing and facials but the main focus is massage. They do about 460 massages per month so it is a busy business and each treatment on average last an hour. There are six masseurs including Teya and most are part time. The salon is open 10.30 – 8.00pm 7 days per week so it is busy.

Teya is getting married in July in Italy. She is originally from Phuket in Thailand and her family are all still over there. She came to the UK in 2006 when she was married to an English man, she has a 9 year old boy who lives with his father in Middlesbrough, they split up after 2 years and Teya has a 13 year old daughter back in Thailand who she went back to see twice last year and is hoping that her daughter Bay will be able to come over and join her and her new husband later this year.

Thai massage is quite unique, it has been around a long time and it is getting more popular. It involves a lot of stretching and flexibility. They use a plain carrier oil so there is no problem if clients have got sensitivities.

Thainamoon get most of its clients through word of mouth and has excellent reviews on line and is a Trip Advisor award winning massage centre, it also appears first on Google so this is really positive.

Two of the staff are from Nepal and one from Kazakhstan.





**BROOK STREET**

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Most of the clients are local but Teya thinks that about 30% are tourists who are on city breaks and a lot of people stay in B&Bs and hotels on Hoole Road and then they walk into Chester along Brook Street and so there is passing trade. Also they are open until 8.00pm which works well as in the city centre it seems to go very quiet at 5.30. Teya previously rented a room in Rufus Court where she did massage.

Teya has 2 younger brothers back in Thailand and she would like to bring them over to visit. She misses her family but does find it rather too hot in Thailand, last time she went for 5 weeks and by week 4 she was desperate for some English weather! Her parents are still in Thailand, they are scared of flying so are unlikely to make the 16 or 17 hour journey so Teya goes to see them. She is able to keep in contact through Face Time and the technology that is now available really helps.

She trained in Manchester for 2 years and at West Cheshire College for a year. In Thailand, massage is just part of the culture, it is not a luxury as it is seen here – even the poorest would have massage. She just did massage and really enjoys it. It is a combination between Swedish and Thai.

The original Thai massage is on the floor rather than on a bed, the floor is said to absorb some of the negative energy and also in some massages they will walk over the body. It is much more intense than a Swedish massage so therefore what they offer here is a fusion.

98% off clients are actually suffering when they come in from some kind of back problem. She encourages clients to keep massage in their life routines and encourages exercise to release “happy hormones”. The youngest client is a girl age 9 and her brother age 13 – their Mum is a doctor. They have a lot of people who work in the medical profession as clients. Her oldest client is an 89 years old who has a foot massage.

