



NPA

BI-MONTHLY NEWS-SHEET

APRIL 1997

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This will be rather a slim volume but then it generally is a quiet time and there is plenty in the pipe line.

Plans are slowly going ahead for the festival in September 1998 and it promises to be a stimulating and exciting programme, so - put the dates in your diaries NOW - September 4th, 5th and 6th!

We have had a very poor response to our request for feed back about the viability of the Directory which has been disappointing. At the last AGM a certain amount of criticism was levelled at the committee over the latest directory. We have taken this on board and tried to look at all the ways the publication could go. We have to use our personal time and resources sensibly whilst taking on board everyone's concerns. With this in mind, we would appreciate your views on the best and most efficient way of marketing should we go ahead with it for next year.

By the time you receive this, the Harrogate Spring event on Saturday 12th April will just about be taking place. Ian Gregory and John Pollex are giving a day of lectures and demonstrations. Although places are limited and there has been a tremendous response to this event - don't be put off coming. Probably best to give Chris or Isa a ring just to make sure that you will have a seat.

Thanks to your excellent response to this event; we hope to arrange another one for later in the year. Watch this space for further details.

Here's a thought
We thought
You could think about -

The committee is not the problem
The committee is not the solution
The membership is the solution

With apologies to Bill Clinton!!!

Happy Spring and in the next News-sheet we will be able to give you a lot more details of future events.

Chris and Isa

EXHIBITIONS

Members might be interested to see the questionnaire we have devised to help us when approaching galleries and planning exhibitions with them. We make 2 copies and ask the gallery to sign one and return it to us as an agreement. Please let us know if you think we have missed anything out.

EXHIBITION NOTES

Proposed dates of exhibition

Name of venue

Full address

Tel no/fax

Name of contact person

Address and telephone (if different from above)

Nature of exhibition: how is the exhibition perceived by the gallery and by NPA?

Is it shared or solo?

Amount of work that can be accommodated

Any restrictions on type of work to be submitted?

Are there display cases for small pieces and jewellery?

Are plinths needed?

Selection date

Nature of selection (pieces, slides or photos)

Who will select?

Delivery of work

(dates, parking facilities for delivery, reception of work, storage of boxes/unselected work

Setting up date

Who is involved in setting up?

Insurance

Commission on sales: Gallery commission, NPA commission

Supervision of the exhibition

Recording of sales

Will pots be removed at the time of sale, or will they remain and be collected at the end of the show?

Will the gallery pay potters directly, or will NPA be responsible at the end of the exhibition? Clarify details of sales, time scales and responsibilities

Preview date

How will the preview be staffed?

Invitations - who is responsible?

Other costs i.e. wine etc

Publicity- who does what?

Deadline dates for publicity materials. Would it be possible to sell directories during the exhibition?

Catalogue or hand-out sheet?

Does the gallery need descriptions of work, or list of exhibitors' addresses?

Opening times of exhibition

Workshops - will there be scope for these during the exhibition ?

Funding/advertising of workshops

End of exhibition

Take down dates

How much help is required?

Collection of pots and storage

Contract. Letter specifying arrangements to prevent any misunderstandings. (2 copies, one to be signed and returned by gallery).

EDITORIAL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lionel personally for all his hard work in keeping the show on the road during the past year. His help has been invaluable and he now stands a greater chance of retaining what hair he has left on his head.

Please keep on sending me articles to include in the News Sheet; they are always most welcome.

Margaret

We would like to thank Lionel Garrett publicly for all the help he has given with this newsletter over the last year. He has done a marvellous job in helping to set it up and get it printed and given endless support to our editor, Margaret Teasdale. He has also helped with the festivals and given unstintingly of his time in so many ways. **THANK YOU LIONEL!** It has been very much appreciated by us all.

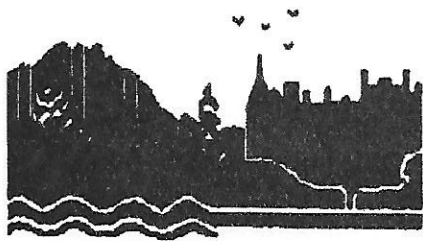
We would like to welcome Michèle Beverley on to the team now as she takes over from Lionel and wish her tranquility and - happy printing!

Chris, Isa and the Committee

I am pleased to be able to take over from Lionel and to be able to put something back into the NPA as well as to receive from it. Please remember that I too am a mere potter and not a computer or typing whizz - kid (yet!), and it will help me enormously if you can possibly send any items for the Newsletter ready typed. If your item appears to have been retyped, it will have been changed on the computer. Please send clear, unsmudged photocopies of articles from other sources. Photos reproduce better if they have clear contrasts and strong shapes.

As more time will now be spent, because of distance, in liaising between the Editor, myself and the printer, the closing date for copy for each issue may be a little sooner than you are used to.

Michèle Beverley



WILL LEVI MARSHALL
MFA (Allred) Fellow C.P.A.
CLAY & GLAZE SUMMER SCHOOL
31st August - 6th September 1997

A unique opportunity to learn a wide variety of throwing and assembling skills, combined with an easy approach to glaze formulation which will set you up for a lifetime of exploration. An intensive 6 days in outstanding countryside, on the shores of the Solway coast, with expert tuition in fully equipped pottery. Limited places. Excellent local B & B. or camping/caravanning available in the extensive arts centre grounds.

Orchardton Pottery, Auchencaim,
Castle Douglas, Dumfries DG7 1QL
Scotland.
tel: 0155664 0399 fax: 0155664 0116

Impressed and Incised Ceramics Coll Minogue

Impressing and Incising have been used as methods of decoration by potters throughout history. Today, these same techniques continue to be used by potters and ceramic artists worldwide, in creative and innovative ways. In this book, Coll Minogue describes the working methods of several of these ceramicists. The range of international work illustrated - including contemporary, historic and prehistoric pieces - is indicative of the versatility of impressing and incising and demonstrates the scope for personal expression which is possible using these techniques.

'There are writers capable of seducing even the flintiest of hearts with their passion for their subject. Coll Minogue has achieved this in her new ceramic handbook Impressed and Incised Ceramics'
Ceramic Review

A & C Black Publishers, London. Paperback £10.99 Available through bookshops.

To obtain a signed copy from the author please send a cheque for £11.99 (includes £1 for p+p) to:
**Coll Minogue, Cowden Cottage, Abercairny, Crieff,
Perthshire, PH7 3QZ**

EARTH & FIRE 3

28th and 29th June 1997

The Best of British Ceramics

**Don't miss this year's Summer Fair
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- ☆ 70 selected potters exhibiting
- ☆ "Setting Out" section for recent graduates
- ☆ Top quality demonstration programme
- ☆ Firings
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL

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Large quantity of underglaze and glaze stains - various colours :most in plastic containers, some with original serial numbers and manufacturer's shade no. Also small amount of oxides and onglaze colours.
£15 for all

Also 6 sieves, good condition, 60's, 80's, 120's in various widths: £20 for all

Phone Louise Burke 01937 842076

EXHIBITIONS' CALENDER

Ray Macrow 0191 4167043

- * 29th March - 11th May
Raku across the Pennines, Thursdays - Mondays 10.00am - 5.00pm
Stokoe House Ceramics Gallery, Market Place, Alston, Cumbria
- 12th April (Sat.)
Lecture Day, Harrogate
- * 26th April (Sat.)
Craft Fair, The Platform Gallery, Clitheroe
- * 5th July (Sat.)
Open Air Art Exhibition, York.
- * 26th July (Sat.)
Craft Fair, The Platform Gallery, Clitheroe. (To be confirmed)
- * 8/9/10th August
Potfest, Penrith.
- 9th Sept. - 2nd October
Annual Selected Exhibition, The Art Centre, Washington.
- 20th Sept. - 8th November
Annual Selected Exhibition, Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston.
- 15th Nov. - mid Jan '98
Christmas Selling Exhibition, Cleveland Craft Centre
- * Nov/Dec (exact dates to be confirmed) Jim Robison, Booth House Gallery Exhibition, Holmfirth, Yorks.

* The NPA committee is not directly responsible for the organisation of these events.

REGIONAL EVENTS & NEWS



NOSTEL PRIORY HALL -Charity Appeal on behalf of The MacMillan Nurses, Saturday, March 15th.

Three NPA members were invited to have their work on display at this event—Sylvette Perrier Thompson, Freda Notley and David Abbey.

There was a coffee morning followed by afternoon tea which were officially opened by the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Wakefield. Both sessions were well attended and £1,000 was raised for the charity.

SPRING EVENT - Harrogate College - Sat. April 12th 10.00 am - 4.00pm

Ian Gregory —Paper clay and ceramic sculpture

John Pollex —Brushed, sponged and painted slip

All members and non-members are reminded about this event. Do come along if you can: tea and coffee are provided, but please bring your own lunch.

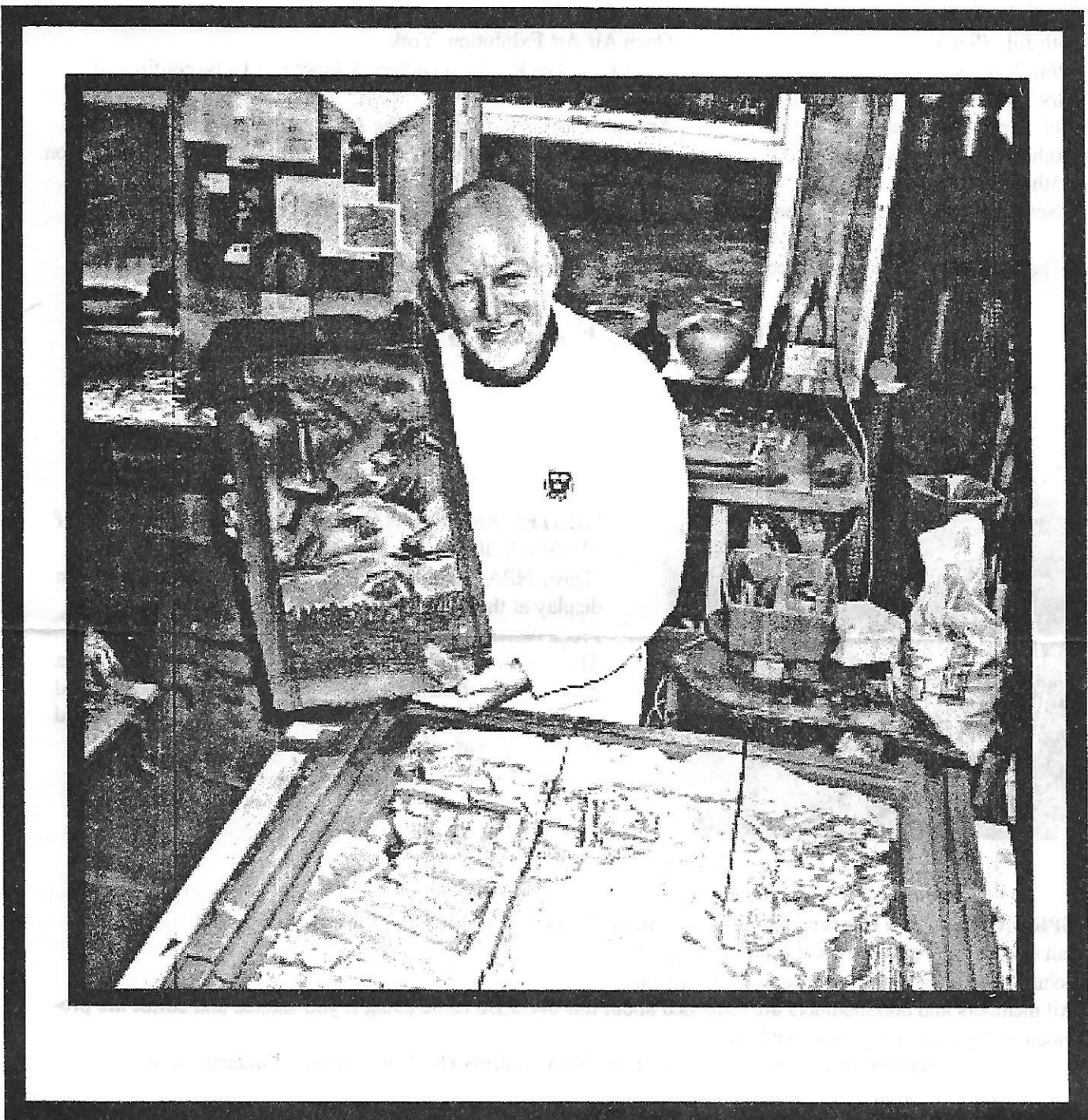
NPA members £12 Non-members £14 NPA students £8 Non-member students £10

ADULT LEARNERS' WEEK 19 - 25 th May

Many activities underway. If you want information or to help with "Learning and the Arts", contact Sue Yeadon, Bradford Education and Advice Centre on 01274 754149

YORK CITY OPEN AIR ART EXHIBITION SATURDAY 5th JULY

Don't forget to send in your entry form by the first of May. Tom Hughes, the City Centre Manager is open to any ideas for enlivening the pottery area, so if you have any thoughts, contact either Chris Uitley 01904 608409 or Caroline Till 01904 794171. We will pass on the ideas.



Jim Robison pictured with one of the three maquettes which helped him to win the design competition. Part of one of the large panels can also be seen: this one depicts the Holmfirth flood, old mills and dry stone walling.

HOLMFIRTH CERAMIC MURALS

JIM ROBISON

Jim Robison's ceramic sculptures have been permanently located in many varied places-for instance a Dewsbury park, a doctor's surgery in Lincolnshire and the famous Jorvik Museum of the Vikings in York.

Jim travelled to Heidelberg to do research for a series of panels for a shopping centre at Cambridge, its English twin town.

But up to now, none of his works has found a resting place in Holmfirth.

Having made the town his home since 1975, he might well have been disappointed about this situation. However he is delighted that it will soon be remedied now- as a result of winning a competition to enhance the entrance hall of Holmfirth Civic Hall.

Being an American (he was once a jet engine mechanic in the (USAF) he was tickled to hear one of the organisers say "I'm glad the local lad got it".

Jim, former head of ceramics at Bretton College runs the Booth House Gallery at Holmfirth with his wife Liz.

The three large panels he made for the walls of the entrance hall were unveiled when the Civic Hall officially re-opened on February 28, after a £112,000 improvement scheme.

Most of this has been accomplished with Arts Council lottery cash and has been devoted to meeting the needs of disabled people, including a lift to serve all three floors.

Jenny Lockwood, halls officer for Kirklees Council, said the Arts Council were keen to see a public art feature incorporated in the improvements. And with the the hall being the regular setting for the annual and hugely successful Holmfirth Art Exhibition, it was felt to be particularly appropriate.

Six artists entered the competition which was arranged and Jim's design idea was chosen from a short list of three. Other ideas include textile hangings, a relief sculpture, an engraving and a stained glass window.

The selection panel chose Jim's work because it was felt that, more than all the other work, it seemed to depict the nature of the Holme valley.

This has certainly been the artist's intention and he looked keenly at both the history and the landscape of the locality before designing the three panels.

One calls the Holmfirth flood and the names of the mills damaged by the teeming waters- Bilberry, Digley, Hinchcliffe, Bottoms Mill, Holmfirth.

A Second panel recalls the field patterns of the hills around Holmfirth, and a third the town's buildings, including the Parish Church and the Methodist Church. The make-up of this panel accents the vertical nature of the Holmfirth landscape- where you have to look well up to see the sky.

Though the panels are to be wall mounted, there is a strong three-dimensional aspect. More than a ton of coarse stoneware clay has been involved in the making, though this weight has been reduced greatly by the firing.

Porcelain has been added in some parts to provide a light contrast to the darker background, where green and earthen colours predominate. The dry stone wall which goes across all three panels has a special authenticity- it has been modelled by casting against a real dry stone wall!

The modelling of the panels has taken place on a specially built ceramic frames with rims which have a deliberately industrial feel- again to typify the nature of the locality and the man-made intrusions if the landscape.

Jim, who has worked on the panels since last summer, is just seeing his first book published. It's a handsome hand-book, titled *Large Ceramics* and published by A & C Black of London.

From the Huddersfield Daily Examiner, Friday, January 3, 1997

HIRING OF NPA PLINTHS

(Revision since last August's News sheet's information)

Members or non-members, can hire NPA's exhibition plinths for their own private exhibitions. They are stored at the house of Janina Emery (see map)

Procedure:

- 1) Phone Janina Emery to book the plinths. Telephone: W: 01642) 384041
H: 01325) 721064
- 2) Arrange your own transport to collect the plinths.
- 3) Pay Freda Notley £10.- for the hire for NPA members or £25.- for non-members.
(Make your cheque out to: NPA Plinths Hire)
- 4) Arrange your own transport to return the plinths at an agreed date.

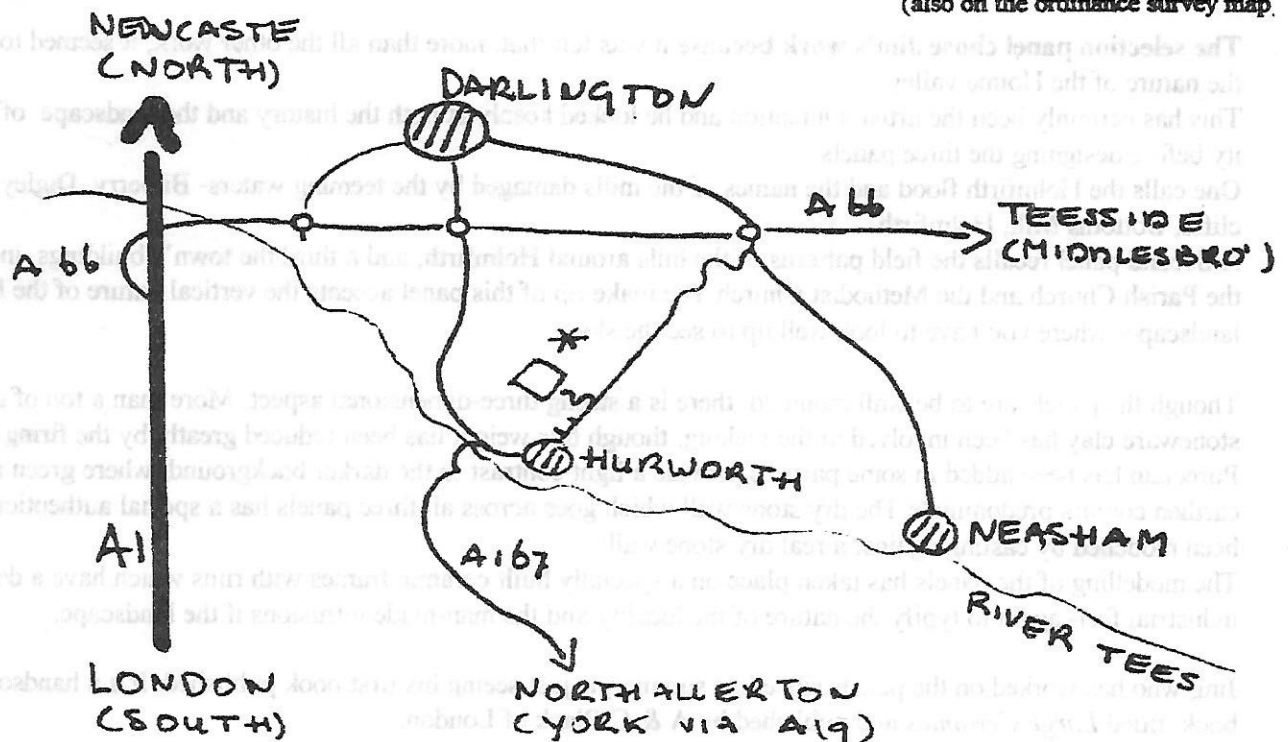
NOTE:

NPA will not be responsible for the maintenance (paintwork) of the plinths. Should damage to the plinths occur during the hiring period (including during transport), you are required to repair or renew the damaged piece(s). A prompt return of the plinths to home base at Janina's on the agreed date is essential, or no booking system can be operated.

The terms of rental will be under review at the next committee meeting. I don't expect there to be any changes. However, we will keep you posted in the news sheet.

Janina Emery

*) Address: Hill Top Farm (off Roundhill Road)
Hurworth, Darlington Co. Durham DL2 2EC
(also on the ordnance survey map)



NATIONAL EVENTS & NEWS

ABERYSTWYTH -International Potters' Festival - 4 -6 th July -Aberystwyth Arts Centre

North and South Wales Potters and Aberystwyth Arts Centre are holding their 6th International Potters' Festival. Guestes include Jeff Oestreich(USA), Nina Hole (Denmark), Miroslav Paral (Czech Republic),Anna Zamorska(Poland), Martin Minderman (Germany),Sandor Kecskemeti (Hungary), Sue Halls (UK),& Ian Gregory (UK) with Jim Robison as MC.Featuring Kiln building & firing,Fire installations,slide shows,films,lectures,trade stands,bookstalls,live music ,& bars.

Details from Aberystwyth Arts Centre,Aberystwyth,Ceredigion, SY23 3DE Tel:01970 622883

Pottery on the Internet *

A recipe from Peggy Heer. Choose to use the spooze that glues; you won't lose the pots you used [to]

SPOOZE 1/3 - your clay body 1/3 part vinegar 1/3 part corn syrup

Mix well. Add a few drops of peroxide to keep spooze from fermenting.

Wash your tools and brushes after use as the stuff dries hard and is very tough to clean.

Use for putting clay parts together 'tis wonderful glue. I have seen two-foot slabs put together at a 90 degree angle and held in the air without pulling away from each other. It's great for filling greenware cracks, attaching parts, even for filling cracks in biscuitware

Peggy Heer is a potter in Edmonton, Alberta and a frequent commentator on Clayart

Reproduced from: The Studio Potter Newsletter PO Box 70 Goffstown NH 03045 USA

Following this recipe from Peggy Heer regarding Spooze In CPA News (reproduced from The Studio Potter Network Newsletter with the help Of Warren Tucker the following communication via the Net took place:

To Peggy Heer

Re your recipe for Spooze

1. Are the equal one third parts by weight or by volume?
2. Is the clay body dry or plastic?

Thanks for your help

Mike Bourne Chairman, Midland Potters Association

Hi Mike the Spooze is equal parts with what ever measurement you want. I generally take a glass jar and put in the vinegar about 1/3 then the corn syrup to 2/3 and then add the DRY clay body that I am going use the spooze on to a mix you require for the job being done. I generally use dry trimmings for this part of the mix. If It is too wet for your sticking purposes then add a bit more clay. If too dry add a bit more of the vinegar/corn syrup The 1/3 measurements are just a starting point. For example a slab construction would need a stiffer mix.....handles, a mid mix and so on. Don't forget to keep unused spooze brushes/equipment in a cup of water as you work or they will need a good soaking to get it off if allowed to dry on tools. Clean off the rim of your jar before closing up as the lid will stick on 'real' tight. Adding wet clay will also add water to the mix and If doesn't work as well. Hope It does the job for you. As Always In Clay **Peggy**

Mike Bourne

*Thanks to MPA for permission to use this article.

Re "A Day in the life of....."

On reading through "A Day in the Life of" in the last newsletter, I was appalled to find the wayward apostrophe in the reference to Barnsley High Girls' School. I was ready to blame Lionel until I remembered that I had sent my copy in "oven ready". I checked my copy and indeed it was my slip. I can only blame my new word processor. I am still not really in charge of it and it occasionally takes its revenge by churning out gibberish. I can also spell *Crambe cordifolia* correctly. *Sheila Spencer*

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ARTISTS NEWSLETTER, CPA NEWS. CERAMIC

REVIEW COLUMNS

* **LOUISE O'CONNOR Tel: 0161 860 7826**

1 Queen's Court, 145 Manchester Road, Chorlton-cum-

Hardy, Manchester, M16 OEA.

* Co-optee

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to

Donna Nicol, 8 Irwin Avenue, Heworth, York Y03 7TX

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Closing date for copy for the June Newsletter is May 16 th.