

£1.50

Free to  
members

# NPA NEWS

The magazine of the Northern Potters Association

July - August 2010

[www.northern-potters.co.uk](http://www.northern-potters.co.uk)



In this issue:

NPA at Sadirac, A Potter's Moll writes..., Making a Raku Piglet

# Members' Gallery

Let me have images of your latest work for inclusion in the members' gallery - Ed



Brenda Wright - **Small bowls**,  
thrown, stoneware

Margaret Lawrenson - **Bowl**  
Thrown, stoneware



Liz Collinson - **Vessel** - Porcelain + stains



**Cover :**  
Stephen Green  
**Fish bowl**,  
hand built, stoneware  
See page 7



Joanne Cook -  
**Jack Russell**

Val Marshall - **Raku Dishes**



## Your Committee

Ian Marsh, Chair & Website  
35 Meltham Road, Marsden, Huddersfield, HD7 6JZ  
Tel: 01484 846 312  
Email: marshiepots@aol.com

Alan Birchall, Treasurer  
Tel: 07709 509985  
Email: doc.albirchall@ntworld.com

Julie Ward, Secretary  
45 Whitestone Dr, York, YO31 9HY  
Tel: 01904 611895  
Email: jgward@hotmail.co.uk

Barbara Wood, Vice Chair & Newsletter  
Old Mills, Seaton Ross, York, YO42 4NH  
Tel: 01759 318146  
Email: barbara.wood@ukonline.co.uk

Matt Tyas, Exhibitions  
40 Hartcliffe Avenue, Penistone, Sheffield, S36 6BQ  
Tel: 01226 765657 / 07891 189892  
Email: matt@matthewtyas.co.uk

Margaret Lawrenson, Membership  
'Seven Firs', Kemp Rd, Swanland, E.Yorks, HU14 3LZ  
Tel: 01482 634784  
Email: margaret@sevenfirs.karoo.co.uk

Sylvia Holmes, Coordinator for regional groups  
Chapel Farm, Thixendale, N Yorkshire, YO17 9TG  
Tel: 01377 288340  
Email: sylviajaneholmes@yahoo.co.uk

Helen Walsh  
York Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York YO1 7EW  
Email: helen.walsh@ymt.org.uk

David Horsfall  
7 Partridge Drive, Baxenden, Accrington, BB5 2RL  
Tel: 01254 390215  
Email: suehorsfall2003@yahoo.co.uk

Liz Collinson, Bonded Warehouse, 20A St. George's Quay,  
Lancaster, LA1 1RB  
Email: ceramic@lizc.info

Su Hudson  
Email: suhudson@btinternet.com

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the Northern Potters Association. Only listing may be reproduced without the permission of the editor.

## Editor's Comment

This issue will arrive with you wrapped in plastic, and posted by a direct mailing company. This is a saving in both money and my time, so I hope it works out. If you have any problems with receiving it, please let me know. The mailing company has sent a confidentiality statement, guaranteeing that they will not use our name and address details for any purpose other than to post the newsletter. All of this means that deadlines are more significant - I have to book the print run, and the posting run in advance, so can't delay the issue, which used to happen occasionally. So, please read the deadline below, and make sure contributions are sent in good time.

I've included my own 'First or Worst', as there weren't any others on offer - please send yours in, or you could be reading about my bad pots in every issue!

Brian Holland's article about the French exchange that he arranged shows the different attitude to potting across the Channel. He said they were treated like royalty (not sure whether that's British or French royalty?) and the reciprocal exhibition at Thoresby Gallery should be well worth a visit. And of course there are Potfests in the Park and the Pens (anyone want to report back on Potfest Stirling?) coming up soon. Feedback from participants in such events is always useful to those considering applying, so if you have any comments to make, please do.

Stephen Green is featured on the cover, as he has won the craft&design Maker of the Year 2010 award - well done Stephen (only very special people get on the cover twice).

There are still a few places available for the Kate Malone talk and demonstration - do book with Helen Walsh (see page 17), as we'll invite other groups to join us if necessary.

As mentioned overleaf, we still need volunteers to join the committee, so contact Julie Ward if you're interested.

Barbara Wood

## Deadline For Next Issue

All material for the **next issue** to be with Barbara Wood  
**by 23rd August 2010**

Text and images can be e-mailed to [npanews@btinternet.com](mailto:npanews@btinternet.com), sent on CD or in long hand with photographs to Old Mills, Seaton Ross, YORK, YO42 4NH. Images should be high resolution digital where possible - 180mm x 130mm at 300dpi preferred, and please send some good colour images of your work for the members' gallery.

---

## Chat from the Chair - Ian Marsh

It was good to see a positive report about the Rufford Exhibition at the recent committee meeting. There were many good comments from the public about the high standard of work and for the potters there were good sales. Thanks go to the exhibitions team and the artists - we can look forward to the exhibition at Clitheroe.



Membership numbers continue to grow and we welcome the new members and hope to see them at future events. When I joined, in 2001, numbers were about 270 and now they are over 380, which is very encouraging.

At the committee meeting we again discussed comments from members re 'open' and 'selected' (for which a small fee is charged to go towards covering administration costs) events. It might be worth re-iterating our current position. It is sometimes difficult finding venues that are willing to host an NPA exhibition and inevitably they have their own criteria for including work. On a practical point it would often be impossible to include the work from all the members who apply in the space allocated. We feel that we should be encouraging and aspiring to the highest standards in the NPA and with this in mind most NPA exhibitions will remain selected. Having said that, selection for one exhibition does not automatically ensure selection for the next, and vice versa. Successful galleries generally have a good idea what will appeal to their visitors, and while we encourage the selectors to include a wide range of work, there may be a slight bias based on the commercial needs of the gallery. It was felt that regionally organised events/exhibitions, which are often unselected, give ample opportunity to have your work seen by the public, and can provide an opportunity for members to get involved in organising the kind of event they want. One point that keeps recurring from selectors is the poor quality of images submitted and this often results in rejection – if they cannot tell what a pot is really like they are less likely to select it.

Selling exhibitions are well under way and it will be interesting to see if sales hold up under the current economic conditions. I was pleasantly surprised by sales at the local Art Market in Holmfirth. It was good to see several NPA members taking part. As I write, I am looking forward to visiting Earth and Fire and Potfest in the Pens. From a personal point we are looking forward to moving to Wales and setting up a new studio. As I mentioned last time I will not be carrying on as Chair after the AGM. We are actively looking for members to join the committee and help to further the aspirations and hopes for the NPA.

---

## in this issue

Members' Gallery		page 2
Editor's Comment		page 3
Chat from the Chair		page 4
New Books, Book Review	(Roger Bell)	page 5
New Members		page 6
craft&design awards		page 7
Diary		page 8
NPA at Sadirac	(Brian Holland)	page 10
Exhibitions and Events		page 13
Rufford statistics		page 14
MAAC		page 15
A Potter's Moll writes....	(Liz Robison)	page 16
Making a Raku Piglet	(Catherine Boyne-Whitelegg)	page 20
Regional News		page 24
First or Worst	(Barbara Wood)	page 26

---

## New Books - Roger Bell

The Artist Is In The Details – The Ceramic Art Of David Furman	Various	\$39.95
Blue and White Transfer Printed Pottery	Robert Copeland	4.99 Sh
Clay, Light and Water	Margaret O'Rorke	15.99 BI
Joan Panisello –Obra 1975 – 2006 (Spanish & Catalan)	Various	
Grayson Perry	Jacky Klein	24.95 TH
A Potter's Tale In Africa	Neil Wright	
Lucie Rie (Collected Works)	publ Kyruyudo Art Publishing	23.00
Said El Sadr 1909-1986	Alan Caiger Smith	20.00
Tea Ceramics Artist: Richard Milgrim		Aus \$60.00
U-Tsu-Wa (Vessels) Lucie Rie, Jennifer Lee, Ernst Gamperi publ	Kyruyudo Art Publishing	26.00
Angela Valamanesh: About Being Here	Cath Kenneally	Aus \$45.00

---

## Book Review - Roger Bell

### TECHNIQUES USING SLIPS

Publ: A&C Black

John Mathieson

£16.99

Slip, liquid clay, is such a simple material it seems, at first sight, difficult to justify a complete book to the subject. But although the context is different, the song title 'It Ain't What You Do It's The Way That You Do It' is appropriate. The book examines via the working practices of contemporary potters the many techniques available to use slips such as brushing, dipping, trailing and sgraffito, together with firing at different temperatures in different atmospheres with or without glazes.

The short introduction clarifies the difference between slip, vitreous slip, terra sigillata and engobes. There follows a chapter highlighting the use and development of slips through history. The three basic practical chapters that follow are 'Application Techniques', 'Mixing Slips' and 'Colour In Slip'. While only 14 pages long, they cover all the basics including how to overcome some of the problems that occur, in sufficient detail to get anyone started.

The major part of the book covers the varying approaches of 40 or so contemporary potters to the use of slip. Broken into chapters covering slips without a glaze, in raku firings, earthenware with glaze, stoneware and porcelain and with salt or soda glazing, a large number of very different techniques are covered resulting in a range of diverse finishes. While each artist gets a mention of their background, training, inspiration and the like, it is the working methods and technical information which will enable the reader to discover how they can attempt the specific effects they want to achieve.

Everybody will have their favourite styles and potters from those included. They range from Clive Bowen's traditional country ware via son Dylan's similar techniques producing contemporary effects, to Sasha Wardell using slipcasting to build up layers of different coloured clays cut to produce the most delicate porcelain pieces. Several sculptural potters are included such as John Maltby who applies slip to his pieces after biscuit firing to 990 centigrade. While most potters in the book are well established and will be familiar, Mathieson includes Megan Collins who graduated in 2008. A good selection of artists from outside the UK reveal their secrets including Françoise Dufayard (France), Nick Hoogland (Netherlands) and Steve Branfman (USA).

Photos are of the now universal high quality and include finished work as well as work in progress illustrating techniques. Priced only £1 higher than the Ceramic Handbook series but in a larger format, it is an excellent addition to the ceramic booklist.

# Welcome To New Members

Name	Location	E-mail
Mark Arthur	Leicester	brookfield.pottery@gmail.com
Debbie Barber	Frisby on the Wreake	debbie.a.barber@googlemail.com
Will Broughton	Chorlton,	willb.66@googlemail.com
Joanne Cooke	Huddersfield	jc@sculpturelounge.com
Diane Fay	Morecambe	faydiane@aol.com
Ken Jaquierey	Ilkley,	kenjaq@hotmail.com
Katrina Nowotynski	Manchester	k.nowotynski@hotmail.co.uk
Lizzie Star	Lancaster	loveliznow@yahoo.com
Joseph Travis	Lancaster	joseph@redfoxpottery.com

## My apologies to David Constantine White - I included incorrect details in the last issue:

David Constantine White	Mytholmroyd	clay@rock.com
-------------------------	-------------	---------------

A warm welcome is extended to our new members. We look forward to seeing you and your work at future events.

Speedyvac high vacuum pump, free to anyone who will collect. Alnwick area. Ring Martin 01914 883023 for details.

Potclays - sculpture course with Neil Dalrymple  
19 + 20 July - £149.99  
Free £25 materials voucher if booked by 7 July.  
01782 219816, or sales@potclays.co.uk

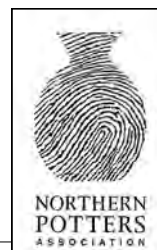
## NPA Membership

### Subscription Rates:

Individual	£22 (if paid by standing order)
	£25 (if paid by cheque or Postal Order)
Joint membership (2 members at one address)	£34 (has to be paid by standing order)
Full time student/unwaged	£10 (has to be paid by cheque or PO)
(please send evidence of eligibility e.g. photocopy of SU card, UB40 etc.)	

You can download a copy of the membership form from our website - [northern-potters.co.uk](http://northern-potters.co.uk).

If any of your contact details change, remember to let us know



Contact the membership secretary:  
Margaret Lawrenson  
'Seven Firs', Kemp Rd,  
Swanland,  
E.Yorks HU14 3LZ  
Tel: 01482 634784  
E-mail: [margaret@sevenfirs.karoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret@sevenfirs.karoo.co.uk)

---

## Stephen Green - craft&design Maker of the Year 2010

Congratulations to NPA member Stephen Green, winner of the prestigious 'Maker of the Year 2010' award voted for by readers of craft&design magazine.

'Following four months of busy online voting, the 2010 craft&design Selected Awards are now closed and we are delighted to announce that we have clear winners in each of the six categories.

In addition, the winner with the highest number of votes overall becomes craft&design Maker of the Year 2010. This year it is potter Stephen Green of Lancashire - [www.craftmaker.co.uk/stephengreen](http://www.craftmaker.co.uk/stephengreen) - who receives a prize to the value of £5,000 which includes the front cover feature in our November/December issue and his work featured on the lead page of the 2011 craft&design calendar, plus a cheque for £1,000.

We introduced our craft&design Selected Awards in 2009 to mark our landmark 25 years in the industry and to also raise awareness of the enormous creative talent we have in Britain today.

Full details are at [www.craftanddesign.net/awards](http://www.craftanddesign.net/awards)

with direct links to the pages of all of our 2010 craft&design Selected Award Winners.'

Stephen works in stoneware, and has taken many years to develop his present style of work. He does not throw on a wheel but builds each piece of with individual coils which is extremely time consuming but allows for much more control of shape and finish. All decoration is produced by hand - no moulds are used with the applied decoration.

As each piece is either coiled or modelled no two pieces are exactly alike. There may be a small variation in the decoration or the flow of the glaze - making each piece of Breck Stoneware truly unique.

Stephen says 'For me the fascination of ceramics is the marriage of form and decoration. I am strongly influenced by Arabian art and the art nouveau movement. My glazes are my own recipes and are combined with metal oxides which give some stunning effects under the high temperatures I fire my kiln to.'

---

### Sedgefield Pottery Supplies

Bill Todd has been established as a professional potter at Sedgefield since 1982. In the early years, he was active as an NPA member and after a short time became an NPA committee member producing the newsletter, bringing it from its photocopied format to a more professional printed version accessible to NPA members.

In an earlier time Bill trained as an electrical technician. The skills learned then have stood him in good stead later when electric kilns have needed repair - Bill is a qualified electrical engineer. When customers need advice on either a kiln repair or the purchase of a new kiln it's worth calling SPS first.

Charlie Plant, who was the kiln repairer & clay supplier in the localised North East area, retired in 2002 and Bill took over this role but has widened the delivery area to also include some parts of Cumbria, Yorkshire & Northumberland.

Bill personally delivers potters' supplies direct to the customer, using an environmentally friendly vehicle. As part of the service the materials are taken to wherever they need to be stacked, not just dropped at the door. Bill will also service kilns, make & fit elements sometimes at the same time as delivering, saving journey time and money. New kilns are stocked at Sedgefield, as well as second hand re-furbished equipment.

A large extension to the storage facilities in 2009 has allowed the stocking of many clay bodies, (now more than 50). Oxides, plasters, frits, casting slips, decorating slips, colours, glazes, tools and raw materials are also stocked.

NPA members receive a discount of 10% for all clays, glazes, raw materials and tools when these items are collected.

Some members may prefer direct deliveries from Stoke in quantities of 250kg plus from one clay manufacturer, and this is another service offered at a competitive price - please check before ordering elsewhere.

**For more details, visit the website - [sedgefieldpottery.co.uk](http://sedgefieldpottery.co.uk), and see the advert on page 19**

---

## Diary

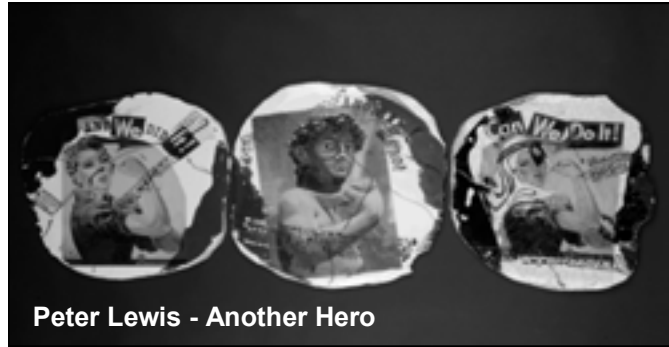
- 2 - 12 July **YO ceramics and guests** at North York Moors Visitor Centre, Sutton Bank, YO7 2EH, includes Andrea Cundell and Barbara Wood , Opening 3 July 10am-4pm
- 3 July - 31 August **NPA-E Exhibition**, Pyramid Gallery, Stonegate, York
- 4 July - September **70+ at Seventy** - Jim Robison ceramics, Opening 4th July, 12 - 4pm, Booth House Gallery, Holmfirth, HD9 2QT - jimrobison.co.uk
- 4 - 10 July **Holmfirth Art Week** (in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support) - holmfirthartweek.net
- 6 - 19 July **Earth, Sea & Sky** - Roseberry Ceramics Group, North York Moors National Park Centre, Danby, YO21 2NB
- 12 - 31 July **NPA-SE exhibition**, Thoresby Gallery, Thoresby Hall, Thoresby Park, Nr Ollerton, Newark, Nottingham, NG22 9EP
- 15 - 18 July **Art in Action**, Waterperry House, Near Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1JZ  
artinaction.org.uk
- 17 July - 14 November **Fired Up: Ceramics and Meaning** - Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL, galleryoldham.org.uk
- 23 - 25 July **Kilns, Clay, Fire and Fun** - Orkney's Potters Camp, hands-on making, kiln building, firing - davidholmesceramics.co.uk
- 30 July - 1 August **Potfest in the Park**, Hutton-in-the-Forest, nr Penrith - potfest.co.uk
- 31 July **Kate Malone** talk & demonstration, York Art Gallery - admission £7.50, contact Helen Walsh, 01904 697971, helen.walsh@ymt.org.uk
- 3 - 17 August **Diverse Landscapes** - YO ceramics and guests , North York Moors National Park Centre, Danby, YO21 2NB
- 6 - 8 August **Potfest in the Pens**, Penrith - potfest.co.uk
- 6 - 8 August **Art in Clay**, Hatfield House, AL9 5WQ, hatfield.artinclay.co.uk
- 14 - 15 August **Art in the Pen**, Auction Mart, Gargrave Road, Skipton, open 10am - 4pm
- 21 - 22 August **York Open Air Art Exhibition**
- Until 1 September **English Country Garden**, ceramics exhibition, York Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York, YO1 7EW, yorkartgallery.org.uk
- 6 September **Jeremy Steward** talk - 7.30pm - York Art Workers, Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane off Micklegate, York, YO1 3EL (re-arranged from January), yorkartworkers.org.uk
- Until 8 September **China: Journey to the East** - York Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York, YO1 7EW, yorkartgallery.org.uk
- 11 September - 30 October NPA selected exhibition at **Platform Gallery**, Clitheroe
- 8 October **Martin McWilliam** gives NPA talk at UCLan, Preston
- Until 28 October **Second Sight** - East Riding Artists exhibit work inspired by Burton Constable Hall, HU11 4LN - includes NPA members Jill Ford and Barbara Wood

Please let me know of future events that may be of interest to other members

# Fired Up: Ceramics and Meaning

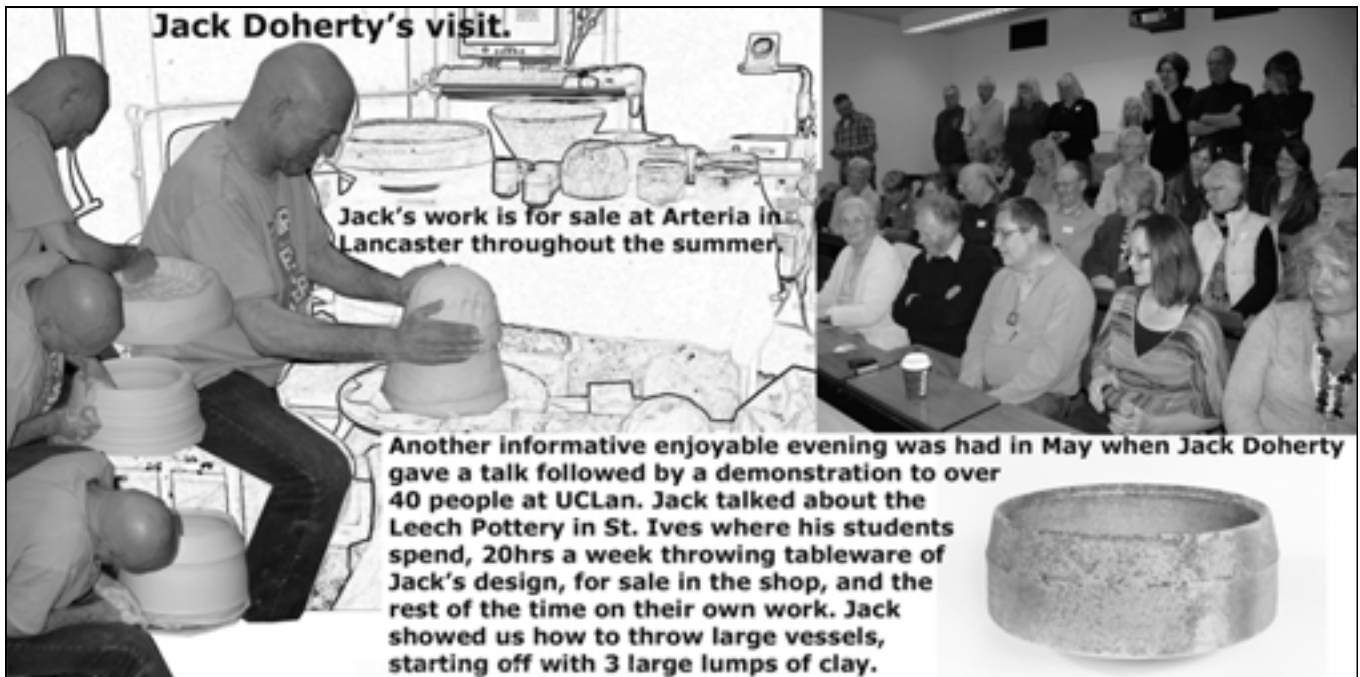
Gallery Oldham  
17 July – 14 November 2010

Political work by Claudia Clare, Stephen Dixon, Peter Lewis, Paul Scott and Emma Summers.



This exciting new exhibition has been curated by ceramist Peter Lewis. Offering an alternative perspective on contemporary ceramics, the exhibition brings together the work of some of today's most exciting potters whose work lies within the realms of political, social and cultural statement. Challenging themes are interpreted and conveyed using a range of ceramic media. Topics include violence, domestic and global conflict, social injustice, government and politics, media manipulation and human rights.

Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL  
[galleryoldham.org.uk](http://galleryoldham.org.uk)



**Jack Doherty's visit.**

Jack's work is for sale at Arteria in Lancaster throughout the summer.

Another informative enjoyable evening was had in May when Jack Doherty gave a talk followed by a demonstration to over 40 people at UCLan. Jack talked about the Leech Pottery in St. Ives where his students spend, 20hrs a week throwing tableware of Jack's design, for sale in the shop, and the rest of the time on their own work. Jack showed us how to throw large vessels, starting off with 3 large lumps of clay.

---

## NPA at Sadirac - Brian Holland

Wood-firers of the Northern Potters Association at The Museum of Ceramics, Sadirac, Bordeaux, France.

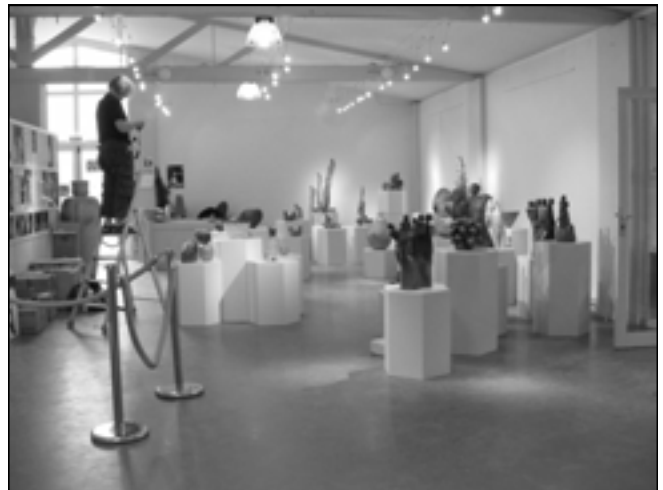
Jerry Coleman, an English potter living and working near Sadirac, France, had approached me some time ago, and we discussed the possibility of some exchange activity between the NPA and an association of potters from that area of France. We lost touch with each other for a while, and in the mean time the NPA South East group had started up and I thought that it would be easier to organise something with a smaller core group. Jerry got in touch again saying that the next festival would have the theme of wood firing, and would the Rufford Wood Firing group be interested in coming to the festival? I said that I would organise something from under the umbrella of the NPA and persuaded those in the wood firers who were not already NPA members to join. We then started planning two events, the exhibition at Sadirac, and an exhibition at Thoresby to which the French group were invited to exhibit. The invitation to both events was thrown open to the whole of the NPA via the newsletter. The exhibition at Thoresby is open to all work no matter how fired but the Sadirac show and Market - we were also offered a free market stall - only to work fired with wood.

Although Rufford, after ten fruitful years for which we remain very grateful, had changed its policy re firing on its site, and though we had not yet built our new kilns at our new site at Thoresby Park, we had to find wood fired work for the French exhibition. I had made lots of new work and had a backlog of work waiting to be fired. Fortunately, Nic Collins was running a wood firing course at Easter and after finding out that if I joined there would be only three of us which meant that I would get most of my pieces fired, I joined the course. We fired Sabine's soda kiln and Nic's Anagama, with great success. This was the best firing my work had received so far and I had my pieces for France. (Nic is running his very successful course again in August, highly recommended and he still has some places left!) Others had work from the Rufford firings or from firings in other kilns.

I organised the collection of the work for the exhibition at Sadirac and David Wright organised collecting the work for the market. So, on Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>, with van loaded with the work of seven NPA members plus a rolled up futon, my partner, Michelle, and I set off for Dover. We duly arrived at Sadirac at about 10pm on Monday, where we met Jerry; he was taking a class in

the ceramics studio attached to the museum. The class were both working and relaxed: there were several empty and partly empty wine glasses and remains of a quiche fuelling their creativity. Apparently the class should have finished at 9.30pm, but they were waiting to meet us and we were immediately offered wine and food.

After many introductions and much well wishing we unloaded the boxes of work from the van into the museum, ready for unpacking the next day. We were then directed to the house - opposite the museum - on whose drive we were to park our mobile bedroom for the remainder of the week, met the inhabitants of the house, Bernadette, Pierre, and Lola (a boxer dog given to walking around in circles), used their facilities, unfurled the futon and fell into a long wished for slumber.



We rose next day, not particularly bright and early, and, after sitting for a while under a magnificent lime tree enjoying a breakfast of brioche and confiture that Bernadette and Pierre had left out for us, we ambled across to the museum to begin unpacking and mounting the exhibition. Bernadette was already there - she was a community volunteer - and we met the museum staff, curators Corinne and Celeste, technicians Jean Francoise and Charles and a university student on placement, all of whom were very friendly and made us very welcome. The plinths, varying heights of a honeycomb section, were around and Michelle began organising whilst I unpacked the work. Michelle works in a gallery and enjoys exhibition display, so once everything was unpacked I went to see what else was happening.

The museum has a busy education programme and nearby a school group and their teachers were intently watching Charles throwing pots, before being shown around the museum. Another school group were in the workshop working with Jean Francoise. Meanwhile, Michelle had already sorted the plinths according to the needs of each person's work and put these in the most suitable areas when Jerry came by to take us to an excellent lunch at the local restaurant. When we came to pay, we were told that the association were paying, and this set the precedent for the generosity we received all week from our hosts. Back at the museum in the afternoon we continued with the exhibition, and Michelle completed the general display by the time the museum closed.

The following day saw Michelle making adjustments to the exhibition. Meanwhile, on the land behind the museum another potter, Thierry, was building paper kilns, with a group of school children, around the work they had made earlier in workshops, and also supervising a group of adults digging pits for pit firing.

After we had all lunched together, Michelle completed the display whilst I joined the group making pots out of several clays for the pit firing. These were burnished the following day and painted with terra sigillata that the group had also made.

Yves, one of the potters associated with the museum, took us to his studio, shared with several other potters, including Jean Francoise, and showed us his work and his Phoenix kiln. Their studio was in an ancient collection of buildings, part of much earlier ceramic workshops, and the remains of old machinery were dotted around the site. We visited these studios again later in the week to select work to bring back with us for the French part of the Thoresby exhibition. Other highlights of the week included a film in Korean, with French subtitles, on at an arts cinema in nearby Creon about the life of a famous Korean painter who lived and worked through difficult political times, followed by an after film talk and demonstration of Korean brushwork; stacking and lighting a roman up-draught kiln built into a side of a bank near the museum; and an evening gig and dance with music from a jazz / world music influenced band.

Friday soon came and with it David and Laura Wright arrived with the work for the potters market. On Saturday David and Laura put their expert touches to the stall display. The exhibition in the museum looked great and was very well received, the stall also looked great but unfortunately Michelle and I had to begin our



homeward journey, so, after loading the French potters' work, and after joining the dignitaries for the opening speeches we said our au revoirs and set off back. We had had a wonderful week, the museum were very pleased with the exhibition Michelle had mounted, we had visited several studios and witnessed a freer and relaxed way of working inventively with clay, participated in several activities, and saw David and Laura set up a really good display in a lively French potters' market.

There is much to write about the museum, its beginnings, Sadirac's pottery past, and the present association of Sadirac artist potters, and I hope to be able to present an article for a future issue.



The members participating in the Sadirac exhibition were: Carl Gray, Brian Holland, Sue Mulroy, Shirley Sheppard, Sarah Villeneuve, Penny Withers, and David Wright.

## HANDS ON POTTERY - SUMMER SCHOOL

### WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY



Throughout August Wednesdays will be full day workshop sessions, 10am - 3pm. Day long sessions give you time to switch off normal life and get really engrossed in clay projects. cost £25 per day. Open to ages 14+, all abilities. (14-18 yr olds must be accompanied by a guardian initially).

### THROWING WEEKENDS: 7-8th and 14-15th, Aug

Ever popular intensive throwing classes open to beginners and improvers. One wheel per person. £95 for the weekend, includes materials and firing.

### CHIMENEA MAKING: 31st July - 1st August

Another favourite. Chimeneas are environmentally friendly patio heaters for those long summer evenings. Participants on this weekend will also have the option of making large coil pots for the garden. Price £150, includes materials and firing.

For more information/booking forms please contact Penny.

0114 2499149 penn@talktalk.net

Hands on Pottery is in Sheffield near to train and bus terminals.

**Martin McWilliam**

at UCLan on the 8th October 2010.

Talk +

Demo

+

-

All Welcome, Students at 1pm, Public at 7pm.



Victoria building, PR1 Gallery, Preston PR1 2HE

Evening Admission - pay at door, £4 for public, £3 Student, free to NPA members. Reserve a seat by emailing NPAtalk@live.co.uk

## Call to Artists



The showcase of work will be seen at Arteria with Gallery 23, a contemporary art gallery in the centre of historic Lancaster.

Gallery 23 promotes the work of local artists with an exciting calendar of seasonal exhibitions and has been the venue for previous Northern Potter events.

For more information about "Tea Party" and to apply please enquire by email to [npawest@live.co.uk](mailto:npawest@live.co.uk)  
To find out more about Arteria with Gallery 23 call 01524 61111 or visit [www.arteriashop.co.uk](http://www.arteriashop.co.uk)

"Tea Party" is a West NPA exhibition that is open to all NPA members. You are invited to create your innovative take on teapots, mugs, cups and saucers and other functional tea wares. Artists would submit a maximum of 6 items which will all need to be robust as visitors to the show will be encouraged to handle the pieces.

The show runs from 8th January until 26th March and is open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm and Saturdays 9:30am to 5:30pm.



## Exhibitions and Events - Matt Tyas

### **The Northern Potters - Rufford 2010: Selected Ceramic Exhibition (30<sup>th</sup> March – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2010)**

Total sales of £9617 were made with 4868 visitors attending the exhibition. Please see the breakdown of sales overleaf.

### **Earth & Fire 2010 (25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June)**

By the time you read this, Earth & Fire 2010 will have probably been and gone, but I do hope you found time to visit and dropped in on the NPA stand to see Eryl Fryer, Elizabeth Price and Penny Withers – the NPA wishes them a great event!

### **Platform Gallery, Clitheroe (11<sup>th</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010)**

The selection panel has been held and we are currently in the process of deciding on the number of works to request from members before informing applicants of the selection outcome. A wide range of work was put forward for selection, which will offer an exhibition that is as varied and yet different again to Rufford.

Also, thank you to the 46 NPA applicants for participating and thanks to the panel volunteers for their time too. The majority of members submitted their forms electronically this time and I hope it has made the process a little quicker for you – it definitely makes the process swifter at this end. The photography/documentation of work was generally looking much stronger than that submitted to the previous selected exhibition.

Volunteers: please let me know if you're interested in helping to support this exhibition with a small donation of your time (two potential volunteers have come forward so far).

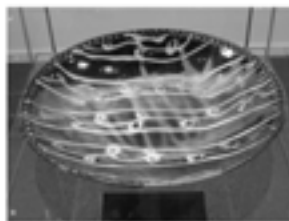
### **Please remember to:**

- keep your e-mails updated with the Membership Secretary so you don't miss opportunities
- maintain good documentation of your work, especially photography: quality images stand a higher chance of being selected and used in wider marketing contexts on behalf of the NPA, as well as helping with all your exhibition and gallery applications
- let me know of any potential venues for future exhibitions

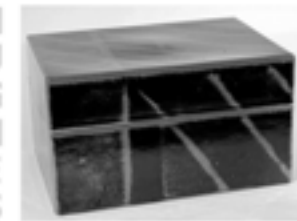
### **Kiln for Sale – West Yorkshire**

Brick built gas kiln  
Internal: 70cm x 70cm x 99cm  
2 Propane burners  
Kiln furniture and spare bricks  
Buyer collects and dismantles  
£1200  
[dianne.cross@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dianne.cross@blueyonder.co.uk)

**A special thanks to Alex McErlain at Manchester Metropolitan University who gave us a wonderful insight into the work and life of Edward Hughes. It was a truly wonderful exhibition showing off all the skills of an accomplished potter. Edward's skill and confidence at combining slip in such a masterly way, with gorgeous glazes produced some astonishingly beautiful work.**



E  
D  
W  
A  
R  
D



H  
U  
G  
H  
E  
S

Photography by Stephen Yates

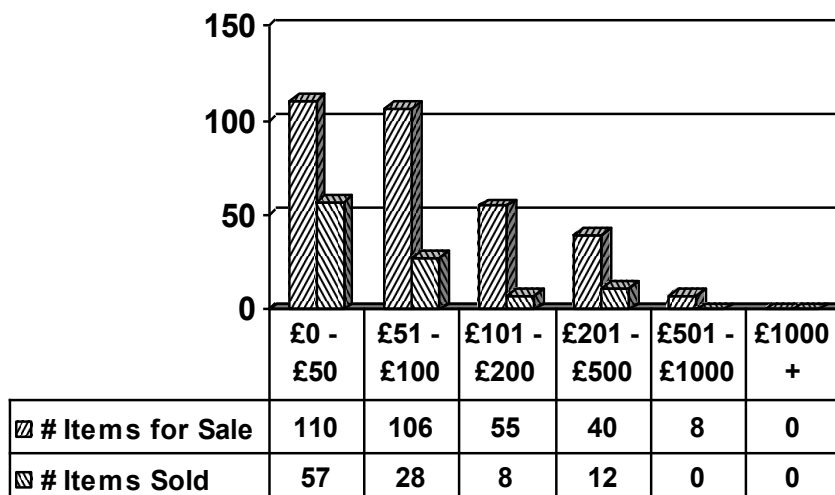
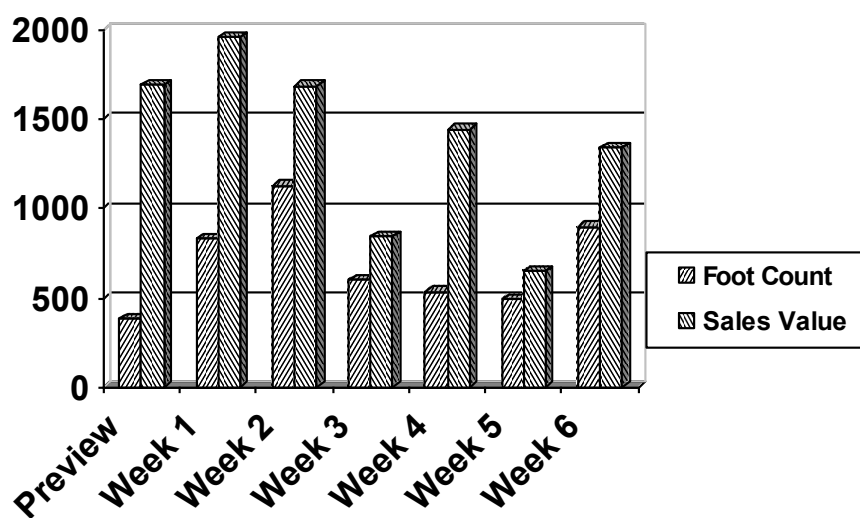
**We had a wonderful afternoon spent handling some delicious work in the specials collection at the library. Stephanie Boydell kindly showed us the collection and for me, it was like being a pig in muck. Hans Coper, Bernard Leach, Magdalene Odundo, Felicity Aylieff were just some of the makers of the work we could handle.**

## Rufford 2010 - Statistical breakdown

Hire period: 30 March - 9 May 2010  
 Duration: 36 days  
 Lowest priced item: £10  
 Artists exhibiting: 36

Foot count: 4868 (daily average 135)  
 Preview: 28 March  
 Highest priced item: £850  
 Number of items sold/on sale: 105 / 319

The exhibition took place over the school Easter Holidays (week 1 and 2) and May Day Bank Holiday (week 6); visitor numbers are higher during this period. The weather was changeable throughout the exhibition. Visitor numbers increased from 4042 for the unselected exhibition in 2008 to 4868 in 2010 (daily averages 115 in 2008 rising to 135 in 2010). The total sales value was £9617 (2008: £3812), equivalent to £1.98 per visitor, with the great majority paid by credit / debit card.



---

## MAAC – Forthcoming Events

### **Oxford Ceramics Fair 2010**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010**

**St. Edwards School, Woodstock Road, Oxford**

MAAC will once again be presenting the opportunity for associates to participate in a group stand at this outstanding event. More details from: -

David Wright, 26 The Green, Thrussington, Leicester, LE7 4UH

t:01664 424333 e: david.wright52@virgin.net

### **Percival David Foundation**

**September 9<sup>th</sup> 2010 - 2.00pm - at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG**

A Gallery talk by Jessica Harrison Hall about the Percival David Foundation and its collection of ceramics now it has settled into its new home in the British Museum, to be followed by a handling session and a look around the gallery. The previous talk last May was a great success. Not to be missed – numbers are limited so book immediately. Details and tickets from:- Mitzi Bales Flat 10, 207 Sussex Gardens, London, W2 2RJ

t: 0207 262 0244 e: mbales@waitrose.com

### **Honest Pots at York**

**October 16<sup>th</sup> 2010**

York has one of the most comprehensive collections of twentieth-century studio pottery – the Very Reverend Dean of York Eric Milner-White, W A Ismay, and Henry Rothschild Collections reside here.

The visit, coinciding with the exhibition 'Honest Pots in York', will include a brief talk and slideshow by Helen Walsh, Assistant Curator, about the collections, the new gallery, exhibition and plans for the future; time to visit the gallery; and an opportunity to handle pots selected by Helen from the Bill Ismay Collection. In the space (The Studio) set aside for us, the museum café will provide a home-made lunch of freshly prepared sandwiches, quiches, salad, crisps, cakes and hot or cold drinks. Details and tickets from Jane Boughton, 11 Fleet Close, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe HP14 4LL, t: 01494 562991 e: jane@boughton.org.uk

### **MAAC Committee Elections**

Every year some members of the committee stand down and this year Mitzi and Sally will be the ones to leave the MAAC Committee and need to be replaced by new & enthusiastic people. So if you feel you would like to be involved more closely with the running

of events or have any kind of administration skills we would love to hear from you. Please write or ring any one of the following people.

Michael Jones, Chair, t: 01384 255 867

e: mike\_a\_jonze@yahoo.co.uk

John Masterton, Sec., t: 01279 723 229

e: john@jmasterton.freeserve.co.uk

Veronica Newman, t: 0033 562 07 87 20

e: veronica@veronicanewman.co.uk

Harriet Coleridge, t: 01491 835633

e: HarrietColeridge@aol.com

### **Future Events/Activites**

This is a request to every CPA Associate member out there – we would really like to know your views and the type of event you would like to see happening in the future. If you have any suggestions / ideas for a talk, slideshow, demonstration, workshop on topics or anything else related to ceramics that you think would be of interest, please let us know and we will endeavour to cater for your changing needs in our planning of future events and activities.

Please e-mail or ring up any member of the committee as listed above,

or if you prefer can send your suggestions/ comments etc by Post to :-

The MAAC Committee c/o Craft Potters Association, 5, Foubert's Place, London. W1F 7QF

### **STUDIO CLEARANCE**

Nr. Harrogate

**Kilns & Furnaces FL190** (now the FL3.190), lots of furniture, little used, £800

**Judson & Hudson cone dr. wheel** (old) £160 ono

Also kiln bricks/whirlers/materials/armoured cable/clays/ sieves etc

Buyer to lift and transport (kiln weighs 245kg!)

**tel: 01943 880287**

---

## A Potter's Moll writes.... Liz Robison



Having recently had two week-long courses in the studio on glaze and surface decoration, it is interesting to reflect on what goes to make up the group dynamic, which varies every time. The first group consisted of eight jolly ladies from the North East, (they know who they are!), four of whom have been here before, and who all knew each other from attending **Claude Frere-Smith's** pottery classes for many years.

Although the work was taken seriously there was always a sense of fun bubbling up to the surface, for example when we were having wine and nibbles on the last night. Someone pointed out that from across the studio table where Jim was seated on a low stool and white-haired Eleanor was on a high one, it looked for all the world as if they were having an earnest conversation with her sitting on Jim's knee!

The second group was smaller and more diverse, although three people shared the same Norfolk post-code. Their needs and backgrounds were all different, so that presents an interesting teaching challenge. Both groups pronounced themselves very well pleased with the outcomes. One student wrote afterwards that she now has a better understanding of the *alchemy* of glazing and the *confidence* to try making some of her own glazes and slips.

A glazing demonstration from **David Constantine White** is always a highlight of the week, as is a visit to **Chris Jenkins's** studio in nearby Marsden. The latter visit also resulted in the possibility of two of the group going to stay with Chris in France in the summer to help with the wood-fired kiln. I think it's called Networking.

There was an Art auction here in Holmfirth recently to raise funds for an Arts Festival in June. Although the work was exhibited well and the event was well attended, the audience just wasn't right and many of the lots failed to reach their asking price. The audience seemed to be mainly the artists and their hangers-on, rather than keen, reckless, rich punters. It must have been very disappointing for the organisers, and I think it might be a good idea if they do it again to have a professional auctioneer who can gee up the crowd a bit. Still, I think the festival itself will be a success with events in many venues and in many genres.

Jim's '70+ at Seventy' exhibition is coming along and a woodland path is emerging for siting some works out-

side. In the icy weather, I slid the car into a big planter outside the gallery door – big dent in bumper and more hardcore than you could wish for. When I was a child, if anything got broken, as it inevitably did on the tiled kitchen floor, my Dad would always say 'Are you OK? When our kids were growing up, Jim would always say 'Another bit of history down the tubes.' (think US pronunciation – 'toobs') He could be heard muttering darkly 'It may have to be '69 at Seventy', I *think* he was joking.

Talking of plant pots and planters, is it about the pot or the plants? Hopefully they complement each other and I usually try to choose plants that tone with the glaze colours and luckily greenery seems to go with everything. When trailing things trail and tumble obscuring the pot, well, what the heck! The pot is still there being a vessel.

Spurred on by Isabel Denyer's enthusiastic review in the last NPA News, we went to Manchester Metropolitan University to see the Edward Hughes exhibition. The show will be over by the time this goes to print, but I thought it worth mentioning because as well as the pots being exciting, the exhibition is extremely well curated and informative, courtesy of **Alex McErlain**, a member of staff at the university. With loans of some historical pieces from the York Art Gallery collections to illustrate some of Hughes's frames of reference, I see collaboration there with a certain **Helen Walsh**, who as well as being on the curating staff at York, is also, if I'm not mistaken doing a PhD in Ceramics at Manchester Met. What a good example of collaboration.

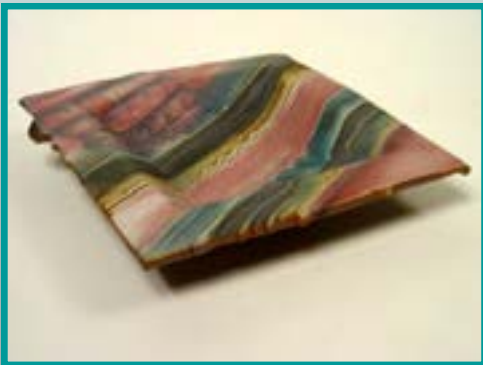


Jim unloads the kiln

## JIM ROBISON Ceramics

### 70+ At Seventy

Jim decided to make at least 70 substantial pieces (from extruded vases and slab dishes, to outdoor garden pots and furniture) to celebrate this birthday. This show is timed to coincide with Holmfirth Art Week and will run from **4 July to September 2010**



Opening reception with wine and strawberries and chance to experience the new Woodland Walk feature.

**Sunday 4 July 12-4pm**

Colleagues, potters, friends, old students from Bretton Hall or other courses, all very welcome.

Open every weekend 12-4pm

Weekdays, ring to check

**Booth House Gallery & Pottery,**

3 Booth House Lane, Holmfirth,

West Yorkshire, HD9 2QT

Tel: 01484 685270

[www.boothhousegallery.co.uk](http://www.boothhousegallery.co.uk)



### Kate Malone Talk and demonstration Saturday, 31st July

**2pm - 4.30pm**  
**York Art Gallery**

Admission: £7.50 NPA members  
£12.50 non-members

Space is limited, so please book your place before 12 July by contacting Helen Walsh -

York Art Gallery, Exhibition Square,  
York, YO1 7EW

e: [helen.walsh@ymt.org.uk](mailto:helen.walsh@ymt.org.uk)  
t: 01904 697971



Kate Malone's Barcelona studio

**KILNS  
CLAY  
FIRE  
& FUN**

Shapinsay Island  
Orkney 23-25 July 2010

"Escape and Create."

### A 3-Day 'Hands On' Potters Camp Celebrating Kiln Building, & Pottery Making

For novice & experienced potters. Hosted by experienced potters in a remote island hideaway.

LAST DATE FOR BOOKING: Wednesday 07 July 2010

The 3 day event costs \$197 and includes access & participation in all projects, as well as all clay and glazes. Bisque ware will be available to purchase but feel free to bring your own.

The package includes access to a camping area, lunch and evening meal for all 3 days.

To book, email us now for availability and enjoy a slice of island life.

For event details & more ...

<http://davidholmesceramics.blogspot.com/>

David Holmes  
Ceramics

David Holmes Ceramics - Events Only  
Shapinsay Island, Orkney, UK  
Tel: 01856 711 521  
www.dhceramics.com



# POTTERY CRAFTS LIMITED

For all your pottery needs

"The UK's leading manufacturer of kilns and moulds"

**WWW.POTTERYCRAFTS.CO.UK**

enquiries@potterycrafts.co.uk      Tel: +44 (0)1782 745000



## Sedgefield Pottery Supplies Ltd

The Old Smithy,  
 Cross Street, Sedgefield  
 Co. Durham, TS21 2AH  
 tel: 01740 621998  
 e-mail: wrtodd@tiscali.co.uk  
 web: sedgefieldpottery.co.uk

40+ clay bodies available from stock  
 Wide choice of colours - glazes, underglazes, lustres  
 Agents for Valentines, Potclays, Nabertherm, Rohde  
 New kilns supplied and fitted (not just delivered)  
 Kiln elements made to order, kiln repairs  
 - Good, reliable, individual service at a competitive price

## Annie Peaker Figurative Ceramics Courses in the beautiful Eden Valley, Cumbria

We run 2, 3 & 5 day adult pottery courses from Apr-Sep teaching handbuilding, modelling & sculpting skills. The courses focus on the human figure and animal forms and with small class sizes we can offer an excellent level of 1:1 coaching. The courses are great fun and provide a motivational & challenging experience suitable for all ability levels.

Comfortable B&B accommodation available.

For full details go to  
[www.anniepeaker.co.uk/courses](http://www.anniepeaker.co.uk/courses)  
 or phone Annie & Andy on 01768 870492

**Kirk Neuk Studio & Gallery**  
 Lazonby, Penrith CA10 1BL



uclan Northern School of Design  
 University of Central Lancashire

**ceramics**  
 BA (Hons)  
 MA  
 MPhil / PhD research

Our programme embraces the complete spectrum of ceramic activity:  
 Surface and form design, function, figurative and abstract sculpture, architectural.  
 • Superbly equipped workshops following huge investment in new equipment.  
 • A blend of practice, theory and context  
 • Outdoor Experimental Kiln area  
 • Biannual study trip to the International Ceramics Studio, Kecskemet, Hungary  
 • Overseas exchange opportunities  
 • Involvement in national ceramics events  
 • Programme of visiting professional makers and designers  
 • Staff with national and international reputations in research and art practice

A fantastic opportunity to develop practical skills, knowledge of materials, processes, with the freedom to realise your creative potential.

For further information contact:  
 Dave Harper (BA course)  
[d.h.harper@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:d.h.harper@uclan.ac.uk)  
 Tel: 01772 89 3267  
 David Sims (MA & Research)  
[d.sims@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:d.sims@uclan.ac.uk)

[www.uclan.ac.uk/design/index.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/design/index.php)  
[www.uclan.ac.uk/design/index.php](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/design/index.php)



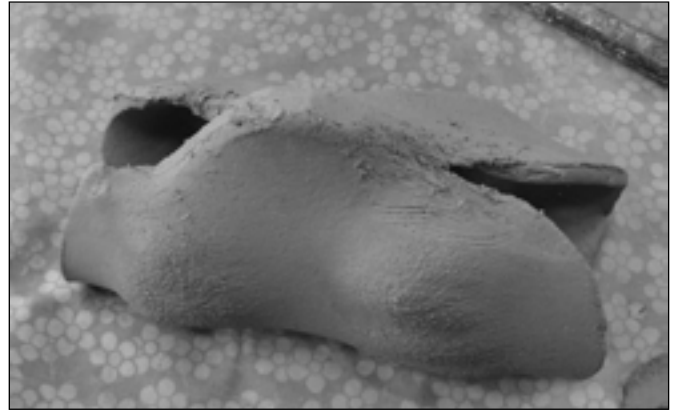
---

# Making a Raku Piglet - Catherine Boyne-Whitelegg

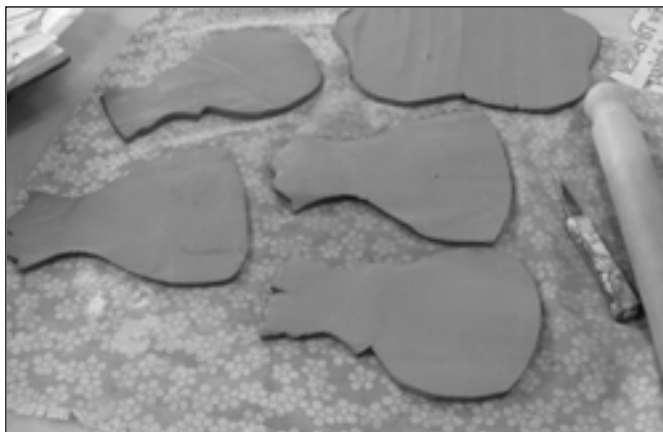
1. Crank Clay rolled out & parts cut from templates



4. Body joined by use of kidneys



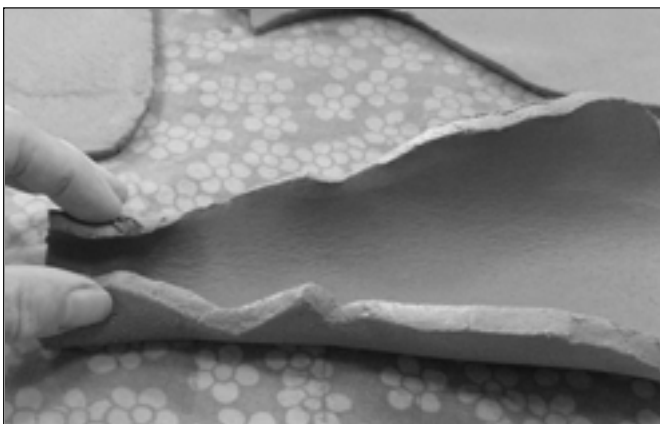
2. Pieces cut out - just legs & body at this stage



5. Pieces left to harden



3. Legs scored, slipped and pinched together



6. Legs attached and supported by batts at this stage



7. Gently turn work to stand up



8. Catherine wraps ends of piglet to stop them drying out too quickly whilst head is being made.



9. Start pinching out head of piglet



10. Richard, Catherine's husband, takes out piglet after Raku firing



11. Piglet put in bin & covered with sawdust, taken out, left to cool and then cleaned



12. Completed piece



# POTCLAYS

LIMITED

5%  
discount\* to NPA  
members when  
you quote your  
membership  
number

...everything for the craft potter

- **Nearly 80 years of experience** in manufacturing our unparalleled sliphoused and panmilled bodies - often the preferred choice of world-renowned potters. Some recipes were the original benchmark for many others on the market today.
- **We are only a phone call away** if you need technical advice. We are more than happy to impart our knowledge and experience.
- **We stock a huge range of other products** including glazes, tools and equipment, and machinery.
- **Over 25 years of experience in kiln manufacture:** Our team of experienced engineers designs and builds each one of our top- and front-loading kilns on-site here at Potclays. All of our kilns have a 3 year limited warranty.
- **We are exclusive authorised distributors** for Southern Ice Porcelain in Europe and for L&L Kilns and Shimpo in the UK & Eire. *Buying from an authorised dealer or their agent(s) guarantees your peace of mind!*
- **Visit our website** to find your nearest Potclays distributor.

Potclays Ltd Brickkiln Lane Etruria Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7BP  
T: 01782 219816 F: 01782 286506 E: sales@potclays.co.uk

\* 5% discount applies only to orders placed directly with Potclays. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

# LIGHTBULB

DESIGN CONSULTANCY

Lightbulb has significant experience of working with artists, makers and galleries, including the **North Light Gallery**, Huddersfield, **Leeds Fine Artists** and the **Northern Potters Association**.

We work across the UK to advise on, design and deliver affordable:

- **WEBSITE DESIGN & BUILD**
- **PORTFOLIO & GALLERY SITES**
- **GRAPHIC DESIGN & PRINT**
- **LOGO DESIGN**
- **ADVERTISING**
- **SELF MANAGED WEBSITES**
- **SEARCH ENGINE OPTIMISATION**
- **SELLING ONLINE**
- **COPYWRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY**
- **NEWS BLOGS & SOCIAL MEDIA**

We offer jargon-free, no nonsense design experience, backed with the creative skills and commercial insight required, and are perfectly placed to help you promote and develop awareness of your creative practice.

Contact David or Sophie for a **FREE** no obligation quote, or just a chat!

DISCOUNT FOR  
NPA MEMBERS  
**10%**

**4 WOODHEAD ROAD, HONLEY, HOLMFIRTH, WEST YORKSHIRE HD9 6PX**  
**01484 665707 • 07834 760688**

**WWW.LIGHTBULB-MOMENT.COM**  
**IDEAS@LIGHTBULB-MOMENT.COM**

# Regional News

Please contact your regional coordinator with suggestions for events

## North East

Co-ordinator: Geoff Proudlock, 46 Cleveland Terrace, Darlington, DL3 7HA  
Tel: 01325 353445  
Email: geoff@gproudlock.plus.com



## East

Co-ordinator: Ann Decker  
Email: ann.decker1@btinternet.com  
Tel: 01904 788156

Eleven NPA members are exhibiting at the NPA-East Summer Exhibition at Pyramid Gallery, York from 3 July to 6 September. Preview night is 2 July, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m  
We hope to arrange a social barbecue, possible in August - details will be emailed round when available.



A couple of NPA members attended the Create Sustain Innovate conference on 8 June at York St. John. Speakers from a variety of creative businesses spoke about their experiences in developing commercially, and subject experts shared their knowledge in areas such as copyright and trademark. It was inspiring and informative.

## South East

Co-ordinator: Brian Holland  
Email: brian.holland100@virgin.net  
Tel: 01909 724781

My email server has been down for several days, so if you have emailed me and I haven't replied, please re-send your message - I may not have received it.

NPA-SE group members have been busy with the exhibition and market in Sadirac, France, and arranging the reciprocal exhibition at Thoresby Gallery - please see the photos below, and the report on page 10 for full details.



Stacking the restored Roman kiln - Sadirac



Building paper kilns - Sadirac

### South West

Co-ordinator: Jan Lewis-Eccleston  
Email: jle.ceramics@yahoo.co.uk  
Tel: 01625 263974



Nothing to report this month.

### West

Co-ordinator: Dave Harper  
E-mail: dpharper@uclan.ac.uk  
Tel: 01782 617801 or Tel: 01204 674901



The group meeting was arranged to be able to view the Degree shows at the University of Central Lancashire. A tour of all areas within Design was given which included M.A. and B.A. Ceramics, which probably generated the most interest. A meeting followed and opened with members wishing Dave Harper our regional co-ordinator a quick recovery after his recent illness.

#### Visiting Lecturer

Jack Doherty was our last speaker and had a good attendance. Jack gave both an interesting and informative talk about his recent work and the Bernard Leach Centre at St Ives. Many thanks to Eryl Fryer for providing Jack with accommodation and to Liz Collinson for organizing the event.

#### Next Lecture

Martin McWilliam 8<sup>th</sup> October 7.00 pm at UCLAN Preston

Numbers have steadily increased in attendance to the visiting lectures, but we urge members to publicise these events even further.

#### Future Exhibitions

March 2011 - PR1 Gallery, UCLAN, Preston. June 2011 - Lytham Heritage Centre, Lytham. Arteria Gallery, Lancaster - see details page 12

#### Next Meeting

Monday 27 Sept., 7.15pm, ' Bitter Suite ' Pub, Preston. **Next Vessel Theme:** ' Indian Summers '

### North West

Co-ordinator: Roger Bell, Gale Mount, 11High Gale, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0BG  
Tel: 015394 32730 E-mail: bell.roger@btinternet.com



Bob Park will be rebuilding his wood-firing kiln from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July. Some helpers will be welcome. Ruth Charlton has arranged a small cabinet at Tullie House, Carlisle to advertise the NPA from 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct.

## Advertising in NPA News

#### Cost of advert for one issue:

**Diary listings:** free  
**Small ads:** up to 30 words free to members  
**Boxed Adverts:**  
**Colour** half page £30  
quarter page £18  
eighth page £10  
**Black & white** half page £20  
quarter page £15  
eighth page £8

#### Repeat Adverts:

Six consecutive inclusions for the price of five

**All adverts have to be paid for prior to publication**  
**(Cheques made out to NPA, sent to the editor)**

Barbara Wood  
Old Mills, Seaton Ross,  
York, YO42 4NH  
e: npanews@btinternet.com

---

## First or Worst - Barbara Wood

We didn't study ceramics at school, so my first experience with clay came much, much later - after a career in accounting and computing, then systems design and management. I came to a point where I wanted to try something different, and was accepted onto an academic course at Manchester which then fell through due to lack of interest! By that time, I'd stopped taking contract work in preparation for full time study, so was at something of a loose end. We had just moved house, and I had plenty of decorating and gardening to keep me occupied, but decided it was an opportunity to try something new. I enrolled on a ceramics course at York College, and was hooked from day one.

Under the excellent guidance of Dawn Ridsdel (thank you, Dawn), I started experimenting with different techniques, and soon decided that coiling was for me. I had no particular desire to make functional wares (though have subsequently wished I was a competent thrower to make some basic homewares), so looked at decorative work with more 'natural' firing techniques - smoke, raku, more recently saggar - and that remains the case. This piece was made during my first term, and still has a place in a dark corner of the lounge. It is coiled, burnished and smoke fired, and apart from its weight is still of an 'acceptable' quality in my eyes. It has a certain rustic charm!

There are so many candidates for the role of 'worst' pot, many of which have seen the inside of a skip over the years, but there are still one or two disasters tucked away in weedy corners of the garden. My sternest critic is my sister-in-law, who had consistently refused to select pots to take (free), and yet when she visited one time she happily rescued half a dozen pots from the skip, implying that I was throwing the wrong ones out. The hurt was compounded the following day when my mother-in-law (no relation to my sister-in-law) did the same. I wondered at that point whether I should develop an extreme form of car booting - put everything in the skip, and see how much people are willing to pay to remove pieces.



**First - coiled, burnished, smoke fired vessel**



**One of the worst! Coiled, stoneware fired with erratic glazing, and unpredicted cracks throughout, now roaming free with self seeded nettle garnish**

I had to chop nettles down to locate this one, and for obvious reasons it will go back into the undergrowth very soon. I was aiming to make a planter and water feature (small pond for a miniature water lily), and, guess what? it didn't work on any level. Even empty I can barely lift it, and it doesn't have any aesthetically pleasing aspect. I can only assume it's still here because it's too heavy to lift into the bin.

*Please send in your own 'first or worst' memories - Ed*

**NK and Nabertherm kilns**  
 Top, front, side loading kilns  
 Square, round, oval, split, wood,  
 gas, electric and eCo. All pottery  
 equipment supplied, delivered  
 and installed or visit our shop  
 Pugmills, extruders, wheels,  
 blungers, spraybooths  
 ware tables and trollies with  
 design & consulting service  
 Parts and servicing nationwide  
 to all makes of kilns and  
 equipment. 24 different clays in  
 stock & various Clayman, Botz  
 and Bath Potters glazes. Tools  
 materials. Rakuno kilns, burners,  
 fibre, bricks, kit kilns, elements,  
 thermocouples, contactors,  
 heat sinks. Controllers supplied  
 and/or retro fitted. 41 years in  
 the same family but with new  
 management

**in our shop**

**gas and raku**

**over 60 kilns on site**

**NK truck & split kiln**

**ever growing fleet**

**BOTZ** **Nabertherm**

Please call before travelling to make sure relevant staff are at base to help  
 NORTHERN KILNS, Pilling Pottery, School Lane, Pilling, Nr. Garstang, Lancashire, PR3 6HB  
 Tel 01253 790307 Fax 01253 790120 Email info@northernkilns.com www.northernkilns.com  
 www.pillingpottery.com YouTube: kilnsareus OR pillingpottery Skype northernkilns

## If you use Clay - You need CTM Potters Supplies



Manufacturer of Contem Underglazes " Mail Order and Collection

Stockist of Valentine Clays & Scarva Earthstone Clays " Distributors for Spencroft & Potclays range of Clays

Materials " Frits " Rare Earths " Colouring Oxides " Tools & Equipment " Potters Wheels " Rohde Kilns

UG Pencils " Contem Underglazes " Raku & Crackle Glazes " Stains " Scarva E/W & S/W Glazes " Slips

Kiln Furniture & Shelves " Bead Stands " Brushes " Bisqueware & Bisque Tiles " Ceramic Fibre Blankets & Paper

5% discount to NPA members (excl. direct deliveries of clay, and machinery/kilns/wheels)

[www.ctmpotterssupplies.co.uk](http://www.ctmpotterssupplies.co.uk)

New downloadable catalogue on the website

Unit 10A, Millpark Ind Estate, White Cross Road, Woodbury Salterton, Exeter EX5 1EL 01395 233077

Unit 8, Broomhouse Lane Ind Estate, Edlington, Doncaster DN12 1EQ 01709 770 801



Lesley Nason - **Sherwood Trees**,  
**Porcelain, hand built vessel**  
Photo: David Binch

**Potfest in the Pens ~ August 6th, 7th, 8th**

More than 40 NPA members will be showing and selling their work  
~ do come along and say hello

Skirsgill Mart, Penrith - Open daily 10am - 5pm Adults £4.00, Seniors £3.50, accompanied children free