

NPA NEWS

The magazine of the Northern Potters Association



Editor's Comment

There was an incredible response to the request for members to volunteer to join the committee, so thank you to all those who replied - perhaps next time, people will step forward a little bit sooner? A lot of this issue is devoted to the matters around the Annual General Meeting, which may not be the most exciting read, but is an essential part of running the association in an open and orderly manner, so needs to be included. If you can attend the AGM, please do so. It's important that members have a chance to find out more, have their say, and make contributions to how the association operates. Unless it does what the members want, it will not continue to flourish. It's also a good day to visit York, with the offer of a group tour of CoCA, at a much reduced rate, and then the Annual CoCA Lecture. This year's lecturer, Walter Keeler, seems to be a very popular choice. The accounts statement, on page 9, shows that we made a loss again last year, so we need to be aware that NPA's normal running costs outweigh its regular income, and ideas of how to make a little money on events would be welcome!

New committee member Anna-Mercedes Wear has written a piece about herself (page 10) - it's good to hear how someone so accomplished in her work continues to re-assess what she does, and hasn't lost the passion for getting her hands dirty.

A chance email, on an unrelated topic, led to an international contribution from Lynette Morris-Hale (page 16). Having replied to her original enquiry, Lynette told me that she was Chair of the regional group of Ceramics Southern Africa, and asked whether she could offer any information about that - too good an offer to miss. It's fascinating to hear about the parallel existence of a ceramics group so far away.

We have Alex McErlain's penultimate contribution in his 'year's worth of articles' looking at individual potters included in the Ismay collection (page 12). I hope Alex will find another topic to occupy him, with equally interesting results for us readers.

Anne Haworth and 3 of her fellow MA Graduates from UCLan are exhibiting their work at the Platform Gallery, Clitheroe, next month (page 18). They show a great diversity of styles, but all with great mastery of their chosen techniques.

I cannot finish without thanking Roger Bell, who has done a magnificent job of increasing my (hopefully our) knowledge of the ceramic-related books which are available. I am always eager to read his reviews, and value his opinions. Over the years he has needed only the occasional reminder to submit his copy, and has never let me down!

I hope the next issue will contain a review of Sheffield Ceramics Festival, and perhaps Ceramic Art York, two new selling and visiting opportunities in our area which may become annual events. And I wish Joan all the best in editing the magazine - I hope she continues to get support from many unlikely places, and takes as much pleasure from finishing an issue and getting it to the printers' as I do!

Barbara Wood

Cover :

My Members' Gallery - some of the pots by NPA members that I have acquired over the years - one pot from each maker - a prize for the first person to identify them all

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next issue

To contribute to the next issue of NPA News, send your articles, comments and / or images to Joan Hardie

by 25 November 2015

Please send between 300 and 1000 words, and send them as an **email attachment**, or on a cd, or in longhand. Email attachments are easiest for me to include, but I will re-type if absolutely necessary! High resolution (big jpeg files) digital images are preferred, as these give the best quality for printing, but I can scan photos. Low resolution (small files) digital images are the worst - they may be fine for websites, but don't have enough detail for a printed magazine. Send your **text** as a .doc file (or equivalent) - if it's a jpeg, or a pdf, it's not easy for me to edit it as necessary. Please send images as separate attachments, **not embedded in the text**, and preferably **not zipped**, on SkyDrive, Dropbox, WeTransfer or anything similar that involves an extra process to make them accessible. The chance of them being included is improved if you make it easy to do so!

Make sure you have permission to use any images you send. Some galleries / artists will allow you to take photographs of their work for your own reference, but not for publication. If you are asked to include a copyright statement please send it to me and I will use it.

Text and images should be e-mailed to npanews@btinternet.com

Look out for revised contact information in the next issue

New Books - Roger Bell

Thomas Bohle	Nievergelt	45.00
Ceramica: Mexican Pottery of the 20 th Century		41.50
Ceramic Top 40		
Currier & Ives Dinnerware	D & R Coe	16.99
William Daley	Ruth Fine	37.20
Earth		7.50
Fables & Figures		3.00
The Hale Collection of Tohoku Ceramics		18.00
Catrin Howell	Judy Dames	7.50
Horst Kerstan (in German)	ed Schuly	35.00
Annette Lucks – Flipflop	Ed Zilioli & Meyer	35.00
Norman Makinson		5.00
Pit Firing Ceramics	Dawn Whitehead	24.95
Slip		3.00
Transferware and Contemporary Ceramics	Paul Scott	35.00
Zealous Collector	Carol Mayer	\$45.00
Zulu Beer Vessels	Jolles	45.00

Book Review - Roger Bell

ZULU BEER VESSELS in the 20th Century
Arnoldsche

Frank Jolles
£45.00

Arnoldsche Art Publishers are a German company whose list of art books are all well researched and normally with English language editions (or English and German texts). The author, Frank Jolles, gained his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Gottingen before working in Northern Ireland and Nigeria. He then moved to the German department at the University of Natal where he developed his interest in cross cultural studies. After retiring he spent his last years following up his interest in Zulu beer vessels and writing this book. It was published soon after his death.

Such vessels were produced for many years before the 20th century, probably from before the 17th century, but damage in use and purchases of collectors and museums meant limited examples to study in east Africa. The vessels were, and still are, coil built by Zulu women potters for the fermentation and brewing of sorghum and milk. Of the 4 basic shapes, one, *Imbiza*, is much larger than the others and is slip coated before once firing in an open pit. *Imbiza* are difficult to distinguish region of origin. The other 3 forms are: *Uphiso*, round bodied with cylindrical neck holding up to 30 litres; *Ukhamba*, wide topped for serving beer; *Izinkamba*, sized from 500ml to 50 litres various shapes. These 3 groups are burnished, patterned and twice fired, the second being a reduction firing to give a near black finish.

Jolles also includes a chapter on '*Izimbenge*', the beer pot covers used as protection against dust and insects. Originally made from grass or similar, old examples are rare. Modern examples usually incorporate beads and are very colourful.

Thus we have an academic volume of 250 pages, copiously illustrated to a very high quality. Why should a practising potter rather than a collector buy it? If you hand build you can see how skilful these potters are. They have to be strong not to break when full of beer, having been fired only to a low temperature. Also, they are inspiring from the balanced shapes, the beautiful burnished finish and the infinitely varied patterning. It really is a lovely book.

This reminds me of the piece in the March/April 2013 issue by Maggie Thomson, who became obsessed with Zulu beer vessels (yes, I remember every piece that's been included in NPA News since I took over editing in 2009!) Ed

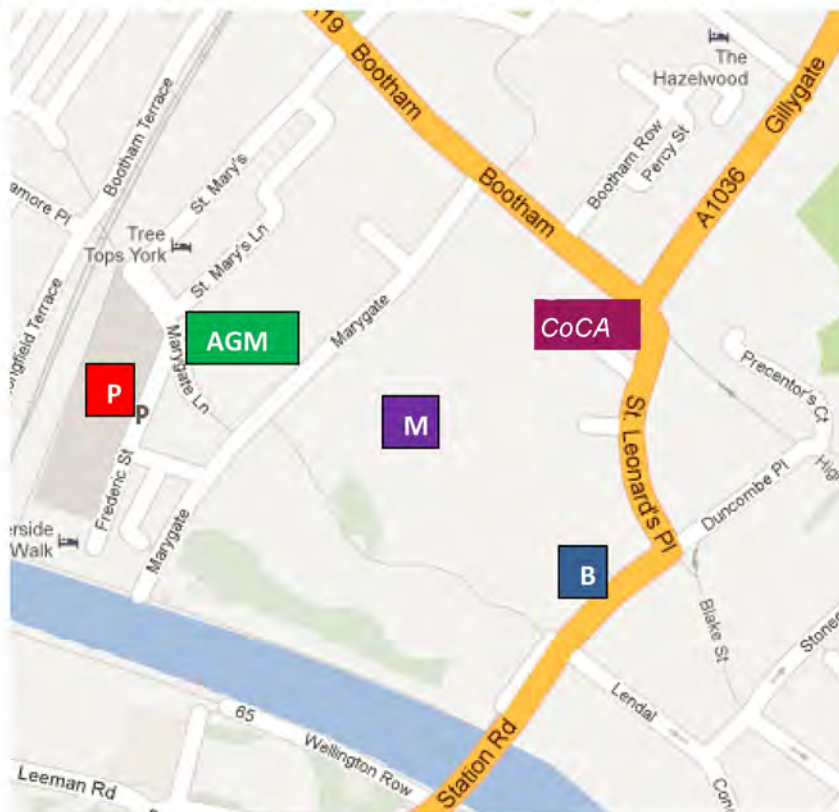
Northern Potters Association Annual General Meeting 2015

As notified in the last issue, the AGM will take place on Saturday, 17 October at St Olave's Church Hall, Marygate Lane, York, YO30 7BJ.

The meeting will start at 1pm, prompt, and all members are invited to attend. After the meeting, there will be an opportunity for a **guided tour of the new Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA)**, but only if you have booked a place! For only £2.50, (with NPA contributing £2.50 per attendee), we will have access to the gallery, which normally costs £7.50 per visit. To book, please let me know asap, but by 10 October at the latest - barbara.wood99@btinternet.com

From 4pm to 5pm, the **Annual CoCA Lecture** will take place at Tempest Anderson Hall, this year given by Walter Keeler. You need to book your tickets for this direct through eventbrite, and are eligible for a discounted price of £5 each - <http://tinyurl.com/o2mmsp>

AGM	<i>St Olave's Church Hall</i>
P	<i>Marygate Car Park</i>
CoCA	<i>Centre of Ceramic Art</i>
B	<i>Park & Ride bus drop off point on Museum Street</i>
M	<i>Tempest Anderson Hall (CoCA Lecture venue)</i>



AGENDA for the AGM

Date Saturday 17 October 2015
Venue St Olave's Church Hall, York YO30 7BJ
Time 13.00

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Chair's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Membership Secretary's report
7. Election of Committee members
8. AOB

The Future of NPA

NPA Committee Update - Barbara Wood

Since the pleas in the last issue, there has been a good response with offers to join the committee, and even to take on most of the required roles. Thank you to all those who made contact, even if it was to explain why you couldn't take on any NPA duties - at least it shows that you've read the requests and given it some thought..

Several volunteers attended the last committee meeting, and I am delighted to announce that Joan Hardie has agreed to take on editorship of this organ! Unfortunately Jenny Morten has left the committee, due to personal commitments which will be taking all her time for the foreseeable future, but Stephan Aal has agreed to pursue the project Jenny started, to try and promote members and their work with a directory of some description, or organised open studios/art trail event/s. Stephan will advise members of his thoughts in due course.

Sylvia Holmes is willing to become Secretary, and Margaret Lawrenson will stand as Chair, though for one year only, to cover the handover to the mostly new committee. Wendy Turner will take on Membership secretary from Margaret. Anna-Mercedes Wear is willing to stand as Vice Chair, to learn from Margaret with a view to standing as Chair when Margaret stands down.

Other new committee members are Suzan Kemp, Sarah Villeneau, Jill Christie and Paul Klos. John and Barbara Robinson will stand at the AGM (John has expressed a willingness to become Treasurer!), as will Ann Johnson and Chiqui Bayley. Dianne Cross continues as Publicity officer, and David Wright as Exhibitions officer. In the constitution we are required to have the 4 named officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and between 8 and 14 other members. We have sometimes struggled to achieve the minimum number, but are now right at the top end, so must consider carefully how many members there should be. Each committee member involves a cost to the association in travelling etc.. I did not imagine, only 2 months ago, that there might be a problem with too many volunteers!

If you also wish to be considered for committee, please let the Secretary (Julie Ward) know before the AGM, when roles will be confirmed for the following year/s. As has been stated several times lately, if more people each take on a small amount of work it is less onerous for all, and the handover between committee members can be simple and painless.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2014

Potfest, Penrith
2nd August 2014

Present: Barbara Wood (chair), Alan Birchall, Margaret Lawrenson, Helen Walsh, Julie Ward (Minutes), Dianne Cross, Lesley Nason, Ruth Charlton, Bob March, Gary Sampson, Jill Christie, Shirley Sheppard, Lesley Anne Greene, Katie Braida, Stephan Aal, June Ridgway, Gary Thomas, Susan Sharpe, Eryl Fryer, Bryan Holland, Lynne Hutchinson, Carl Gray, Jill Ford, Gerry Grant, Trudy Weir, Lyn Grant, Anna Brown, Ruby Sharp, Roger Bell, Veronica Ballan.

1. Apologies: Olinda Everett, Neil Pitts, Geoff Proudlock, June Proudlock, Ann Bates, Steve Tootell, Steve Booton, Jim Simpson, Sylvia Holmes

2. Minutes from the last AGM: The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Chairperson's Report: During the year from April 2013 to March 2014, we held an exhibition at New School House Gallery, York, from 15 November to 21 December 2013. This generated sales of £6106, which is a healthy amount. The next selected show will be at Ropewalk, Barton upon Humber, in October/November 2014. The closing date for applications is 10 August 2014. Rufford was considered as a venue but the hire rate and commission rate has increased. Carl Gray commented that this is being reviewed and there may be a lower hire fee, but with an even higher commission rate. We will continue to monitor Rufford as a possible venue. Earlier this year we were at Turnstone Gallery, Sandsend (near Whitby), which proved to be a successful venue with some substantial sales (already reported in the newsletter). This will be included in next year's AGM report.

Newsletter NPA news continues to be an interesting read, thanks to the many and varied contributions, with particular thanks to Steve Booton, Steve Tootell and Dan Bridge. CPA news is now part of Ceramic Review, rather than a separate publication. Whenever there is space, we include a short report from the latest committee meeting. It may be time for a major revamp of the newsletter – perhaps a job for the next editor.

Website 140+ members are now listed although this is still only a low percentage of the membership.

Consequently, we have introduced presence on the website as one of the eligibility criteria for selected exhibitors, to encourage more members to join in. We intend to update the website with a new feature to enable visitors to view a thumbnail image for each member, as a quicker way to access or track down a particular maker.

Regional Groups The 6 regional coordinators continue in their current roles with different levels of activity in each region. Having approached the coordinators about meeting with committee members to discuss possible events and issues, it seems that there weren't any particular pressing matters that warranted discussion in person, so we have shelved the idea for the time being.

Events

Talks/demos After last year's AGM we had a talk by Julian Stair, which was jointly funded by YMT, NPA and the Friends of York Art Gallery. This year we have agreed in committee that we would like to remain involved in a series of annual lectures by 'big names' to be known as the CoCA lectures which will take place in York. The funding will again be shared, and NPA members can attend without charge. This year it will be Claire Twomey and will take place in November.

Earth & Fire We had 2 shared stands this year with 2 members on each. NPA has been taken out of the selection process but provides table covers and moral support, and still view it as a way of maintaining our profile.

Potfest Thanks again to Chris and Geoff for letting us attend the Pens. It's great to see so many members exhibiting here (more than half the exhibitors), and we are trialling a new card payment system which will make it simpler and cheaper to process card payments. It will not be available to lend out in the same way as the previous phone system due to conditions applied by Worldpay, but as card systems have become so reasonable in price and ease of use, I'm sure many more members who regularly attend such events will find it worth investing in their own system. The new exhibitor competition is being held again this year with a £50 cash prize for whoever gets the most exhibiting members' votes, as well as the main prize of next year's Pens fee for the winner of the public vote.

Potters' Camp Despite members occasionally saying that they wish we still held them, there were no volunteers to take part in organising a camp for next year. Current committee are all fully committed with the roles they carry out so it is essential that we have a separate team involved in such a major project. There is the offer of Thoresby as a venue with Brian Holland willing to do this liaison. There were comments and questions from the floor about what could be involved, suggestions of gathering information from other organisations such as camp held in Scotland, liaising with Heads of Ceramics courses etc. After some discussions and no volunteers to organise such an event it was decided to not proceed with this.

5. Treasurer's Report: The financial statement (31 March 2014) was printed in the July - August 2014 newsletter. The NPA financial position remains healthy and we have achieved the objective of keeping the overall balance just above the figure agreed at the last AGM of £10,000. NPA still has two bank accounts (the Co-operative and Yorkshire Bank). There is still a significant number of members who have not switched their standing order to the Co-operative Bank. A few points from the statement – Membership fees are slightly down - events and exhibition income and expenditure are down on the previous year and as predicted there is a substantial drop in exhibition travel expenses of 74% or £2500 – Committee travel expenses are also down by 15%. Postage and stationery expenses are down by 28% largely through most payments now being paid to members and creditors by bank transfer. We now have a publicity secretary and are beginning to incur some publicity costs. Overall there was a current deficit of £922, a considerable improvement on the previous year. In recent years there was a surplus of £2930 in 2011 but deficits of £3490 in 2009, £1030 in £3850 in 2012 and £2470 last year.

Mobile POS We have only one member using our Mobile POS service via their own mobile phone. There are now much cheaper options available and many members are signing up to these as individuals. We will still provide a service at fairs where there are significant members selling their work e.g. Potfest. We are trialling a Worldpay Zinc system which is going well.

Steve Wood was proposed, seconded and elected as auditor for 2014/2015

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Membership over the last year has shown a slight increase. There are 460 membership entries of which 15 are joint memberships so the actual number of members is 475. Since the 2013 AGM we have had 54 new members and 43 lapses. 368 members pay by Standing Order and of 308 are paid into or have transferred to the new Co-op account. 16 members are in the process of changing their standing order details which leaves 44 members who have not made the necessary alterations.

7. Election of Committee Members:

John Cook has resigned from the committee and Sylvia Holmes is standing down as exhibitions officer but is staying on the committee. The Committee would like to thank them for their hard work and continuing support.

There was discussion about the roles of the proposed exhibition team

Barbara Wood proposed David Wright as a member of the exhibition team, Alan Birchall seconded.

Barbara Wood proposed Ruth Charlton as a member of the committee, Alan Birchall seconded.

8. Any Other Business:

Barbara Wood proposed that the £5 exhibition submission be applied to all applicants, Dianne Cross seconded voted unanimously

Margaret Lawrenson proposed that the concessionary membership fee be increased to £15 and apply only to full time ceramics students, Eryl Fryer seconded voted unanimously.

Roger Bell raised concerns about the involvement of CPA in the National Year of Clay events associated with the re-opening of York Art Gallery (YAG). BW explained that the committee had been in discussion with YAG about possible events, but they did not want NPA to have a selling event in 2015. We had thought we were going to be involved with the CPA Ceramic Art York event, but they have excluded us. Lyn Grant expressed disappointment among members that have been involved in community events with YAG on a voluntary basis particularly the very successful closing event. HW will raise these concerns with YAG.

NORTHERN POTTERS ASSOCIATION
Financial Statement as at 31st March 2015

RECEIPTS	2015		2014	
	£	£	£	£
Membership Fees		10,506.00		10,128.00
Events Income	5,922.73		4,743.95	
Events Expenditure	5,462.48	460.25	4,483.29	260.66
Interest Received		11.20		13.33
POS Admin Charges		0.00		195.00
POS Trans Charges		-124.10		-104.42
Interest received -Deposit Account		0.00		0.00
Sundry Income		861.49		124.85
		11,714.84		10,617.42
 EXPENDITURE				
Committee Travel		1,259.65		1,442.25
Exhibition Travel Expenses		480.66		871.94
Postage & Stationery		330.92		194.48
Insurance		390.93		390.93
Publicity		0.00		147.95
Website Expenditure		1,182.00		585.00
Newsletter	8,941.07		7,627.98	
Less Adverts	1,550.00	7,391.07	913.00	6,714.98
Sundries		1,221.83		841.98
Auditor		300.00		350.00
		12,557.06		11,539.51
Current Surplus/Deficit		-842.22		-922.09
 BALANCE SHEET				
Assets				
Yorkshire Bank Current Account		1,026.05		230.84
Co-op Bank Current Account		8,115.32		9,482.79
CIE Balance in Bank				669.96
Special Deposit in Bank		0.00		0.00
		9,141.37		10,383.59
Liabilities				
Accumulated Funds		9,983.59		10,905.68
Current Surplus/Deficit		-842.22		-922.09
Timing Adjustments		0.00		400.00
		9,141.37		10,383.59

Alan Birchall, Honorary Treasurer

Where am I Now? - Anna-Mercedes Wear



Turning 50 this month has brought about a good deal of reflective thinking. A constant in my line of work but particularly so at the moment.

We all muse and evaluate our work each time we do a show or an exhibition, how we can change the form and colour, explore the parts we like, ditch the bits that cease to fuel our current obsessions. I get 'stand envy' each time I do a show (.....bit like 'Tent Envy' when I go camping)!

It's good and it's healthy. I'm terrified I will wake up one morning and not want to squeeze my hands around a lump of clay, I don't want to get bored with what I make so I am continually tweaking and moving and rethinking..... and so the world keeps on spinning.



I graduated back in 1992 from Edinburgh College of Art and I've been making and showing my figurative ceramics ever since, with a few years off to have children. I've taught ceramics in schools and Adult Ed throughout and it helps to keep me on my toes - I'm passionate about accessing art to a wider audience.

I worked from home in my (cold) cellar for 15 years, then 18 months ago I moved into a large, modern eco studio with Yorkshire Artspace. I'm based up at Sheffield Manor Lodge (which is where Mary Queen of Scots was locked in the 'tower' for

many years), run by Green Estate and surrounded by wild flower meadows. I have underfloor heating and a green roof, the temperature never goes below 20 degrees....I could go on.....it really is very nice.

Today I finished my first large figurative piece. I really relished getting back into making figures; I've been producing foxes like there's no tomorrow for two years solidly, and I can feel the energy and excitement of new work running through my hands. My heart has always been in making my naked ladies. I love the humour, the narrative behind them and most of all engaging the greater public. I have a list in my head of what I want to make next!



I think now is a very exciting time to be a ceramicist, we all know the students aren't coming through College in the numbers that they used to, but still our audience is growing. We owe it to ourselves to educate them on our wonderful and most incredible Craft.



Exhibition News - David Wright

A date for next year's diary:

NPA has been invited to hold a selected exhibition at Gallery Oldham. The dates will be 1st October to 3rd December 2016, so watch out for more information in this Newsletter.

The Gallery space has wonderful natural light from both sides, great for ceramics. The Gallery holds an interesting collection of Studio Ceramics, some of which are on permanent display. We are always looking for exhibition opportunities for NPA members and any suggestions are welcome - davidwrightpottery@yahoo.co.uk

For Sale

Old but working, standing kick wheel - £200 ono
Heavy so suitable transport required.
Contact Karen - 0161 740 9995 / -7761 573276
baggiwags2007@btinternet.com (Manchester)



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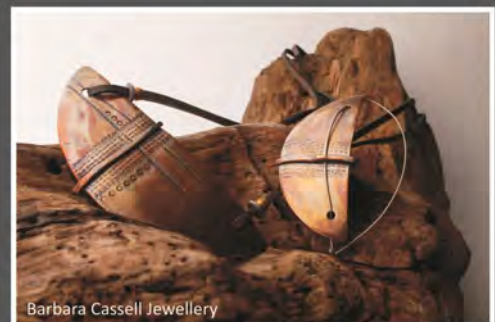
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119 West End Avenue,
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(callers by appointment)



From the Ismay Archive - Alex McErlain

Siddig El Nigoumi, 1931 - 1996



Press moulded dish, burnished earthenware, smoke fired. 1979, h 6cm w 27cm w 24cm
Photograph Phil Sayer

Towards the end of the 20th century, smoke fired pottery became extremely popular. Most potters left their work plain and allowed the dramatic marks created through the firing process to provide the finish. However, the inspiration for a lot of this work was traditional African pottery which is frequently decorated. Siddig El Nigoumi saw his dish forms as a vehicle to carry drawings or decorative marks and the subsequent smoke firing something to add interest rather than dominate the pot. El Nigoumi trained as a calligrapher in his native Sudan. His interest in mark making carries through into his pottery together with his calligrapher's skill which is apparent in the way he deftly handles a sgraffito tool.

This is a typical piece of his, burnished red clay, smoke marked, with scratched linear drawing reminiscent of a crossword puzzle. It is hard to distinguish a logical pattern at work and this is of course, the point. The dish appears to be filled with a simple chequerboard design but the system is irregular causing the viewer to try and work out what is going on. The dish is very tactile, as burnished pottery can often be. The sgraffito drawing invites fingertip exploration rather like a passage of braille. I tried to work out how El Nigoumi had constructed the drawing. It doesn't appear to have been made as a series of crossing lines as the lines are not always continuous. Perhaps he drew blocks of squares in series or connected individual units in some way. One square carries a

drawing of a scorpion which he used as his signature, possibly a reminder of his home in the desert. Two beautiful freehand drawn lines contain the pattern within the softly rectangular form. A flattened rim and thin edge continue to invite the tactile investigation. Running a finger around the rim you sense finesse which carries through into the scratched interior. El Nigoumi smoked his work post firing, using lit newspaper, a technique sometimes called carbonising. The mottled smoke marked surface helps to emphasise the paler sgraffito marks. I was a little surprised to find some deep unintended marks in the back of the dish, probably caused by the edge of the hollow mould pressing accidentally into the clay, during the sgraffito process. The potter could have rectified these but chose not to, it must not have been important to him. The reverse of the dish is plain, burnished and has the date mark 79 scratched in.

El Nigoumi was born in the Sudan. He attended the art school in Khartoum to study calligraphy and this is where he also discovered clay. Later he studied ceramics at the Central School of Art in London and eventually, in 1967, he settled in Britain. Unusually he made work in both unglazed smoke fired earthenware and in glazed stoneware. Ismay amassed seven of his works. In the archive there are a number of invoices and exhibition lists relating to El Nigoumi. The list from Bohun gallery (archive no 5859) shows how Ismay annotated these lists to indicate the items he was contemplating purchasing and it appears the one with a cross mark is the one he eventually selected.

Diary

9 October - 17 December	Oriental Inspirations - NE-NPA exhibition at the Oriental Museum, Durham City, DH1 3TH Preview 8 October, 6pm - 8pm
10 - 11 October	Innovations in Ceramic Art , The Guildhall, Cambridge - includes NPA members Antonia Salmon, Rachel Wood and Sarah Villeneau - onlineceramics.com
10 - 11, 17 - 18 October	East Yorkshire Open Studios - includes NPA members Penny De Corte, Jill Ford, Margaret Lawrenson, Jenny Morten and Tony Wells
14 October	NPA-NW social , Old Barn Studios, Ireby, Cumbria, starting at 7pm
14 - 15 November	Art in Clay , Farnham, Hants, includes NPA members Adrian Bates, Mary Johnson, Pratima Kramer, Laura Manners, Anna Whitehouse and Rachel Wood - artinclay.co.uk
15 November	Oriental Inspirations Meet the Artists event, Oriental Museum, Durham 2 - 4pm
17 October	NPA Annual General Meeting , St Olave's Church Hall, York, 1pm
17 October	Annual CoCA Lecture , Walter Keeler, Tempest Anderson Hall, York, 4pm
24 - 25 October	Oxford Ceramics Fair - includes NPA members James Hake and Rachel Wood oxfordceramicsfair.co.uk
30 October - 28 November	Unearthed - an exhibition by Hilary Angle and NPA member Barbara Wood, Gallery 1, The Ropewalk, Barton upon Humber - the-ropewalk.co.uk
2 - 21 November	NPA-W exhibition at Pr1 Gallery, UCLan
7 - 8 November	Winterfest , Thoresby Gallery and Riding Hall, Thoresby, Nottinghamshire - to book a stall, contact galler@thoresby.com
21 - 22 November	Yorkshire Artspace Open Studios , Exchange Place Studios, Sheffield
27 - 29 November	Harley Gallery Open Studios, Notts - includes NPA member Rachel Wood harleygallery.co.uk

Please send me details of events you think members would like to hear about - Ed

Members' Gallery





1. Carolyn Corfield - **Lakshmi** - polished porcelain, 23cm h. A white lotus symbolises the Hindu goddess of prosperity
 2. Sylvia Holmes
 3. Tim Pearce
 4. Dianne Cross
 5. Lucy Oldroyd
 6. Eric Moss
- 2 - 6 all photos Eric Moss

Ceramics Southern Africa - Lynette Morris-Hale

Founded in 1972, Ceramics Southern Africa is the official representative body of potters in Southern Africa. The objective of the association is to promote ceramics in Southern Africa by improving the work being produced and to foster an interest in ceramics by the general public. This is done by presenting workshops and organising exhibitions regionally and nationally.

The purpose of Ceramics Southern Africa is to maintain a representative forum for the encouragement and fostering of the art and craft of ceramics in Southern Africa. The field encompasses all relevant processes that add value to clay. Members range from leading professionals to hobbyists.

The KZN (KwaZulu Natal) Regional Branch held its 42nd annual Regional Exhibition in July, and here is a review of the exhibition:

MEETING CLAY: KZN REGIONAL EXHIBITION 2015

When one walks into a gallery and sees one's work among many other ceramic pieces, one immediately becomes aware of the strong and weak elements in it, especially when measured against the other work on show. This is one of the reasons Ceramics SA holds an annual regional exhibition - to inspire, encourage and develop members.

This year we had 43 members (out of a membership of 65) exhibiting and a total of 138 works. The exhibition was 'stunning' - not my word, but I heard this comment from numerous people.

Elizabeth Balcomb, Fahmeeda Omar and Michelle Rall were our Invited Guest Artists. The inclusion of work by these artists helped towards creating an interesting and successful exhibition, coupled with the stunning layout done by Francois Cheney and Louis Jennings.

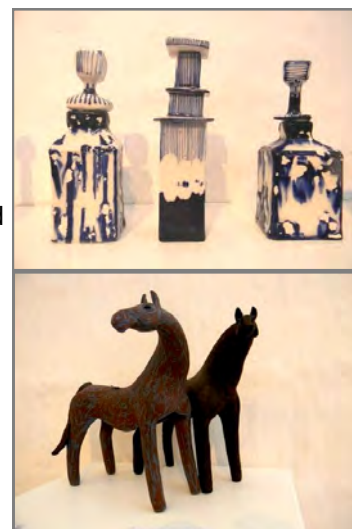
The work overall was fresh, engaging and well made. The sales were down from last year and numerous factors can be called into consideration here but the one I will mention is lack of functional ware (compared to last year). It tells me that a lot of the buying public still enjoy/see ceramics as utilitarian and shun away from ceramics as art for art sake.

Some of the pieces that the selectors have asked me to give special mention to are the following: Frank Nthunya, as a selector/judge was ineligible for consideration for an award but his vessels were so beautifully conceived, the proportioned form so well balanced, the traditional designs so delicately incised that one was bought by National Council for the **Corobrik Collection**. Franks's unorthodox approach to the traditional vessel can be seen in his use of green slip and delicate pattern making and the fact that the work has not been smoked fired. The chosen piece is a vessel of quiet contemplation with its small base and sweeping curved form. Michelle Rall created a series of printed images on torn porcelain paper clay set behind glass which further emphasizes the preciousness and fragility of the work. She has been inspired by early (18th century) explorer drawings of South African wildlife and landscapes, the torn edges of the white porcelain emulating old drawings on parchment paper.

Fahmeeda Omar submitted small vessels (averaging 15cm in height). These delicate, tiny hand coiled vessels have a power that beguiles one's sense of the small. The coloured clay coils further enhance the contemporary look.

Jo-Anne Kuter won the **Maggie Mikula Premier Award** (an award given by Maggie's family in memory of this well known Durban Ceramic artist who broke boundaries in clay by incorporating other material into her work. in the 1970's). Jo-Anne's work, an installation of 14 perfume bottles, is a contemporary take on Delftware, willow patterns and Chinese architecture. She deliberately creates crawling of Cobalt so there is a play between abstracted shapes and linear shapes.

Trayci Tompkins, owner of Zulu Lulu gallery in the Midlands won the **Bartel Trust Award** (2nd Place) for a work called Sophie. Trayci's acute powers of observation and skilled handling of clay resulted in a dog, lying in





complete abandonment on a sofa, complete with wet nose and one eye peering out to see if he is being observed. The highly decorated sofa in rich red shows off the soft sagging skin of the dog and the Renaissance styled legs of the couch add the finishing touches to an amusing piece.

Any artist who creates a sculptural piece can choose their base, and this is what 3rd Prize winner Lois Strong has done. She has used a found concrete piece to add her ceramic plant to. This piece, called Wild Flowers, brings so many thoughts to mind - one thinks of the power play between man and nature, the wilful destruction of our environment and how nature always prevails in the end. It is a piece that says more than just the visual. The lack of colour is ideal to focus on the lost-memories, places, people.

Karuni Naidoo, this year's winner of the **Cape Potters Supply Decoration Award**, has made structured architectural forms with interesting variations of geometric and organic shapes built up in layers- all beautifully put together. Her marrying of glaze, underglaze and oxides achieve a fresh, interesting surface.

The expressive distortion of the human figure won Elize Buchler a Highly Commended Award. The large overlapping feet and tiny head engage the viewer as does the sweeping drapery and hair. It works successfully as a monochromatic piece. A newcomer to the ceramic scene is Kyle Pierpoint, who won the Student Award a few years previously and a Highly Commended Award last year. He has won another Highly Commended award this year for his fresh, adventurous play of layers of slip and glazes on hand made plates. In his platters, large vessels and jugs, Garth Hoets, a Fellow of Ceramics SA, continues to make strong, masculine, traditional and competent work with beautiful shapes. Hermine Coleman won the Student Award for her porcelain bowl. Her coiling set up a pleasing rhythm with the agate technique used in the interior of the bowl. Tami King won a Highly Commended in the Student Section. Quirky little teapots with impressed designs give an adventurous surface to the work by Carol Tulldige. Her mixture of glazes, underglazes and smoke firing work well with this timeless form. Depleted, a work by Maryna Wagenaar is a technical achievement in Raku Firing.

Lynette Morris-Hale's Bubble Gum series of vessels were inspired by South African taxi drivers and their general disrespect for the rules of the road. Lynette (me) has treated the clay with the same disrespect (compiling the vessel in under an hour). Using paper clay she has constructed the vessels in a seemingly haphazard way and also applied colour with no respect for the traditional formulae of colour harmony. The titles themselves imply a flippant attitude.

Noreen Hepker's realistic modelling of daily life in South Africa steers away from sentimentality and leaving the work white enables one to focus on the competent and informative modelling.

Jackie Maclennan has won a Highly Commended Award 2 years running now and her vessel forms which evoke memories of fires and braziers are well conceived.

Carla Da Cruz has created a series of vessels where one is encouraged to peer deep within the bellies of the pots. The rhythmic banded decoration inside is competent and engaging, so is the shape of her 2 vessels which are udder like and burnished to a smooth finish. Creative, powerful work from an established ceramic artist.

Congratulations all round to our KZN Artists - you guys were the sum total of a lovely exhibition-thank you for your support.

Lynette Morris-Hale is the Regional Chair of CSA



apologies for the quality of the images - I asked for higher res but didn't receive them in time - Ed

A Platform for Earthly Delights - Anne Haworth

Four friends who met while studying for the MA in Ceramics at the University of Central Lancashire are getting together to exhibit a collection of their work at the Platform Gallery, Clitheroe in November. The four, all NPA members, graduated in June last year and have been meeting regularly at the UCLAN Ceramics Artlab run by NPA West Co-ordinator Geoff Wilcock.

The group – Kay Kennedy, Joanne McCarthy, Angie Wysocki and Anne Haworth - all specialise in hand-building and during the course of the MA developed key areas of research and practice which included environmental issues, saggar firing, glaze technology and repetition in nature. Their final show at UCLAN's PR1 Gallery demonstrated a diverse range of work reflecting their sources of inspiration as well as making techniques, and surface treatments.

Before joining the MA, Kay's background was in Fine Art and Art Therapy, Angie's was in Fine Art and teaching, Joanne's was in Graphic Design and teaching and Anne's was in Ceramics and creative arts. Since the end of the MA they have all been developing their own work in new directions and have taken part in events and also had success with galleries.



Kay Kennedy - Pair of Howling Wolves - saggar fired to 1100C, made using Earthstone Architectural Clay



Angie Wysocki - Solicitor's Dish, large (40cm) carved earthenware platter

The Masters course at UCLAN is run by Professor David Binns and Dr Alasdair Bremner. It has proved to be the catalyst for many creative enterprises.

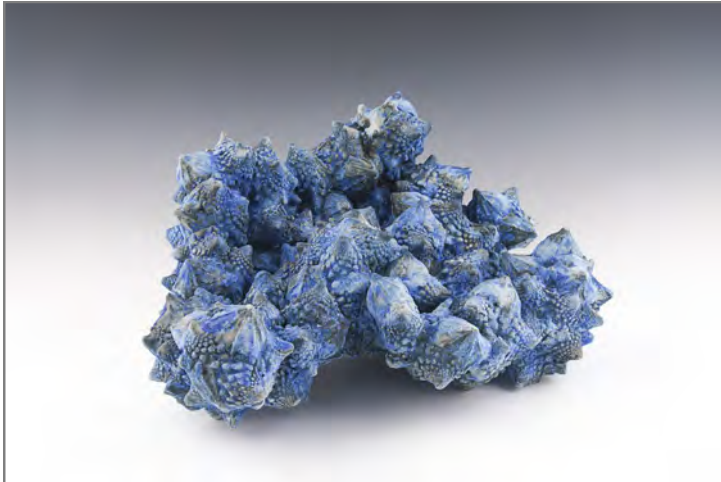
Kay said: "The Ceramics MA at UCLAN is a course which has had some notable successes through the years. It can be both challenging and inspiring – that is what we found. Long may it continue to be so."

Joanne added: "Many students have returned after graduating to continue using the excellent facilities and meeting with their former colleagues and staff at the Ceramic Artlab"



Tree Platter - Carved and impressed hand built stoneware glazed with copper oxide

The Platform Gallery exhibition which is called **Earthly Delights** will be in the education room from November 16-21, Mon-Fri: 10 am-5pm, Saturday: 10am-4-30pm
 Platform Gallery runs a programme of events and exhibitions throughout the year, featuring the work of local and national artists.



Anne Haworth -Hand-built ceramic form based on coral.
 Fired to stoneware using glazes and oxides.

Advertising in NPA News

Cost of advert for one issue:		Repeat Adverts:	Six consecutive inclusions for the price of five
Diary listings:	free	All adverts have to be paid for prior to publication (Cheques made out to NPA, sent to the editor)	
Small ads:	up to 30 words free to members		
Boxed Adverts:		Barbara Wood Old Mills, Seaton Ross, York, YO42 4NH e: npanews@btinternet.com	
Colour	half page £30 quarter page £18 eighth page £10		
Black & white	half page £20 quarter page £15 eighth page £8		

Short Committee Minutes 19 September 2015

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and signed.

Exhibitions Gallery Oldham is booked for Oct – Dec 2016, a variety of other possible venues were discussed including the Biscuit Factory and Shipley Art Gallery in Gateshead.

Publicity a way to connect/link potters together through trails, open days or publicity will be explored. NPA Facebook page was discussed and this could be a future development.

Events The NPA AGM will be held at 1pm on 17 October at St Olave's Hall York. Several potential new members of the committee attended the committee meeting and there have been other expressions of interest.

The annual CoCA (Centre of Ceramic Art at York Art Gallery) lecture by Walter Keeler will be in the Tempest Anderson Hall, York 17 October 2015 at 4pm.

NPA members will get a reduced fee of £5 (£8 full fee) and a group visit to the Art Gallery will be organised at a subsidised cost of £2.50 per member attending the AGM.

Newsletter Joan Hardie has agreed to take on editorship of the newsletter, and will continue to use the printers and mailing house as at present.

Website new banner images particularly action photos are needed

Finance Yorkshire Bank balance £1092, Co-operative Bank balance £10516. Annual statement of accounts discussed.

Membership 460 memberships including 17 joint (total 477 members)

Regional Groups reports received and discussed. Further clarification of the roles of regional co-ordinators and working groups is needed.

Date of next meeting 17 September 2015 prior to the AGM



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Welcome To New Members

Jennifer Barlow	Carlisle	Cumbria
Chiqui Bayley	Richmond	North Yorkshire
Mark Cassell	Houghton le Spring	Tyne and Wear
Alison Crossley	Haltwhistle	Northumberland
Christopher Dixon	Harrogate	North Yorkshire
Judith Glover	York	North Yorkshire
Dick Graves	Guisborough	Cleveland
Julie Hargreaves	Skipton	North Yorkshire
Arline Pointer	Preston	Lancashire
Anne Rodgers	Alsager	Staffordshire
Lynn Spode	Chesterfield	Derbyshire
Sally Streuli	Hale, Altrincham	Cheshire

A warm welcome is extended to our new and returning members. We hope to see you and your work at future events

NPA Membership

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Individual

£22 (if paid by standing order)

£25 (if paid by cheque)

£30 (for overseas members)

Joint membership

(2 members at one address)

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Full time ceramics **student**

£15 (has to be paid by cheque)

(please send evidence of eligibility e.g. photocopy of SU card)



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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

You can download a copy of the membership form from our website - northern-potters.co.uk.

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



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Regional News

The 6 regional groups were set up to allow members to communicate with members local to them, and to arrange events themselves, in a way that NPA can't because of the size of our overall area. The regional coordinator is appointed for 3 years, by the group, and should have a small working party who hold regular open meetings to get members' views and share ideas/information etc to benefit from the network of people with a common interest in ceramics. Any member can join any regional group by contacting the coordinator for the group and asking to be added to the mailing list.

Events should be organised with a view to being self financing, but if a proposal form is completed and submitted to committee, it may be underwritten by the organisation to allow it to go ahead.

All regional events should be open to all members, and information can be shared by email or in the newsletter.

To send information to all members via the regional coordinators, email the details to Sylvia Holmes - sylviaholmes.npa@gmail.com

North West

Co-ordinator: Ruth Charlton, Old Barn Studios, Ruthwaite, Ireby, Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 1HG

Email: ruthcharlton5@gmail.com

Tel: 016973 71690



Nine of our members are taking part in the C-Art Open Studios this month. It will be interesting to get feedback on how successful that has been. The next social will be at our place on Wednesday 14th October at 7pm. I will be sending an email out with details. Do get in touch if you have any ideas for exhibitions or events or if you have heard of anything that might be of interest to other members in our region.

North East

Co-ordinator: Geoff Proudlock, 46 Cleveland Terrace, Darlington, DL3 7HA

Email: geoff@gproudlock.plus.com

Tel: 01325 353445



" Oriental Inspirations " - exhibition at the Oriental Museum, Elvet Hill, Durham, DH1 3TH.

Tel. 0191 334 5694 www.durham.ac.uk/oriental.museum

The Exhibition runs from the 9th October until 17th December. There will be a preview on Thursday 8th October from 6 - 8pm. All are welcome. We are also planning a "Meet the Artists" event at the Museum on Sunday 15th November from 2 - 4pm.

East

Co-ordinator: Gillian Holt

Email: gmholt.npa@gmail.com

Tel: 01422 883024



Since the last report, I have forwarded the usual communications on behalf of members, ranging from materials for sale, to work space for rent and details of members' own exhibitions and events.

The main event to have taken place in our region this summer was the opening of CoCA at the newly refurbished York Art Gallery. With apologies to all the NPA members who attended the preview on the 27th July, I missed meeting you because I attended the preview on the following evening, as a collaborator on a sculpture called Wave commissioned by York Art Gallery to be made by the late Martin Jenkins, a friend and former fellow student at Bradford School of Art. Martin had made detailed notes, drawing and plans for Wave but, sadly, was unable to make the piece before he died in February and it was completed by his son, Peter Jenkins and Martin's friend Julie Clarke with assistance from me and Rachel Sannaee. Those of you who attended the CoCA preview on the Monday might have seen the sculpture in an adjacent room on the first floor. I hope there will be events in the future where I might have another opportunity to meet NPA members.

Look out for a change in contact details in the next issue (after the AGM)

South East

Co-ordinator: Brian Holland
Email: brianhollandceramics@yahoo.com
Tel: 01909 724781



The SE GROUP is focused at the moment on - and many participated in - THE SHEFFIELD CERAMICS FESTIVAL. (www.sheffieldceramicsfestival.com) 26-27 September 11am-5pm, Meersbrook Park Walled Garden, Sheffield.

Whosoever organised the weather deserves a gold star. It was a wonderful weekend, the sun smiled on us and so did everyone who came (over 1000 visitors for a first event!), lots of whom were carrying packages of wrapped ceramics that they had bought. So the advertising and the work paid off, it was considered by all to be successful, and, given the parks authorities' say-so, it will happen again next year.

A report, with photos, will follow.

The next meeting of the SE group will take place at The Arthouse, St Matthews Church, Sheffield, date to be arranged. The Arthouse is a block of well equipped studios, ceramics, painting and other workshops, and gallery, housed in a recently re furnished and lavishly modified extension to the church.

Hope everyone had a great summer. I gather that there are still a few stalls remaining at Winterfest 7-8 November - held in the riding school at Thoresby, Nottinghamshire, so if anyone is interested get in touch with them on 01623 822009.

South West

Co-ordinator: Clive Weake
Email: clive.weake@gmail.com
Tel: 01625 536388



We had a reasonably successful exhibition at the Foxlowe Gallery in Leek. Unfortunately, visitor numbers were affected by major road works in the town. A big thank you to Hazel for sorting out all the arrangements for the exhibition. We would be particularly interested in hearing from any South West members who have a connection to the Manchester Universities or Colleges with a view to help with events and exhibitions.

West

Co-ordinator: Dave Harper / Geoff Wilcock
E-mail: ghwilcock@uclan.ac.uk
Tel: 01772 862852



The BBC is now advertising the new forthcoming series 'The Great British Pottery Throw Down', the search for Britain's 'best budding potter', the start date has not been given yet. As one of our members is taking part, there is a lot of local interest. We wish him well.

Forthcoming Exhibitions.

2nd – 21st November at PR1 Gallery, UCLAN.

Details of exhibitions will be forwarded to members – further information contact ghwilcock@uclan.ac.uk

Next Meeting.

Our September meeting will have taken place by the time this newsletter goes out. The date for the following meeting will be forwarded to members when it has been agreed which is normally at our Christmas 'Jacob's Join' get together.

And Finally - Barbara Wood

So, here it is, the last page of the last issue of NPA News under my stewardship. I can hardly believe I've been doing this (almost) every 2 months since 2009, and, in the main, have enjoyed it. There have been occasions when I've had to write a bit more of something to fill a gap, and other times when there has been too much to squeeze in, but somehow we've always ended up with a half decent magazine that has got out to members, and usually provoked some sort of positive comment.

During those year, the methods have changed, and it takes far less time now than it used to. Originally I received a pack of address labels from the membership secretary, and spent one evening sticking them on envelopes, then a few hours sticking stamps on, and another evening putting magazines into the prepared envelopes, only to incur the wrath of whoever was behind me in the queue at the Post Office as I handed over 300+ items (always, it seemed, a Saturday morning when vehicle excise licences were due for renewal).

Now, it's just the content and layout that take the time. I found a printer nearby, who recommended a mailing house, and they provide 'fulfilment' (a lovely term, which makes me smile every time I read their invoice), i.e. they wrap the booklet in plastic, and apply an address and postage label from the database I supply to them, so I don't have to do anything once the proof has been checked. When I started, I intended to teach myself to use some better software (people laughed at me when I said I used Publisher), but somehow I never found the time - it was never sufficiently important, as I generally achieved roughly what I was aiming for within the current constraints. Joan Hardie, who is taking over as editor, will use InDesign, because she already knows how to!

But I'm not just giving up the newsletter, I am finally leaving the NPA committee, after being Exhibitions Assistant, Secretary, Exhibitions Officer, Newsletter Editor, Vice Chair and Chair. I must say it's been a pleasure and an honour. It was my interest in exhibitions that brought me onto the committee, but I did that, and took on

whatever was required, all of it interesting, and all of it putting me in contact with other members, many of whom are now friends. It will be very odd not to introduce myself as 'Barbara Wood, Northern Potters', but after the AGM that will it.

I've got another 2 weeks to work out what comes next, but I plan to concentrate on trying to become the maker that I intended to be when I started. NPA has been a distraction from that, but it's been my choice. I'll still volunteer to arrange exhibitions for anyone that wants me to (or will let me), and intend to get more involved in local events and the regional group.

Thank you to all those who have, over the years, given your support to NPA in whatever capacity, and especially for the kind words of appreciation I have received recently. I'm sure I've gained more than I've given, and look forward to an exciting future for the association, with lots of enthusiastic new committee members, and at least one more enthusiastic member sitting at home and cheering them on!

To paraphrase Douglas Adams, so long, and thanks for all the pots.



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