



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

We have in the past produced a newsletter for our membership with some degree of success albeit erratically. This is an attempt to simplify the format thus ensuring regular production on a four-monthly basis.

Janet Edmondson, a new committee member, has bravely undertaken the task of editing the newsheet which will come to you three times a year via 'Artists Newsletter'. The newsheet will contain the kind of information that cannot go into the limited space of the news column which continues to feature on the AN organisations page.

Letters and comments from members on association activities and events plus a free 'want ad' service will make this a useful information exchange.

This first editorial comes from your new chair. At the beginning of my term of office I should like to offer resounding thanks to Sally Shrimpton who retired at the Bretton A.G.M. after three years of constructive, intelligent chairmanship. Her dedication to and enthusiasm for the job will be hard to emulate and we all wish her well. We also say 'Goodbye' to John Calver and Meg Potter, we will miss their wise contributions.

Our association is presently in very good health. The committee is complete at 17 members all of whom give generously of time and effort to make things happen.

The annual camp is the major event of our calendar and this year was hugely successful making a good overall profit. This bonus was largely due to sales resulting from the weekend exhibition of demonstrators and members work, which totalled £4,569.55. A staggering amount which clearly makes the camp exhibition a very prestigious venue for all participants. Plans are already underway for the 1991 camp - watch this space.

I hope to preside over a similarly fruitful and progressive period and look forward to meeting and getting to know many of you during that time. The newsheet then, is your voice, please use it.

It's early, I know, but may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a specially good New Year.

Mal Magson

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

We are trying to give you better advance notice of events which we are organising for the coming year. Talks and demonstrations are frequently arranged jointly with the various colleges around the region and sometimes are only finalised quite near the date. So we hope that this listing with some provisional entries will alert you to look out for further details nearer the time.

1991

Jan/Feb (provisional) Bradford & Ilkley College, Bradford, slide talks by Heja Chong on woodfiring in Australia and by Alan Firth on a collector's perspective

Feb 4 David Cantor Gallery, CPA, London, 'Handle With Care' NPA exhibition preview

March (provisional) Preston Polytechnic, Preston, demonstration to be announced

March/April (provisional) Cleveland College, Middlesbrough, demonstration to be announced

July (provisional) Firing Event, venue to be announced

Sept. 6, 7, 8 (provisional) Ripon College, Ripon, Weekend Camp There will be an illustrated talk by Richard Slee at The Cleveland Gallery, Victoria Road, Middlesbrough on Saturday December 8. The talk from 11-12am will be followed by the opening of his exhibition at Cleveland Craft Centre, Gilke Street, Middlesbrough, when he will be available to talk about his most recent work. Admission is free, further details are available from Barry Hepton at Cleveland Craft Centre on 0642 226351.

COMMENT ON EVENTS

This is your chance to tell all NPA members your impressions of our events. We welcome your views so please keep them coming.

A personal view from Margaret Pilkington of Jerry Caplan's pipe sculpture -

Personally speaking (from the top of Ilkka Moor Baht 'At... of course)

Not so much a vote of thanks, more a Pipe Sculpted Cake made from a rare mix of ingredients cooked to perfection.

Thanks to Jim Robison and all Northern Potters for giving us the time and place for all that cooking to go on. Thanks to Martha for being the cuddliest thin Mum I've ever put my arms around. That little

knob of a head which looked so cute with Jerry's hat on, contained the catalyst which made vision become a reality. Thanks to Jerry for being so well rounded, that which ever way he put his hat on, you knew you could trust the person you saw. Thanks to all the spouses and loved ones left behind, who made their own sacrifices so that this whole affair could take place. Thanks to Tonia for her wise council and listening ear. She looks gorgeous when she wears her long hair down her back. Thanks to Lynn for the love and detail in her work. She has that twinkle in her eye which betrays recognition of a good thing when she sees it.

Thanks to Sandy for her lovely grin and willingness to join in with my sense of fun. Her playful ear-ring made all the difference... not to mention the FFFRRRRRUIITY stories! Thanks to David for all those dances and for being so tall and flirty. But best of all for the sound memory he created for us all to take away. Thanks to Gloria for her bottomless sense of timing, knowing when to play and how to play. Such a lovely sense of humour. Thanks to Chris for the smile behind the beard, his down to earth manner and the colourful blossoms in his planters. Thanks to Frank for being so prolific and experimental so quickly, he gave us all a chance to experience work in such different ways by just being there amongst us. We were all able to take the short cut and will sort negative from positive when we work on our own.

Thanks to Len for that roll in his walk, the twinkly eye and the rhythm to his working method - he reached out and improvised a tune on all of us. Thanks to Tom for quietly being there almost camouflaged at times, but with his roots firmly planted in his own native soil. A strong silent presence in our midst. Thanks to Bruce, with that fine stallion's mane and bronzed physique, for coming in on the last day and being a man of clear vision who knew where he was at and what he wanted to achieve... He saved the whale... didn't he!

Thanks to my husband Alan for building me a spaceship to fly in. Thanks to the Zimbabwe Sculptures for being in the park and beating out a rhythm-of-life-message so clearly on their drums. Thanks for the support of friends who know me well and those who know me not so well, for giving me space and understanding when I didn't want to swap my five-star accommodation for a tent, just when my kite was flying. Thanks for the Pipe Sculpture Workshop you people. Now I've found the right hat to wear, I'll be able to put it on in so many different ways.

'Beam me up Scottie!', and set a course for the stars with Captain James A. at the helm.

They are even talking about events as far away as Jamaica!

Dear Mrs Emery and Northern Potters Ass.

I write to express my sincere appreciation for the warm welcome extended to me by yourself and members of the Northern Potters Association. It was my first visit to the Potters Camp and I found the whole proceeding most interesting.

I have been able to convey to the Jamaica Potters many things I learnt while with you at Bretton Hall. They have asked me to convey their appreciation to you.

The Jamaica Potters Association (PAPA) is just getting off the ground and we are very pleased to welcome one of your members, Mr John Leach, who will be with us in Jamaica on October 9 1990 and who will be giving a few days demonstrations. No doubt, on his return, he will be able to up-date you.

Once again, as a visitor, I felt very much welcomed.

Yours sincerely,

Oswald G. Harding QC, Kingston 5, Jamaica W.I.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Before we go any further let me introduce myself:

I am a potter, I studied at Manchester Poly, longer ago than seems possible... who has recently returned to England after living in Italy. After joining NPA I found myself on the committee and editing this newsheet for you.

Here is the update on the AGM and committee meeting so far for the 1990-1991 period...

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held at Bretton Hall College on September 9 1990

I. COMMITTEE PRESENT

Officers:

Sally Shrimpton (Chainwoman); Stephanie Lyons (Vice-Chairwoman, Exhibitions, Slide Index); Pete Clough (Treasurer); Janina Emery (Secretary); Isabel Denyer (Membership Secretary); Jane Smith (Exhibitions); Mike Green (Exhibitions); Mal Magson (News Column, Newsletter); Paul Scott (Clay Supplement, Education); Claude Frère Smith (Clay Supplement); Hugh Scott (Events); Barbara Hayward (Education); John Calver (North West Region).

Committee members: Jim Robison, Meg Potter, Martha Castillo, Syl Macro.

APOLOGIES were received from Sabina Teuteberg.

II. MINUTES OF LAST YEAR'S AGM

Since the membership received the minutes and financial report in full in the last issue of the NPA Newsletter, they were taken as read and after being approved by the members, *nam. con.*, they were signed by the Chairwoman.

III. MATTERS ARISING

None.

IV. CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

The Chairwoman proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for all their hard work and to the N.P.A.'s sponsors, the Northern and Yorkshire Regional Arts Boards and the project support of North West Arts. Special thanks was given to retiring committee members: John Calver, Sabina Teuteberg, Meg Potter whose expertise in finance and education has been indispensable and to the long-serving and invaluable committee member Jim Robison, who has made the Bretton Potters Camps possible for the past five years.

Meg Potter proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairwoman, Sally Shrimpton, who has done a splendid job for the past two years.

V. OFFICER'S REPORTS

1) Membership Secretary

The membership has risen from 234 to 287, of which 31 are students. This was a very pleasing result, with a widespread membership, extending as far as Jamaica. The Membership Secretary had just completed a word-processing course at NPA's expense so that the Membership list can be computerised and be constantly up-to-date.

2) Events

The Chairwoman has attempted to make her office less time-consuming by delegating certain responsibilities. The appointment of an Events Officer was one result of this policy and Hugh Scott has done a splendid job producing next year's one-day-events programme for the AGM, a goal never achieved before. This will be mailed to every member on renewal of membership. The programme states the new regular venues and dates throughout the year, and hopefully for future years. The names of demonstrators will be published in Artists Newsletter every month. There had also been a 'non-event', where Syl Macro, Bill Todd and Mike Green had put in a lot of hard work in order to get NPA involved in the Gateshead National Garden Festival. Unfortunately nothing seemed able to stir the Craft Officer of the NGF. Syl Macro was thanked again for all her hard work.

3) Exhibitions

Both the 1989 Shipley Art Gallery and the Leeds Art Company had good sales from NPA's Annual Exhibition. The current Annual Exhibition is to be opened on 15 September at the Williamson's Gallery in Birkenhead and has just had its selection. This has again been very stringent to maintain high standards, and promises to be a great success. Over 50 members submitted pots and the Chairwoman thanked all those members for taking part. The preview is to be opened by David Frith at 11.30am. The second venue, at York City Art Gallery will open at 7.30pm, for which invitations are yet to be sent out.

Next year, one of the venues will be the Cleveland Craft Centre in

Middlesbrough. A second venue has yet to be found.

Lastly, the CPA are hosting a selected NPA group exhibition, entitled 'Handle With Care', taking place in the CPA shop from February 5-9, 1991. The selection day will be January 27 1991, and more details will be published in Artists Newsletter.

4) Education

The Bretton Camp Raffle was again held for the benefit of NPA's special project: 'Potters in School'. A package will be distributed by the Regional Arts Associations to the Schools. It is currently in draft form and will be sent to the RAAs (now called Regional Arts Boards or RABs) for approval and a grant to publish it.

5) Newsletter

It has proved too much for one Officer to publish the bumper format of the present NPA Newsletter, even on a biannual basis. A paid typist-editor, Ann Proud, has therefore been appointed to take on the work. She was cordially thanked for her good work.

6) Clay Supplement

It was noted that AN had improved its paper quality and presentation. As a thematic publication, the editors announced that the next issue will be on 'Forming Techniques'.

7) Finance

As the accounting year had been changed to fall in line with the RABs' financial year of April 1 to March 31, the present financial report was only a six months report.

Accounts:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Halifax Investment Account | £6003.00 |
| Craftsmen in Education Account | £473.00 |
| Nat. West Bank Current Account | £1088.00 |

(These figures are lower than normal for the time of year as the Photographic Index, costing £2000.00, has already been paid for).

Noted was the changed policy of RABs. Both the NAB and the YAB have continued to fund NPA with £1080.00 and £1000.00 respectively. But NWAB would only fund regional projects. Meg Potter, now a Craft Council Financial Adviser, stressed that the RABs are undergoing further policy changes and has agreed to stay in touch with the committee to advise on such matters as grant applications etc.

8) Election of the Committee

As five members were resigning, and four had to stand down after three years of office, the committee was left with 9 members. (Constitutionally one third of the committee has to be elected annually and no committee member may serve for more than three years without re-election).

Four committee members stood down and were re-elected; one co-opted member was confirmed by election:

Janina Emery: nominated by Pete Clough and seconded by Hugh Scott; Martha Castillo: nominated by Syn St Clair and seconded by Jane Smith; Barbara Hayward: nominated by Pete Clough and

seconded by Meg Potter; Mal Magson: nominated by Jim Robison and seconded by Stephanie Lyons; Syl Macro: nominated by Janina Emery and seconded by Jane Smith.

The response to the Chairwoman's request to the membership to become more involved with the running of NPA was very good. Three members offered to stand for the Committee:

Bill Todd: nominated by Janina Emery and seconded by Jane Smith; Harry Fraser: nominated by Sally Shrimpton and seconded by Isabel Denyer; Janet Edmondson: nominated by Janina Emery and seconded by Isabel Denyer.

The rest of the committee was re-elected unanimously by a show of hands.

Appointments of Officers:

Stephanie Lyons: Vice-Chairwoman; Peter Clough: Treasurer; Janina Emery: Secretary.

New Chairwoman:

Mal Magson: proposed by Martha Castillo and seconded by Pete Clough.

A vote of hands showed the membership to be in favour of this appointment.

The meeting closed at 10.50am.

Finance: we are entering the new financial year with a healthy bank balance due to last years very successful events in particular Bretton Camp. We hope and intend to keep up this happy state despite the increasingly complicated application and award system for our much needed and valued yearly grants.

Exhibitions: plans are well advanced for the CPA 'Handle With Care' exhibition. Separate details about this will be distributed in due course, but I can tell you that selection will take place at College of Ripon & York St John, Ripon Campus on Sunday January 27. Seven pots may be submitted and a maximum of three will be selected.

These pots should be delivered to The Lecture Block, College Road, Ripon, from Monday January 20 - Friday January 25. If you have any queries contact either Pete Clough on Ripon 2691 (work) or 0423 506700 (home) or any committee member.

Bretton Hall Camp: a large number of members and non-members attended the NPA Camp in September. The camp was a huge success with more people than ever. Demonstrators from all over the world showed us their varied ideas and techniques.

Sadly this was our last year at Bretton but we are very much looking forward to being at Ripon College, which from next year will be the new home for the Camp.

We are busy working on an exciting programme for next year's camp and details will come to you through the NPA newscolumn and this newsheet as they become available.

Logo: The quest for a new logo continues, we are having great fun sorting through all your suggestions collected at Bretton. They range

from the outrageous...



Watch this space for the final choice.



On a final note please send updated photographs of work for inclusion in the NPA Slide Index. These should be sent to: Stephanie Lyons, 'Nether Farm', 20 Church End, Cawood, Selby, Yorks YO8 0SN.

I hope you find this newsheet informative and helpful. Any contributions are very welcome as I hope you will use it as a means of communication between all our members and the committee.

The newsheet is for you to tell us as well as for us to tell you.

SMALL ADS



• Please will the owner of this pot contact Janet Edmondson (editor) to claim the photo and slide taken by Andrew Morris at the camp. We have no name for reference.
• Cromarties S.P.A. Kiln - single phase, 9kw 3.5cu.ft. with Shimaden Controller, kiln stand, shelves and furniture. Used only once in last four years. £495. Tel Wendy Baxter on 0661 25967.

• Former college equipment about to be discarded. Free to a good home - Wm Boulton Ltd, Horizontal Pugmill (4), 2.5" bore 1961, ex Bingley College; K and F Kiln, 4.5cu.ft. 24x18x18, probably needs new elements, also ex Bingley College; Cromartie Kiln, S3, 9kw, 1966, in good working order, 22 x 15 x 18. Contact Helen Kemp, 11 Parkview Road, Bradford BD9 4PA, West Yorks. Tel Bradford 491550.

• 26 years old BA graduate potter. College work mainly thrown and hand built but with some experience of pressmoulds seeks workshop experience anywhere. Contact Laura McCrossen, 'Hilltop', Starbotton, Nr Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 5HY.

• The British Health Care Arts Centre is an organisation concerned with improving the environment of hospital and health care buildings. In the centres role as a consultancy we are asking potters and artists who would be interested in working in this field to send slides and details to the following address: The British Health Care Arts Centre, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, 13 Perth Road, Dundee DD1 4HT. Tel 0382 23261.

• VSO, 317 Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PN. Tel 081 780 2266, fax 081 780 1326. At VSO we are currently recruiting volunteer craftspeople and small business advisers to work in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. VSO is looking for experienced and qualified men and women who specialise in one of a broad range of skills, these include teachers of arts and crafts, potters, textile workers, leather workers and designers. Applicants will preferably have experience in marketing, gained for example from running their own small crafts business. For further information contact: David Crowe, Recruitment Officer, tel 081 780 2266.

• Woodfire Survey - in 1982 the results of the Studio Potter survey of woodfiring in America were published (see Studio Potter Vol.11 No. 1). The results of a similar but more extensive survey carried out in Australia, were published in the proceedings of the first National Woodfire Conference held in November 1986. The second Australian Woodfire Conference, in which we both participated with sponsorship from The British Council, took place in April 1989. As a result of our involvement with woodfiring, we are interested in compiling information about contemporary woodfiring in Britain; types and sizes of kilns, length of firings, temperature ranges, types of fire boxes. It is our intention to conduct a survey to collect this information.

One of the aims of this survey is to contribute to the general promotion of woodfiring. Another important aim is the formation of a basis for comparison with woodfiring practices in countries where the relevant information has already been compiled. We are currently drafting a Woodfire Questionnaire. To receive a copy we request those potters who fire with wood, including reduced lustre firing, pit firing etc, contact us at the following address: Coll Minogue & Robert Sanderson, Cowden Cottage, Abercairny, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 3QZ, Scotland.

