

# NPA News



## N P A O M P T E R S C A M P

TICKETS  
**£45**  
plus £4.46 fee



SCAN ME

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/npa-potters-camp-tickets-593664615847>

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

June to July 2023  
£2, free to members

## In this issue

- 3 From the Chair
- 3 Your Committee
- 4 Diary
- 5 New Artists to the Website
- 6 Wishes Granted – Shaun Clark
- 8 Dovecot Gallery – Ken Taylor
- 10 Studio Pottery at Newstead Abbey – Louise Dunning
- 12 Ceramic Garden – Les Simpson
- 14 Being unorthodox? Post-firing Painting – Judith Glover
- 16 Dießener Töpfermarkt Post Brexit – Chris Barnes
- 18 Members' Gallery
- 21 Welcome to new members
- 21 From the Membership Secretary
- 22 Book Review – Sarah Vanic
- 24 Regional News
- 26 Loaded Art 3 – Graham Hough



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.

No part may be reproduced without the permission of the editor.

Front Cover: NPA Potters Camp

Back Cover: Judith Glover, Landscape 2023, Inspired by Piper 2, handbuilt (coiled) stoneware, watercolours, pastels, water-based varnish, H: 26 cms, W:15 cms, D: 9 cms

Photo: Gareth Buddo@furmoto

## Next issue

The copy date for the next issue of NPA News is 17 July 2023.

Articles should be between 200 and 1000 words saved as text files or written in an email.

Images need to be high quality for printing, saved as .jpg files. 1MB is a suitable sized file.

Please send text and images as separate email attachments – do not embed images in documents.

Send them to [npanews@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:npanews@northern-potters.co.uk)  
Email or phone the editor if you have any queries or need help.

## From the Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a bit more information on our Potters Camp on 8th July 2023 at the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN). So here is a bit more on what we have planned for you this year:



First off, we have demonstrations: Ruth King will be there, Micaela Schoop and husband and wife team Hannah McAndrews and Dough Fitch. All of them will be showing their unique ways of working with clay and I am sure we can all pick up a trick or three.

Next, we have a talk by Sara Howard. She will talk to us about methods of reclaiming, processing and substituting waste material for ceramic consumption. This talk will also be broadcasted via Zoom and you can choose to purchase tickets for £10 for this talk only.

Then we have three workshops, build your own raku kiln, sessions on the wheel to improve your throwing skills or a photography workshop. Both the raku kiln building and the photography session will last almost the entire day, whilst the throwing sessions are 1 hour each.

But that is not all, we will also have ceramic work and books on sale, you will be able to tour the UCLAN facilities if you are interested in a MA degree in Ceramics, and there will be a raffle where you have the opportunity to win a raku kiln.

For those of you who wish to take part, we will be having a mug swap, so please make sure you bring a drinking vessel you have made to swap with that of a fellow maker.

And last but not least, there will be the Joan Hardie Award. This is very special to us, as the late Joan was an enthusiastic supporter and past chair of the NPA. The title of the competition is "Vessels from Another World" and we hope this will be wide enough for throwers, handbuilders and those of you who use moulds to think outside the box and really stretch yourselves. Please bring your masterpiece to the event for judging.

Tickets are £45, just the kiln building session is more to include all the materials. You can buy yours at Eventbrite using the link below or scan the QR code with your camera. We have the link on our website and FB group too: [NPA Potters Camp Tickets, Sat 8 Jul 2023 at 08:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Now with all the excitement of the camp, we cannot forget the other work at NPA HQ, and we saying goodbye to Dianne Cross, who headed up our publicity work for a long time. I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to her. That also means, we need your help again, so if you like using Facebook and Instagram, and are interested in events, please get in touch.

Best wishes, Nadine

## Your Committee

Chair	Nadine Blakemore <a href="mailto:chair@northern-potters.co.uk">chair@northern-potters.co.uk</a> Ilkley
Vice Chair	Lynne Rose <a href="mailto:vice-chair@northern-potters.co.uk">vice-chair@northern-potters.co.uk</a>
Secretary	Pat Morgan <a href="mailto:secretary@northern-potters.co.uk">secretary@northern-potters.co.uk</a>
Treasurer	Michelle Park <a href="mailto:treasurer@northern-potters.co.uk">treasurer@northern-potters.co.uk</a> Low Bentham, Lancs
Membership	Jen Donkin Gourley <a href="mailto:membership@northern-potters.co.uk">membership@northern-potters.co.uk</a> St Ives, Cornwall
Social Media	Rebecca Norris Scarborough, North Yorkshire
Newsletter	Chris Barnes <a href="mailto:npanews@northern-potters.co.uk">npanews@northern-potters.co.uk</a> 01229 318090 Millom, Cumbria
Publicity	Vacant
Artists, Events, Courses	John Cook <a href="mailto:website@northern-potters.co.uk">website@northern-potters.co.uk</a> 01282 695886 Burnley, Lancs
Gerry Grant	York
Lynn Grant	York
Carol Newmarch	Middlesbrough
Bev Seth	Sheffield
Kathryn Stevens	Barrow in Furness
Nina Wright	Otley

# Diary

To add your events to the diary and website, email John Cook [publicity@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:publicity@northern-potters.co.uk)

17 April - 2 July	<b>Craft Open at Platform Gallery</b> Clitheroe NPA members will be showing
2 - 4 June	<b>Potfest Pens</b> Auction Mart, Penrith NPA members will be showing
9 - 11 June	<b>Potfest Perth</b> Scone Palace, Perth NPA members will be showing
11 June	<b>SENPA Area Meeting</b> Dovecot Gallery, Styrrup, Doncaster.
24 - 25 June	<b>Dovecot Mid-Summer Ceramics Fair</b> Dovecot Gallery, Styrrup, Doncaster NPA members will be showing
23 - 25 June	<b>Silverdale &amp; Arnside Art Trail</b> Silverdale Institute, Silverdale, Carnforth LA5 0TE NPA members will be showing
8 July	<b>NPA Potters Camp</b> UCLAN, Preston, Lancashire NPA Event
14 - 16 July	<b>Celebrating Ceramics</b> Waterperry House, Oxfordshire NPA members will be showing
23 July	<b>Day of Talks and Demonstrations</b> By Rachel Wood and Paul Smith The Eco Centre, Wirksworth
20 August	<b>Pop-Up-2 Pottery Ceramics Fair</b> Fox Valley, Socksbridge, Sheffield NPA members will be showing
27 August	<b>Ceramics in Southwell</b> Market Square, Southwell, Notts NG25 0FS NPA members will be showing
2 - 3 September	<b>Art in the Gardens</b> Botanical Gardens, Sheffield NPA members will be showing
23 - 24 September	<b>Art at the House</b> Cliffe House, Shepley, Huddersfield NPA members will be showing

## NPA Potters Camp

Next month we will open the doors to our NPA Potters Camp which has been two years in the planning and is being run in conjunction with University of Central Lancashire. If you haven't got your ticket yet, head over to our website <https://www.northern-potters.co.uk/> for a full day of all things clay, General Admission is £45 including lunch, a bargain! We would like to say a big thank you to Potclays for their kind donation of clay for our workshops and a big thank you to all our volunteers who are helping to make the event run smoothly.

### One Day Guiding Workshop with Lise Moorcroft

Saturday 17th June 2023

10.00am to 3.00pm

Cheshire Clay Studio

For more information please contact us on 07931 351183 or email us at

[cheshireclaystudio@gmail.com](mailto:cheshireclaystudio@gmail.com)

<https://www.cheshireclay.com/specialist-workshops/>

### NPA Bursary Scheme

The NPA is offering bursaries to members needing support to develop their work by attending courses, workshops or otherwise exploring new directions. The maximum award is £250, from a fund of £1000 for 2020/21.

All you need to do is get an application form from [treasurer@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@northern-potters.co.uk) and complete it, outlining how and when the money will be used to benefit your practice. The committee will consider your application and let you know if you have been successful. Applicants must have been NPA members for at least one a year.

The final step is to write a short, illustrated article about your experience for NPA News.

### Equality & Diversity

The NPA is an inclusive, not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers which welcomes and values diversity (of age, ethnicity, race, religion, disability, belief or non-belief, sex or sexual orientation) within its membership. Our aim is to ensure that all our members are treated with dignity and respect.

## New Artists to the Website



Carrie Dean

### Stay Connected



@northernpottersassociation



Northern Potters Association



Pete Singer



Chris Suttie,

## NPA Website – Artists Pages

As an NPA member you can have a page on the NPA website to display and promote your work. You will need to provide up to four photos of your work, an artist's statement of 100 words, email address, phone number, plus any website, Facebook and Instagram links. Email John Cook with the details and updates [website@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:website@northern-potters.co.uk)



## Wishes Granted – Shaun Clark



My first workshop and kiln in Sully Vale, Wales 1995, looking very clean and tidy.



A little box of seaside-Earthenware and lava glaze

As we have a new Monarch, I thought I might share my own story about King Charles the third...

After I graduated in 1995 my partner and myself set up our first pottery business in Cardiff. Our workshop was funded by the local enterprise fund but that only paid the rent.

We crowd funded our first kiln through family members-a Cromartie top loader that served us well for many, many firings.( I still have it although it's working days are over.)

But we needed kit...

We applied for a Princes youth business trust grant to furnish our workshop and were successful pending an interview with the funding board. A terrifying meeting down in Tiger Bay ensued ( which I admit I corpsed with nerves before being rescued by Mrs whiskers) and the money was secured.



Neptunian Lobster Fish, Earthenware

One of the benefits of PYBT funding was a space at the International Autumn Gift fair at the NEC, Birmingham. An experience we would have never contemplated and a massive learning curve, meeting lots of interesting people and building up contacts.

So, nearly thirty years on, we are still making both pottery and art, but living back up North. We're not exactly rich but would still like to repay the grant one day back to the trust as a thankyou in order to carry on its work.

The opportunities that the Princes youth business trust gave us were invaluable. It gave us a kick up the arse and a wider world view. I think the most important aspect was the confidence it gave us. Business can change for better or worse but pigheaded artists should evolve and grow. It gave us that opportunity.

We got a head start at the back end of last century, so we owe a massive Thankyou.

Long live the King.

My next solo exhibition of work entitled "Neptune" will be opening on Saturday July 8th at Cath Ray Gallery, and Studios, East Retford and running for six weeks.



Yurtu Yurtu, Earthenware bowl

Shaun Clark, Whisker Hills Pottery.

## Dovecot Gallery – Ken Taylor



Poplars Farm sits quietly on the edge of Styrrup, a village south of Doncaster, not too far from Tickhill. It is the home and studios of Hilary Cartmel and Mike Johnson. They are both sculptors working in metal: designing and producing commissioned work as well as their own individual pieces. I first met them 2 or 3 years ago at 'Ceramics in Southwell'. As well as buying a pot or two they asked me if I could make a number of individual milk/cream jugs, to use at the farm, as they provide tea, coffee and cake at the various events and exhibitions they hold each year at the farm. The money from the refreshments and other donations go to charity. Last year they raised well over £3000 for the Doncaster Ukrainian society, which helped provide medical provisions for their war-stricken country. This year, 2023, they are raising money for 'Mind'.

They had previously worked in a group studio in Nottingham. When this came to an end, and looking for somewhere else to work, they moved into the farm with their two young children. The farm, Hilary explained, was in need of a serious amount of remedial work. In the time they have been there, 30 years or so, not only have they been cutting, welding, grinding and highly polishing their superb sculptural pieces they have also found the time to make the farmhouse their home, and have also endeavoured to make all the other buildings useful. If you ever needed a boost in enthusiasm and commitment, this is the place to be.

Two of the buildings are now galleries where they hold live music events as well as exhibitions. One is

the old dovecot, built about 280 years ago, when a law was passed allowing farmers to breed their own birds for fresh meat; a privilege that, until then, had been the preserve of the landed gentry. This gallery is on two levels, the upper level is a fascinating array of off-set brick, where the birds would have built their nests, and is open to the roof timbers. The other gallery is across the yard in what was once a large workshop. On its southern side it is enclosed with large glass doors and windows, flooding the place with natural light. In the centre of the space is a large, old wood-working bench which Mike and Hilary have left in place.

As a result of our first meeting at Southwell Mike and Hilary asked me to provide some work for their Christmas pop-up shop. When I took the pots over, they gave me a tour of the farm, the buildings, and gardens, and of course the galleries. The ambiance of the place is amazing. The feeling of being in a place where people work and know what they are doing, of people who have found their sense of direction. The farm is not 'chocolate-box' or pristine, it retains what it originally built for. It still has that sense of purpose, of usefulness. The garden is casual. A large country or cottage garden is probably the best way to describe it. It reminds me of the Ceramic events we used to hold at Meersbrook Park in the walled garden. It was always a dream to find somewhere similar for a festival. Somewhere that was more than just selling pots. I feel sure that Poplar Farm is just that.

At the time the NPA southeast was looking for new venues for exhibitions, and to delegate some of

the burden of organizing them. At one of our regional meetings I mentioned the farm and said that I would look into the possibility of holding an event there. So the next time I was over at the farm I asked Mike and Hilary if there was any chance of us, the NPA, of organizing something with them. They were over the moon, "We'd be delighted," they said "Absolutely".

will be demonstrations and we will have 3 wheels for people to 'have-a-go' for which there will be a small charge. The monies from this to be donated to the charity 'Mind.' As will the proceeds from the intended raffle. There will also be stand to promote the NPA. Since then, Hilary and Mike have arranged to use the village hall for parking (free parking, and just a short



The next move I made, not being the most organized person in the world, was to ask Sarah Vanic to join me. (Good move Ken, she's brilliant.) And with the support of Wendy and Nog, our coordinators, who stopped us from wandering too far from the NPA's protocol, it all began. Sarah and I arranged to meet Hilary and Mike at the farm and over a brew and biscuits we formulated the following: The event would be called 'Midsummer Ceramic Festival', with about 20 stalls in the farmyard and the garden, which Sarah and I would organize. That Hilary and Mike would organize an concurrent exhibition in the galleries. Each stall holder will have the opportunity to exhibit 2 to 3 statement pieces if they wish to do so. There

walk away), and for the Ukrainian Society to provide refreshments, in the village hall, the proceeds to go to their charity.

It should be a great weekend. The garden will be at its best, and hopefully the weather! We are looking for volunteers to help on-site over the weekend (half day, a full day or all weekend). If anyone can help we would be incredibly grateful. Please get in touch with Sarah or myself.

## Studio Pottery at Newstead Abbey – Louise Dunning

I thought you and the NPA members might be interested in a studio pottery exhibition, *Crafted in Clay: Studio Ceramics* that I have curated at Newstead Abbey, one of our Museums just outside of Nottingham. It was the ancestral home of the Romantic poet Lord Byron.

I've selected over 100 studio ceramics by around 30 potters for the exhibition, which uses the fireplaces and furniture within the historic rooms of the Abbey to showcase our collection.

An accompanying exhibition of contemporary ceramics selected by London gallery owner Tommaso Corvi-Mora is also on display within the exhibition space in the Abbey, entitled ***New Areas: Contemporary Ceramics***.

I attach a couple of flyers for your information. Both exhibitions run until 29 October this year.

Opening times and admission charges can be found on the website



Beard Ward Leach

[www.newsteadabbey.org.uk](http://www.newsteadabbey.org.uk)



Alan Caiger Smith



Hans Coper

#### From the press release

Nottingham City Museums' studio pottery collection is celebrated in ***Crafted in Clay: Studio Ceramics***, a pottery trail around Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire, from 04 March to 29 October 2023. This reflects the popularity of pottery over the past few years with programmes such as The Great Pottery Throw Down TV series and a renewed interest in crafting at home, visiting pottery fairs and collecting pottery.

Crafted in Clay: Studio Ceramics will feature over 100 ceramics by around 30 potters, including Bernard Leach, Lucie Rie, Hans Coper, Walter Keeler, Richard Batterham, John Ward, Siddig el Nigoumi and Judy Trim.

Using the fireplaces and furniture within Newstead Abbey as a linking trail, these pots find a temporary resting place within the rich context of the Abbey's historical rooms. Newstead was home to successive generations of Byrons, followed by the Wildmans and the Webb family, and pottery would have played an integral part in their daily lives and for special occasions. The trail imagines how these owners might have placed the pottery around their home.



John Maltby

## Ceramic Garden – Les Simpson



Some of the creators of the new Ceramics Garden

### **A Ceramic Garden created at Middleton Hall Retirement Village**

Over the past five years, the Middleton Hall Retirement Village Ceramics group has gone from strength to strength. During this period, we have had a very successful pit firing – with assistance given by the late Carolyn Corfield (NPA member) - a Raku session managed by Carol Newmarch (NPA member) and various exhibitions held in the village. Over this period, about 40 to 50 people have attended the classes held in the art studio, the oldest resident being 95 years old.

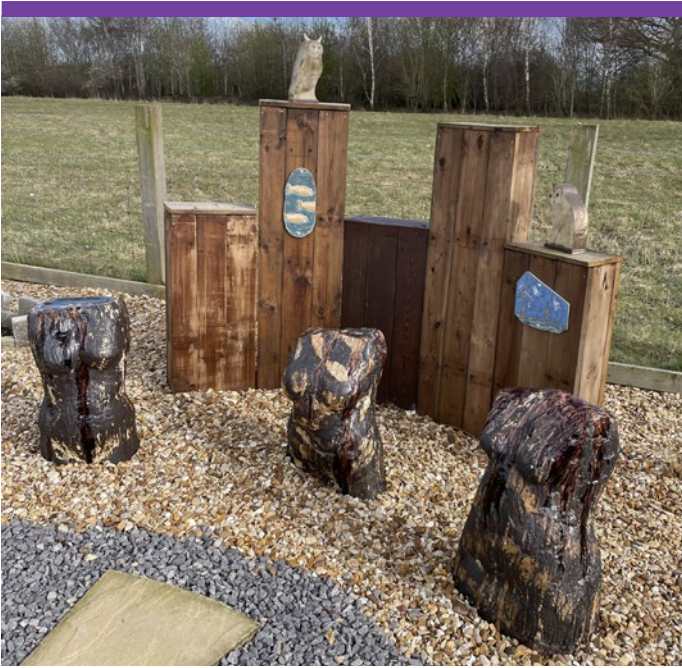
In 2022, I was asked if we could utilise a piece of land in the Middleton Hall estate, in terms of converting it into a Ceramic Garden. The group was consulted and there was a very positive 'yes'. We worked with the Middleton Hall Estates team on the design, with a desire to make it low maintenance, hence why we decided to hard landscape it.

From a ceramics' viewpoint, a lot of the Ceramics group members wanted to produce totem poles through a joint venture. Since we were focusing on nature and seascape themes, various animals, plants as well as some abstract pieces were produced.

These were fired to stoneware and had to be mounted in a secure way to prevent them being damaged by the strong winds which at times were very much evident. So far, the totem poles have passed the stability test!



Pieces were created to reflect the garden's nature and seascape themes



Carolyn Corfield's striking sculptures are a highlight of the garden

A good friend, Carolyn Corfield, who sadly passed away in March 2023, was interested in the project and kindly donated three female torsos for the garden which were 'groyne' like figurative pieces representing the passage of time. We are delighted to be displaying her impressive work.



A general view of Middleton Hall's new Ceramic Garden

Although the garden will be officially opening in June 2023, many of the residents who have already visited it have been very impressed. One of the care services located in Middleton Hall Retirement Village supports people living with dementia so we have put together a small list of memory-prompt questions, asking residents to identify elements of the Ceramic Garden which are on display.

Judges from the prestigious Northumbria in Bloom competition are also particularly interested in the project and we look forward to being judged when they visit the Middleton Hall Retirement Village estate this year.

To date, about 90 pieces of ceramic art have been produced, and thanks must be given to the twelve individuals who have contributed to the garden. Clearly the area will continue to evolve and we look forward in a few years' time to introducing new items of ceramic art.

You are most welcome to visit the Garden. Please call and register at the Reception at Middleton Hall, DL2 1HA, and you will be given directions to its location.

Les Simpson, NPA member



Totem poles created by Ceramics group members

## Being unorthodox? Post-firing Painting – Judith Glover

In some children's craft kits the instructions are to use acrylics to decorate already-fired pieces. To my knowledge this is quite a rare incidence of post-firing decoration involving paints. It is not unknown though:

for example De Waal (2011) highlights the American ceramic artist Ken Price (1935-2017) and his use of car paint, lacquer, and acrylics on his fired ceramic pieces, acrylics also being favoured by Nicolas Rena (1963-), along with wax.

My post-firing use of watercolours and pastels – the subject of this article – may be more unorthodox, though. I am producing unglazed pieces that have been handbuilt (coiled) using a medium-grogged stoneware clay, prior to firing to 1220 degrees C.

After firing, in a phase of mark-making on the surface of the piece, I use heavily diluted watercolours in the restricted pallet that I often favour: charcoal, cream, burnt umber and a splash of Wedgwood blue (a Mason's stain mixed into a white clay).

Working in layers and with a broad domestic paint-brush barely loaded with watercolour, I trace a curving motion that reflects the aperture and the form of the piece as a whole. I also use a small roller, the kind that enables domestic painters to get behind radiators. Again that is pretty dry, revealing the texture from the roller's surface (this reminds me of Gerhard Richter's *abstraktes bilder* where he used a squeegee). Over several days I add one or two more layers, bringing the piece into my living-room table and away from my studio space. In that way I can see it as I pass to and fro, and it remains in my consciousness.

The result? Sometimes it becomes a blurry mess but other times the spaces between the layers reveal something extraordinary – light bursting through, a piece of sky, an element of a seascape, a rockface.

But you need to know where to stop.

It is then that I turn to pastels. Without much pre-planning I run the side of a pastel crayon - black, grey, ochre, white - across parts of the surface, creating a sharp final layer over the water-colours. The pastels catch the joins between the flattened coils, revealing the details of the making process. I welcome this: for me the 'how' of a piece is as important as the 'what'; I believe some museums and galleries underestimate the extent to which visitors are intrigued by the process of making. Perhaps the TV programme *The Great Pottery Throwdown* has played some part in developing this interest.

The last thing is sealing the surface with a transparent water-based varnish – the kind that is available in hardware stores for internal wood use. For the first couple of varnish layers I use a matt finish, and the final coat is satin, giving a muted bloom to the work.

Below is *Landscape\_Lines1*, created using this method. It is great to have found a professional

photographer interested in discussing the work they are shooting. York-based Gareth Buddo and I both felt drawn to the pale blue and faint yellows of the space that emerged between watercolour layers on the right of the piece.

I often my ceramics work is inspired by painters. Below is a duo, one element of which links in my mind to the seascapes of JMW Turner (1775-1851), and the other to John Piper (1903-1992), specifically in *Great Goxhill 1947*, a recent addition to the excellent University of Hull collection.

I have no formal training as a ceramic artist but at least I can claim decades of adult evening pottery classes. As a painter I have no training. The astonishing thing is how free I feel as I apply



Judith Glover (2022) *Landscape\_Lines1*. H: 38 W: 18 D: 10 cms, stoneware, coiled. Post-firing watercolours, pastels, water-based varnish. Image by Gareth Buddo@furmoto



Judith Glover (2023) Duo\_ Inspired by Turner and Piper. H: 30, W: 12, D: 4 cms, stoneware, coiled. Post-firing watercolours, pastels, water-based varnish. Image by Gareth Buddo@furmoto

the watercolours and the pastels. It has occurred to me (and some will be shocked by this) that it is precisely my lack of formal training that gives me this freedom. Thus I may break custom and practice, on the basis that I don't know, or choose to ignore, any conventions that might exist.

Before becoming an impassioned ceramic artist post-retirement I was an academic sociologist. We liked to classify anything that was classifiable, and my painting-on-ceramic approach would probably have been defined as 'post-modern': n'importe quoi, some might say. Perhaps, though, I am just ignorant of

many readers' use of watercolours, pastels and water-based varnish on fired work, and I hope they will tell me if this is the case.

Judith Glover

[www.judithgloverceramics.uk](http://www.judithgloverceramics.uk)

#### References

De Waal, E (2011) *The Pot Book*, Phaidon

# Dießener Töpfermarkt Post Brexit – Chris Barnes



One of my favourite craft events to attend is the Dießener Töpfermarkt in Bavaria. The lakeside venue, the friendly atmosphere, the unpredictable weather and the enthusiastic audience come together to make a very special event. Post Brexit the prospect of taking pottery to sell in Germany seemed daunting - a complex business involving customs declaration, paying duty and discovering VAT obligations in Germany and how to pay them. In a spirit of adventure and with some naivety I decided to apply in September for the four day ceramics event in May 2023. I was accepted and I paid my stall fee, The die was cast.

It turns out you can declare to UK customs online easily enough up to five days before you travel and head for the green "Nothing to Declare" gate on leaving. I went from Newcastle to Ijmuiden, Holland, on the DFDS ferry. In retrospect it does seem foolish to think that I would have nothing to declare when I got to Holland, and on arrival it dawned on me that I should have to tell any EU customs officials that I was

carrying stuff to sell at a craft fair in Germany. Sure enough a friendly armed Dutch official flagged me down and asked if I was on holiday. "You have a lot of stuff in there." "Yes." "Just a lot of stuff?" "Yes!"

And at that moment I became a smuggler.. I was waved through and headed south towards Cologne in Germany.



The Keramion in Frechen

I was planning a visit to the Keramion in Frechen, just outside Cologne, on my way to Bavaria. It was Monday - The Keramion is closed on Mondays, rookie mistake number two - so I decided to drive on to Dießen and have an extra day to set up my stand.

On arrival at the lakeside park I was welcomed very warmly by everyone I met. Wolfgang Lösche, the Töpfermarkt event organiser, shook my hand very firmly and was keen to express how glad he was that I had made the effort to come, despite Brexit.

I had imagined that the biggest barrier to selling in Germany would be the fact that I was not able to



<https://www.diessener-toepfermarkt.de/>



register for VAT and so be unable to pay my dues. In fact I discovered that this is not a problem if you pay your customs duty because, coincidentally or otherwise, the duty is 19% - the same as VAT in Germany - and once you have paid customs duty you can sell your stuff in the EU. I had mistakenly imagined that the payment of VAT was a sticking point and arranged to make sales through an Etsy shop so that Etsy would take care of the VAT. Completely futile as it turned out because all the shoppers were expecting to pay with cash and pretty much refused to use Etsy for payment anyway.



Daniel Cavey - Italy

At the end of the first day the pottery competition prize giving took place in the Marienmünster - the cathedral at the top end of the town - sponsored by Herr Rohde of Rohde Kilns. The speech given by Wolfgang Lösche was funny in all the right places. Unfortunately I still haven't learned enough German to get the jokes. However a great wealth of pottery entered for the 6,000 Euro prize was on display and well worth having a look at. Printed here are just a few.

My latest work, which incorporates some non-ceramic elements was surprisingly well received in terms of feedback by the German public, although some of the older potters raised eyebrows. By the end of day two we were all ready for a party, which is traditionally supplied with free beer by the Rohde prize winner for all the other stall holders. As usual it took place around the Kalkspatz catering tent with lively talking, dancing and a bit of singing late into the night.



Andrea Platten and Peter Burkhardt - Germany

In 2018 I was lucky enough to be contacted by a young man from the Dießen area who asked if he could do a summer apprenticeship with me in England. Anselm turned out to be a very fast learner and hard worker and I was very happy to see him again this visit. He minded the stall so I could take time off to look round and translated my

“Zahlung über Etsy möglich” sign for me.

After four days of the fair it was time to pack and go. I spent a day exploring the opposite side of the lake on my bicycle and the weather was perfect. All that remained was the prospect of smuggling unsold pots back into the UK. Perhaps it would be better to come clean this time and find out what forms I should fill in for next year?



Elke Sada - Germany



After Work Party at \*Kalkspatz eV - association for the promotion of culture, education and social issues in working with clay - \* Kalkspatz translates roughly as “lime spitting”

## Members' Gallery

All NPA members are invited to send images of their work to the editor for inclusion in the gallery.



Liz Barton, Fish Platter

Liz Barton will be at Potfest in Penrith 1-3 June 2023.

"I make functional items in stoneware and either use bright colourful underglazes or glazes in greens and blues with a more natural look.

All glazes are leadfree and foodsafe."



Liz Barton, small green moonjar



Liz Barton, large utensil pot

When sending images for the Gallery, please provide a print quality jpg file of about 1MB or more, sent as an email attachment.

It is helpful to readers to give short **details about the piece including its title, size, material and key firing information.**

Email to [npanews@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:npanews@northern-potters.co.uk)

From **mud** to  
**work of art**  
...and everything in  
between



OUR  
**FUTURE**

IS IN THE  
**MAKING**



John Cook

June Roddam



Judith Roberts

**5%** member discount *proof required*

**POTCLAYS**.co.uk  
LIMITED  
Est. 1932 | 85 years



Shirley Peacock



Shirley Peacock



Shirley Peacock

# POTTERYCRAFTS LIMITED

AMACO® glazes: Magic Flow,  
Textured Alligator, Artist's Choice,  
and Stone Texture

**For the beginner and expert  
in ceramics & pottery**

Front & Top Loading Kilns manufactured  
in Stoke-on-Trent

Extensive Range of Clays

Pottery Wheels

Slab Rollers

Glazes

Tools & Brushes

Raw Materials

Moulds

Bisque

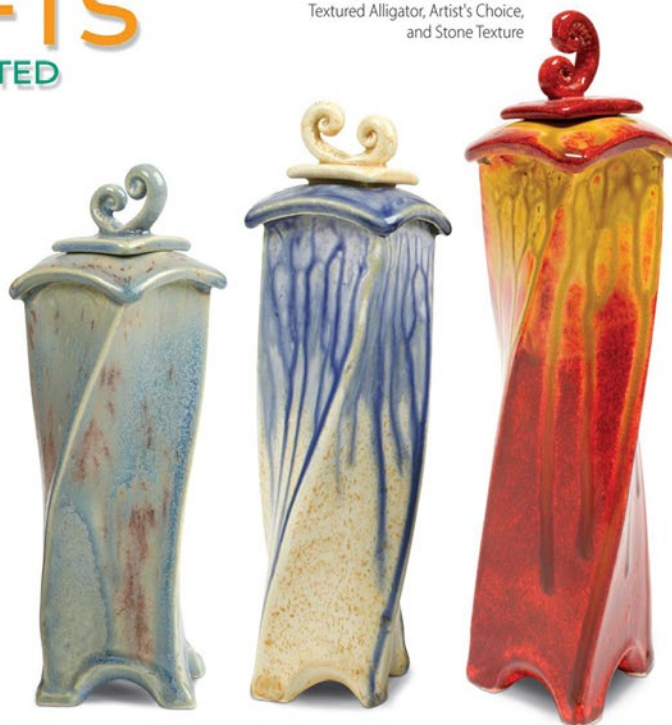
Helpful & Friendly Advice

**Everything a Potter needs**

**Tel: 01782 745000**  
**Fax: 01782 746000**



[www.potterycrafts.co.uk](http://www.potterycrafts.co.uk)  
[sales@potterycrafts.co.uk](mailto:sales@potterycrafts.co.uk)



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

Mail Order and Collection of a wide range of tools, materials, equipment, clays and glazes etc etc  
5% Potters Association Discount on all items, excluding Wheels, Kilns, Machinery and Direct Delivered Clay



Low Interest Rate Subsidised Retail Finance  
available on Potters Wheels, Kittec and Rohde Kilns

*We aim to provide the most cost-effective ranges of clay,  
tools, glazes, materials and equipment for potters in the UK.  
You can visit us, see test tiles and browse, or order over the  
phone or email - please see [www.ctmpotterssupplies.co.uk](http://www.ctmpotterssupplies.co.uk)*

**NOW STOCKING KITTEC & ROHDE KILNS**



Unit 7/8, Broomhouse Lane Ind Estate, Doncaster, DN12 1EQ  
or Unit 19, Hogsbrook Units, Greendale East Ind Estate, Exeter, EX5 1PY

01709 770801  
01395 233077

check for opening times  
on the website

Simba Materials Limited acts as a credit intermediary and offer credit products provided only by Klarna Retail Finance. A trading name of Klarna Bank. Klarna Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. Finance is only available to UK residents over 18, subject to status, terms and conditions apply.

# Welcome to new members

**A warm welcome is extended to all our new members.**  
We look forward to seeing you at events and images of your work in our gallery.

Lisa Anderson	Macclesfield Cheshire
Nicola Ashworth	Bolton Greater Manchester
Helen Barnes	Lancaster Lancashire
Sally Bate	Bolton Greater Manchester
Charlotte Bishop	Bury Greater Manchester
Caroline Blackburn	Manchester Greater Manchester
Kate Boulton	Lincolnshire
Kaira Brockette	Sheffield South Yorkshire
Anne Cahill	West Yorkshire
Maxine Callow	Warrington Cheshire
Anne Choma	Halifax West Yorkshire
Jeremy Comfort	York North Yorkshire
Loredana Consogni	Beverley East Riding of Yorkshire
Jennifer Cooper	East Yorkshire
Lucia Covell Andy Covell	Clay Cross Derbyshire
Amanda Crump	Sheffield South Yorkshire
Lorraine Epicheff	Derbyshire
Louise Evans	Crewes Cheshire
Valerie Evans	Whitchurch Shropshire
Andrea Fanchette	Huddersfield West Yorkshire
Clare Farley	Penrith Cumbria
Azu Fletcher	West Yorkshire
Laura Grainger	Bristol Bristol
Tine Hagen Dalgaard	Wilmslow Cheshire
Anna Haigh	Sheffield South Yorkshire
Lisa Harman	Sheffield South Yorkshire
Beth Haudiquet	Rotherham South Yorkshire
Mark Hetherington	Barnsley South Yorkshire
Alison Higginbottom	Barnsley South Yorkshire
Sara Hood	Preston Lancashire
Neil Hotchin	Birmingham West Midlands
Linda Jeffery Ian Jeffery	Willoughton Lincolnshire
Ty Jones	Derbyshire
Julie Lancashire	Derby Derbyshire
Jay Lanyon	Manchester Greater Manchester
Laura Lee	Doncaster South Yorkshire
Andy Lees	Bolton Greater Manchester
Elaine Lim-Newton	Derby Derbyshire
Sarah Loughran	Preston Lancashire
Theresa Monks	Chester Cheshire
John Pearce	Newark NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Rebecca Perry	Chesterfield Derbyshire
James Pettinger	Derby Derbyshire
Jillian Riley	Derbyshire

Jen Donkin Gourley  
Membership Secretary

Visit <https://www.northern-potters.co.uk/> for membership forms and subscription rates.



## From the Membership Secretary

### Digital Newsletter now available

You can now choose to receive your NPA Newsletter as a PDF by email instead of the paper edition in the post. If you would like to give it a try, send an email to [membership@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:membership@northern-potters.co.uk) requesting this. Send it from the email address you want to receive the PDF at, and please make the subject PDF Newsletter. You will be able to change your choice back to a postal copy at any time. No action is required by members wishing to continue receiving a printed copy by post.

### Other reminders:

Don't forget to let [membership@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:membership@northern-potters.co.uk) know if you have changed any of your contact details so that you don't miss out on any events and/or information.

Also, please remember that we don't send out membership renewal reminders - you're in charge of your membership.

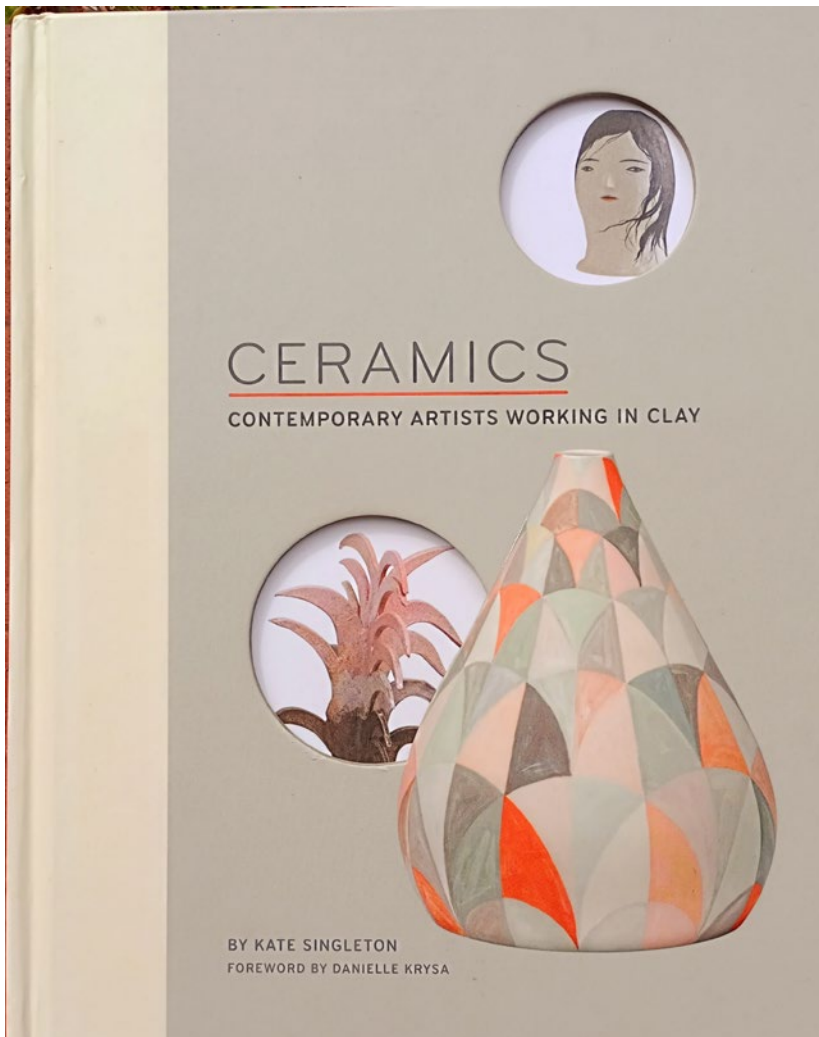
If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact me at [membership@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:membership@northern-potters.co.uk)

Jen Donkin Gourley

Jane Riley	Middlesbrough North Yorkshire
Lynda Roe	Harrogate North Yorkshire
Kerry Roffe	Whitley Bay Tyne and Wear
Emily Rowley	Doncaster South Yorkshire
Elena Rubiu	Leeds West Yorkshire
Sarah Saunders	Rotherham South Yorkshire
Hannah Staniforth	South Yorkshire
Lloyd Stansfield	Wakefield West Yorkshire
Darren Swindells Terence Coleclough	Doncaster South Yorkshire
Michelle Webb	Stockton-on-Tees County Durham
Hannah Weber	Sheffield South Yorkshire
Benjamin Wilde	Bradwell Derbyshire
Jane Wildsmith	Sheffield South Yorkshire
EveWilliamson	Sheffield South Yorkshire

---

## Book Review – Sarah Vanic



### **Ceramics ~ Contemporary Artists Working in Clay By Kate Singleton**

Around 2012, there was a resurgence and interest in all things ceramics including a shift to publish books about potters and clay makers. It also paralleled an increasing desire from the general public to find places where pottery could be made. Creative arts in adult education disappeared long ago but its absence had opened up a space for many small and large enterprising businesses to pop up. It is questionable what actually came first but we can assume they overlapped, which is often the way.

It is in this era that *Ceramics ~ Contemporary Artists Working in Clay* by Kate Singleton was conceived. It is fashioned to catch your eye by its unique cover with cut out portholes to entice you into the book. The natural tones on the front cover would sit well in any

grand design house.

The book is compiled into 4 Chapters titled: Narrative, Graphic, Curious and Organic. There are 43 ceramic artists from many parts of the world each telling us: Where they were born, Where they live now and a short statement of their intention. In fact, Makoto Kagoshima is the most concise when he states in three words the purpose for using clay; “Si, Je Puis” (translated... ”If I can”) a recognisable feeling most ceramicists experience when striving to excel with the tools of their trade.

Kate uses the term ceramic artist first and foremost because each individual compiled in this book chooses clay as their medium for artistic exploration. Particularly Rebekah Mile when she describes herself as “primarily a painter using clay as her canvas.”

Lavish room is given over to the photographic image and artists’ statements preside alongside as the porthole to their images. Unfortunately, Kate’s chosen categorical chapters are generic and the artists do not sit comfortably in such simplistic groupings. The outcome of this misdemeanour diminishes the stature and quality of the ceramics and the artists. For example, in Chapter 2, Ruan Hoffman explains his work is about narrative and text yet he resides in a chapter titled Graphics. A slip up? Should he be in the chapter about narration? Chapter 3 ~Curious is indeed very curious. 80% of the artists displayed in this section use the

human figure in some way yet there is no reference to this genre. French sculptor Laurent Dufour goes to the trouble to explain that his work is all about the individual; stories about the earth and our fragilities yet he resides in nothing more than just the curious.

Kate Singleton falls short with this book particularly when one compares her abilities delivering *Buy Some Damn Art*; her online gallery and even more so when reading her blog the *Art Hound* which chronicles her journeys and discoveries of artists and meaningful art.

The positive of Kate’s work is that it is an enjoyable taster highlighting ceramic artists. So ignore the categories, view the images and read the artists statements as this is where Kate is at her best in this book; letting the artists speak for themselves.



**Serving talented people Nationwide**



**Made in Lancashire**

**01253 790307**

**[www.northernkilns.com](http://www.northernkilns.com)**

**[info@northernkilns.com](mailto:info@northernkilns.com)**



## **10 % Discount for NPA members**

*(please Email us for details)*

***All refractory materials sold for Kilns, Furnaces and Forges***

***(And other heat applications)***

**Insulation Bricks, Firebricks and High Alumina Bricks**

**Ceramic Fibre products**

**Castable Refractory Products**

**Insulation Materials / Boards / Blankets**

**High Temperature Cements and Adhesives**

**Burners, Miniature Hobby Kilns**

**Fireclay and Vermiculite**

**Made to measure Moulds and other products cut to size / shape**

# **KILNLININGS**

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

Email us: [Sales@kilnlinings.co.uk](mailto:Sales@kilnlinings.co.uk)

# Regional News

Regional groups were set up to help members communicate with others local to them and arrange events in their area.

Our exhibition and raku firing with schools from Haverigg, Broughton in Furness and Carlisle has just taken place at the Hare Hill Barn gallery on Cartmell Fell. It was a good event, particularly enjoyable with the involvement of children who had made their own pots at school and were able to glaze them and watch the whole firing process - great excitement and energy!

On 24 & 25 June some of our members will be taking part in the Arneside and Silverdale Art and Craft Trail, our venue is at the Silverdale Institute on Spring Bank, Silverdale.

NW Regional co-ordinators: Kathryn Stevens, Deborah Robinson, Chris Barnes  
[northernpottersnw@gmail.com](mailto:northernpottersnw@gmail.com)  [NPAnorthwest](#)  [@northernpottersassociationNW](#)

Taking part: Thora Talling, Vicky Yates, Marie Rollet, Lara Clahane, Valerie Atkinson, Amanda Greensmith, Steph Larkin, Claire Orange, Ruth Livesey, Chris Barnes, Kathryn Stevens - Please come and visit us if you can.

We would like to thank everyone for responding to the questionnaire on how we link in with our membership. Deborah is going through the detail so that we can come up with a plan to include your helpful suggestions.



NW

Hi Everyone

Glorious Clay Chorley was a huge success. Our second year at the Coach House Gallery, Astley Hall. Over 1000 visitors, lots of sales and loads of people having a go with clay at our makers table. Looking forward to next year!

A reminder to visit the Craft Open at Platform Gallery, Clitheroe which is on until 2 July.

Another reminder about Lytham Heritage Centre exhibition in 2024. We haven't fixed a date yet as we need 20 potters to make it work. If you're interested please contact Helen direct.

Kim Graham & Helen Pemberton [west@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:west@northern-potters.co.uk)  [NPAwest](#)  [@northernpottersassociationWest \(TBC\)](#)

Not long now until British Ceramics Biennial 23 September to 5 November. The hub of the festival will be based in Joiners Square just outside Hanley, Stoke on Trent. Check out [www.britishceramicsbiennial.com](http://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com) details.

Potters Camp at UCLan just a few weeks away 8 July, lots of information on social media with full details of the programme.

Hope you're enjoying this fabulous weather - happy potting Kim and Helen



W

Juliet has been working really hard organising everyone for the Parsonage, Didsbury which will be taking place on 27-29 May, where we have a fabulous exhibition of members' work. The Parsonage is a beautiful venue and with free entry, so please come along and show your support. Open from 10am - 4pm.

Ceri is arranging some social events for our south west potters, and will be circulating to members soon - watch this space!

Stacy White has secured a location in Stretford Mall for us to sell our work at, we will have access to a small market space, where potters will set up their own table and be there with their work for the day. We have three dates available to us; 12th, 19th or 26th August, if you would be interested in joining us at this location please let us know, and which date(s) you would be available for.

Juliet Myers [south-west@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:south-west@northern-potters.co.uk)  [NPAsouthwest](#)  [@northernpottersassociationSW](#)

Pat Amies and Hazel Higham are arranging a Pop Up shop in Macclesfield in the Autumn. We are still taking names of interested potters, so if it might be something you would be interested in then please drop us an email.

We love to hear what you are up to, and taking part in, so please share your stories with us. If you would like to participate with anything we do, please shout up!

Thank you for all your mentions, posts, and re-posts - please continue to share the NPA love! ♥

Follow us on Social Media for all our latest: Northern Potters Association - South West | Facebook and <https://www.instagram.com/northernpottersassociationsw/> Best wishes Juliet & Ceri



SW

Any member can ask to be included in any regional mailing list.  
You must have given your consent to receive NPA emails.



## Regional News

NE Region is holding our Summer Show at the Python Gallery in Middlesbrough from 9th June to 28th July.



In September we are planning an arts event at Mima, inspired by the permanent ceramics collection with spotlight talks from NPA members. More info about this later.

### NE

NE Regional Co-ordinators Group: Carol Newmarch, Wendy Turner, Diane Nicholson, Helen Pickard, Jaime Westwood, Chris Walker, John Scott, Claude Frere-Smith  
[north-east@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:north-east@northern-potters.co.uk)  [NorthernPottersAssociationNorthEast](https://www.facebook.com/NorthernPottersAssociationNorthEast)  [@northernpottersassociationNE](https://www.instagram.com/northernpottersassociationNE)

Its looking like a busy summer. A number of East members were at Potfest in Penrith for the first time including Elena Rubiu and Liz Barton and some were involved in the 'Go Big or Go Home' event with Geoff Cox. Quite a number have booked to go to the Potters Camp at UCLAN in July. I am hoping to put people in touch with each other for car sharing and lifts. Let me know if you can help.



Rural Arts in Thirsk are celebrating their 30th Anniversary, work from their Pottery group went on display mid June, check their website for courses and opening times, there are some excellent events and courses on offer with everyone welcome. Thanks to Pete Watson for letting us know.

### E

Lyn Clarke

[east@northern-potters.co.uk](mailto:east@northern-potters.co.uk)

 [NPAEast](https://www.facebook.com/NPAEast)

 [@northernpottersassociationEast](https://www.instagram.com/northernpottersassociationEast)

We continue to be as busy as ever in the South East and it's fantastic to be able to welcome so many new members. We've had 32 this year and it was lovely to meet some of you at our second group sculpture day at Ulley Country park in Rotherham on Sunday April the 30th. We had a fantastic day learning from each other, chatting and making heads and hats. You may have seen some of them on Instagram. We have our next SENPA area meeting coming up at Dovecot Gallery, Styrrup, Doncaster on Sunday 11th of June. Just before our new festival, Mid Summer Ceramics which is also at Dovecot Gallery. We will also be helping



### SE

the gallery to raise funds for their chosen charity which you can read about in Ken Taylor's article in this newsletter.

Graham Northing & Wendy Wall

[senpacoordinator@outlook.com](mailto:senpacoordinator@outlook.com)

 [NPAsoutheast](https://www.facebook.com/NPAsoutheast)

 [@northernpottersassociationSE](https://www.instagram.com/northernpottersassociationSE)

Advanced warning that Python Gallery will also host our winter selling exhibition. Timed for the Christmas/seasonal market it will be the last week in October and the first two weeks in November.

We are looking for a new admin to help with our NE social media - if this is something you would be happy to do please contact us.

Emmeline Butler and Kit Hemsley amongst those involved in North Yorks Open Studios and Kate Buckley has an exhibition of 3D wall art at Helmsley Arts Centre from July 4 to September 1.

Ali Bradley has had a pot accepted for the Feren's gallery in Hull and recently attended a clay Yorkshire course at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in the new studio run by Rebecca Appleby and James Outbridge. She says that it was absolutely brilliant.

Finally Isabel Denyer has a number of Plinths, stacking boxes, circular display bats and other display items for sale. Please get in touch if you are interested, she is really keen for them to go to a good home!

Lyn Clarke

We are also very excited about another new venture. We have persuaded ceramic artists Rachel Wood and Paul Smith to give us a day of demonstrations and talks at the Eco Centre in Wirksworth on July 23rd. Tickets are still available for this event. Please get in touch if you would like to attend. We are also organising a raku day which will take place at the end of August. More details to follow.

Applications are open for Pop-Up 2 Pottery, 20th August, Art at the House, 23rd - 24th September and Cromford Mill on 8th October. Do get in touch if you want more details for any of these events.

## Loaded Art 3 – Graham Hough

In most democracies there is freedom of speech, many allow freedom to protest, some allow freedom to offend, however we seem to have reached a period when we censor art work that may 'trigger' emotions in people.

Some of you may recall my piece in the December 2022/January 2023 issue of this august journal where I described the public's reaction to my work at The Potfest in the Pens 2022, where I used my stall to protest about the gross mortal crimes of the Roman Catholic Church. The main exhibits were five Madonnas each representing the selling of indulgencies, the killing of babies in mother and baby homes, the selling of babies to rich couples, sexual abuse by priests and ordinands, and the gross accumulation of wealth by the Catholic hierarchy.

Potfest in the Pens began a turning point in my work. Every piece of mine now will attempt to represent some evil and injustice I perceive in the world.



In this campaign I have been censored by two local authority galleries in the Northwest. Senior management, rather than the gallery staff, have stated that my work is 'triggering' or too incredibly provocative for public display and rejected my submissions.

However wherever I have shown my work it has been a 'trigger' for people to tell me of their own experiences of contact with the Catholic Church. It may be going too far to say this a therapeutic moment for folk but I have been touched by how readily many victims pour out the most detailed descriptions of their encounters with these evil celebrants.

So I have been told my brutal depiction of the Madonna may overshadow the current controversies about the Catholic Church and its exploitation of the Mother of God. BUT surely any 'triggering' my lumps of clay could cause is nothing to the physical and mental trauma of its victims.



**CELEBRATING  
40 YEARS**  
of supporting the  
ceramic community

**40** TH ANNIVERSARY  
**Valentine  
Clays Ltd**  
EST. 1979

t: 01782 721 200 f: 01782 949 715

Email: [sales@valentineclays.co.uk](mailto:sales@valentineclays.co.uk)  
Web: [www.valentineclays.co.uk](http://www.valentineclays.co.uk)



## SNEYD CERAMICS LIMITED

GLAZE & UNDERGLAZE STAINS  
GLAZES - FOR ALL APPLICATIONS  
PAINTING COLOURS  
RAW MATERIALS  
PRINTING INKS  
COLOURED ENGOBES

ONGLAZE COLOURS  
BRUSH-ON GLAZES  
CERAMIC CAFE COLOURS  
COLOURING OXIDES  
PRINTING MEDIUMS  
BODY STAINS

*Below is a small selection of our products*

### STANDARD COLOURED GLAZES



### STONEWARE GLAZES



### RAKU & CRAQUELLE GLAZES



*Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information*

SNEYD CERAMICS LIMITED Sneyd Mills, Leonora Street, Burslem, Stoke on Trent, UK, ST6 3BZ  
TEL: 01782 814167 Email: [sales@sneydceramics.co.uk](mailto:sales@sneydceramics.co.uk) [www.sneydceramics.co.uk](http://www.sneydceramics.co.uk)

