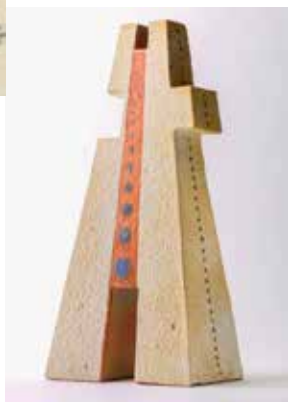


NPA News



Northern Potters Association
www.northern-potters.co.uk

August to September 2018
£2, free to members



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Front Cover: Amberlea McNaught

Back Cover: Andrew Caines, Blood Fox

Next issue

The copy date for the next issue of NPA News is **24 September**

Articles should be between 300 and 1000 words saved as .doc or .txt files.

Images need to be high quality for printing, saved as .jpg files.

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

Send them to npanews@btinternet.com

Email or phone the editor if you have any queries.

NPA in crisis?

This edition of NPA News is somewhat later than usual so that I could include a report from the AGM. This appears on page 22. I urge you to read it.

The main issue we have to face is how we are to continue running the NPA with the current number of volunteers willing and able to contribute to running the organisation. We urgently need a new treasurer and we only have an acting chair and vice-chair until the end of the year. We can expect other committee vacancies to arise in the normal course of events.

Committee members are elected for 3 year terms and though several are able to serve for longer, it is not reasonable or fair to expect this of them.

Three years ago we faced a similar situation, with several committee positions becoming vacant together. I have now to say again what was said then – if key positions are not filled by the end of the year we will not be able to continue to run the NPA.

We have over 600 members. I urge everyone to consider whether they could make a greater contribution. Please get in touch if you are able to help in any way.

Joan Hardie, Acting Chair & Newsletter editor

Advertising in NPA News

Per issue prices

Small ads (30 words max.) Free to members

Boxed adverts

colour	1/2 pp £30	1/4 pp £18	1/8 pp £10
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Committee Member Colette Hennigan
Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria

Committee Member Ken Taylor
Sheffield, South Yorks

+ Website events/courses updates
Barbara Wood
barbara.wood99@btinternet.com

Diary

Send details of your events to the npanews@btinternet.com

to 7 October	<i>Not just for Pretty: Robyn Cove in relation to Michael Cardew</i> Aberystwyth Arts Centre
3 to 5 August	<i>Potfest in the Pens</i> Penrith, Cumbria
4 August	<i>NPA Annual General Meeting</i> Potfest in the Pens, Cumbria
8 Aug to 4 Sept	<i>Craftsmen in the Priory</i> Dacre Hall, Lanercost Priory, near Brampton, Cumbria CA8 2HQ Admission £1, Tel 07821 162276 Carolyn Marr and Hilary Harrison
10 to 12 August	<i>Handmade Edinburgh</i> Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh
11 & 12 August	<i>Art in the Pen</i> Skipton Auction Mart
17 to 19 August	<i>Art in Clay Hatfield</i> Hatfield House, Hertfordshire
26 August	<i>Ceramics in Southwell</i> The Market Square, Southwell, Notts
1 & 2 September	<i>Art in the Gardens</i> ten makers NPA marquee, Sheffield Botanical Gardens
8 & 9 September	<i>Wardlow Mires Pottery & Food Festival</i> Derbyshire
14 Sept to 11 Nov	<i>Cumbrian Ceramics</i> Upfront Gallery, Unthank, Penrith CA11 0TG
17 to 27 September	<i>Cumbrian Sculptors & Cumbrian Printmakers</i> Grasmere Village Hall, Cumbria
22 & 23 September	<i>Sheffield Ceramics Festival</i> Walled Garden, Meersbrook Park S8 9FB
23 September	<i>Mike Dodd Pottery Demonstration</i> The Unitarian Church, Sefton Park, Liverpool Tickets at £15 on www.eventbrite.com
29 & 30 September	<i>Green Doors Art Trail</i> Greenodd Village Hall, Cumbria
6 & 7 October	<i>York Ceramics Fair</i> The Hospitium, Museum Gardens, York
11 to 14 October	<i>Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair Manchester</i>
9 & 10 November	<i>The Saltaire Makers Fair</i> Victoria Hall, Saltaire

www.northern-potters.co.uk

Our website now has an archive section where you will find past copies of NPA News (excluding the last 6 issues), our Privacy Policy, and AGM minutes. Take a look on northern-potters.co.uk and choose "the archive" in the menu.

All members can publicise their events and courses on our website. All you need to do is send the information in an email to barbara.wood99@btinternet.com

Missing out on NPA emails?

If you want to receive information about pottery matters from the NPA by email, you must have given us your explicit consent.

If you have not already done so, please send an email to npaconsent@gmail.com

Give your name and state: "I give my consent to the Northern Potters Association to send me information about pottery matters using my email address."

The role of the NPA Treasurer

Most people think that this is a difficult job that requires some specialist knowledge. It isn't.

We all have a bank account, whether it is personal or business, and have a steady flow of money coming in and payments going out. And most of us check our bank statements when they arrive to make sure that they show what we expected, we recognise the receipts and the payments and the balance at the bottom is right. That's what a treasurer does.

Being treasurer for an organisation like the NPA takes that process a step further but it is essentially the same. In order for us to produce the year-end accounts all the receipts and payments get analysed and totalled up as we go along so that we can see where the money has come from and where it's gone. Anybody who can use a spreadsheet can do this.

We also do a few checks along the way but the main one is making sure that the total at the bottom of the spreadsheet is the same as the balance on the bank statement each month. So long as you have good attention to detail that should be fairly straightforward.

There are also a few sales invoices to raise each year for advertising in the newsletter and you'll need to be confident using online banking to make payments to suppliers. Any payment that needs to be made is authorised by the committee and is supported by an invoice from a supplier, an expense claim or something similar.

And if you take on the role you're not on your own! John Robinson will do the initial handover and is willing to give some support in the early days. After that, I've acted as the auditor for several years and will be happy to help.

Steve Wood



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Tile Making at Fangfoss

There was a very kind offer from Lyn and Gerry Grant to host a tile making social event at Fangfoss Pottery which in the planning, blossomed in to a BBQ and raku extravaganza.

NPA members, spouses and offspring all arrived to make tiles, chat, eat and experiment with raku. There were a few pots left from the Lotherton event and members brought their own pots to fire as well.

It's always good to swap ideas, techniques and information and it proved to be a very successful day. For the less experienced potters there was a chance to learn about the process and to ask for advice. For members in the far east of the region, it was a chance to meet fellow potters and make new friendships.

It inspired some people to have a go themselves and several people to try new techniques. The weather was good and as you can see from the photographs, the company was good too. I did hear a rumour that it could become an annual event...

Lyn Clarke



Photos by Lyn Grant and Lyn Clarke

Award Winners' Showcase at Valentines Clays



Hugh Thomas won the novice category for decorative work with his three Naked Raku Pots. He also received the highest number of votes so was declared the overall winner

The NPA 40th anniversary celebrations, which started off with cakes at Potfest in the Pens, ended in style with Prosecco at Valentine's!

Prizewinner Steve Booton kindly delivered and collected much of the work and committee members Dianne Cross, Kit Hemsley and Elizabeth Smith (also a prize winner) set up the exhibition, returning to pack it up 2 weeks later. John Cook helped with labels and artist information for the display.

The exhibition space is on the mezzanine overlooking the large reception area and has brand new pale grey plinths and good lighting. Some of the exhibitors attended the preview and were pleased with how their work looked.

Our thanks to Hannah Ault and Valentines Clays.



Elizabeth Smith, Winter starlings

25 Years of Potfests

In 1990 Geoff and Christine Cox exhibited at their first continental potters' market, the International Ceramics Festival in Eindhoven, Holland. It came as a revelation – potters of international repute away from galleries, selling their work in the heart of the community. Why didn't this happen in the UK? They soon realised that if it were to happen back home they would have to organise it themselves.

By 1994 they had decided on a large under-cover cattle market in Penrith as a venue and in early June 1994 Potfest in the Pens was born – the first potters' market of any size in the UK.

In 1997 Perth, the ancient capital of the country, where the Highlands meet the Lowlands became the venue for the first Potfest Scotland.

In 2001 Potfest in the Park was held at Hutton-in-the-Forest, an old Country House 4 miles north of Penrith. This new show was held under canvas on the parkland in front of the big house where the open aspect and landscape setting would allow the display of work on an architectural scale not possible at the Pens. This was to become a flagship event, a show of excellence attracting exhibitors from all over the world.

In 2002 in order to find more time for their own ceramics Geoff and Christine decided to concentrate their energies on developing the content of the extending festival in Penrith, with Matthew, their son, continuing the development of Potfest Scotland.

In 2013 to celebrate the 20th annual Potfest in Penrith and mark how far it had come they organised an exhibition called "Potfest: Journeys in Clay" at the gallery at Rheged near Penrith. Here they showed the work of some of those intrepid travellers who drive from their studios all over Europe to be part of Potfest each year.

Over the years there have been several smaller projects but the primary objective remains one of developing a larger audience for studio ceramics by taking it into the heart of the community and putting potters and the public together in large numbers.





The Pens is the only unselected show in the UK giving an opportunity to see the work of the well established alongside the up-and-coming. Around 170 potters take part. The result is an exciting mix that is always simulating.

Maintaining the Pens as an unselected show has given generations of potters their first taste of showing their work to a large audience without having to face a selection process and the possibility of refusal. Geoff and Chris are justifiably proud of this achievement.

The interaction between potters and public is also an important part of the show. As well as some demonstrations, there are free classes for adults to encourage them to take their first steps in clay. There are throwing classes, kids 'n clay corner, pottery tools, clay suppliers, kilns, and thousands of pots to choose from.



The Park has over 100 exhibitors invited from all over Europe and beyond. All have very distinctive individual styles, and are passionate about working with clay.

The venue, Hutton-in-the-Forest, is a cultural destination in itself with its historic house, walled garden, topiary terraces and woodland walks. The ceramics festival takes place in and around marquees in front of the castle, with the potters special competition pieces on the lawn, juxtaposing ancient architecture and modern ceramics.



The Palace is two miles outside Perth. For its 22nd year in Scotland the show is once again Potfest at the Palace, in the wonderful grounds of Scone Palace, Perth, the home of the Stone of Destiny, the crowning site of former Scottish kings.

Fangfoss Pottery wins prestigious award



Fangfoss Pottery, near York was proclaimed the best small business in East Yorkshire for 2017, in an award ceremony held in May at Bridlington Spa.

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council annually presents Chairman's awards to individuals, companies and organisations within the County to recognise their achievements towards enhancing the area in which they live and work.

Fangfoss pottery is a small craft ceramics studio set up over 40 years ago by Gerry and Lyn Grant. It was nominated for the "Business under 50 employees" category by Fangfoss Parish Council in recognition of their achievements in running a pottery for 40 years and their charitable work to

increase the awareness of arts and crafts in the East Riding and beyond. This involved running workshops and encouraging the local community in projects.

Gerry says, "We couldn't believe it when we won. The other 3 businesses, Local Transport Project Ltd from Beverley, a bistro from Howden and an inn at Great Hatfield, all seemed much better than us. We certainly slipped into the under 50 employees category by 47!"

"Going up to collect the award felt like getting a lifetime achievement at the Oscars."

"We had a lovely evening and feel proud to have been respected enough by our community to have been nominated in the first place. We hope to have raised the profile of ceramics, not only locally, but throughout East Yorkshire and beyond."



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Northeast NPA Empty Bowls



Northeast Region held a successful Empty Bowls event at the Tyne Bank Brewery Tap in Newcastle on 21 June, which raised over £1800 to be split between Food Nation and Hebburn Helps.

Bowls were donated by many local potters including George Ormerod, Andrew Pentland and Laura Hancock. Muddy Fingers also ran a charity bowl-making session which raised £210.

Harissa Kitchen donated Mediterranean-style food.



Photos: Diane Nicolson and Jamie from Food Nation.



Scholarships and Apprenticeships

The next application period for scholarships and apprenticeships from the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust closes on 24 August 2018.

Applications can be made via our website www.qest.org.uk.

All relevant information regarding the application process can also be found on our website.

Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust
1 Buckingham Place / London / SW1E 6HR

www.qest.org.uk

Tiles in the Pens



Both Potfest in the Pens and the NPA aim to be inclusive. Anyone can take part. Our exhibitors and members range from professional potters with over 50 years of pottery expertise, to those just starting to experience the pleasure of working with clay. The tile project celebrates this shared ethos.

We asked NPA members to make a tile to be displayed together at this year's show and also for volunteers to help visitors to the Pens make a tile.

I received about a dozen tiles by post, including one by special delivery on set-up day. A couple had gone to Colette Hennigan and Geoff Cox. When we set off to set up the NPA stand I had no real idea how many tiles we would get.

When we arrived Geoff Cox told us that Gerry and Lyn Grant of Fangfoss Pottery had brought a box of tiles, which was encouraging. It turned out to be two large boxes of tiles made by them and the Pocklington Guides and Rangers. We set out four 6ft tables end to end and started to make a long snake of about 150 tiles.

Then the 70 or so NPA exhibitors started bringing their tiles to add in. Most people had made one or two tiles. Some brought tiles from other members.

It didn't take long before we had to widen the snake, but the tiles kept coming. We made a 5-tile-wide block at one end and started extending this back up the snake as more arrived.

When we came back on Friday morning there were so many tiles that the snake had disappeared. By lunchtime there was another table with the new tiles made at the show. And so it went on. Tiles were still arriving with NPA visitors on Sunday.

Valentine Clays have taken all the fired tiles to install as the first part of a potters' path in their new headquarters in Stoke. Gerry and Lyn have offered to fire the tiles made at the show so that they can be added too. We are proud to start what could become a major statement of the strength of UK ceramics in the early 21st century.

It was great. Thank you so much.

Joan Hardie

If you weren't able to get your tiles to Potfest you can post them directly to Valentine Clays, Valentine Way, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2FJ

Please mark the packet "Tiles Project".



Thanks

Geoff and Chris Cox for giving us their support throughout, including a free space for our stand

Colette Hennigan for suggesting a tile path and organising the volunteers

Valentines Clays for volunteering to install the tile path, starting with our tiles, and also for donating clay to make tiles at the show

Gerry and Lyn Grant for bringing so many tiles, firing the new tiles and dedication to the cause

The volunteers who manned the stand and helped visitors make tiles:

Ray Pearson, Ann Capewell, Marie Kershaw, Jo Wills, Ruth Charlton, Jacqui Hastewell, John Cook, Karen Dodgson, Julie Butterworth, Jayne Frodsham

Roma Short for helping with the tile-making, cleaning up afterwards and packing up all the donated and newly-made tiles in boxes!



Members' Gallery

Send images of your work to the editor for inclusion in the gallery.



James Faulkner, bottle (above) and wall piece (below),
stoneware with eroded slip surfaces, fired to 1260C



Isabel K-J Denyer, Porcelain Beakers



Andrew Caines, Skull Angel



John Kershaw



Laura Hancock



Colin Jowitt

Profile – Roger Bell

I was born in South London, and studied Geography before working as a work study engineer and computer consultant in the London area. My wife Gillean and I opened the Wandle Gallery selling art and craft work, particularly ceramics, part-time for some years.

In 1989 we felt confident enough to open Dexterity in Ambleside full time. Here we sold a wide range of ceramics, craft work, paintings and limited edition prints. In 2005 we closed the gallery so that I could concentrate on my hand-built ceramics and mixed media sculpture.

My first steps in using clay were in the late 1970s under the tuition of Brian Starkey at Sutton College of Visual Arts. I continued making part-time, taking part in occasional exhibitions, until 2005 when I became a full time maker.

I make planters, mirrors and clocks regularly and my work is always for sale at Thornthwaite Gallery near Keswick. I also make pieces for themed exhibitions, mostly sculptures combining ceramics with metal and found objects, and mugs not intended for drinking with handles like door handles.

My work is inspired by the jigsaw form, architecture and furniture and artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Anselm Kiefer, Kurt Schwitters and Ben Nicholson. Although I've shown my work in Europe, more usually I exhibit with Green Door Artists, Cumbria Sculptors and Northern Potters.



I enjoy the whole process of making, including the challenges of getting from the initial idea to the means of achieving it, although it always changes in the making. It's always good to see the final construction, especially in exhibitions where the work fits the theme well.

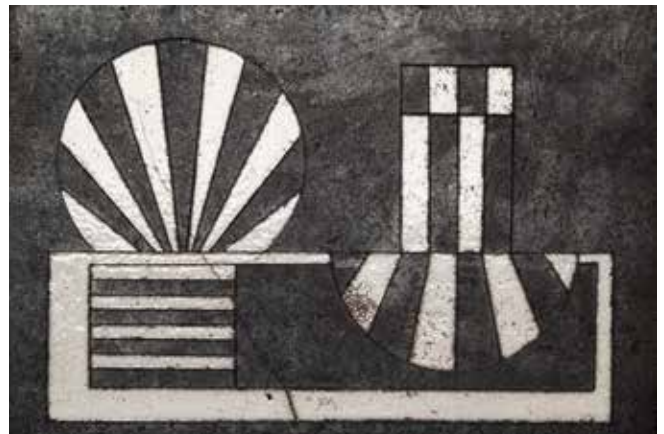
Work fits well round my other interests such as fell-running and Pilates. Gillean and I also enjoy hill walking, especially when our grown-up children are home, and love going to the cinema – Zeffirellis in Ambleside of course.

My work is best described as sculpture for domestic interiors and gardens. I have a lot of sculpture in exhibitions this year in Cumbria and Yorkshire. For Potfest in the Pens, I've been making mainly planters, mirrors, clocks and my quirky mugs.

I find sculpture parks inspiring, also the artworks on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square, and I'd like to work on a bigger scale. I often make maquettes for potential large works and it would be wonderful to make something 15ft high in stone and wood.



Photo by Dayve Ward



Roger makes regular and much appreciated contributions to NPA News through his book reviews and new book listings.

Books – Roger Bell

Review of Ceramic Horizons

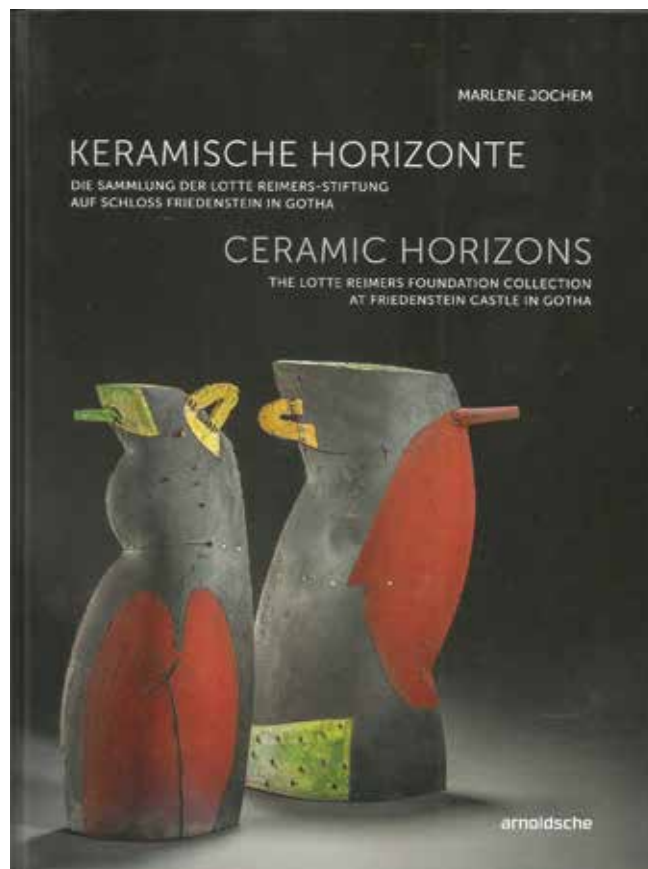
Marlene Jochem

Published by Arnoldsche at £48.00

I recently re-established contact with Arnoldsche Art Publishers from Germany and found a wealth of new ceramic publications in the last few years. Those I have seen are quality hard back productions mainly on European ceramic artists and major ceramic art collections. Prices range from £28 to £48 – good value for such specialist books. Have a look at their website.

This substantial hardback volume (300 pages) describes the Lotte Reimers ceramics collection of over 300 pieces by 115 ceramic artists from throughout the world but with the emphasis on western Europe. The collection has been loaned to the Friedenstein Castle collection in Gotha, Germany where it joins their impressive collection of older ceramics, particularly Meissen and East Asian porcelain. It looks comparable to those of York City Art Gallery and the V & A. So many of the best museum collections depend on avid collectors such as our own Bill Ismay.

Lotte Reimers, born in 1932, is herself a significant ceramic artist with work in major European museum collections. She was bitten by the 'ceramic bug' in 1951 through an exhibition of hand-crafted pottery and weaving organised by John Hinke. She joined him in organising lectures, demonstrations and exhibitions while at the same time developing her own ceramic practice. In 1961 they set up the Museum für Moderne Keramik in Deidesheim. Her work in these areas continues to this day.



There are around 180 full and half page photos of work from the collection, each with a perceptive comment on why she chose it. Then there is the complete catalogue of work, each with thumbprint image, artist details, size, technical information and where and when purchased. The 115 artists included contain many new to me, but most of you will be familiar with Wally Keeler, Colin Pearson, Gabriele Koch, Greg Daly, Claudi Casanovas, Rita Ternes and Ursula Scheid. A majority relate to traditional forms – bowls, plates, lidded pots etc. but mainly with some sculptural element to them.

Text is in both German and English, a necessary compromise as sales in one language or two separate volumes would not be viable. It is an interesting and attractive volume as a reference work or for inspiration. It certainly encourages me to consider visiting Gotha. Take a look at the Arnoldsche catalogue which has many interesting books on ceramics including one on Shozo Michikawa who many of you will have met.

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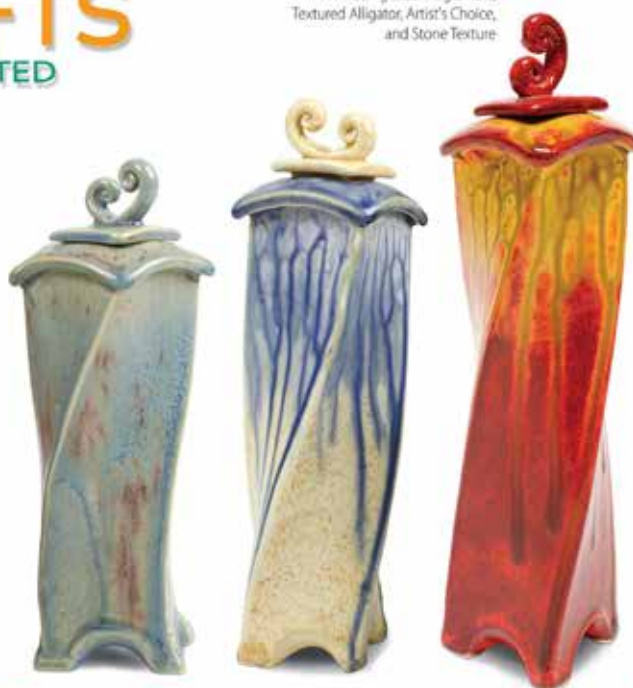
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Welcome to new members

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.

Christopher Buckley	Carlisle
Roger Catchpole	Leeds
Peter Dineley	Durham
Jane Duckett	Preston
Graham Glynn	Morecambe
Janne Greasley	Kendal
Makiko Hastings	Knaresborough
Pamela Hunter	Bolton
Michelle Park	Cleckheaton
Anne Pennington-George	South Cave nr. Hull
Nicola Stead	York
Pamela Thorby	York
Angi Williamson	Grassington nr. Skipton



Visit northern-potters.co.uk for membership forms and subscription rates
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Further information from Elsie Stone,
Morecambe else232@yahoo.co.uk

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Hot off the press: the 2018 AGM

The AGM, held after the Saturday show at Potfest in the Pens, was attended by 28 members from across all six regions. Full minutes will be available soon but as this issue of the newsletter goes to print we wanted to outline the essence of the meeting.

Joan Hardie, in her role as Acting Chair, gave a resume of the activities of the last year at both regional and committee level and discussed the health of the Association. It has been a busy and productive year, with many events taking place around the regions, which culminated in an exhibition of the 40th anniversary on-line competition winners at Valentine Clays in Stoke this summer. Joan thanked Dianne Cross, our publicity committee member, for her hard work in arranging this and publicising the event in Ceramic Review and Clay Craft.

Our annual stands at Potfest in the Pens and Earth & Fire and our support for the CoCA lecture at York continued in 2018 with the organisation of these events undertaken by committee members including Mia Frampton and Colette Hennigan, and with the help of volunteers from across the region.

The newsletter continues to link members across the NPA and the website now has an archive of past newsletters (not including the most recent six issues). The website, kept up to date by John Cook, is a useful resource for all members. The GDPR regulations took much time and energy particularly from Joan, John Cook and Elizabeth Smith. We believe we are now in compliance.

The end of year financial position was outlined by John Robinson in his last meeting as treasurer. The Association is in a healthy financial position with a balance of £13,500 at the end of the 2017–2018 financial year. Income from the increasing membership rose whilst costs for the web site and committee meeting expenses reduced. The committee would welcome ideas for using surplus funds for the benefit of the whole membership, however there is a need to retain funding for any one-off costs or significant loss of income. The balance to be ring-fenced for unforeseen expenditure was thought to have been set at £10,000 at a previous AGM.

Joan put forward the committee's view that the operating profit could be used by the regions on an equitable basis for projects for the good of all and which supported the ideals of the NPA. There was general support from the floor. Brian Holland likened it to a regional development fund. Claude Frere-Smith pointed out that such funding might also result in activities that made a profit after an initial input of funds. However, it was also recognised that activities need both members who are prepared to organize activities and those who are prepared to attend. This really brings us to the crux of the meeting: volunteers!

We have a very healthy membership of over 600 but we have a committee at breaking-point with no Chair, Vice Chair or Treasurer and committee members having to double up on roles. If no treasurer comes forward by mid-October we will have to employ a book keeper, at cost to the Association. The Acting Chair and Vice Chair are willing to continue until January 2019. After that, if no members have volunteered to join the committee so that we can fill these roles, the Association will be forced to invoke Clause 11 of our constitution, for the dissolution of the NPA.

Three regions have seen new coordinators take over the organisational roles this year and it is good to see such positive activity in the regions. It was suggested that, should the central organisation dissolve, the regions could fill the gaps. This would require each of the regions to set up a new organisation to perform the functions currently done for the whole NPA and would put a significant strain on regional volunteers. As one member commented, "it would be a lot simpler just to find a few more people for the NPA committee".

All those currently involved in keeping the NPA working at committee and regional level were thanked from the floor, and the meeting ended with a strong message to encourage members to volunteer. Despite the current difficulties, which are not unique to our organisation, the meeting was held in a positive and supportive atmosphere. We all want the NPA to continue.

Sally Streuli, Secretary

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Regional News

A busy time in Cumbria with exhibitions and shows! By the time this comes out the Potfest shows will be over but Cumbrian Ceramics has been moved forward to September this year.

Following on from last year's successful exhibition this will be the 3rd exhibition of Cumbrian Ceramics at Upfront Gallery, featuring the work of many internationally recognised potters as well as new and established practitioners. Work will be for sale throughout the exhibition. This year the exhibition will be shared with Cumbrian Printmakers. The preview will be at 7pm on Tuesday 13 September, at which there will be an "Empty Bowls" fundraising for Mary's Meals. Bowls donated by the potters will be sold with either soup or sweet or both. There will also be a silent auction of donated ceramics. The organiser is Bob Park, contact bobpark30@gmail.com

Carolyn Marr and Hilary Harrison will be participating in Craftsmen at the Priory (see Diary on p4). The preview is on Wednesday 8 August 7 to 9pm (10% discount).

Penny Henderson will have her first foray into selling with 3 pieces in the Milnthorpe Art Exhibition, St Thomas' Church, 2 to 5 August

John Kershaw northernpottersnw@gmail.com

Facebook: [NPAnorthwest](#)

The meeting held in June was at University of Central Lancashire; the group visited the BA and MA degree shows after a quick catch up with events.

- The minutes of the previous meeting, March 6th, 2018, were passed.
- Members were reminded to respond to NPA requests for formal consents in order to continue receiving email information.
- The three confirmed exhibitions in February, March and July 2019 were discussed. Other exhibition venues are still being explored.
- A request for helpers on the NPA stand at Potfest and for members to make tiles for the Valentines Clay display was recorded in the minutes.

The next meeting will be in October, it will coincide with the MA ceramics degree show at University of Central Lancashire, the ceramic theme for the meeting will be 'Mad Hatter'.

Geoff Wilcock ghwilcock@uclan.ac.uk 01772 862852

Facebook: [NPAwest](#)

Our mid-July picnic and tour of The Yorkshire Sculpture Park had a very low turnout. Still in our first year as co-coordinators we discovered that you can't compete with the Football World Cup and the Tennis Finals at Wimbledon. There is always something new to learn about pottery and potters! However those who did attend had a lovely relaxed and friendly day.

NPA-SW would like to update their Facebook profile picture and banner. It would be great if any potters and photographers out there could send us some ideas that we could use.

On the subject of photographers, please make a note in your diary that on 29 September we will be holding a photography event designed to get good photos of some of your pots and share photographic knowledge and ideas. Please keep a lookout for further details but in the meantime save the date.

Alasdair Nelson & Juliet Myers email@sw-npa.co.uk

Facebook: [NPAsouthwest](#)





NE

The main news from the North East is that our 'Empty Bowls' project raised £2000 for local charities (a food bank and a crisis support organisation) with a large and lively gathering at the Tyne Bank Brewery to eat food prepared by Harissa Kitchen. We also thank all those who made and contributed bowls and those who bought them. This success has encouraged us do another one next year, perhaps to benefit a different part of the region.

Stephan Aal

NEPotters@gmail.com
Twitter: @ne_npa

Facebook: @NorthEastNPA
Instagram: Northeastnorthernpotters

It's been a busy few months. Gerry and Lyn Grant hosted a tile making, BBQ and raku extravaganza at Fangfoss Pottery on June 3rd. There was a very good attendance and the fruits of our labours will be on display at Potfest. It's amazing how different all the tiles were. It was a lovely day with some of the best-looking serving dishes in Yorkshire, good food, good company and some stunning raku pots.

In July, Hive hosted a 'Playing with Fire' day in Shipley. This was a great learning experience for the less experienced NPA members as well as a very enjoyable social event. We tried smoked pots in saggars, copper matte, obvara, horse hair/string/feathers, naked raku and more conventional raku glazes.

August 1st will see several members of the group at a selling event at Lotherton but unfortunately it looks like the pit firing at the beginning of September will need to be postponed until we have had a decent amount to rain. The field is as dry as tinder and not far from a very dry pine forest! It will be a postponement and an alternative date will be emailed round.

If NPA East members use Facebook, please consider joining the Facebook closed group. There are some stunning photographs on the page as well as details of exhibitions and events.

Lyn Clarke & Kay Butterworth

enpa.coordinator@gmail.com

Twitter @NPA_E

Its been a quiet time in the SE. Organising the new mailing lists has given our group a break from our frequent flow of emails, but we know members have been busy at events all over the country.

This month we met to make plans for Art in The Gardens in September, where we have a marquee to display 10 people's work. It promises to be a nice show, with a variety of styles. We are also starting to encourage our members to use Instagram. We are not opening an account but experimenting with the use of hashtags, using #northernpottersse so keep an eye out for us.

On Sunday July 22nd we held a meeting at Stephen Rodger's studio in Sheffield, many thanks to Stephen for hosting. We had a delicious lunch, time to catch up with news and a productive meeting with lots of sharing of ideas. A large part of the meeting was taken up with discussing possible venues and ideas for our annual event in November. We also had a lovely end to our meeting where a member's friend from New Zealand shared photos of her ceramics and briefly told us about her pottery career so far.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday October 20th in the South of our region – any offers for hosting gratefully received. A social will take place in Sheffield in early September with the theme of top tips for exhibiting work. Wishing our members a good Summer be they potting, at events, holidaying or whatever they may be doing!

Bev Seth & Kathy Watson

senpacoordinator@gmail.com

Facebook: NPAsoutheast



E

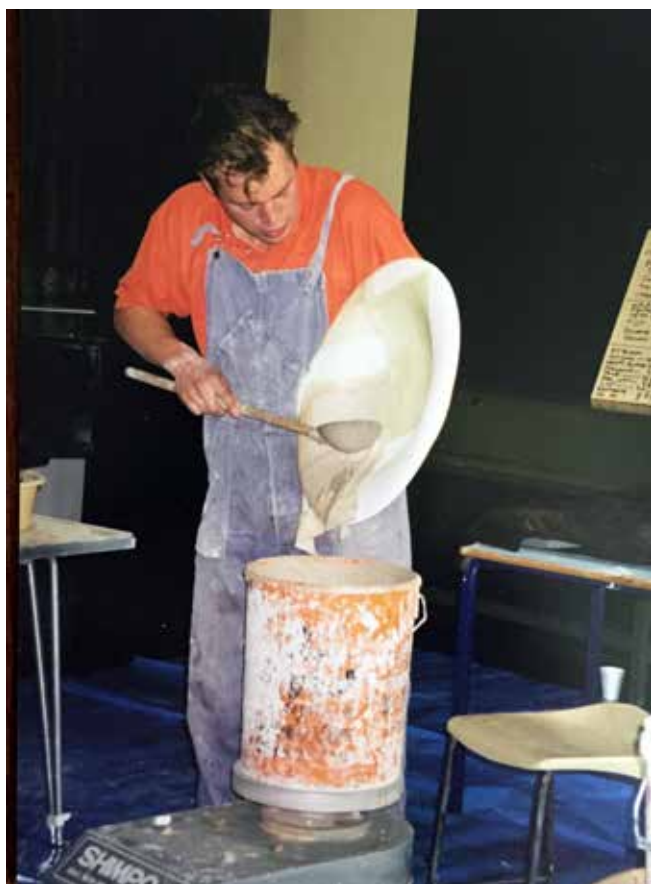


SE

Back page snippets



The NPA stand at Earth & Fire.
Thanks to all those who helped out.



Will Levi Marshall, Bretton Hall, Sept 1997
Photo: Isobel Denyer

From the NPA Facebook page

A question for raku firers. Why do people build upright cylindrical kilns rather than lay the cylinder on its side (with supports obviously) and open halfway down?. Surely this would give more firing area? I've only seen one person do it like this, though he was a Leach!

Responses:

1. I don't make cylinder kilns I could never see the point.
2. My thoughts exactly. I have recently built a raku kiln and will be able to use it horizontally and vertically. It will fire vertically with an opening door which closes with a clip to keep it shut.
3. Gerry Grant at Fangfoss Pottery has a side laying kiln with a chimney - looks like a steam train! (See the photo on page 6.)
4. My first, and second, raku kilns are horizontal (BBQ style) oil drums. I think the orientation helps circulate the heat better than a vertical cylinder or cubic chamber.

Do any of you sell on Etsy, and would you recommend it?

Responses:

1. I do but it is essential to use social media in conjunction. Etsy is a vast site and relying on the customer to find you by browsing is remote. It is important to use good key words when uploading stock and use your company name in descriptions etc.
2. I have but recommend the UK version folksy.com
3. The important thing is to keep adding something new to your store each week to keep your store profile to the fore, otherwise it starts dropping to the bottom of the ratings...

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