



# Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society

## Newsletter, December 2020

Hi members.

Thanks so much to all of you who have sent in info. Much appreciated. Who'd have thought that we'd now be in another serious lockdown! Maybe the only consolation is that we have a lot of time for doing things we've been putting off which are home-based, including making ceramics. There's room in this newsletter to indulge in showing you some images

from the amazing event below. Not ceramics based but some sculptural aspects and very creative use of light on the surroundings. The challenges are continuing into next year, for as long as we receive enough entries to make it worthwhile. As from the beginning of 2021, we'll be making the challenges monthly so there will be more time to finish the pieces, although any stage of completion is welcome. Happy reading, Yvonne



## Waddesdon Manor Christmas Event



I was very fortunate to have made it to the annual Waddesdon Manor Christmas Event a couple of weeks ago in between lockdowns. It's the first time I've been and was blown away by the magnitude of the spectacle. Apart from the excellent Christmas fair in front of the Manor which had it's own sound

and light show, there were two trails through the extensive wooded grounds. The light shows were stunning and were interspersed with sculptures, also spectacularly lit. Now in Tier 4, unfortunately Waddesdon Manor will be closed until 6 Jan 2021, unless this changes of course. Yvonne Cornes

## I bought this because...

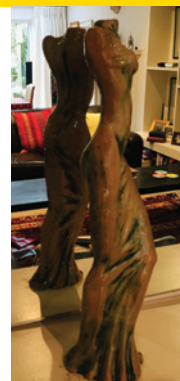
... This was the first big piece of ceramic I bought. It is made by Martin McWilliam an English ceramicist, who lives and works in Germany. We found it at the first CAL we attended, probably ten or so years ago. The work stood out to us as different from everything else there. I love the classic pot shape and the trompe d'oeil effect. I still love looking at it everyday.

Carol Read



... I loved it! It was so long ago, I can't remember exactly when or even where I got it. I do remember talking to the man who was selling it though. He said he'd tried to make multiples of it but they regularly failed in the kiln. I've included his mark and if anyone knows who the maker is, I'd be very interested to know what he's making now.

Debs Taylor





# Richard Ballantyne's Lockdown Challenges: Surplus Production!

Richard went to town with ideas and experimenting for the challenges. Here are some examples of his surplus work, AND MORE, see: bottom right!!

**Challenge 2:**  
Spring in the Air



**Challenge 4:** Waterside



**Challenge 5:** Food



**Challenge 7:** Totem



**Challenge 8:** Inspired by an  
Ancient Civilization



**Challenge 11:** A Pair



This is why social distancing is so important, folks! It's all fun and games until somebody loses an eye. 🤔🤔🤔



## Work in Progress – Carol Read

I love making these figures. They take a long time and I usually cover them well and go back to make adjustments over several days/weeks. The starting point is a large slab, rolled in a slab roller. I then use a variety of things to make impressions in the clay. This one uses leaves from the garden – the last of the year. I also have Indian wood blocks, lace, old fashioned doilies, hessian, anything I find with a good texture.

The slabs are carefully placed in a plaster cast and cut to shape, left until dry enough to hold their shape. The tricky bit is joining the two halves and standing the figure up.

Once up, the fun begins to refine the shape and make sure the seams are really secure. Each one is unique. After a long time drying, they are bisque fired. I love the glazing process, which involves oxides, stains and three to four glazes.

The glaze firing works its magic to make the glazes run together and hopefully sing.



*Work in progress*



*Glazed result*



# Society News

## Kiln Buddy Idea – Debs Taylor

An idea for the future:

Someone has suggested we run a register for members who are willing to share any space in their kiln with members who are looking for some firing to be done.

With the current Covid 19 restrictions it's unlikely anything can be arranged for some time. Once possible, socially distancing would be dictated by the current rules.

So if in future you'd be happy to offer some space in your kiln or are looking for some firing, please contact me.

Debs Taylor: **07780 704538**

I will compile the details of 'who, what & where' and see if we can help facilitate this.

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## PotteryCrafts 10% Discount for members

For those of you wishing to take advantage of the BPSS members' 10% discount with PotteryCrafts, you can call them on: **01782 745000**.

A list of members (names only) has been sent to them, to make verification easier for them.

You will need to set up a PotteryCrafts account to enable them to apply the discount for you.

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## BPSS website

Adam Hoyle is currently working on a new look for the Bucks Potters website. He has had a good response from the members through his Google Sheet questionnaire. He is concentrating on adding more features to the website, e.g. allowing members to show more of their work in the gallery etc.

Adam wants a strong visual 'look' with for the website. He hopes to be setting up a system that can be easily updated. It is in the early stages of development so more on this as it moves forward.

At the last committee meeting Adam made a reference of thanks to Mike Inder for his continuing voluntary work on running the society's website.

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## Elaine Wells Glazing workshop

– Yvonne Cornes

I was very fortunate to be included in Elaine Wells' first Glazing Workshop, along with Emma Pegrum and Claire Friend. Luckily the workshop turned out to be in between lockdowns. Elaine was very thorough in complying with the distancing rules at the time.

Elaine has a wealth of knowledge on glazing from her years of experience including her time at Middleport Pottery. She gave us very personal attention as it was a small group. She was extremely organised and gave us comprehensive info handouts including some useful recipes from established potters. She guided us through a methodical way of making the glazes, organising our testers and recording our results.

Thank you very much for your help and expertise, Elaine. The glazing process is now less daunting for me. I would highly recommend the workshops as I know Elaine plans to run more in the future. More information to come when Elaine's workshops can resume.

# The Challenge – Before and Afters

As many of the challenge entries were submitted in various stages of completion, we can now see some of the fully fired results.

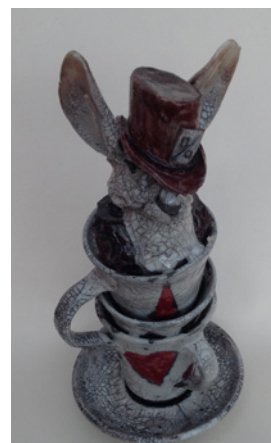
## Richard Ballantyne:

From the 1st challenge:  
'Make Something from the Mad hatters Tea Party'.

Title:  
'Mad Hatter'

Before:  
Bisque fired.

After:  
Raku fired.



## Hilary Audus:

From the 5th Challenge: Fable.

Title: 'The Fox and the Grapes'.

Above: Unfired with accompanying drawing showing intended result.

Right: Underglazed, fired piece.



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## Catherine Oakley:

From the 11th Challenge:  
'A Pair'.

Title:  
'A Pair of Sausage Dogs'

Before:  
Unfired stoneware.

After: Raku fired.





Top row: Jerome Hirson; Yoon-Young Hur;  
Bottom row: Takuro Shibata; Aude Van Ryn; Lilian Wessels

### Quote

*‘ It is the earth  
that gives rhythm, the  
fingers leave traces...  
The hands listen.’*

Jerome Hirson,  
ceramicist

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## BPSS website

### MEMBERS GALLERY

Are you aware of the Members Gallery section on the BPSS website?

You can add your profile with an image of your work in this section. It would be fantastic if we could have more of the membership represented there. So, if you like to contribute please send an image and a few words (anything up to about 50 words) to:

[chris.inder@gmail.com](mailto:chris.inder@gmail.com)

### About the society


The Society was formed in 1963 and welcomes all artists working in 3D. Individual membership costs £25; £35 for a family and £10 for full-time students.

Membership provides access to monthly demonstrations, several hands-on workshops, and a quarterly newsletter.

We are on facebook and members can put an image and contact details on the Society's web page

[www.buckspotters.com](http://www.buckspotters.com)

### The Committee

The Committee meets regularly to develop the programme, organise the Annual Exhibition and review costs. If you find a good speaker who could demonstrate to the Society, please tell us. Also, if you have ideas you would like to raise with us, please do so at the monthly meeting or email [chris.inder@gmail.com](mailto:chris.inder@gmail.com) 

### GDPR information

The information which you provide to us on your membership form will be used solely for the purpose of processing your membership and dealing with you as a member of BPSS. The data will not be shared with any third party for marketing or commercial purposes without obtaining your explicit consent. Our GDPR policy is available to read on the BPSS website.

### BPSS Contacts

Chairperson:	Holly Inglis <a href="mailto:hlinglis@gmail.com">hlinglis@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	Bronwen Corral <a href="mailto:bronwen.corral@gmail.com">bronwen.corral@gmail.com</a>
Secretary:	Pam Cawley <a href="mailto:elsinore.lotus@btinternet.com">elsinore.lotus@btinternet.com</a>
Membership Secretary:	Jane Ostler <a href="mailto:j.ostler@btinternet.com">j.ostler@btinternet.com</a>
Editor/Designer:	Yvonne Cornes <a href="mailto:y.cornes@talktalk.net">y.cornes@talktalk.net</a>