



# Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society

Newsletter, June 2021

Hi members.

A big thank you so much to members who have sent in info, much appreciated. It's a very full newsletter this time, largely due to the zoom meetings. Great work by Holly and Adam in arranging the speakers. Exciting news that we'll be back in Little Kingshill Village Hall for

the September meeting – appropriately distanced of course to meet the requirements. We hope to see many of you at Elaine's afternoon tea on 2nd July. Thank you for offering to host this Elaine. Hopefully BAW has been going well for those of you taking part and enjoyable for those visiting. Happy reading, Yvonne

26 March  
ZOOM DEMO

## Ruta Bartkeviciute

from Holly & Yvonne's notes



Ruta gave us a digital presentation of her beautiful ceramics, followed by a demonstration of her techniques. She developed her craft over ten years ago at the Vilnius Academy of Art in Lithuania and gained a master's degree in 2013. She worked for Liberty after entering a competition. Ruta has been in the UK for a year and is exhibiting widely.

Ruta works in her traditional Lithuanian style with its strong use of symbols, both in the use of imagery and colour. Her main symbol is the tree of life and her favourite tree is the willow. Her folk art style is similar to Peruvian or Bulgarian art with each piece having its own story. Her subject matter is also personal, with everyday events presenting ideas for her work. Ruta likes unusual colour combinations and also unlikely subject matter, e.g. caterpillars in a beautiful stylized way. She always use some white in each piece as it makes other colours look brighter. Although her work looks controlled, her ideas are spontaneous.

At leather hard stage, Ruta used a sharp point craft knife to draw freehand thin lines, as demonstrated. She sometimes uses stamps.

For her lidded pots (see back page) she is influenced by textiles. The design involves a carved grid from which the pattern evolves. This is a highly detailed mathematical way of working without a planned sketch. Using this method, Ruta created an urn for cremations. At its first public viewing someone thought it was a biscuit jar!

For her plates she uses a plaster mould, putting it onto a throwing wheel to add the foot ring.

Ruta uses Valentine's clay, preferring white and terracota. She fires to high bisque at 1160°C which vitrifies the piece, making it difficult to apply the glazes but this keeps the colours fresh and bright. The second firing is lower at 1040°C – 1060°C. She mainly uses Botz for her glazes. They can be too watery for the vitrified clay so she removes the excess water. It should be sour cream consistency. The glaze needs to be thick to cover terracota. After bisque, she first glazes the insides of pots before decorating. The glaze is then 'dropped' (not brushed) into the areas inside her carved lines. Ruta has a very patient, controlled way of applying glazes. She keeps her working area horizontal to help the glaze to settle well. Some pieces take up to a week to glaze.

Ruta offers private and group workshops for adults.

**See back page for more images of Ruta's work.**

Thank you very much for a really inspiring evening, Ruta.  
<https://www.artinclayfarnham.co.uk/2019-exhibitor/ruta-bartkeviciute/>



## 'NOT BORN IN THE UK' – A new display of British Studio Ceramics at Bucks County Museum



As many local potters know, Bucks County Museum has a strong collection of 20th century British Studio Ceramics. But did you know that many of the potters we hold were not actually born in the UK? This new display of over 30 pots features 20 potters who were born across the world – Germany, Austria, Hungary, Australia, Malaysia, Canada, USA, India, Kenya, Japan and Hong Kong – but settled in Britain. It shows how the UK nurtured and encouraged ceramic talent at this time. We've also included a lovely flower jar from Abuja in Nigeria by Michael Cardew because it is one of our very few pots to have been made abroad.

The display is on in the Info Point area of the Museum on the Ground Floor from mid-June. Due to Covid restrictions, our opening times have been rather varied so please do check our website before travel. [www.buckscountymuseum.org](http://www.buckscountymuseum.org)

Mel Czapski, Curator of Art & Studio Ceramics, Bucks County Museum Trust  
Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury HP20 2QP

30 April  
ZOOM DEMO

## Tim Thornton

from Holly & Yvonne's notes

Tim has had a highly scientific and technically oriented career. He started studying architecture but moved into yacht design. When yacht building declined, he moved into computer graphics and animation. This developed into onboard computer systems for yachts and also space agency work, logging the data of signals from satellites and boats to help map the seas. Tim met and worked with many people from different backgrounds – arachnologists to nuclear physicists and chemists.

His ceramic work began in 2008, with evening classes in Winchester and Salisbury. In 2012 he set up his own studio. Tim has been very involved in anagama wood firings from 2015-2019. In 2018 he started selling his own work. He is a member of 'Southern Ceramics Group' who we share zoom meetings with.

Tim's work is highly experimental. He aims for loose organic forms, not trying to replicate nature but aiming for something that has an association with it. He uses wood ash glazes, tenmoku and experiments with oil spot. Tim's inspirations are: Lotte Glob, a Danish potter in Sutherland, Korean Seung-Ho Yang and Japanese Shozo Michikawa.

Tim's approach is highly analytical, with

spreadsheets recording his development and glazing results. He uses glaze recipe libraries: [glazy.org](http://glazy.org), [researchgate.net](http://researchgate.net), [academia.edu](http://academia.edu) and pottery books. He strongly encourages potters to document glazes. Annoyed by social media questions and poor answers, he created on-line courses about the safety of glazes with a series of lectures on his website.

Tim demonstrated his method of applying texture to a slab which is then dropped onto a hump mould. He finds that grog makes a big difference when applying texture. When wedging he doesn't worry if it's not done perfectly, as holes add features.

He creates slabs by hitting clay across the work station to stretch. He then adds marks and stretches again. Tim's mark making tools were a comb and a metal wire in a paint brush handle, and bound twigs/wire (see above) Tim plans to progress with Nepheline Syenite and testing colourants and boron.

Thank you very much, Tim for sharing your remarkable technical knowledge. See back page for more of Tim's work. <https://tim-thornton.com>



28 May  
ZOOM DEMO

## Jack Durling

from Holly & Yvonne's notes

Jack works in conceptual ceramic art which is driven by his passion for conservation and wildlife. 10% of his sales go to the charity which helps the animal in each piece that he sells. He doesn't push the message onto people but his message comes across well in his work. Jack discovered that rhino horn is worth its weight in gold, so he started exploring this. Hence his 'Bleeding for Gold' rhino piece.

Jack learnt to hand-build at secondary school where he did an 'A' level in ceramics. He later started going in as a visiting artist.

Jack did a hippo-making demo for us. He uses silicone tools for sculpting but also finds textural tools, often out and about, e.g. he found a fossil on a dirt track nearby. To support his pieces he uses a clay prop, Mega ply cardboard or sponges, and upholstery foam which comes in different densities. He aims for an impression, not photo realism. It is important to him to capture the animal's soul.

He mainly uses Scarva PF80 black clay and white Earthstone stoneware. Jack says that when drying your work for bisque firing, if you lick it and your tongue sticks to it, then it's dry enough!

Jack finds that the iron content in the black clay can sometimes cause problems with glaze. He bisque fires to 900°C and stoneware fires up to 1240-1260°C. He uses oxides and underglaze stains with a medium and sometimes incorporates marbles. He uses

lustres over glazes (with a ventilation mask and an open window!) firing it up to 750°C. Apart from gold he often uses Mother of Pearl lustre. He has two kilns, a bigger one has encouraged creating larger works. He is now looking at work related to the palm oil industry.

He also works helping disadvantaged members of the community and created sensory gardens for blind veterans which he is very proud of. There are two sites, in one in Wales and one in Brighton. For these he created tactile hexagonal tiles featuring plants including indigenous species. Lulu the guide dog's paw print features in a tile. Jack exhibits widely and this year he will be exhibiting at Celebrating Ceramics. He also does workshops.

Thank you very much for a really inspiring, thought provoking evening, Jack. See back page for more of Jack's work. [www.jackdurling.co.uk](http://www.jackdurling.co.uk)



Top: Jack with his Pangolin; Below: 'Bleeding for Gold'.



## Recent work from Debs Taylor

These are bisque-fired white earthenware pots/dishes. The multi colours come from a box filled with mini pots of old dried up earthenware glazes which was gifted to me. I spent time rehydrating them, pounding, grinding, mixing them, just to get them to a workable consistency.

Many of them have textured 'bits' in them and I hope will produce lots of interesting finishes. I used up many of the pots so if some of them work out well, sadly I have no way of replicating them. I will put a clear glaze on first then fire them at 1120°C. Regardless of them being 'one offs', I am really looking forward to seeing what I will end up with when they finally exit the kiln.



## UP AND COMING BUCKS POTTERS MONTHLY MEETINGS



**8pm, 30th July 2021: Liz Watts. This will be a ZOOM meeting.**

Liz is a sculptor and ceramicist producing work primarily in porcelain, bronze and papier-mâché. Her work has been bought by several private collectors including Valentine's clays. The **ZOOM** login will be sent to members by email.



**8pm, 27th August 2021: Jo Taylor. This will be a ZOOM meeting.**

Jo's practice examines the relationship between artistry and architecture; She creates unique pieces by moving traditional ceramic skills away from the functional. The **ZOOM** login will be sent to members by email.



**8pm, 24th September 2021: Laura Murphy will be LIVE at Little Kingshill Village Hall, HP16 0DZ. (appropriately distanced of course)**

Laura always works to convey a sense of optimism and wonder within each piece. She uses a combination of slip-casting and slip-forming to create a distinct effect.

## 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 set up the discount for you.



Cat Oakley sent in her charming raku sheep, each with a bird on its back.

## SOCIETY NEWS

### New Members

A very warm welcome to our two new members: Caroline Oden and Victoria Hind. It's great that you've joined when 'in person' monthly demos are soon to open up again. We hope you will enjoy being involved in the society.

### New website

We hope you're loving the new website and enjoying the regular updates. Once the members' gallery is up and running Adam will be giving a tutorial on how to create and update your own gallery page. More info to follow.

### Raku Day

The BPSS Raku Day will be happening on 25th July. For the online application page go to: [https:// buckspotters.com/category/events/](https://buckspotters.com/category/events/)

### Pit Firing Day

Pam Cawley will be hosting a Pit firing day later in the summer. More details to follow.

### 2021 Membership subscriptions

We hope you've had a good two weeks during Bucks Artweeks. You will have received an email from Bronwyn regarding membership subscriptions, and hope that come September things will be a little more normal. *Jane Ostler*

### Debs Taylor

Debs Taylor has decided to step down from the committee but is remaining an active member of the society. If anyone would like to join the committee we'd be very happy to hear from you.

Please email Holly at: [hlinglis@gmail.com](mailto:hlinglis@gmail.com)

### Afternoon Teas with Elaine Wells

Elaine Wells has kindly offered to host afternoon tea in her garden on Friday 2nd July. Please visit Events on the website for info.

### Annual Exhibition in November

We aim to have a BPSS exhibition in November 2021. We are on the hunt for a good venue so if you know one please enter your info onto the website:

<https://buckspotters.com/annual-exhibition-venue-suggestions/>

## 2021 POTTERY/SCULPTURE COMPETITION

The theme for this year's 'Peter Stocker Ceramic Award' is:

### 'Nursery Rhymes'

(Not to be confused with 'Fairy Tales' which we've already had in the challenges)

### £75 First Prize

The competition is open to all artists, not just members and must contain a ceramic element.

There are no other specifications.

This year the vote will be on a webpage. Entrants are encouraged to bring their entries to the November meeting to display at the prize giving ceremony. *More details will be sent by email.*

The deadline for entering is:  
**SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER**

## I bought this because...

... I loved it so much. I bought it at a local craft show more years ago than I can remember. I have no details of who made it sadly. It sits over the fireplace and at Christmas time it's filled with holly and ivy.

*Debs Taylor*



... I loved this 'encrusted gun' by Sue-Jane Mott and I am moving it about the house to find it's final resting place.

I found her exhibiting in a BAW exhibition with other artists, in a peaceful rural setting. Sue talked about rock pools in Dorset, about how she got started and how she is now enjoying working in paper clay.

I also liked her 'Caddis Fly Constructions' (porcelain) and tea lights. She also teaches art - part time near High Wycombe.

*Pam Cawley*





Ruta Bartkeviciute



Tim Thornton



Jack Durling

### 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



### 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.

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