



# Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society

Newsletter, September 2021

Hi members.

It's nice to have some of the usual pre-lockdown events to report on again. It's also great to be able to announce the 2021 BPSS exhibition which will happen in the run-up to Christmas this year. It will be interesting to see how the sales go, both with the new venue and in the change of season.

This newsletter features the two last zoom meetings. How great it was to have our September meeting back at Little Kingshill Village Hall. 17 members were present and it was a lively and chatty affair. This will be reviewed in the next newsletter. Happy reading, Yvonne

30 July  
ZOOM DEMO

## Liz Watts

Jane Ostler

Originally trained as a veterinary surgeon in Scotland, Liz then trained as a sculptor and ceramicist in France. She feels there are crossovers as with both there is an element of touch/ feel/ and diagnostics as you have to figure out your mistakes and how to resolve them. In addition, sculpting from life models, she studied decorative overglaze porcelain painting taught by experienced French craftswomen. This gives her work today a rather French feeling. She mainly uses porcelain which is a good canvas for colour but it can be temperamental. The overglaze is made using porcelain slip applied over a terracotta piece. Underglazes are then painted on, and the piece is fired to 980°C. The bisque piece then has more underglaze applied to intensify the colour, followed by a clear glaze and a 1220°C firing.

She likes her work to tell a story, such as 'Brexit - a dog's breakfast'; and 'a day at the races' a terracotta relief panel telling the story about the life and losses of the horses at the Grand National. She showed us many examples of the work around her studio including her 'beached' installation which looks at our relationship with the sea, and bedroom where she has made porcelain look like fabric.

She regularly collaborates with poets, storytellers and musicians, and has won prizes for some of her own poems.

After a tea break Liz showed us how she makes her textured rollers using the centre of a paper kitchen roll as a support, and carving, or impressing a pattern in rolled out flax paper clay.

To make your own design you can use blue laser printer ink (not black as it does not run) and draw your design onto paper, then lay/ rub the paper onto a slightly damp clay surface. You can then carve your design onto the clay. The clay needs to be dry enough but not too dry to drape around the paper roll without cracking, and remember to thin/ soften the edges so that when you use it the roller doesn't cut into the edges of the clay.

[www.lizwatts.co.uk](http://www.lizwatts.co.uk) Instagram: [lizwattsceramics](https://www.instagram.com/lizwattsceramics)



## Discover Bucks Museum

### A new permanent display of studio ceramics from Buckinghamshire



Stoneware jug by Vicki Read with copper and iron glazes, 1974, Winslow Pottery, Bucks

Some of you may already know that Discover Bucks Museum (formerly Bucks County Museum) has been completely renovating its permanent ground floor galleries. There are new galleries focussing on Geology, Archaeology, People, Art and Wildlife, all of which will be worth a visit.

As part of Discover Bucks Art there is now a large case dedicated to celebrating nineteen pots from our collection of studio ceramics that were created in Buckinghamshire. This initial display of distinctive ceramics represents fifteen potters including well-known names such as William Newland and Michael Casson, contemporary potters such as Deborah Hopson-Wolpe and John Nuttgens, experimental potters such as Delan Cookson and Jane Waller, teachers such as

Mildred Slatter and John Lomas and many others, some of whom may have been members of BPSS!

Opposite this case is an equally fascinating display of archaeological pots through time from the Neolithic period through to the 19th century.

Remember that there is also the opportunity to see a further thirty studio ceramics from our collection in our Info Point display 'Not Born in the UK'.

Discover Bucks is currently scheduled to open in late November. Due to possible ongoing Covid restrictions, please do check our website before travel.

[www.discoverbucksmuseum.org](http://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org)

*Mel Czapski, Curator of Art & Studio Ceramics  
Discover Bucks Museum*

27 August  
ZOOM DEMO

## Jo Taylor – from the notes of Yvonne Cornes & Holly Inglis

Jo lives near Bath and graduated from Bath Spa University with a Masters degree in Ceramics in 2012. This is the second time that Jo has presented to Bucks Potters so it was good to see her progression since her first demo in 2013. Her work has a contemporary approach reminiscent of Baroque, Rococo and Corinthian columns and she is inspired by Piranesi with his monumental architectural etchings.

Jo works in naked stoneware, i.e. no glaze. Colouring her clay began in homage to Wedgwood. She sometimes mixes stains with porcelain and also with casting slip. Her work varies between hand-built and thrown. The seemingly repetitive nature of her swirls are never duplicated using sprig moulds or plaster casts. She prefers to make each swirl or flourish individually, keeping each detail unique. She makes some very tall pieces which she fires in parts as her kiln only has a 50cm tall interior. She joins the sections using CT1 adhesive. This is quite rubbery and works under water. She finds that Araldite yellows, so it doesn't work with porcelain.

From the outset Jo has been involved in as many projects available to her as possible, enabling her to make a name for herself and present her work far and wide. Since leaving college she entered everything – competitions to various themes, awards and anything she could find in the local area and beyond.

She was involved in 'Connect' with The London School of Architecture at Somerset House in 2018.

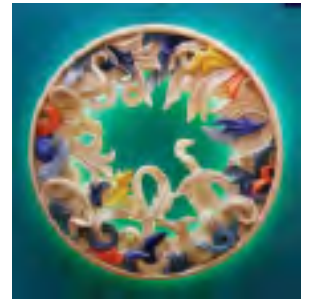
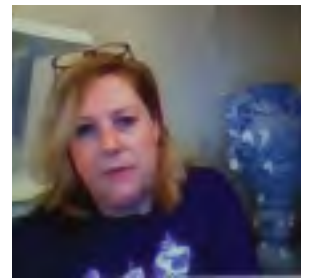
Jo was featured on one of the early 'ITV Creates' projects which feature as a series of brief creative interpretations of the ITV logo. Her creation also made the front cover of Ceramic Review last year.

Jo enjoys teaching, giving clay lessons and projects with children, people with mental health issues and in prisons. She teaches on courses at West Dean and was involved with the 'Why Museums Matter' exhibition at the Holburne Museum, Bath in 2019.

She encourages potters to make the most of what is available, e.g. through the Craft Council, Arts Council, your local Arts Officer at your Council, Burseries from a local Arts bulletin, Visual Arts, Curators Space, Instagram – as curators will follow you. Even just Google 'Arts opportunities'.

At present Jo is learning how to gild so she can put gold leaf on her swirls. White gold is a mix of both palladium and silver and doesn't tarnish.

Jo has recently written a book called 'Handbuilt Ceramics' which goes on sale on 25th October 2021 and is now available to pre-order.



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



## JOHN LEACH RIP

As you have probably heard, John Leach sadly passed away on Sunday 29th August. He ran Mulcheney Pottery for over 50 years.

Comments from Bucks Potters who knew John: "Sad news of John Leach passing away. We loved him to bits and have a house full of his fabulous work." (see below) *Debbie Shaw*

"Such sad news, John was a master potter and I enjoyed a visit to his pottery a few years ago, a wonderful experience." *Max Cowlin*

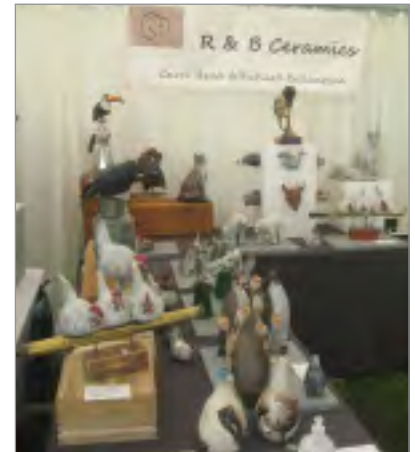


## BUCKS POTTERS TAKING PART IN CELEBRATING CERAMICS & ART IN CLAY

*Photography by Max Cowlin*



*Jennifer Lowe at Celebrating Ceramics*



*Richard Ballantyne and Carol Read's stand at Celebrating Ceramics*



*Elaine Wells at Art in Clay*



*Holly Inglis at Art in Clay*

# SOCIETY NEWS

## New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members: Andrea Wicks, Helena Saunders and Jayne Potter. It's great that you've joined and we hope you will enjoy being involved in the society.

Andrea and Jayne have written a few words.

### Andrea Wicks

Hi, I'm Andrea and after a career in fashion I now have my own garden studio to practise my late found love of clay. I work with stoneware and a little bit of porcelain, mainly throwing and I am learning to develop my own glazes. Most of my work consists of functional vessels. I enjoy experimenting and there seem to be so many possibilities I don't think I'll be getting bored!

I am on Instagram as @riverclay\_studio



### Jayne Potter

I started pottery just over a year ago and am self taught. I make vases in bold matt glazes and sell online at:



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

People can design their own vase on the website and I will make it! I have a degree in design from Goldsmiths but spent 15 years in a corporate career, I left my job at Google to pot full time. I have a studio in my garden in Beaconsfield and absolutely love pottery.

## Message from Jane Ostler

### 2021 Membership subscriptions

Thank you to all the members who have paid their subscriptions for this year.

**If you have already paid between June and now, please ignore this request for payment.**

We are delighted to have several new members this year in spite of all the restrictions. As we are now having in person meetings we are keen to get our full membership paid up.

For this year only we are asking for a half years payment which will take you up to 31/3/2022.

### Single Membership

£12.50 due on 1 September 2021

### Family Membership

£17.50 due on 1 September 2021

### Student and under 25

£5 due on 1 September 2021

(proof required)

Details of how to make payment by BACS or cheque has been emailed to all members. Thank you all.



## UP AND COMING BUCKS POTTERS MEETINGS at Little Kingshill Village Hall, HP16 0DZ



### Paul Wheeler – 8pm, 29th October 2021

Paul's foundation in clay is rooted in Japanese culture, as he first learnt how to make pottery at university in Japan. Paul then studied at Clay College in Middleport. He views his firings as a geological process and he strives to capture the drama and transformative power of a gas kiln within the pots themselves.



### Ania Perkowska – 8pm, 26th November 2021

Ania is a London based ceramicist. She creates functional pieces inspired by contrasts and opposites. Working mainly in stoneware her techniques include organic textures, scraffito and slip trailing. The 2021 BPSS Annual Competition vote will be in the break. See ad below.

## SUMMER EVENTS IN ELAINE WELLS' GARDEN

Thank you to Elaine for hosting afternoon teas in July and September and also the Bucks Potters Raku day at her home. We were really lucky with the weather for both events.

The second afternoon tea had the best turn out with 12 people. The photo to the right was taken after half the people had left. Thanks to Richard and Carol who worked really hard as usual at the Raku day and we had great results, see below.

Next spring Pam Cawley will be hosting a Pit firing day at her home. More details to follow.



Left to right: Alison Pink, Elaine Wells, new member - Helena Saunders, Steve and Isobel Cherry and Yvonne Cornes.



## BUCKS POTTERS 2021 ANNUAL EXHIBITION

We are pleased to announce that the exhibition will take part in early winter, on the weekend of 6th-7th November at Oldham Hall in Great Missenden. This venue has a convenient car park.

Trish Hall our new committee member and Exhibition Organiser has done a great job of researching venues and this one was voted the favourite by the committee.

The drop off of work will be late afternoon/early evening on Friday 5th November. Exact times and more details including the application form will be sent out soon.

There will be a limit of 15 pieces per person this time so many will see this as a prompt to start some serious making.

Hopefully this will be a good opportunity for visitors to buy for Christmas!

## 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.

The competition vote will be in the break at the November meeting in Little Kingshill Village Hall.

# 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.

Tim Thornton of Southern Ceramic Group is running online classes on studio safety from 21st September, and then again in January. As well as the existing classes on Product Safety and Studio Health and Safety, he has a new one on Electric Kilns and Firing. For more information, go to [www.tim-thornton.com](http://www.tim-thornton.com)

## BPSS website

### MEMBERS GALLERY

Are you aware that we're starting up a Members Gallery section on the new BPSS website?

You can add a short profile with a few images of your work in the gallery. It would be fantastic if we could have more of the membership represented there.

So, if you like to join up, please email.

### 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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