



# Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society Newsletter June 2024

**TALK and DEMO**  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Bronwen Corrall & Paula Sutton: Cylinders & Closed Forms**  
Article: Jane Ostler    Photos: Trish Hall & Jane Ostler

As this meeting fell on Good Friday it was felt that an in house making session would be more appropriate than trying to find a guest speaker. Bronwen and Paula came up trumps again with textured cylinders and closed forms.

The cylinders were rolled out and texture applied. The closed forms were made from small pinch pots. There were two types of clay available, our usual Ashraf Hannah and porcelain paper clay. Everyone was encouraged to make something with each type. It was a fun evening (and there were hot cross buns at tea break). You can see from the photos a wide variety of pieces were made. Many thanks to Bronwen and Paula.

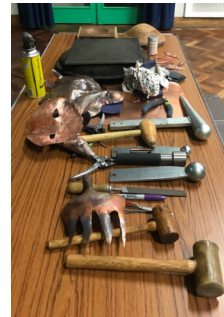


**TALK and DEMO**  
26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Varvara White: Metal Sculpture**  
Article & Photos: Trish Hall

Art was Varvara's most faithful companion since she was very young. It gave her a feeling that she was good at something. It felt natural that she would pursue a career in art.

Varvara's degree from Wimbledon School of Art in 1988 specialised in traditional sculptural methods. She was able to indulge herself in plaster casting, stone carving, wood construction, as well as steel construction, with which she fell in love! The oxyacetylene gas cutter, forge and three phase welding were very seductive, full of danger and excitement.



The focal point in Varvara's sculpture was primarily from an aesthetic point of view, dealing with the space within a space, within the confines of a steel frame. Form, line and space were her focus. She also explored ideas about function and aesthetics within objects which culminated in her degree show, unusable furniture made out of steel - was it art or furniture? One piece was against a wall called Mantel Piece and another Tall Boy - both referring to their wooden counterparts.

In 2016, after doing a silver jewellery course, her work evolved to include copper and now Varvara is predominantly working in this metal, making wall mounted sculptures.

Varvara now feels she has three strands to her work; her fine art copper structures, her craft sculptures e.g. the hare and the fox and her silver and copper jewellery, her copper leaf brooches proving a great hit with the public. Varvara has exhibited in a few exhibitions including our own BPSS exhibitions!

At the moment Varvara has a sculpture called "Oak Spirit" in the Obsidian Gallery and will be participating in Bucks Arts Week at the Good Earth gallery in Chesham in June 2024. See more of her work at [Varvarawhiteart.com](http://Varvarawhiteart.com)





**TALK and DEMO**  
31st May 2024

## Michele Greene: Mixed Media Sculpture

Article & Photos: Trish Hall



Michele lives and works from her home in Buckinghamshire. She uses a wide range of media including clay, wire, cement and resin and enjoys incorporating found and recycled objects into her pieces. Clay remains her favourite medium because of its malleability and the close relationship she has when modelling the sculpture so that literally hundreds of her fingerprints become part of the work.



She uses the natural world to help her depict wildlife, her aim is to capture the essence of the subject caught in a moment of time. This is often the way we glimpse animals and birds when we see them in their natural habitat.

Michele is influenced by her mother, Giacometti, Michael Gormley and Picasso amongst others and her inspiration comes from her family, news and nature. Her mother was a sculptor and her father built her kiln for her in their garden. She had a wonderful pottery and art department at school where she took it up to A level. After school she came an occupational therapist. Later she went back to school to study Fine Art and became an art teacher.



Michele turns her pots into people and believes all experiences come out in our work. She made a piece called "Forgotten Man" which consisted of fallen branches in the woods - she later cast this in iron resin. Her "Seeking Refuge" piece was made in response to the Afghan war in 2001, she later auctioned the statue for Concert - a charity which helps refugees. Group projects with children from Oxford Youth Art involve making a giant whale from plastic bottles - emphasising their awareness of plastics in the sea.



Michele has come full circle and is now simplifying her figures capturing the life and emotions of the subjects. The stillness of the sculpture combines with a suggestion of body language and movement which easily conveys mood to the audience. She used crank clay to demonstrate her method of building a figure and adapting the body to indicate these different moods and feelings. Michele tells stories with her pieces giving a narrative element to the work. The viewer sees a snapshot of an ongoing situation and is left to imagine the rest of the story.

An expert and very enjoyable demonstration. Michele is a member of Oxford Sculptors and Bucks Art Society and her work is also at the Carina Haslam Gallery and Woburn Art Gallery.  
[www.greenesculpture.com](http://www.greenesculpture.com)





# Debbie "Mouse" Shaw Celia Barnes & Janes Ostler

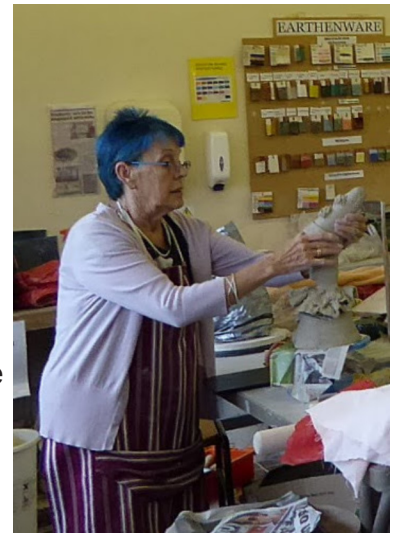


Memories from Celia Barnes and Jane Ostler

Many of you will remember Debbie "Mouse" Shaw, who was a long time BPSS member and who sadly died in March.

Debbie was a regular attender at the meetings (until ill health prevented her) and was always warm and friendly to others and interested in the speakers. She had a unique style with her blue hair and was enthusiastic about the Arts.

We have happy memories of her at Chris Bull's summer school with Paul Priest, where she always had a theme, always sculptural, sometimes inspired by Lawrence of Arabia and Horses, and Pierrot's.



She always enjoyed Art in Action and Art in Clay.

We have all lost a very good friend.

Right: One of her Lawrence of Arabia Horse Sculptures



## You Tube Tips from Pam Cawley & Paula Sutton

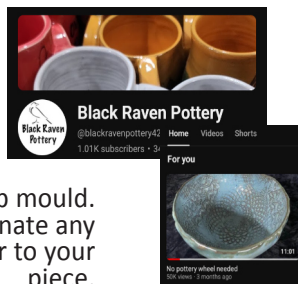
**Templatemaker.nl:** A free website where it makes a template for you. Choose the 3D shape you want, add dimensions and click the create button. Print it out and make the shape using the print out and if you like it make it in clay! Enjoy!



**Mikkel deMib:** A Danish thrower who makes videos covering most aspects of pottery making - pit-firing, raku, agateware, texture, stains & oxides etc.



**Black Raven Pottery:** Creates handmade pottery. A video dated 11/2/24 called 'No pottery wheel needed' shows an alternative way of covering a non porous bowl with an old pair of tights (tuck the excess inside the bowl) to create a hump mould. You can stretch the tights to eliminate any wrinkles that might transfer to your piece.





**Everything a Potter needs.**

- ▼ FRONT & TOP LOADING KILNS
- ▼ SLAB ROLLERS
- ▼ EXTENSIVE RANGE OF CLAYS
- ▼ RAW MATERIALS
- ▼ GLAZES
- ▼ BISQUE MOULDS
- ▼ POTTERY WHEELS
- ▼ HELPFUL & FRIENDLY ADVICE
- ▼ TOOLS & BRUSHES

**www.potterycrafts.co.uk**

01782 754000  
SALES@POTTERYCRAFTS.CO.UK

POTTERYCRAFTS LTD  
CAMPBELL RD  
STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST4 4ET

**10% off use code BPA24 at the online checkout**

"Tell your own story, and you will be interesting." Louise Bourgeois

## New Members

A warm welcome to our new members: Peter Chapman, Gemma Heaven, Louise Allison.



**Peter Chapman** After a gap of 50 years from throwing pots, I restarted my love of clay at The Orchard Studio, run by Wendy Johnson. I attend the classes to enjoy learning about clay and decoration techniques. I joined BPSS to broaden my increasing interest, knowledge and appreciation of ceramics. This piece is hand-built.



**Gemma Heaven** I consider myself a new potter, having signed up to a course in January 2023 as a creative outlet for my mental and physical health. I have dabbled in hand-building and throwing, but am looking forward to expanding my horizons as I come to the end of a work contract in June.

## Up & coming Meetings



**28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Mark Dally** Hand-builds, casts and wheel throws Black & White Ware in high-fired white earthenware. Table includes teapots, mugs, jugs, platters and bowls. He uses sliptrailing, paper resist, layering and line work to decorate his pieces, finishing with lustres.



**28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Raku Day (BPSS Members) Cost £75**

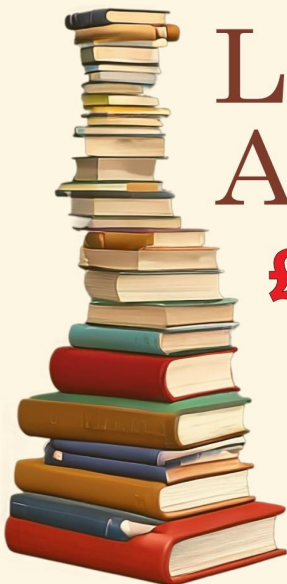
Run by Carol & Richard and hosted by Elaine. See BPSS website to sign up & membership  
<https://buckspotters.com/2024/05/23/raku-day-2024-sunday-july-28th/>



**10<sup>th</sup> August 2024 Plaster Mould Making (BPSS Members) Cost £40**

Run and hosted by Sophie Smith. See BPSS website for sign up & membership  
<https://buckspotters.com/2024/05/23/plaster-mould-making-day-2024-august/>

## Peter Stocker Annual Competition



# Literary Animals

**£75 prize!**

**Entries:** handmade pottery or sculptures by members.

**Deadline:** November meeting 8pm 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Voting:** members present at the meeting

As it's the last meeting of the year there will be mince pies & mulled wine!

## Your BPSS

**Website** We have a **Members Gallery** on the BPSS Website for members who wish to upload their work.

To set up your own page contact our webmaster **Adam Hoyle** on: [adam@adamhoyle.co.uk](mailto:adam@adamhoyle.co.uk) and he will get you started. Once you have your gallery set up, you can add photos to the gallery directly or from Instagram by tagging the images #bpss. The website checks twice daily for new Instagram images and shows the 3 most recent ones.

**About the Society** The Society was formed in 1963 and welcomes all artists working in 3D. Individual membership costs £25 per year, family membership is £35 and full-time student membership is £10. Membership provides access to monthly demonstrations, several hands-on workshops and a quarterly newsletter. Members can add their profile and a few images of their work to the Members' Gallery on our website [www.buckspotters.com](http://www.buckspotters.com). Our Facebook page is 'Bucks pottery and sculpture society' and we are on Instagram as 'buckspotters'.

**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 do tell us. Also, if you have ideas you would like to raise with us, please do so at the monthly meeting or email [hlinglis@gmail.com](mailto:hlinglis@gmail.com).

**GDPR information** The information provided 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.

## CTM Potters Supplies 5% Members Discount!

We have agreed a **5% discount** for all BPSS members with **CTM Potters Supplies**.

When ordering you will need to phone and say you are a member of BPSS and give your name.

They will then check against the list of names (no contact details) that we have sent.

CTM Potters Supplies - if you use clay you need CTM

Doncaster Tel: 01709 770801  
Doncaster Fax: 01709 770803  
Exeter Tel: 01395 233077  
Website: [www.ctmpotters.com](http://www.ctmpotters.com)