



Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society

Newsletter, January 2026

Hi members.

Welcome to the January newsletter. This is running behind schedule due to my recent summer trip to New Zealand. While there I found some inspiring creations which have been included in the newsletter. It's a busy newsletter so the January meeting will be featured in the April issue.

The winner of the Peter Stocker Award - Trish Hall, has chosen

a thought provoking theme for the 2026 competition. See inside. Well done to Maddie for doing a great job in co-ordinating the exhibition for the first time, also for persuading many of her students from Amersham College to become members. We now have many more members than we've had in a long time! Happy reading, Yvonne.

31 October DEMO

Andrea Brewer – Trish Hall



Andrea's creative childhood informed her future – her parents were both artistic and encouraged Andrea to use her imagination. She took a teacher training degree but her art became more important when she took a three year residency as the artist in residence at her old secondary school in Muswell Hill, North London. After this she went on to become a freelance prop maker and then onto the Little Angel Theatre where she held workshops in puppet making.



Andrea also worked with Jim Henson at Pinewood Studios and found him inspiring and great fun to work with! She went onto the English National Opera where she made moulds for her sculptures in clay for the theatre. Andrea went to Australia where she met her husband and they came back to the UK where she joined Towersey Studios and worked there four days a week. She started to exhibit her work again during Oxford Art Weeks which led to commissions. One of these was for the UK Atomic Energy Commission where she was asked to do a work inspired by fission – her sculpture is still in their foyer. Andrea now works full time on her own sculptures.

The main influence on her art is the ancient and universal symbol of the spiral. As well as finding it a beautiful and pleasing form, Andrea is intrigued by its symbolic significance. She is also inspired by mythology and Viking artwork.

Most of Andrea's work to date has taken the form of hand built ceramic sculptures, primarily using grogged clay and dry finish glazes to create a textural quality much like those found either in nature on lichens and moulds, or as a result of natural forces acting on man-made materials, such as rusts and patinas.



Dorothea Reid: Retrospective Exhibition, 20th to 23rd November – Yvonne Cornes

It was an honour to help with curating Dori's retrospective which was co-ordinated by Chris Inder and Dori's husband Chris Owen. The exhibition was held at the previous Obsidian Gallery venue. The creativity and diversity of her work was lovely to see.



I'm pleased to have bought some pieces, two of which are shown on the left. They are a lovely reminder of the wonderful person Dorothea was and I'll treasure them.

The exhibition was well attended and all profits went to the RNID. The exhibition raised £3,146. (the total including the funeral is £5,836 to date). Dorothea's donation page is: dorotheaowen.muchloved.com



21 November WORKSHOP

Hare Heads with Richard Ballantyne & Carol Read – Jane Ostler



Our last meeting of the year was another popular and enjoyable practical session with Richard and Carol, demonstrating and making hare heads. As it was pre-Christmas we indulged in mulled wine and mince pies in the 'tea break'. We also judged the Peter Stocker award, as shown below.



During the November meeting the members present voted for their favourite entry for this year's competition (the Peter Stocker Award). The theme was 'Wild Thing'. As usual there were several very varied entries, 13 pieces in total. The winner was Trish Hall with her Cheetah. Congratulations Trish.



NEW BOOK RELEASES



Luminous Clay by Angela Mellor
A contemporary guide to creating beautiful, translucent ceramics. Porcelain and bone china are known and prized for their fineness, delicacy and translucence, but can be difficult to use. In *Luminous Clay*, Angela Mellor demystifies this exciting medium, encouraging more ceramists to work with these clays.



Throwing Clay: The Art of Making Pottery On The Wheel by Rebecca Proctor
With this essential guide from one of the UK's leading contemporary studio potters, learn how to throw clay on the wheel. Including a combination of projects and gorgeous inspirational photographs, *Throwing Clay* is the ultimate guide for complete beginners and advanced ceramicists alike.

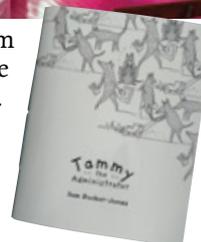


Gloria Church Greymouth, New Zealand

While in New Zealand recently I visited the town of Greymouth on the South Island's West Coast. Friends suggested a visit to this former church, owned and being transformed by Sam Duckor-Jones, a sculptor, ceramist, poet and artist (pictured far right). In the church he has created his life sized 'congregation' pieces in papier maché (see right).

The church had fallen into disuse by 2000, and was deconsecrated in 2018. Sam bought the church in 2020. He lives in the church, reaching his bedroom in the loft via a highly decorated ladder. Friends and fans donate items for the church. Even his cute dog 'Tammy' pictured with Sam, was donated by a stranger. Tammy was in charge of the church when we arrived. I bought a copy of his illustrated book called 'Tammy the Administrator' (right) which is lovely.

In the visitor's book I wrote: 'Grayson Perry would love this', which I'm sure he would. That's if he hasn't already seen it! *Yvonne Cornes*



ANNUAL COMPETITION

The theme for this year's Peter Stocker Award, as chosen by last year's winner Trish Hall is:

'The Alphabet'

❖ £75 Prize ❖

Entries must be handmade pottery or sculptures by BPSS members. The Vote and Prize Giving is on our last meeting of 2026.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

There have been seven new members since the last newsletter and two returning members including:

Frederick Bristow, Tara Castaldini, Andrea Toon, Ian Jones, Fiona Johnson, Sarah Parkinson and Juliette Payne.

A very warm welcome to you all. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and hope you will all enjoy getting involved in the society.

Andrea Toon has written a few words.

Andrea Toon

I came to ceramics six years ago after a career break from working as a fine artist and in art galleries and museums to raise my young family. Working with ceramics gave a fresh opportunity to learn, make, be expressive and share in a creative community again.

My pots often begin as drawings and are informed by my painterly background. I prefer to make pots on the wheel, and decorate with layers of coloured slip, underglaze and glaze.

I love the alchemy in ceramics and enjoy the elements of chance that are revealed after every firing.

andreatoon.co.uk



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



James Ort – 8pm, 27th February

James loves clay. Life can evolve from it and with each firing in the kiln a sculpture can become more and more breathtaking. He's always admired the movement and poise of all creatures great and small, and enjoys being able to capture their unique characters in clay.

WATCH THIS SPACE

20th March (a week earlier this time due to the hall being unavailable on 27th). The Speaker is yet to be confirmed. More details to follow by email and on the website.



Caroline Wooden – 8pm, 24th April

Caroline is a ceramic artist with a background in graphic design and illustration. She makes decorative stoneware objects. She has a whole menagerie of quirky and characterful animals and birds that can free-stand or wall hang. They all have their own personalities.

BPSS 2025 Annual Exhibition



Isobel making sheep



Maddie demonstrating porcelain roses



Celia Barnes' very festive pieces



The Private View on Friday evening



Some of Helen Allester's pieces

R&B Ceramics' pieces feature in The Great British Pottery Throwdown



If any of the members are fans of The Great Pottery Throw Down and were glued to the Raku week episode, they may have spotted a couple of interesting pieces at the beginning of the show. The eagle eyed would have seen a polar bear and cub and, in the background, a hare and leveret.

It was an interesting process signing all the forms and NDA (non disclosure agreement) in triplicate. Then, we held our breaths making sure they got there in the post in one piece. And then back after filming! Phew!

It was fun to be asked and to see them on the show. *Carol and Richard*



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.

For Doncaster, Tel: 01709 770801. For Exeter, Tel: 01395 33077

CTM Potters Supplies - if you use clay you need CTM



Maori inspired sculptures recently seen in New Zealand.

The 2026 Potterycrafts discount code for BPSS members

Society/Association Terms and Conditions

1. Discount codes are for members use only.
2. Discount code cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers or sale/discounted products.
3. Discount code is to be distribution to members by Society/Association and not Potterycrafts.
4. The discount code value is 10% OFF order. Not including delivery charge.
5. Any misuse of discount code may result in termination.

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. Members can add their profile and a few images of their work to the Members' Gallery on our website 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 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

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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