Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society

Newsletter, July 2026

Hi members. Welcome to the July newsletter. It's a very busy one again so the 'Up and Coming Meetings' info has been moved to the back page for this issue. Also, the Raku Day will be featured in the October newsletter. That was a really hot day but very successful judging by the photos I've been sent. We've had inspiring monthly meetings with Caroline Wooden, Hilary Audus and the Show and Tell was fascinating with the diversity of work.

Good to see that a few Bucks potters were represented at the Cheltenham Fair. Hopefully those of you showing at Bucks Art Weeks had great events.
It's very sad to report on Stephen Cherry passing away. He was a member since 2017 and attended many of our meetings and events, along with his lovely wife Isobel. He was such a nice man and will be missed. Yvonne.

24 April
DEMO

Caroline Wooden

– Pauline Upstone





Caroline makes silhouette animal sculptures amongst other things. They are about 9 inches high. Her ceramic journey started in 1984 at a liberal arts college. She then worked for 40 years as a graphic designer but eight years ago gave up her job in a large corporation to go freelance. However she wanted another creative outlet. After a few false starts she went back to ceramics and made a gorgeous hand-built tea pot. She explored different clay techniques at Deptford. Caroline was inspired by architectural forms, initially with hand-building and then with throwing.

Exploring form: During lockdown Caroline started working at home. She wanted to illustrate, but using form, not decoration. She initially made fish, owls, birds and other animals in an almost 2D form, looking a little like a line drawing.

Caroline's first market was in 2023 at the Hepworth Gallery Ceramic Fair. She loved this event and her work was very popular. More and more fairs followed and she started getting commissions – lots of them! Caroline now works from a very local centre and learns a lot from the owners. She loves the interaction in a community studio. She uses the slab roller, compresses the slabs and cuts them into strips. She uses Valentine B17C which is a slightly grogged clay. All her pieces are frost proof.

Caroline draws her designs, aiming to get the essence of the animal, simplifying the form but ensuring that the character is intact. She uses her ruler and a scalpel to get crisp strips, but ensures that every form is reinforced. She can make three pieces in a day. They require intricate work. They are dried slowly between quite chunky boards.



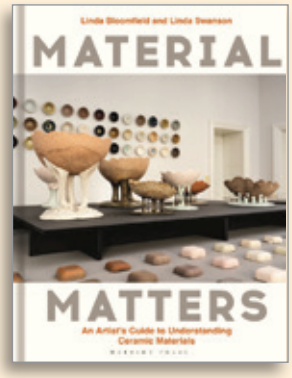


For commissions, she works from photos. Caroline has lots of stoneware glazes and underglazes to ensure that her pieces have a realistic look. She glazes on one side only, apart from having underglazed eyes on both sides. She says her work is designed to bring a smile to your face. She values attending courses and learning and she teaches hand-building.

Caroline also makes thrown pots which look like wood-turned vessels. She makes 3D rare breed bird sculptures and particularly enjoys making ducks because of the curves in their shapes. Carrie continually plays with the designs. She is busy and clearly delights in what she does.

NEW BOOK RELEASE – Material Matters: An Artist's Guide to Understanding Ceramic Materials,

by Linda Bloomfield & Linda Swanson



'Material Matters' brings ceramic chemistry to life in a clear and engaging way by introducing the 13 ceramic oxides, the building blocks of clay and glazes. With simple, accessible explanations, it helps readers understand how materials work and how to use them with confidence. Alongside this practical foundation, it highlights more sustainable approaches to making and firing ceramics, and is richly illustrated with inspiring ceramic art from around the world.

Supported by full colour illustrations, photographs, charts and graphs, Material Matters is the essential guide to working confidently with ceramics.



29 May MEETING

'Show & Tell'

– *Jane Ostler*



Last year's 'Show & Tell' was very successful and we had high hopes for this year. We were not disappointed. 11 members attended and brought a wealth of fascinating items and stories of how they got there. We pretty much ran out of time and could have gone on longer. Thanks to everyone who participated.



Catherine Bendell with her copper oxide bowl which her husband actually likes!



Robert Tasker with some of his mixed porcelain and stoneware hand built vases made using Lino cut patterns.



Sarah Jane's tiles - moulded then slip cast and fired 3 times with the final firing to add the gold or platinum lustres.



Lola with one of her handmade hand painted jointed dolls. Her attention to detail is amazing.



Yvonne brought her totem owl (which won one of the lockdown challenges)



Isabel brought a coiled pot with iron oxide wash which had been barrel fired.



Paula brought a medieval inspired castle and a Japanese inspired Dogu.



Moyà had 2 pieces glazed and fired the same, yet one was perfect while the other was (as described by her daughter) a dinosaur egg. The secrets of the kiln.



Wendy brought an abstract sculpture after being inspired doing a course at Clay Yorkshire



Pauline had been on a surface decoration course at Coombe Farm Devon, and brought a plate she made and decorated in the style of Anna Lambert (left) and one of Anna's plates to compare (right).

Sale of Dori's Studio Materials & Equipment – *Chris Inder*

Thanks to all of those who came along to the meeting on 29th May and helped to raise funds for the RNID in memory of Dorothea. The amount raised that evening was £270. I think Dorothea would have been pleased that other enthusiastic potters will be making use of the various tools, glazes etc.

Cheltenham Art Fair

– *Jane Ostler*

On 24th April members Jane, Trish and Lucinda visited the 'Fresh art fair' in Cheltenham. There we found three other members of Bucks potters exhibiting: Wendy Johnson with her beautiful ceramics, and Qing Chen and Niki Bell with some of their amazing works of art.

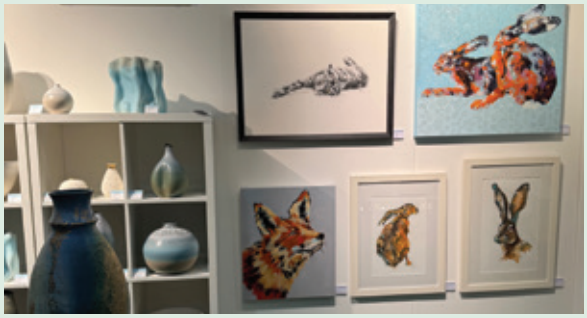
We also spotted work from Carol and Richard (R&B Ceramics) along with several other well known artists.

Lots of interesting pieces to give us inspiration for the future. The only thing we bought: (apart from lunch), Lucinda bought a painting.

A great day out for all.



Lucinda, Trish, Wendy, Trish (non member), Jane.



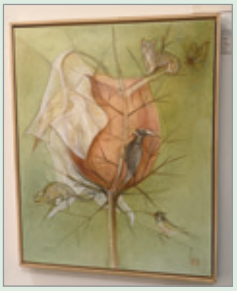
Some of Niki's paintings and Wendy's ceramics



Lucinda bought a painting.



Ceramics by Richard and Carol



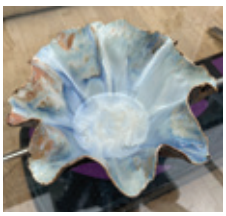
Art by Qing Chen

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

There have been four new members since the last newsletter including:
Beverley Munt, Sharon Williams, Graeme Card, and very recently Elaine Roberts.

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.

Beverley and Graeme have written a few words and Elaine Roberts' intro will feature in the October newsletter.



Beverley Munt

I started potting four years ago at Queens Park Aylesbury.
I mainly hand build but do some work on the wheel but find it really hard. I bought my own kiln last year and I've never looked back although I don't think I'm using the kiln to its full potential. Also does anyone else find glazing stressful?



Graeme Card

I'm a retired Procurement Manager and have renewed my love of sculpture after retiring. Art was one of my best subjects at school (a mere 50 years ago). I joined a workshop led by a professional sculptor and tend to create abstract pieces.
I am particularly attracted to the Cubists, Henry Moore & Barbara Hepworth. Recently I had a go at throwing and now have the greatest respect for potters. I have made several items which are very loosely influenced by birds or reptiles, & also made a few more frivolous objects i.e Gonks.

BPSS ANNUAL EXHIBITION

This will take place on the first weekend of December. Set-up & opening: Fri 4th, exhibition: 5-6th December.
Venue: same as last year – Oldham Hall in Great Missenden. More details later.
Time to decide what to exhibit & make!

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 27th November – our last meeting of 2026.



Stephen Cherry – *Isobel Cherry (both BPSS members)*



My husband Steve sadly died, age 77 on 8th April after being in hospital since 30th November. One of the last times he went out anywhere was the time we made hare heads with Richard Ballantyne. Steve enjoyed the evening and made a lovely piece of work which has just come out of the kiln. Unfortunately he felt ill driving home after the meeting. After many tests he was eventually diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. He died in Special Care in the John Radcliffe. It was a very peaceful end and his family were all around him.



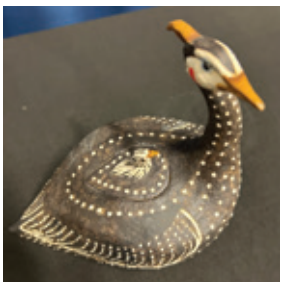
Steve had always been very supportive of all my hobbies, Gregorian chant, Icon Painting and Pottery. He always enjoyed the evenings when Liz Jones comes around and we pot together. Liz called him the Guru as he always fired the kiln for us and as he had a Scientific background seemed to understand glazes and the technical side of pottery. We often collected Colin Le Good and brought him along to BPSS meetings. We have known Colin since I was at college.

Steve had made an owl and a bird at our meetings but his best piece was a lighthouse for the annual winter competition some years back entitled 'By the Sea'. Steve's entry (left) was superb! Steve's main hobby was stage lighting so he fitted his lighthouse with a working light.

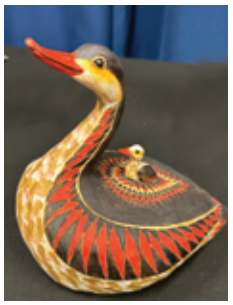
3 July MEETING

Hilary Audus

– Trish Hall









Hilary has worked all of her career in Animation and the experience from this helps her when sculpting. She specialises in animal sculptures, all of which are hand-built in stoneware clay. She only started to sculpt a few years ago after building a studio in her garden which gave her the space she needed. In some pieces she uses the technique of sgraffito – drawing directly into the slip before the first firing, then paints coloured glazes into the drawn line before firing the piece for a second time.

Hilary has always loved drawing and art. She went to Hornsey School of Art, then on to Bristol School of Art where she took a degree in illustration. She did lots of three dimensional work and in her course she was encouraged to use anything as part of the animation. Her sculpture is fun and quirky – her influences include Edward Lear and Aesop's Fables. She spent many hours in the Natural History Museum drawing animals as references. At age 21 she didn't want to do illustration on its own which was a singular experience so she went to the Central School in High Holborn for one year where she made two films. She did animation and as there were only two colleges who did this at this time, she was lucky to be at one of them.

Her first job led her to doing animation for commercials – Tony the Tiger in the Frosties advert was one. In the meantime, she was trying various crafts – wood carving, which she loved but which was too time consuming, murals and mosaics, all of which she enjoyed and excelled at. A studio producer asked her to develop a screen play for the Snowman and from there, the rest is history.



As with animation, for her ceramics Hilary initially draws the subject from various views to fully understand its form and character.

During the course of her career she has worked on many films. She co-scripted, boarded and animated on the Christmas classic, 'The Snowman' and directed and scripted another Raymond Brigg's story, 'The Bear'. She also co-wrote and directed the sequel to 'The Snowman', and 'The Snowman and The Snowdog'. She has received several awards for 'Best Director' and her films have been nominated for BAFTAs and also short-listed for an Oscar.

"In the art of animation one is deceiving the eye by making two dimensional drawings appear three dimensional. It is a natural progression to physically work in three dimensions by making sculptures."

Hilary gives the profits from the sale of her work to conservation organisations, principally the WWF and the RSPB.

UP AND COMING BUCKS POTTERS MEETINGS

Little Kingshill Village Hall, HP16 0DZ



Penn Historic Tiles, Talk and Workshop – 10am - 4pm, 9th August
£10 for Members, £15 for non-members. Tile maker – Karen Slade has agreed to do a talk and workshop about the Medieval tiles from Penn and Tylers Green – from royal palaces, monasteries and churches, manor houses and rich merchants' houses, in London and the surrounding counties.



Porcelain Paperclay – 2-4pm, 28th August
A making session with Carol Read, Paula and Jane. Porcelain paperclay mixes delicate clay with paper fibers, making it incredibly strong and easy to repair. We will explore the different ways to use paperclay and you can make a small item of your choice.



Hannah Lim – 8pm, 25th September
There are contrasting themes, materials and styles in Hannah's work. She references historic objects, motifs and processes with more contemporary materials; jesmonite, vibrantly coloured polymer clay, laser cut metal and coloured plastic chains. She blends ornamental and functional designs.



Jacque Pavlosky – 8pm, 30th October
Jacque's work is a celebration of and meditation on what inspires and gives her joy in life: the human form, ornament, architecture, culture, playing with form. She is intrigued by the many techniques available through working in glass.

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.

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



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.

BPSS Contacts

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Treasurer:	Bronwen Corrall
Membership Secretary:	Jane Ostler
Exhibition Co-ordinator:	Madalyn Baskerville
Editor/Designer:	Yvonne Cornes