



NPA



BI-MONTHLY NEWS-SHEET DECEMBER 1997

CHAT FROM THE CHAIR

The exhibition at the Cleveland Crafts Centre in Middlesbrough is underway now. The preview was very well attended and apparently sales have been good so far.

We would like to say an enormous "Thank you" to Sylvette Perrier-Thompson who has been our Exhibitions' Officer for the past 15 months and has also been on the Committee for many years. Due to a sudden change in their lives, she and her husband Richard have moved to Oxford to take up a new post. Moving house at the best of times is chaotic and I know they have had their share of that! GOOD LUCK and thanks again Sylvette - we shall miss you'

Committee members, please note there is a change of date for the next committee meeting. You will be notified shortly.

A very happy and peaceful Christmas to us all and a wonderful New Year. Thanks for all your support.

Isa and Chris

EDITOR'S NOTES

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all A Very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year and to thank you all for the help and support you have given me during 1997 to enable me to produce the News-sheet. Do please keep writing and sending in your articles and any news which the other members might find of interest in 1998.

So far, there has been no response to our request for the name of a potter, or potters, whom you would like to see demonstrate in 1998, so please think about this as soon as possible and let Chris and Isa have details.

Margaret

Closing date for copy for next issue is January 31st. 1998

NPA LOGO COMPETITION



At the last committee meeting, it was decided to update our logo. The logo is used on all our stationary and publicity material and as such, is an important symbol of the N.P.A.

All entries will be on display at the Fired Print festival at Preston next September and you will be asked to vote for the one you think the best. In the event of a tie, the visiting demonstrators will be asked to cast their votes.

The winner will be presented with a cheque for £50.

A few pointers:

- Keep your design simple, it will have to be reduced, so clean lines are best.
- Design should be approximately A4 size in black and white.
- It needs to incorporate the words The NORTHERN POTTERS ASSOCIATION



If you feel inspired to submit a new design, we would be delighted to receive it.

Your entry should be sent to

Laura Freeman, Ashburn Cottage, Southside, Kilham, Driffield, N.Humberside Y025 OST. **It should reach Laura before the first of August 1998.**

A POTTING HOLIDAY

Holidays are funny things. They are very emotive, conjuring up dreams and plans of "what might be" and holding forth a glimpse of the "ideal" life. The type of holiday chosen is very personal and usually has one particular objective in its choice. Whether that is a particular place or places to visit, the desire to lie in the sun, the wish to get away from it all or an activity holiday to try out new skills or polish up old ones, the choice must be purely subjective.

So what factors brought seven people to Will Levi Marshall's pottery course at Orchardton at the end of August? Whatever the reasons for it, one can only say that it was a holiday that will not be forgotten in a hurry. Will's unflagging enthusiasm for anything and everything provided a driving momentum which kept everyone fully occupied. His positive and helpful attitude towards even the least skilled of us ensured that there were no disasters only successes - quite amazing when we all know just how temperamental clay can be even in the most experienced hands. So it was deeply satisfying that by the end of a week we had all thrown some pots (even the people who had never thrown before). Had them bisqued, glazed and fired to 1260C as well as develop our own glazes and learn a great deal about glaze technology.

The social side of the week at Orchardton was most enjoyable and entertaining. There is no accommodation at Orchardton so we either camped in the grounds or stayed in B & B (which is another tale altogether!). Having picked one of the wettest weeks of the year the campers had a raw deal but on the only dry evening they prepared a sumptuous dinner round the campfire for everyone.

It was an evening Will had been hoping for all week. There had been much talk about the Turkish Bath which we were all going to have and this Thursday evening was to be it. After furiously chain-sawing up a pile of logs Will got the fire stoked up. The Turkish bath, as the sign over the door proudly proclaimed, was constructed from a blanket inner skin and a waterproof outer 'tent' skin with a fireplace in the middle and benches all round. It was apparently built by the person who builds them at events like Glastonbury. So it was a case of hanging your clothes on a convenient tree and crawling on your hands and knees through the entrance into the welcoming warmth of the Turkish Bath (more like a sauna really). When you were hot enough you crawled out again and plunged into an old bath full of rainwater and twigs or

hosed yourself down. Then you had to find your clothes and put them on again in the dark. How, in the dark, do you find clothes which have spread themselves all over the place even though you'd left them all neatly together *and* get them on the right-side out?

This evening proved to be the highlight of a week which was filled with laughter, fun, good food and excellent company. If Will got as much out of the week as everyone else did we all gained a great deal. It is through this article that I have been asked by all concerned to thank him for the 3H's - Help, Hospitality and Hilarity. Thanks Will, - and good luck with your future plans.

Helen Hayman Barkisland - October 1997

EXHIBITIONS

NPA EXHIBITIONS

1997

15th Nov - 10th Jan

Christmas Selling Exhibition, Cleveland Craft Centre

1998

6th June - 2nd August

Summer '98. Howarth Art Gallery, Accrington
(Theme: Water)

4/5/6th Sept

NPA 1998 Festival "Fired Print" - University of Central Lancs., Preston. (Please note that there will be hanging space available for work. Application forms for this event will be included in the next News-sheet.)

OTHER EXHIBITIONS

1997

23rd November - end Christmas

Jim Robison, Booth House Gallery Exhibition,
Holmfirth, W. Yorks.

8th November onwards

European Ceramics, Knaresborough "Advent 1997" and
"Paper and Clay". (Weekends only in January)

1998

13/14th June

"Potfest Scotland" will be held at the Perth Agricultural Centre. The venue is a purpose-built cattle market with all the facilities under cover. The cost is £30 /single unit, £60/double unit. For further information, contact Geoff Cox, Stoddahgate Barn, Penruddock, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0RY

☎ 017684 83820 email: geoff@cox1,demon.co.uk.

Web page: <http://www.potfest.co.uk> (Yes, but how do we get there by helicopter?)

4th/5th July
August

York Open Air Exhibition (See item on page 5)

Cumbrian Potfest. Please note that this is now full.

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DALTON POTTERY, 3 NELSON STREET,
DALTON-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA LA15 8AF
TEL. 01229 465313

NEW DESIGN AND DIRECTION FOR STUDIO POTTERY MAGAZINE

Studio pottery will celebrate 5 years of publication in February 1998, and will appear in a bolder and slightly larger format, with more substantial articles about a wider range of ceramic work. The magazine will be published quarterly instead of the present six times a year. The annual subscription from 1st January 1998, for members of Potters' Associations, will be £21.

15, Magdalen Road, Exeter, EX2 4TA
Tel/fax 01392 430082
www.inxpress.co.uk/studio.pottery

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8-10 Ingate Place, Battersea, London. SW8 3NS.
Tel: 0171 720 0050. Fax: 0171 627 8290.

Kings Yard Pottery, Talbot Rd, Rickmansworth,
Herts. WD3 1HW.
Tel: 01923 770127. Fax: 01923 896202.

SLIPS • FRONT LOADING KILNS • TOP LOADING KILNS

STUDIO EQUIPMENT • BOOKS • MOULDS

YORK OPEN AIR EXHIBITION 1998

At a meeting with the York City Centre Manager, Chris Utley and Caroline Till representing N.P.A., plus members from local arts groups, discussed various possibilities for the 1998 event.

Two days are going to be offered- **Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th July.**

You could come to either or both, but as the site is in the middle of a shopping area your pots need to be cleared away each day

As before, the event is free, with 10% of sales being donated to the Lord Mayor's Charities' Fund.

We hope to encourage potters to bring a wheel, a Raku kiln or anything else felt to be of interest.

We would like your thoughts on:

- 1. The two day idea- please tell us when you would come.**
- 2. If you would be interested in throwing, firing or demonstrating your work in some way.**

Caroline and Chris have another meeting in February to report on the response from the membership. The York managers are keen to expand this event and are looking for our input. The event's application form will be sent out after this meeting. **Please give it some thought &**

PLEASE PLEASE

ring Chris (01904 608409)

or Caroline (01904 794171) with your ideas before the end of January.

EUROPEAN PRIZE FOR CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS organised by WCC Europe in co-operation with UEAPME with financial support from the European Community

The European Community has made funds available for 6 prizes in a competition open to all craftspeople within the European Union working professionally in their own independent workshops. The competition covers one-off as well as batch-produced work in all materials and techniques. Students may not apply.

3 prizes are to be awarded to those over 35 years of age and 3 prizes to those under 35. In each case the work must be made within the last 5 years. Each group of prizes is worth 7,500 ECUs, 5,000 ECUs and 2,500 ECUs (an ECU is worth approximately 67 .5p).

There are 3 stages to the competition:

- 1) Slides and a CV etc are sent in to a National Jury in each member state. This National Jury selects 3 to 10 candidates whose slides are sent on to the International Jury.
- 2) The International Jury selects work from 1 to 3 candidates from each member state to take part in an exhibition.
- 3) The selected candidates send their objects selected to the exhibition during which the Prize Committee selects 6 prize winners.

The date and venue for the exhibition is currently being negotiated but it should take place in Summer 1998.

The deadline for sending in slides of up to 5 objects (each object must be illustrated by 2 slides showing different views) is **26 January 1998.**

There is no entry fee. Slides will be returned to makers at their risk. The cost of sending selected work to the exhibition will be covered by the national bodies. Application forms are available from **Charlotte Nielsen, Crafts Council, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9BY.** (Tel. 0171-278 7700, fax 0171-837 689), and from our web-site on <http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk>

ITEMS FROM OTHER POTTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

CPA NEWS

☛ "EARTH & FIRE 4" –June27/28th 1998: The Craft Potters' Association invites applications from potters wishing to take part in the fourth CPA Rufford Ceramics Fair. As before, this will be a selected event which will show the best of British studio ceramics with international guests, demonstrations and trade stands.

"Earth & Fire" is open to ALL potters. For an application form, send an SAE to;- Jack Doherty, Hooks Cottage, Lea Bailey, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5TY. The selection panel will meet in early February.

Deadline for applications is January 31st 1998

☛ **MASTERCLASS WITH SVEND BAYER** :The Craft Potters' Association and East Anglian Potters' Association invite you to a Masterclass event on 25th January 1998, 10.30am - 4.00pm at Long Road 6th Form College, Long Road, Cambridge.

Over the years Svend Bayer has established an international reputation as one of Britain's foremost makers of large pots and as a wood firer. He is greatly in demand, having exhibited all over the world and given many demonstrations and workshops both here and abroad, so we are lucky to have him here in Cambridge for the day.

Svend Bayer will give a slide lecture of his work and a demonstration of his throwing and coiling techniques. Svend likes to engage the audience in a two-way discussion, so you will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. Programme of events as follows:

10.30am	Coffee and assemble
1100am	Slide lecture
LUNCH	
2. 00pm	Demonstration
4.00pm	Tea and goodbye

ADVANCE BOOKING ONLY

Send cheque or PO made payable to **Craft Potters Association** and booking form to:
Deborah Baynes, Nether Hall, Shotley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 IPW. Please include an S.A.E with the booking form. You will receive an entrance ticket and map. Entrance fee does not include lunch so please remember to book this separately. Lunch, tea and coffee will be provided by East Anglian Potters at £3 a head. (Vegetarians will be catered for). Please bring your own plate and mug. If you do not wish to have lunch, you will need to bring your own sandwiches as there are no other facilities in the area.

Members of CPA or EAPA £14..... Non-members/Guests £16.....
Full time students £8..... Lunch £3

Name(s)

Address or College/Course.....

EAST ANGLIAN POTTERS' ASSOCIATION



✿ THE SYRINGE AS A CLAY WORKING AID

Buying my first syringe from the chemist's caused some amusement as I wanted it to inject glue behind crazing artex patterning to save trying to rematch a complete wall of fairly unique pattern.

Finding the right size nozzle was tricky as was convincing the chemist I was not some variation of a junkie. Anyway, glue job complete, I found the plastic syringe minus its murderous needle invaluable for measuring out exact amounts of slip and glazes. I even went back to the chemist for a variety of sizes of plastic syringes to save cleaning out the same syringe for differing slips.

The tiny plastic freebie medicine cups also come in handy for mixing small amounts of glaze and slip. The chemist seemed happier selling me syringes without needles. My industrial chemist suppliers do not deal in amounts as small as ten but were very obliging when I needed a glass syringe for measuring out acids when I was making metallic lustres. If you want to buy a syringe for the same purposes as myself do look closely at how well the measures are marked as the more throw away ones are easily rubbed out in constant cleaning. Scratching a more permanent mark whilst the printed marks are still there will prolong the life of the syringe.

Some smaller jobs involving mixed slips are now a lot easier as I can accurately mix a variety of colours from just a few main slip mixes. The work bench is not so covered with large buckets of slip these days. I can test out engobes by measuring out units of 1cc in tens to make 10cc batches. This gives me a wide variety of permutations without wasting a lot of raw material in tests. I have less to throw away if a test is a total failure. It has been useful in making up a glaze for a shinier effect to have started with a known matt one that works for colour and add in measured amounts of clear glaze (wet patches on a dragon's egg for instance). I have taken to grading in shades of coloured slip onto patterned work: now it's becoming more like mixing paint. The accuracy gives me confidence now I know that I can repeat the effect again.

A little bonus that came recently was that I needed to stop myself overwatering some of my greenhouse plants. Syringing up the exact amount of water from a bucket proved the best solution. I was able to give each plant exactly the right dose each day.

David Cann

SCOTTISH POTTERS' ASSOCIATION

✿ "ARTISAN 1998" - The Edinburgh Festival of Contemporary Craft 1998 at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre August 27/28th 1998.

Information packs including an application form about this juried event may be obtained from ARTISAN, 6 Darnaway Street, Edinburgh EH3 6BG Ansaphone 0131 225 2095 FAX 0131 225 2770 email artisanuk@aol.com.

WEST COUNTRY POTTERS' ASSOCIATION

✿ ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS?

Bloated? Pinholed? Can raw materials be the cause? The answer is yes and this article is an appeal to anyone who has experienced bloating in their work to answer a few questions and to contact me as soon as possible at the address given at the end.

As potters, ceramicists and sculptors, we have enough problems to overcome without suffering from faulty materials. We all depend on the suppliers of the materials we use, and we expect reliability and consistency to be able to make good work. Of course materials can change naturally and through deliberate intention, but I would expect suppliers to inform their agents and those who use their materials of such changes. Detailed specifications and recommendations for use are essential.

I have experienced bloating and pinholing which thankfully I have now cured. After careful analysis and elimination of all possible contributory causes, I discovered that a particular material was responsible. I am corresponding with the company concerned who I believe is keen to get to the root cause of the bloating. It would help to know that I am by no means alone in endeavouring to secure more reliable materials. Mark Donaldson referred in a previous W.C.P.A. newsletter to a "rumble in the ceramic jungle," and I know for sure a number of potters who have experienced bloating in their pots recently.

Our course will be much more effective if we act together and the rumble becomes a roar! If you think you can supply me with details of when your work has bloated, please include the following:-

1. What clay were you using? - exact ingredients and where purchased if possible and original supplier.
2. What type of work, especially thickness, do you make?
3. What was the nature of the firing: type of kiln, fuel used, reduced or oxidised, cycle and top temperature.
4. And above all did the bloating occur on work where only the clay or material in the claybody was changed whilst everything else you did was the same as with previous unbloated work?

Please don't hesitate to contact me. One of the visitors to our pottery recently had a daughter who made pots for submission for examination at 'A' level only to find that they were disastrously bloated and virtually unfit for a true assessment. Many educational establishments and hobby potters as well as us at are at the mercy of unreliable materials. We will all benefit from concerted action!

Since first writing this article, two separate sources have informed me of various other material problems not involving pinholing or bloating. It is probably opportune to widen my appeal for examples of faulty materials. But please be careful and specific: you must present accurate data and be sure that the problems relate to materials and not to mistakes or changes made on your part. If we can prepare a properly argued case with unambiguous evidence we shall have a better chance of attracting co-operative support from other potters elsewhere and thereby achieve the desired response from suppliers.

Michael Gaitskell - 01643 841297. Mill Pottery, Wootton Courtenay, Minehead, Som. TA24 8RB.

NEW MEMBERS of NPA

A warm welcome to:

Robin Horspool, The Old Chapel, North Dalton, near Driffield, East Yorkshire

Judy Adams, The Red Barn, Church Walk, Brant, Broughton, Lincs. LN5 0SN

Sarah Bennett, 2 Dreaken Fold, West Ayton, Scarborough, N.Yorks Y013 9JR

Paula Zimmermann, 2 Granville Square, Scarborough, N. Yorks.

Tony & June Reeve, 36 Starmer Cres., Darlington, Durham DL1 4DQ

Joan Donohoe, 12a Clarendon Road, Sale Moor, Greater Manchester M33 2DX

Ann Ash, 10 Oakwood Park, Leeds LS8 2PJ

Moya Straus, 34 New Beech Road, Stockport, 5K4 3DD Tel 0161 432 4878

Welcome back to the following who have re-subscribed:

Frank Logan, Willow Tree Cottage, Crow Street, Coney Weston, Bury St.Edmunds, Suffolk~ 1P31 IDL
Tel 01359 221323

Caroline Chouler, 79 Corbar Road. Buxton, Derbyshire SR17 6RJ

Please also add Carol Metcalf who was missed off the list:

Wintylow Farm Cottage, Brough Park, Catterick, Richmond, North Yorks

DL10 7PL Tel 01748811069(All of the above need to be added to your new membership lists.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ TEL.NO.(please alter your 1997 membership list accordingly)

Chris Sleight & Betty Wood, 44 Wilton Bank, Saltburn, Cleveland. T512 IPD 01287 623470

Pauline Holland, 33 Wingrove Avenue, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear NE9 4AN
0191 2737060

Ian Howie, 17 McHugh Court, Heslington, York YO1 SET

Alison Boothroyd, 1 Hatfield Street, Wakefield, West Yorks. WF1 3L5 01924 369269

Belinda Gosling, 29 Hollins Row, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD7 SLA. 01484 846146

LOST PROPERTY : A navy blue quilted sleeveless jacket was left at the Bretton event in September.
If any one is missing it, please contact Isa on 01937 835 632

NPA COMMITTEE CONTACT LIST

CO-CHAIR:

Isabel Denyer; 01937 835 632

&

Chris Utley ☎ 01904 608 409

VICE-CHAIR/SECRETARY Ann Evans

☎ 01200 426 304 Fax 01200 444 452

MEMBERSHIP Laura Freeman

☎ 01262 420 387 (also FAX)

EXHIBITIONS : to be appointed

PUBLICITY Gill Broadhurst

☎ 01663 764 204 (also FAX)

Judith Quinn ☎ 0161 339 5670

FESTIVAL ORGANIZATION

Sheila Spencer ☎ 0114 288 5830

Sharron Stocks ☎ 01778 570 676

TREASURER William Johnson

☎ 01904 738 541

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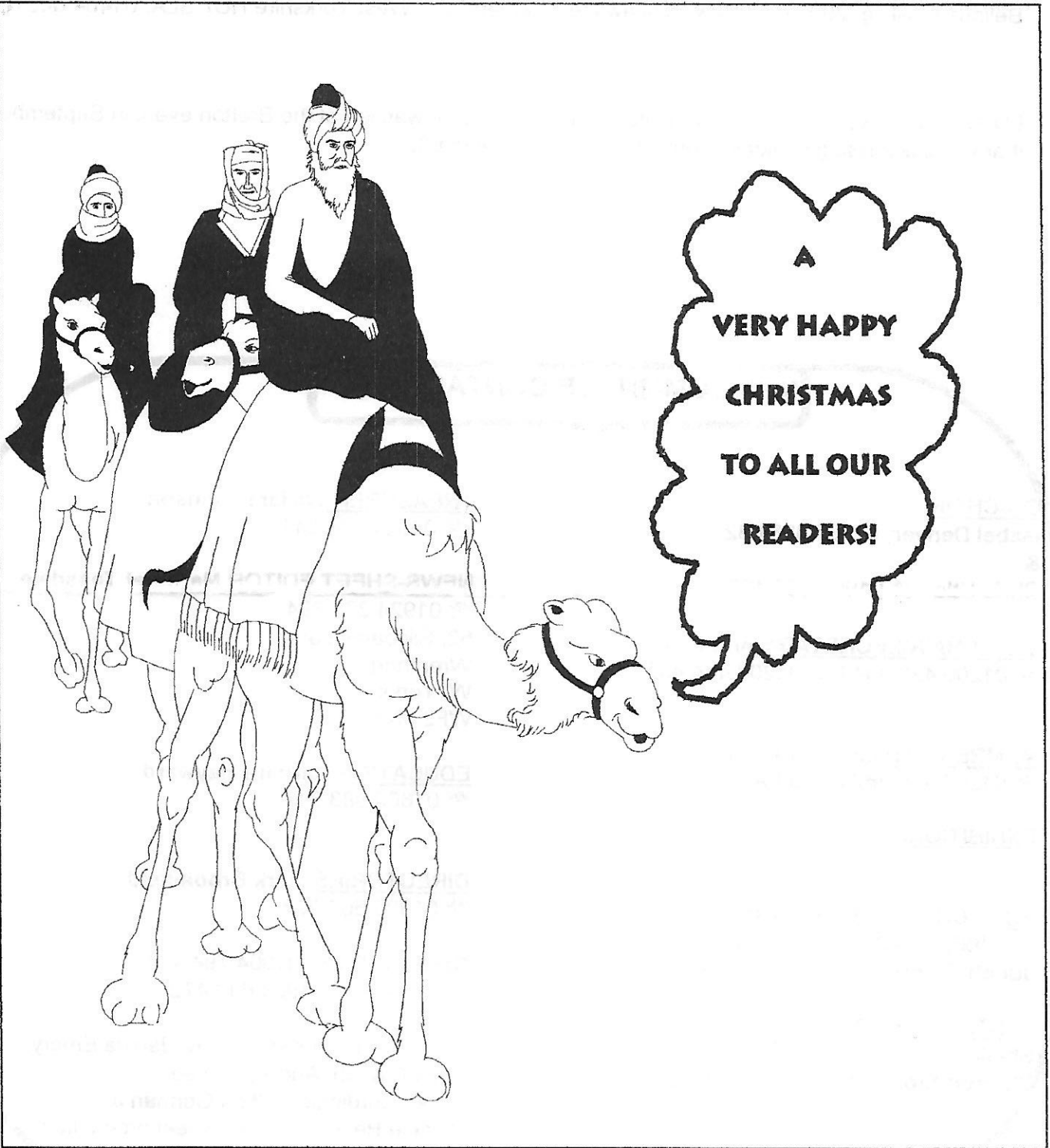
DIRECTORIES Mark Broomfield

☎ 01925 602 072

Caroline Till ☎ 01904 794 171

Ian Howie ☎ 01904 640 473

CO-OPTEES: Freda Notley, Janina Emery,
Peter Clough, Audrey Gunson,
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Michèle Beverley (News-sheet production
☎ 01904 738123)



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