

NPA

NEWS-SHEET
August/September
1998

FAREWELL FROM THE CHAIR...

Dear All,

This is our last letter as chairs of NPA and we are working towards the culmination of our two years - the festival **Fired Print** at Preston on September 4th, 5th and 6th.

At the AGM, which is being held on the Saturday of the festival, we will be handing over to a new chairperson and some new committee members. Now is the time to put yourself forward if you wish to join the committee and have a say in the future of NPA. New members are always needed, so if you feel you would like to contribute, please speak to us either before or during the festival.

Phone calls have been whizzing backwards and forwards from Australia, Hungary, USA, Switzerland and all parts of the UK in preparation for **Fired Print**. All our demonstrators are poised, eager and to go. **It's going to be good!** Just in case you have mislaid your booking form there is another one included with this new-sheet. Please note this should be completed and returned by August 21st. We look forward very much to seeing you there.

Chris and Isa

...AND THE EDITOR'S OFFICE...

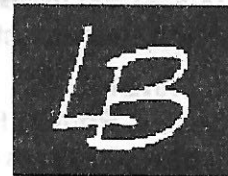
This is my last News-sheet, which I have edited for the last two years, so I am going to hang up my boots. Ian Howie will be taking over from me and any future articles and information should be sent directly to Ian.

One of the ideas I had been working on was the setting up of a 'Profile Section' of members. If you would like to take part in this, could you please provide Ian with a short piece on yourself and your

work, supplying a photograph where possible, for inclusion in future News-sheets? May I take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supplied me with articles and information for inclusion in the News-sheet. May I also wish everyone who is a member of NPA happy and successful potting in the future.

Margaret.

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Closing date for copy for the next News-sheet is Wed. 23rd September. Remember to send items to Ian Howie (address on Committee List)



DIFFERENT WAYS OF SEEING

(But which ever way up you look at it, Gromit, it were 'A Grand Day Out')

Life is never the same after reading glasses become a necessity: to those of you who have reached that age I say, you will know what I am talking about and to those of you who haven't, I say, enjoy as many potters' camps, summer fairs and 'Potfests' as you can before that time comes. (No offence intended to anyone who has impaired vision for reasons other than ageing.)

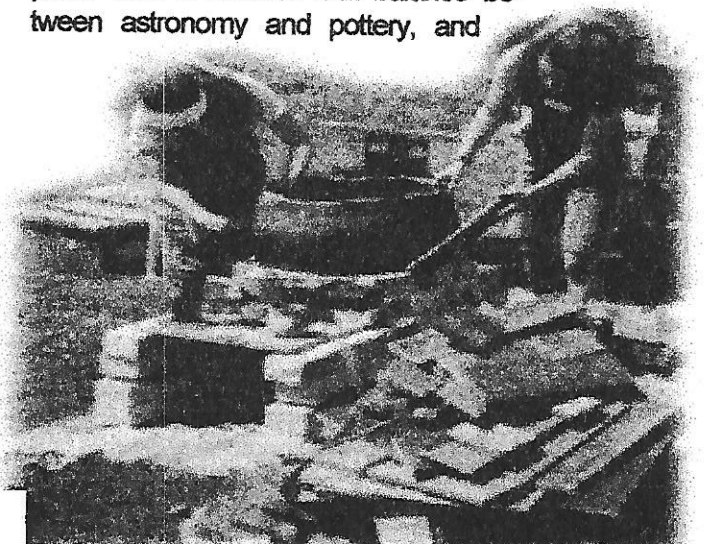
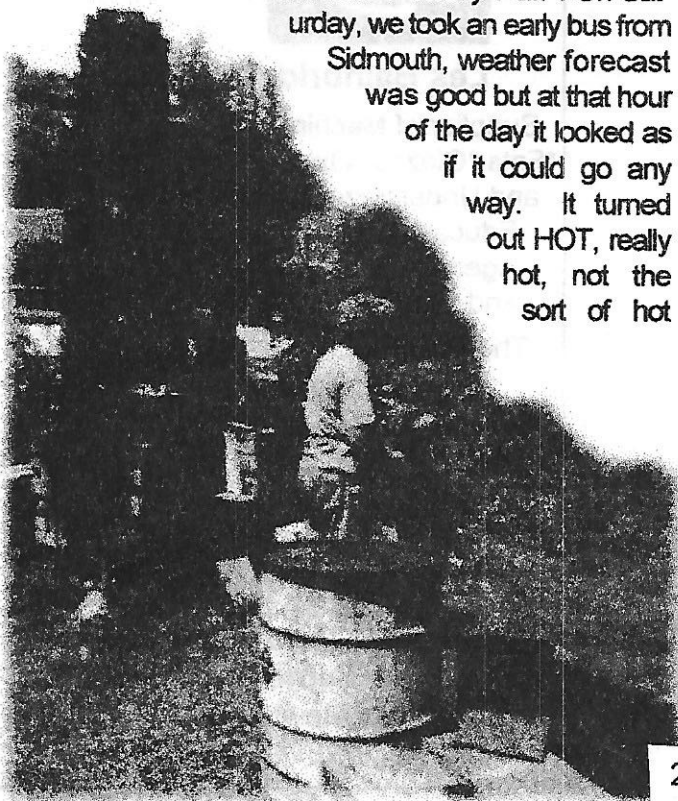
It is at such events as potters' fairs that the *reading glasses* thing is really frustrating ~ add to that a pair of sunglasses, slippery sun block on the nose, an SLR camera with a variety of interchangeable lenses and filters, clothing for all weathers, maps and bus timetables for travel to the unexplored interior of Devon and you should have a picture of Alan and myself setting off to make first contact with real life Westcountry Potters!

The weekend of June 20th/21st 1998 was WPA's third annual 'Pottery Fair'. On Saturday, we took an early bus from Sidmouth, weather forecast was good but at that hour of the day it looked as if it could go any way. It turned out HOT, really hot, not the sort of hot

you want to be in whilst firing a raku kiln non-stop to satisfy public demand! Nevertheless, in the one shady corner of the field, Heather Strong, undaunted, was steadily firing one kiln full of pots after another ~ AT THE CUSTOMERS OWN RISK ~ we saw some delighted and some disappointed expressions, I think a pot had exploded in one firing! That's the raku lottery for you.

Talking of gambling(!) I rather liked the back to front raffle that was designed to run through the weekend, without the necessity of attending a final prize draw. In the main marquee was a table with donated prize pots each with a number attached, I soon found I hadn't picked a winning ticket! I suppose anyone who was keen on a particular pot and had deep pockets could go on buying tickets till they won. Why didn't I think of that before? It's those *blinking* glasses! By the time I'd juggled my hand luggage, found some change, chatted to the lady with the bucket of tickets, trekked across to the marquee, gone from blinding sunshine into the beautifully diffuse light ~ *quick get my camera* ~ found the prize pots table, I didn't even think to buy more raffle tickets. See what I mean, glasses stop you being spontaneous!

One of the main reasons for going to the fair in the first place was to redress that balance between astronomy and pottery, and

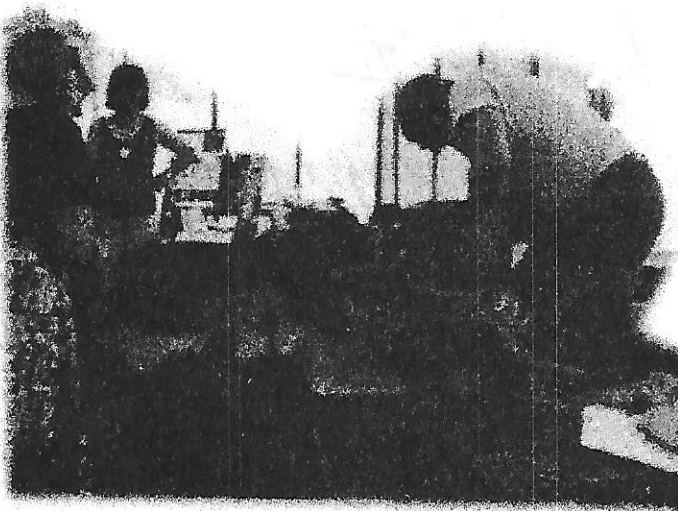


DIFFERENT WAYS OF SEEING (cont'd)

find out about joining Westcountry Potters ~ I did all that and felt at home as soon as I set foot on the site, next to Bickleigh Castle. Yes, Haughton Hare Pottery Supplies who host the event have their establishment right next to a Castle in the heart of the Devon countryside! It's an idyllic spot indeed and on the tourist route if only by proximity so should be a good venue at which to hold a Potters' Fair. Unfortunately, during the time we were there on Saturday there seemed only a thin trickle of people rather than the crowds the site could have accommodated. I hope numbers picked up on the Sunday, since tremendous effort and energy had gone into making this a success. The same *vibes* were present as those I've had from many an NPA 'do' especially some of the mini-camp days at Bretton.

However, this day I was more tourist than potter so I kept my hands clean and my hair smoke-free. I generally soaked up the atmosphere and enjoyed the beautiful pots. I even put a few faces to names, linking the jigsaw pieces I'd picked up at an exhibition a few weeks earlier. Again a lovely venue, Otterton Mill, an ancient, still working flour mill by the side of the River Otter.

Fourteen potters were showing together in a non-working part of the mill ~ *old wood and pots do go together well!* All the exhibited work sat happily in the space, though I might have quibbled a little about the two potters who were crowded onto one plinth, I don't think it was fair to either of them since it didn't allow the breathing space needed for the viewer to appreciate each potter's work. Therefore I was pleased to get a much better sense of Nic Harrison's celadon glazed pieces when I saw his stall at the fair. Mary Kembery whose very strong colourful geometric-design rimmed pots had shared the plinth at Otterton, seemed not to be obviously around at the Fair ~ though this may be the glasses factor again. I did have to spend some of the day in a sort of soft focus haze. At one point I adopted the policy of 'pick up any information leaflets then retreat to the tea tent for a *cuppa* and a brief read', before going back to the relevant people to ask more detailed questions.



I must say Alan Clark who was manning the Association's joint stand was very helpful, pointing me in the right direction for the membership secretary etc. and also picking out certain back numbers of their Newsletter for me to take and learn more about the WPA. We had quite a chat for he claims fame to being a 'camp junkie' and had been to some NPA events, his and one or two other faces did look familiar to me, and all I spoke to made me feel that I'd be welcome as a member. February is the beginning of their membership year so I'm holding fire until after the Preston Print Festival! Then I plan to have a foot in both camps ~ must keep in touch with 'my friends up North'!

Well, I've mentioned the venue, the host Pottery Suppliers, the marquee, the raku kiln, the tea tent and the raffle ~ I haven't mentioned the ice-cream stall, the Portaloos, the bouncy *big flat thing* for the kiddies (Castle top was next door), the hands-on areas, the bar marquee with its straw-bale seating or the demonstrations ~ WPA had thought of everything it seemed. We did not stay for Peter Lane's talk and demo as we wanted to use our bus rover tickets and see a little of the market town of Tiverton ~ (I've hardly felt the need to travel out of Sidmouth in the year that we have been living here!) I did take one or two photos of those demonstrating but only got two names for sure, Nic Harrison (bottom right) I mentioned earlier and Mark Donaldson, (bottom left) who I'm about to mention ...

... I now have an image to link to the adverts I've seen in Ceramic Review for potting courses at Mole Cottage in Devon. I picked up a leaflet and could really fancy a few days potting at Mole Cottage ... I'll have to see how the pennies add up in future. Mark is a 'big thrower' ~ I mean thrower of big ware, architectural even. He does press-moulding too, the photos of castalated chimney pots and mythical beast finials and ridge tiles reminded me how long it was since I'd had my hands on a sewer pipe Hey ho, those were the days.

... But then, I've had pipe dreams before and they have come true, in the meantime I have some star constellations to paint, some booking forms to get sorted and a 'summer season' to do

~ (front of house duty days at the Observatory).

Never a dull moment ~ hope to see you soon in sharp and soft focus.

Happy potting!





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8-10 Ingate Place, Battersea, London. SW8 3NS.
Tel: 0171 720 0050. Fax: 0171 627 8290.
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WORKSHOPS AT YORK CITY ART GALLERY

30th September	RUTH LINDARS	'Texture and Relief' for pupils aged 12 and above with special needs. 10am - 12.30pm
1st October	RUTH LINDARS	'Texture and Relief' for pupils aged 12 and above with special needs. 10am - 12.30pm
3rd October	JENNY RIVERON	'Paper Clay Workshop' for adults 10am - 4pm
7th October	CHRIS UTLEY	'Underwater Monsters' for schools groups aged 8 to 11. 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm
10th October	JENNY RIVERON	'Surface Decoration' for adults. 2 sessions, 10am-12.30pm and 2pm - 4.30m
17th October	IAN HOWIE	"A Demonstration of Throwing Bowls and Mugs"

Further details can be obtained from York City Art Gallery -address in following item.

NPA EXHIBITION DETAILS

4th - 6th September. Unselected Exhibition at the NPA Biennial Festival 'Fired Print' University of Central Lancashire, Preston. Open to any member attending the Festival. Up to ten pieces may be submitted. Bring along your ceramics: the more work, the better the exhibition.

26th September - 25th October. The Annual Selected Exhibition 'Out of the Kiln' at York City Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York. YO1 2EW. Tel: 01904 551 861. You received your submission forms for this exhibition with the April/May edition of the News-sheet. Remember, large pieces, wall pieces, domestic ware as well as decorative and sculptural, related working drawings, photographs and prints are welcome in addition to your submission. Secure plinths are available for tiny pieces. All wall work must be ready to hang, mirror plated where appropriate. Preview 25th September 1998 at 7.30pm. An invitation to the preview is extended to all members of NPA.

27th March 1999 - 6th June 1999. NPA Exhibition (No Title Yet) at Cliffe Castle, Keighley, Yorkshire. This is just to remind you that this is a large octagonal room which is going to take a lot of work. Remember, large pieces are

welcome as are tiny pieces (there are a quite a few secure plinths). Related working drawings, photographs and prints are welcome in addition to your submission. Again, all wall work must be ready for mounting, mirror plated where applicable.

Preview and opening lecture 28th March 1999.

Notes on workshops: York City Art Gallery has now got a full complement of workshops. Many thanks to those of you who submitted proposals. Cliffe Castle is still interested in receiving proposals from anyone wishing to run a workshop during that exhibition. If you are interested, please send a CV, photographs of your work and a detailed proposal of the workshop directly to:

Susan Rennie, Education Officer, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD9 4NS Tel: 01274 493 313

NEW RETAIL SELLING OUTLET EXCLUSIVE TO NPA MEMBERS

Bankfield Museum, Ackroyd Park, Boothtown Road, Halifax. HX3 6HG. Tel: 01422 354823. Contact Dee Barnes, Craft Development Officer. This museum is opening up the Marble Gallery as a retail outlet selling studio textiles and ceramics - textiles, because the

area is well known for its connection with the textile industry in the past and now wishes to support textile artists, and ceramics because Dee Barnes is a ceramicist herself so has a natural affinity with our craft.

The ceramics will be housed in a number of secure large glass cases, so all sizes of work will be considered including wall work.

Submission is by slides or photographs (Six please, as soon as possible) along with your CV and a small statement about your work.

This is a permanent selling place and Dee Barnes envisages a change of exhibits every three to four months, so if your work is not accepted straight away, don't lose heart as there will be plenty of time in the future, but **SUBMIT NOW**. Commission is one third .

QUESTIONNAIRE

There has been little response to the questionnaire: at the time of writing only eleven questionnaires have been received. Remember Northern Potters Association is **YOUR** organisation so come on and participate! This is a democratic organisation - fill in your questionnaires so that we, the committee, know what to organise on your behalf. Don't forget there is a lucky prize draw for entries at the festival. Prizes include an A&C Black Book and festival tee-shirts.

REVIEW OF NPA "FIRED WATER" EXHIBITION Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington, Lancashire.

The Haworth Art Gallery is impressively situated on a hillside overlooking the town, and the Saturday morning preview was introduced by the Mayor, who remarked how unusual it was to have a sunny view of the town. Within forty minutes, an absolute deluge set in!

Undeterred by the weather, a number of people had travelled to the opening, although it was not especially busy.

The Fired Water exhibition extended over four rooms within the gallery, and included a broad spectrum of work, all responses to the theme of water. Some pieces were extremely subtle in their use of clay, others less so. There were pieces with very obvious connections to sealife, very colourful and bold, together with quieter, more contemplative pieces that provoked much reflection! A mix of the functional and decorative, displayed generally well within the gallery. Really something for everyone, and well worth a visit.

Of the work on show, from a personal point of view, I found the work of eight of the exhibitors truly inspirational.... a high percentage indeed from a group of 22..... I will go back next week for another look.....!

David Evans



PHIL ROGERS -A SOLO EXHIBITION

12th Sept - 1st November
at The Harley Gallery,
Welbeck, near Worksop.
Notts. Tel 01909 501700 (on
the A60, 5 miles south of
Worksop)

24th October, 2.30pm - Phil will give an illustrated talk at the Gallery. Admission £2

NPA EXHIBITIONS

1998

26th Sept.-25th Oct.

"Out of the kiln" York City Art
Gallery, York
This is the Annual Selected
Exhibition.

1999

27th Mar.-6th June

Cliffe Castle, Keighley

**NPA Event
at the Yorkshire Museum, York
Saturday 31st October 1998**

**Medieval jugs and 18th and 19th
century slipware**

We are very pleased about this event, which has just been arranged. The Museum is going to put on an exhibition especially for us and provide a speaker who knows the pots to show us round. Best of all, there should be some examples of the pots for handling!

The Yorkshire Museum in York has one of the country's best collections of Medieval pottery mainly in the form of jugs. These are wonderful pots with strong shapes and robustly pulled handles, dating from the 12th to the 16th century. If any of you saw the recent Jim Malone exhibition (at Bolton, York and Birmingham) you may have read what he wrote after visiting this collection; 'What majesty of form. Handles that spring like a striking serpent from belly to rim in the most staggeringly economic of ways. ... So deep the respect for materials.' The glazes tend to be warm yellows or greens. Decoration includes sprigging and modelled animals and figures. The collection also includes cooking pots, water sprinklers, pipkins, storage vessels and lamps. There are also lobed drinking bowls

with a pair of swimming stags inside which would have been revealed as the level of liquid dropped! There will also be 18th and 19th century slipware 'country pottery' from the Museum's collection and possibly some 20th century studio pottery.

The date for this event was chosen to coincide with one of the collection days for pots from NPA exhibition at the York City Art Gallery next door. You could also take the chance to visit the Milner-White Collection upstairs in the Art Gallery. It is mainly from the 1930s to 50s and contains pots by Bernard Leach (including a leaping salmon vase and a large tile panel), some monumental tall vases by William Staite Murray, beautiful ash-glazed pots by Katherine Pleydell-Bouverie and some stoneware bottles by Michael Cardew (some of which have screw-in stoppers!).

Please come and support this event which is a wonderful opportunity to see great pots from England's pottery tradition which are normally hidden away in the vaults.

When: Saturday 31st October, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Where: Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York (tel. 01904 629745). It is very central, facing the river just up from Lendal Bridge, next to the City Art Gallery and 2 minutes from the Minster.

Cost: Free entry with NPA cards and Yorkcards. Non-members are very welcome but you will have to pay the normal entry charges which are £3.60 (adults) and £2.30 (children)

Travel: The museum is 5 minutes from the railway and bus stations. Unless you are bringing your car into the centre anyway to pick up pots and want to find parking (maybe at Union Terrace, Monk Bar or Marygate) the best thing is to use Park and Ride. Buses are every 10 minutes and cost £1.30 return with up to 2 children free per adult. The car parks are free and are at Askham Bar (SW York - coming from M1, A1, M62 and A64 from Leeds), Grimston Bar (E York - A166, A1079 and A64 from Scarborough) and Clifton Moor (NW York - A19 and A59 from Harrogate)

Please return this slip – it would help us greatly to know numbers:

Send to Chris Utley, West Wood House, Sutton on Derwent, York, YO4 5BT by 17th October

Name:

Phone:

I will be coming to the Yorkshire Museum event with _____ people

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Ceramics Monthly, a widely read ceramic art magazine is sponsoring an international competition from **March 15th - 21st 1999** at the **Columbus Convention Centre, Ohio, USA**. The competition is open to all clay artists. There is no entry fee. Each artist may submit 1 item (2 slides). 3 judges will award the prizes from slides.

There are 3 categories and prizes:

1. Best functional \$5000
 2. Best sculptural \$5000
 3. People's choice \$2000
- plus other prizes.

Entry deadline: Wed. Sept 30th 1998

Propectus from *Ceramics Monthly* International Competition, 735 Ceramic Place, PO Box 6102, Westerville, Ohio 43086 - 6102
Website <http://www.ceramicsmonthly.org>

NEWS FROM OTHER POTTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

LECTURES

Friday, 11th Sept. 1998 10.30am

British Museum "German and English Salt Glazed Stoneware"

David Gaimster is the author of "German Stone ware" and co-editor of "Pottery in the Making". At the exhibition "Pottery in the Making" held at the Museum of Mankind at the end of 1997 he gave a very well received gallery talk as a special event. That event was over-subscribed so if you missed it you now have a new opportunity to hear a similar fascinating talk on David's home ground - the British Museum - and to handle some of the pots he has written about and will talk about on the day.

For further information please contact:
Mrs Kathleen Long, Rose Cottage, Main Road,
Pillowell, Lydney, Gloucestershire,
GL15 4QY. Tel. 01594 562816 (CPA)

JEFF OESTREICH - From a remote farmhouse in the northern state of Minnesota, Jeff Oestreich still gives credit to his apprenticeship at the Bernard Leach Pottery in St Ives for his lifelong dedication to functional pottery. His pottery doesn't always look functional, with pulled shapes and asymmetrical layers, but it is in the traditional framework. His work also looks back to Japanese and Chinese origins for minimal surface decoration and firing methods.

Jeff Oestreich will give a **Talk and Slide Show** on **10th Oct 1998** at The Linnaen Institute, Piccadilly, London, at 1.00 p.m. (Contact Mrs. Kathleen Long as in previous item) (CPA & LP)

He will also hold a **Demonstration Day** on **17th Oct 1998** from 10 am - 4 p.m. at Wandsworth Adults College, Old Chesterton Centre, 116 Battersea Road, London SW11 4LY (Contact Tony Parkhouse, Five Gables, Birch Close, Broom, Biggleswade, Beds. SG18 9NR) (CPA & LP)

MATERIAL PROBLEM - Follow-up

Geoff Kenwood, from the LP, asked if anyone had any comments to make on materials in general, and Furnascote in particular. My home-made kiln was wearing very badly, with the HTI bricks flaking horribly and causing tiny lumps of brick to embed themselves on glazed ware and so I felt I had nothing to lose by trying Furnascote as otherwise I was going to have to prevail upon the kiln-builder (my long-suffering husband!) to exchange the damaged bricks where it was possible. I applied it as instructed 2 years and about 10 glaze-firings ago, and so far have been very pleased with the result as the flaking stopped immediately. I think the kiln does hold its heat a bit better too. However, I need to do a bit more repair work as there is a little bit of flaking now around expansion cracks.

Also, does anyone else think that Potclays 1145 clay shrinks an undue amount? I know someone else who does, but are we mistaken?

Michèle Beverley

CERAMICS NEWS: New law on lead and how it affects you

The Control of Lead at Work Regulations 1998 (CLAW) are now in force. There are some important changes for those who are exposed to lead in the workplace; in ceramics this may be during making, mixing and using glazes and colours.

Although lead poisoning is a thing of the past, there is still the potential for individuals to absorb lead into their bodies. There is a particular risk for pregnant women as the lead can harm their unborn baby.

The main areas of change in the new Regulations are:

- * lower levels of lead in the blood at which people would be suspended from working with lead;
- * a new concept of 'action levels'. These are lower than the suspension levels. and, if they are exceeded, the employer has to investigate why people are being exposed and do something about it; and
- * regular air monitoring and medical checks when employees are significantly exposed to lead.

In all these cases, the requirements are more stringent for women who could be, or become, pregnant.

In addition, the definition of 'leadless glaze' will change in line with the CHIP Regulations (i.e. a leadless glaze will be defined as one with less than 0.5% soluble lead content).

If you are using any materials containing lead in your workplace, you need to be aware of the new Regulations, and make sure you have carried out an assessment of risk to your workers and that their exposure is being adequately controlled.

An Approved Code of Practice complements the Regulations and is available as a priced document from HSE Books: *Control of lead at work. Control of Lead at Work Regulations 1998 & Approved Code of Practice, Regulations and Guidance* ISBN 07176 15065

In addition, the Ceramics Industry booklet, *Lead: a guide to assessment (IAC/L63)*, is being updated and will shortly be available from HSE Books. Single copies are free and readers are advised to get a copy of this.

The 'Potteries ACOP' - *Control of substances hazardous to health in the production of*

pottery - has been reprinted with amendments and an updated version is available from HSE Books (ISBN 0 7176 0849 2).

CRAFT INSURANCE

Following problems experienced by a member of N P A the committee asked me to look at providing insurance cover for members' work whilst it is on display at the various events and exhibitions held in the name of the Association. In most cases insurance is provided by the gallery or exhibition centre but the cover can vary and details are not always evident or discernible.

If the association was to arrange a policy based on the activity in a 12 month period, the cost would be approx. £500 and £750 if transit of work is included. Although this amount seems feasible the main drawback is the cover does not include the first £50 of any claim and difficulties can arise where insurance cover is also provided by the exhibition centre making any claim complicated and very longwinded. The cost of any insurance would fall to the members of N P A either by a levy on those taking part in any event or generally, as in the case of our present public liability cover. The only real alternative would be for members to take out their own insurance policy which can be tailored to their own requirements and pocket.

Details can be obtained from the following brokers;

T.H.March
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Phone 0171 247 5433

Both are well established at providing insurance for the Arts & Crafts market and will provide free quotations for any personal and business cover required.

William Johnson (Honorary Treasurer)

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to:

Alison Brisby, Glebe Cottage, Whenby, North Yorkshire. YO61 4SE Tel 01347 878112

Chris Geall, The Grosmont Gallery, Front Street, Grosmont, Whitby, North Yorkshire. YO22 5QE
Tel 01947 895007

Susan Hooley, 192 Filey Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 3AA Tel 01723 367234

Maureen Wallace, Laund Head Farm, Noggarth Road, Roughlee, Burnley, Lancashire. BB12 9PR
Tel 01282 694535

Hugh Bernays, 34 Dale Street, York YO23 IAE Tel 01904 644318 / 636997

Pamela Davies, 3 Melrose Park, Beverley, East Yorkshire Tel 01904 862706

Tony Hill, 36 Milnthorpe Drive, Sandal, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. WF2 7HY Tel 01924 250147

Patrick Small, 23 Norwood Terrace, Shipley, West Yorkshire. BD8 2BD Tel 01274 586727

Vicky Baker, Westholme, Moulton Station, North Cowton, Northallerton, N. Yorks DL7 0HQ Tel 01325 378618

Paul Mazonas, 33 Oaklands, Gamblesforth, Selby, North Yorkshire. YO8 8HH Tel 01757 618964

Angela Mitchell, 13 Askrigg Ave., Kendal, Cumbria. LA9 6DY Tel 01539 729157

Joanne Williams, Flat 31, Earls Port, Chester, Cheshire CH1 4JJ Tel 01244 373071

Welcome back to the following who have re-subscribed:

Jayne Langthorne, The Pottery Studio, Wyrefield Farm, Rossall Lane, Fleetwood, Lancs FY7 8JP
Tel 01253 77266

Sam Paetcher, 12 Westover Road, Leeds. 0113 257 0573

Les Rowe, 9 Fort Street, Wallasey, Merseyside L4S 1LN Tel 0151 6306616

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ TELNO. (please alter your 1997 membership list accordingly.)

Paula Zimmerman, 541 Gladstone Street, Peterborough, PE1 2DQ

Brian White, 53 Parvet Avenue, Droylsden, Manchester. M43 7SD

Alison Boothroyd, c/o 195 Wharncliffe Road, Kettlethorpe, Wakefield WF27PZ Tel 01924257166

Cathy Abbott, Pottery Studio, Stable Courtyard, Castle Howard, York, North Yorkshire. YO60 7DA Tel 01653 648100

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