

# **ADOPT A POTTER TRUST**

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER 1130164**

**REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010**

Adopt a Potter Trust was entered on the Register of Charities on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009. This report has been prepared by the Trustees and covers the period from registration to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The Trust was established pursuant to a deed of trust dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 and commenced activities in November 2008. Activities were continued in the same form following the grant of charitable status and all assets at 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 continued in the ownership of the Trust.

## **1. Information on Adopt a Potter Trust.**

### Office and Contact

The Adopt a Potter Trust office is at

Kigbeare Manor Farm  
Southcott  
Okehampton  
Devon  
EX20 4NL.

The contact person is Maddy Carragher.

The telephone number is 01837 53787.

The e mail address is maddycarra@gmail.com

### Trustees.

Adopt a Potter Trust has 6 trustees. They are

Lisa Hammond of Kigbeare Manor Farm (address above)  
Phil Rogers of Marston Pottery, Lower Cefnfaes, Rhayader, LD 6 5LT  
Phillip Rhodes of Kigbeare Manor Farm (address above)  
Yo Thom of 18A Jeanneau Close, Shaftesbury, SP7 8PQ  
Graham Jenner of 12 College Lane, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, BN6 9AG.

(All the above trustees served throughout the period.

John Higgins of 32 Seaman Close, Park Street, St Albans AI2 2NX.

(John became a trustee in May 2010.)

Bankers.

HSBC  
60 Fenchurch Street  
London  
EC3M 4BA

Legal Advisors.

Speechly Bircham LLP  
6 New Street Square  
London  
EC4A 3LX

**2. Activities.**

The Origin.

The objects clause of the Trust Deed is:

“The Trustees shall hold the capital and income of the Trust Fund upon trust to apply the income, and all or such part or parts of the capital, at such time or times and in such manner to or for the benefit of such exclusively charitable objects and purposes in any part of the world as the Trustees may in their discretion think fit and, in particular, to or for the benefit of (i) providing support to enable ceramicists to take up training apprenticeships with experienced potters, thereby to furnish the apprentice ceramicists with practical experience and training; (ii) to develop the practical skills, creative direction and vision of the apprentice ceramicists through mentoring and direction by the experienced potters; (iii) thereby fit the apprentice potters to practice as ceramicists and contribute to the continued growth and development of the ceramic arts (iv) develop the public appreciation of the ceramic arts through exposure to the work of the apprentice potters.”

These objects have been pursued by the Trustees through the period covered by this report and to date. The driver for the setting up of the Trust was recognition that the steady reduction in the number of ceramics courses in tertiary education made it increasingly difficult for ceramicists to access training and structured development of skills. A well developed and rooted skill base is essential for a healthy and vibrant on-going ceramics sector.

The original idea for the Trust came from an experienced potter (Lisa Hammond) who has a tradition of taking apprentices at her studio. Some of these apprentices (for instance Yo Thom) have become well recognised potters in their own right.

The Trustees are a mixture of potters (Lisa Hammond, Yo Thom, Phil Rogers, and John Higgins) and individuals with a keen enthusiasm for ceramics (Phillip Rhodes and Graham Jenner).

Lisa Hammond and John Higgins have an extensive background in teaching ceramics and have seen at first hand the demise of teaching ceramics at all levels, from primary to post graduate. Phil Rogers has written a number of books on ceramic processes and techniques. Because of her experience as an apprentice Yo Thom makes a particularly effective bridge to potential apprentices, for the Trustees recognize that a successful apprenticeship scheme requires that there be the proper level of support for both the apprentice and the experienced potter. The Trustees who are not directly involved in ceramics have substantial experience in business and contribute this skill set to the development of the Trust.

### The Activities.

Details of the Trust and its activities are on the web site: [www.adoptapotter.org.uk](http://www.adoptapotter.org.uk)

Throughout the period, the Trust has developed awareness of its activities through the specialist press (primarily advertisements and references in Ceramic Review) and through stands at ceramic fairs, such as Art in Clay. The stands also act as fund raising venues, raffling pots that have been donated by potters and selling specially commissioned T-shirts.

In October 2009, the first apprentice, Sheila Herring took up her apprenticeship at Wobage Farm, working with Jeremy Steward. Selecting the first apprentice has been exciting and satisfying for it was an affirmation of what the Trust had been set up to do. Potential apprentices have to identify the experienced potter with whom they want to work and the selection process involves submission of photographs of work and statements by both would be apprentice and the experienced potter on what each expect to gain from the process. All Trustees are involved in the selection process which occurs over a weekend, to avoid distractions and time pressure. The process depends on a simple but fundamental question, how is the apprentice going to grow and develop as a ceramicist through the apprenticeship?

It is good to be able to report that the apprenticeship of Sheila met expectations of Sheila herself, of Jeremy and of the Trust. In one of her progress reports, Sheila wrote:

“Things are going well with me at Wobage. We had a very successful wood firing before Xmas with several of my pots in it including creamers, mugs, storage jars and serving bowls , the results of which I was pleased with. The firing felt much more meaningful having worked towards it with making as well as the kiln preparation and packing. We also fired the test glaze troughs which have given some interesting results. I have mixed several large batches of slips and shino glaze as well as making up our stoneware clays and doing the reclaim, pugging both.

I'm aware there is a lot to learn and get to grips with. Jeremy is always very approachable and it is great to have the other potters around to influence me and learn from. I still feel very grateful to have this opportunity.”

Jeremy wrote:

“The apprenticeship from my perspective is going very well indeed. Sheila's punctuality and enthusiasm for work is awesome and she has applied herself excellently to the various chores of the workshop. She has also fitted in very comfortably with the other makers at the workshop, which is an important aspect in the studio's functionality and politics day to day. After several gas-salt firings Sheila has certainly grasped the basics of reduction and salt-

firing. She is firing the gas kiln pretty much single-handedly, with some assistance during reduction and salting. This was a big gap in her skill-base so she has really applied herself well here. There is a lot for her to learn still with the wood-firing, however, she proved a natural intuition for the changing patterns of stoking and a great stamina for the long day of a once-fired kiln. The work of her own that she fired was in my opinion successful, fresh, exciting and already very sophisticated.”

A second apprentice is now in post. The intention is to expand the number of apprentices as funds permit.

#### The future.

The Trustees believe that the Trust has made a good start, but there is much to do. The task list includes developing the funding of the Trust to increase the number of apprentices and to do this in part by setting up a programme for recurrent, structured periodic donations. Working relationships with other charities active in the ceramics area need to be strengthened. The work to date has sparked a debate on how the activities of the Trust can and should develop in education and hands on experience in ceramics and this may lead to changes in the format of apprenticeships so that there is a range of opportunities to accommodate different needs and different amounts of available time.

The Trustees welcome comment and questions from interested readers. The contact address is at the beginning of this report.

The Trustees.  
Adopt a Potter Trust

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011.