

# Shelley GROUP

## Annual Report to 31 October 2017

The Shelley Group was formed in 1986 and became a registered charity, number 1097547, in 2003. The object of the Group is the public education and promotion of the production of Wileman and Shelley Potteries; a collectors club with research and educational aims. Open to collectors, academics, researchers, institutions and enthusiasts worldwide it is self-funding and has a membership of 207 with strong ties to sister clubs in America, Australia and New Zealand. Approximately 25% of members are from overseas. Governance is conducted by a board of trustees voted in by the members. A full annual report is no longer required by the Charity Commission.

2016-17 saw regional meetings in the north, east and south of the country and the annual Shelley Group Weekend meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Telford in April. This attracted 64 members, of which 13 visited from America, Australia and Canada. Audio-visual presentations on Shelley and Wileman products and history were given by members, accompanied by four glass cabinets of ceramics. We were delighted to have Keith Brymer Jones give an after dinner talk on his career development as an independent potter accompanied by some amusing advertising videos. Best known as a judge on the popular BBC programme, The Great Pottery Throw Down, he spoke about becoming acquainted with the pottery industry around Stoke-on-Trent and his plans to set up in the former Spode factory and make use of the skilled workforce that still existed in the area.

Four excellent magazines were published during the year. Research and data gathering was conducted by members, contributing to the magazines, Shelley Weekend talks and web site. Knowledge gained is made available to members and the public, the latter generally via the Group's web site which is updated on a regular basis. Queries received are answered by the Research Officer. Contact was made by the daughter of Veronica Ball, a talented designer at Shelleys from 1934 to 1948, resulting in some valuable information regarding her work and the pattern designs of the time being exchanged.

The Group has continued its undertaking to make a complete digital record of the Shelley and Wileman pattern books, housed in the Stoke on Trent City Archives. However, taking and processing the photographs is a long ongoing task. This Group archive will be an invaluable source of information on the pottery's production, available to members and the public. In preparation for a private visit by The Group in April 2017, a further book was discovered bringing the total number of original pattern books to thirty-three.

The Shelley Group again gave a charitable award to a student undertaking the 'Master of Arts Ceramic Design' course, at the University of Staffordshire, Stoke on Trent. A £500 cheque was presented to Laura Plant, who will graduate in 2018 and it is expected that The Group will make a similar award to another student in that year. Three previous award students have graduated and are working with ceramics. Laura Plant has reported that she is carrying out experimental work with colours and glazes and has been gaining valuable experience with major ceramic manufacturers such as Churchill, Dunoon and Dudson. Some examples of her work are pictured.



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Registered Charity number 1097547 web site: [www.shelley.co.uk](http://www.shelley.co.uk)

Trustees: Gerry Pearce (Chairman), Sheila Aves, John Barter, David Cox, Christopher Davenport, Brian Hill, Ian Davies, Sheila Davies, David Deller, Shirley Deller, Linda Ellis, Carole Lockyer, Bruce Till, Elaine Whittaker