

# **‘Playing with Clay and Fire’ Autumn 2018**

## **Hand-building and Pit- Firing Course + Smoke firing & more...!**

**3+ days over 2 linked weekends**

### **Course details:**

The emphasis of this course will be on making & firing work using lo-technology methods. Pit &/or Smoke firing give some interesting decorative surfaces effects without the use of glaze.

### **Day 1. Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 10 AM – 4.30 PM**

Through demonstration and practice you will make work using a variety of hand-building methods including African based methods. These methods being very effective for producing rounded forms, which can later be burnished before firing.

### **Day 2. Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September 10 AM – 4.30 PM**

Continue making, finishing, smoothing, & where possible burnishing work in progress. Some basic slips will be available for decorating. (Coloured slips have relatively little effect in Pit or Smoke firing)

**Additional finishing sessions may be booked @ £25 for 3 hours during week commencing 17th September**

**Work will be left to dry and later Bisque fired in an electric kiln**

### **Day 3. \*Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October \*please see note re weather**

We will all return to pack work in a small(ish) Pit (no need to dig the pit!) together with a variety of combustible materials. Once lit the pit will mostly be left to fire/smoke! But some stoking may be possible/necessary to increase heat and the decorative effects. There will also be opportunity to construct a small smoke fired kiln or simply pack small, burnished work in an existing smoke fired kiln. If weather permits we will make paper kilns to be fired during the afternoon. Smaller work will be packed in an existing smoke fired kiln and/or you will have opportunity to construct a small smoke fire kiln which will then be lit and left to fire/smoke overnight.

You will be free to stay on site till late afternoon or evening for a barbeque if you choose & weather permits – hopefully an Indian summer! **\*In the case of extreme weather conditions - storms, gales, tornadoes?! - the firing day will be postponed to the following weekend: 21 - 22 October**

**\*Day 4. Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October 10 AM – 1.00 PM approx.**

We will all return on Sunday morning (or if kilns fire late, at a later time, to be agreed) when Pit & Smoke fire kilns are cool enough to un-pack. Work can then be cleaned, polished and/or oiled to reveal interesting hues from the smoke and fire! There will be time to look at all fired work and examine the varied effects of your own and others work. You are welcome to stay for a shared lunch, when there will be opportunity to discuss other kilns and firing methods.

**Please note:** Work made during this course will not be glazed so will be porous and therefore not suitable for domestic use. ALL work to be fired in the Pit MUST be bisque fired before pit-firing. There will be space in the Pit for one medium – large size pot each + some small pots. Additional work can be smoke fired. It may also be possible to smoke fire **some** work made in your own or other workshops while priority will be given to work made during the ‘Making’ weekend

**Materials & tools:** You will have use of all necessary tools + 3 different clays and some decorating slips. Protective clothing: masks, goggles and kiln gloves will be available during firing. Please advise if you suffer from any respiratory conditions.

**Refreshments:** Teas, coffee and juice etc., will be available throughout course. You are welcome to contribute to the BBQ, mostly vegetarian, during the firing day/evening. Please bring your own lunch on the ‘making’ weekend.

**Cost: £255** for both weekends inclusive of materials & firings

**Bookings** may be made by completing the attached Booking form together with a £50 deposit – please also see terms and conditions.

# 'Playing with Clay and Fire'

## Booking Form

Please complete in full & send together with a non-refundable deposit (see terms & conditions for details) of £50 per course. Numbers limited so early booking is advised!

NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

.....

POST CODE..... PHONE.....

MOBILE.....EMAIL.....

TITLE of COURSE(S).....

COURSE DATES.....TOTAL COST .....

If attending the wood-firing weekend course:

Do you wish to book a camping space? (Easter – October only).....

Would you like B&B details?.....

How did you hear about 'Clay and Fire' Courses?.....

Could you offer transport to someone travelling from your area?.....

I enclose: £..... \*deposit / full fee \*(delete as appropriate)

Cheques payable to: 'Playing with Fire' please and send to:

Lexa Laurance, Stowford Manor Farm, Wingfield, Trowbridge. BA14 9LH

**N.B. Balance Due no later than 7 days prior to the course start date**

**Please note: Kiln building, firing & associated activities can be hazardous, therefore while every reasonable precaution will be taken, the organiser(s) of 'PLAYING WITH CLAY & FIRE' must regretfully decline to accept any responsibility for any loss, damage or injury during the course, howsoever caused.**

SIGNATURE(s).....

## **'Playing with Clay and Fire' Courses 2018**

**Course Leader:** Lexa Laurance has been running courses at her workshop & kiln site at Stowford Manor farm since 1989, following her return from working with Potters in Malawi. She currently teaches at Enigma Pottery, Frome & to young adults with Aspergers in Radstock.. Lexa has extensive experience of teaching all levels & ages including people with disabilities in UK, Malawi, Nepal and Tanzania.

**Brief Summary of Courses:** All courses will begin with a talk & demonstration plus, in some cases, slides. You will be guided through making &/or firing processes as required. Some simple hand tools will be provided and all necessary tools/equipment for firing including kiln gloves but not overalls, masks & goggles. You may choose to bring:

- ❖ Your own favourite tools + apron or overalls.
- ❖ Sensible shoes i.e trainers or walking boots (NOT wellies) are essential.
- ❖ Waterproofs (NOT plastic if firing kilns!) + plenty of warm clothing in the case of wood fire course(s).
- ❖ A good torch – essential during firing weekend.

We fire kilns in ALL weather conditions with relatively little shelter so please come prepared! While you are welcome to shelter in the workshop & keep warm around 'Reginald': the very efficient wood stove! The workshop, a semi converted farm building, has a sink with running (cold) water + kettle constantly on the boil.

An additional information sheet may be available about the course you intend to book. Please email or phone (see below) to enquire/request additional information

### **Terms & Conditions:**

- ❖ Bookings should be made by completing a 'Playing with Clay and Fire' Booking Form together with a minimum deposit of £50 per person for each course booked.
- ❖ Deposits are Non-refundable, except in the case of a course being fully booked or cancelled by the Course Leader.
- ❖ Balance of payment is due no less than 7 days prior to commencement of the course.
- ❖ Should you cancel a course fees may be transferred to another course at the discretion of the Course Leader.
- ❖ Places on all courses are limited so allocation is made on a first come first serve basis.
- ❖ No discounts are made for non-attendance of part of a course, except in the case of exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the organiser(s).

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**email:lexa@clayandfire.co.uk**

[www.clayandfire.co.uk](http://www.clayandfire.co.uk)