

CLAY WORKS and SCA

ClayWorks is part of Southport Contemporary Arts, a well-established, Not for Profit company based in Southport. ClayWorks has been established so that local potters and clay enthusiasts have a base to work in, learn and develop as makers and artists.

SCA has a policy of inclusion and ClayWorks will be open to the whole community. It is intended that there will be a range of activities which can be developed and adapted to suit all. SCA will ensure that all charges are kept to a minimum.

All tutors who work with children or vulnerable adults will have a current DBS disclosure and be experience in running classes of this type. Other SCA members may help with these classes but would never be solely responsible. During open days and demonstration sessions all children must be accompanied by an adult.

CLAY WORKS - General Conditions

- SCA will limit the size of classes so that potters have sufficient space to make reasonable sized pieces but SCA cannot guarantee sufficient space for unusually large pieces, the making of which should be approved before commencement.
- SCA will undertake to fully insure the studio and take all steps to make it a safe environment for all its users.
- There must be an 'agreement' from users to use a chosen session for at least 6 weeks in a block and all charges have been calculated to take this into account.
- There will be a Wednesday sessions which is for experienced potters and may not be supervised other than by the potters themselves. All other sessions must be booked in accordance with the type of session. On this day potters will work to their own designs and develop the work as they see fit, but they will be able to split the day so that clay could be left to dry etc before further work is done.
- Most sessions will be 2.5 hrs long and cover am, pm or evening. Sessions will be (10am til 12.30pm or 1.30pm til 4.00pm or 6.30pm til 9pm)
- There will be taught, structured courses for 'Beginners' of a predetermined length which will be timetabled to last 2.5 hours per session. 'Beginners' courses will last at least 6 weeks.
- There will be supervised sessions for 'Developing' potters which will be aimed at improving skills and practice but without a formal direction. These will progress as each potters needs change and will have a commitment of a minimum of 6 weeks.
- It is intended that on one Saturday each month 'Studio' sessions will be available for potters to work without a commitment to a regular session. There would be no guarantee of any 'teaching input' and potters would be expected to self-direct even though some supervision would be on hand.
- There will be 1 day beginners' taster sessions occasionally
- It is intended to offer a series of ½ or 1 day Master Classes which will allow participants to experience new techniques and learn from a specialist. These may be taught by potters who regularly attend ClayWorks or an outside teacher. They will include such things as tile making, throwing, glazing, raku firing, mould making, sculpture etc

- The workshop will be available to hire as a complete unit with different packages depending upon the facilities and services required.
- It will be possible for members of the wider art community to buy services such as firing without having to attend regular sessions. The cost of this would need to be agreed before any work was accepted.
- ClayWorks will be used for a range of activities other than pottery, /which will include, mosaic, stained glass, fused glass and willow work. Spaces will be left on the timetable for these activities and they will not interfere with regular pottery sessions.

CLAY WORKS - Charges

SCA expect all participants of regular sessions to 'agree' to a minimum of 6wk blocks. Payment will be required as a minimum of 2wks in advance on week one of a block and then 1 week in advance after that.

- **Beginners Sessions**- will be planned as a course to cover a minimum of 6 weeks at a cost of £20 per week with a maximum class size of 6. After completing this course beginners will be 'promoted' to developing level and would need to subscribe to a regular developers session to practice skills further. If the beginners course is paid for in full in advance then a 10% discount will be applied.
- **Weekly Developers Sessions** - for potters will be charged at £6.00 per hour (£15.00 for a 2.5 hr session). This will include materials**, biscuit firing, glazing and glaze firing. SCA will also provide tea, coffee and biscuits (including decaffeinated coffee and herbal teas) as part of this charge. Class sizes will initially be limited to 8 places and an experienced potter will be on hand to offer help and advice. If potters wish to pay in advance for a 6 week block then a 10% discount will be applied.
- Wednesday will be a 'making day' with the am (10am – 2pm) and pm (2pm – 4pm) sessions running into each other so that potters can break up the time they are in ClayWorks. This is open to all potters on the understanding that there will be no formal teaching available, but there will be an experienced potter available to act as a resource without guarantee. Initially numbers will be limited to max 10 and space is booked or occupied on a first come basis. On this day anybody will be able to call in to work on a piece as long as there is space when they arrive.

**materials will be standard stoneware clay and crank clay, but any potters requiring porcelain clays will need to pay a surcharge of £2 for each session it is used. A range of standard glazes will be provided but any artists who wish to use additional oxides will need to purchase them by weight.

SCA hope to be able to stock a range of brush on glazes, specialist materials and tools. These can be purchased as needed. We hope to act as a reseller for Pot Clays. In this way other materials could be bought through SCA at best possible prices.