

CROCHENDY CHINAWORKS NANTGARW

May Antiques Fair new date



Due to the changes in the bank holidays this year's Antiques Fair will now run on the second Bank Holiday in May (Monday May 25th). As usual we expect a wonderful selection of Welsh pottery and porcelain, jewellery, books, paintings and prints, and other collectables. Entry £2.

New Fused Glass Tutor at Nantgarw



A warm welcome to Lupin Wright our new fused glass teacher who is running our Wednesday afternoon class. We now run over 400 classes each year covering pottery, fused glass, botanical painting and willow weaving. For details of all the courses at Nantgarw please visit our website.

February Floods Destroy a tonne of Nantgarw Frit



Many of you will have seen on the news the terrible floods which recently affected the village of Nantgarw. When the river Taff burst its banks dozens of houses, business and industrial units were swamped and hundreds of people made homeless.

Fortunately Nantgarw China Works & Museum, just a few yards further uphill, was not affected by the floods. However we also have a storage unit located closer to the river which was badly damaged by floodwater.

As a consequence just under 900kg of Nantgarw frit, the key component of our porcelain production, has been destroyed. This effectively puts a halt to our production of Nantgarw Porcelain and our ambitions to work with contemporary ceramicists to create new work from the world's finest porcelain body.

We are hoping to be in a position to recreate the frit but will first need to find around £6,000 to pay for the raw materials, firing, grinding and other technical processes needed. If you can help please get in touch, donations can be made at the following link <http://bit.ly/nantgarw>

A Sign of the Times



We are delighted that a historic sign from Nantgarw China Works has recently been sympathetically restored and relocated. Originally located high up on the gable of the house the sign is now much more visible on our workshop building.

Many thanks to Mike Ashcroft for all his work with restoring the paintwork.

Mother's Day Tea & Tour



Once again this year we will be running our popular Tea & Tours on Mother's Day (Sunday March 21st). The sumptuous Cream Tea including fresh scones, clotted cream & jam, strawberries and a selection of cakes will be served on the finest bone china. This will be followed by a tour of the site taking in the bottle kilns, pipe works, workshops and porcelain production. Cost is £9.50 for adults and £6.50 for children under 10. Prior booking essential.

Thomas Pardoe Bicentennial exhibition planned for 2023



Thomas Pardoe, self portrait. Amgueddfa Cymru National Museum

Following on from last year's very successful 'Coming Home' exhibition Nantgarw China Works & Museum are now looking to present a major exhibition celebrating the bicentennial of Thomas Pardoe who died at Nantgarw China Works in 1823.

Thomas Pardoe was brought to Nantgarw in 1820 by William Weston Young to decorate the porcelain left at the factory after Billingsley and Walker's departure for Coalport in 1819. Pardoe's style of sparse decoration and limited use of gilding contrasts with the elaborate high Regency style of the London decorators. This locally decorated style is very much in demand by collectors today.

The Pardoe family continued to be involved with Nantgarw and lived at Nantgarw House until the 1970s.

The exhibition is still very much in the planning stage and there are a number of hurdles which need to be overcome before the exhibition takes shape. Not least of these is securing the necessary funding and agreements from both public and private collectors to loan important work for the exhibition.

New Windows in Nantgarw House



Thanks to a grant from the Welsh Church Act Fund six new traditional windows have been installed in the Grade II listed Nantgarw House. This will provide a greater degree of weather proofing and enhanced security.

Conservation Management Plan



Dr Peter Wakelin and his team are nearing completion of the site's Conservation Management Plan identifying the age, use and significance of all the buildings and structures on site as well as determining their states of preservation and priorities for conservation. We are very grateful to Cadw and the Pilgrim Trust who have jointly funded this important research.



Cabinet cup decorated by Thomas Pardoe. On loan to Nantgarw China Works from Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales

Teapot making demonstration from Geoff Swindell



On March 7th we are delighted to have Geoff Swindell, one of the UK's most respected studio potters and educators, visiting Nantgarw China Works. Geoff will be giving a demonstration of how he throws, turns and assembles his exquisite porcelain teapots, bowls and narrow necked vases. His wealth of skills and knowledge is highly regarded across the world and his work is on show in many of the world's leading museums and craft galleries. Geoff has recently appeared as a guest demonstrator and judge on the Great Pottery Throwdown. This event is fully booked.

New Painting donated to the Museum



Artist and model-maker Mike Ashcroft has generously donated his painting of the Glamorgan canal to the museum's collection. Interestingly this lock can still be seen behind the 'Bunch of Grapes' Public House in Pontypridd.

New Leaflets

Look out for our new leaflets designed to attract more visitors



Receiving this Newsletter

Four times a year hardcopy versions of this newsletter are sent by post to the Friends of Nantgarw China Works. An online version is also distributed more widely via email and social media.

Friends' membership costs only £15 per year and is a major source of income for Nantgarw China Works which is responsible for all running costs of the museum and repairs to the buildings on site.

Nantgarw & Swansea porcelain inspires contemporary artists



The Ignite exhibition running at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre Ceramic Gallery is the output from the University's 'Incubator project' initiated to give Wales based emerging makers the opportunity to study key areas of the University of Aberystwyth's Ceramic Collection and make new work in response.

Of the four artists selected for the programme Ross Andrews and Hannah Walters focused on the richly decorated Swansea and Nantgarw porcelain in the collection and also visited Nantgarw China Works as part of their research. Ross took 3-D scans of pieces in the collection and at Nantgarw reinterpreting the digital information to make new work. The digital scanning program often tried to predict missing information – adding extra details such as four handles instead of two, or putting the decoration on the inside of the vase.



Hannah Walters focused on the intricacies of hand painted details such as flower motifs and cherubs.

The project is supported by the Arts Council of Wales, Nantgarw China Works and Potclays. The exhibition runs until March 15th.

Nantgarw China Works welcome any comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter including offers of contributed articles. If you can help please contact news@nantgarwcnw.org.uk or call 01443 844131

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