



Hand Building and Raku Firing – 2 day course

Date 4 & 11 Sept

10am – 4.30pm

Cost - £150 includes some great tuition, a stunning venue and a tasty 2 course lunch with home baked bread and cake - both days. Tea and coffee throughout the day.

Additional material fee for glazes & stains: £4. Clay is charged by weight: £5 per Kg

If you have any special access/food or disability requirements, please contact us by email: info@farmpods.co.uk

Course Description:

Raku is a really amazing process that includes firing your own pots outside in a custom made 'open' kiln to create unique patterns and designs on your pieces. Raku firing is one of the most dramatic and daring ways to fire pottery. It was developed in Japan in the early 1550s by Zen Buddhists to create ceramics for the Japanese tea ceremony.

Day one is dedicated to making, with an emphasis on clay forms that exploit raku glaze effects like crazing, copper flashing and contrast of clay body to glaze. Students will be guided through hand building methods, developing slab, pinch and coil techniques so they can complete large pieces as well as bird and animal forms. These will be biscuit fired ready for you to glazing the following week.

On the consecutive Saturday, prepare for an exciting session working with an outdoor kiln with controlled use of fire and smoke! 'Raku' loosely means 'happiness in the unexpected'. The effects you can achieve can be stunning.

No prior experience needed but those with experience will have lots of opportunities to develop their skills.

Chris Barnes is a renowned professional potter from the Borders who exhibits across the UK and in Germany. He has taught both adults and young people for many years alongside his own creative practice. His teaching combines hands on practical work with demonstrations and useful expert tips.

What to bring

Please bring an apron and wear old clothes when firing

A pen/ pencil and notebook are useful

Material fee to be paid in cash to tutor at the end of the first day