

What does Pottery teach us about who we are? Archaeology, Anthropology
and Aesthetic issues

DiPs at The Blue Mugge pub, Osborne Street
Monday 6th February 2017 7.30pm for 7.45pm prompt start until 9.15pm

From an idea prompted by Les (as below) and as taken forward by Tony with some additional thoughts
by Erica and Derek ...

Not certain it was me who suggested the topic title but here are a few thoughts I have had on
the subject whilst wandering back from the gym.... A short introduction by Tony to these
questions:

1. Were decorated pots the first art form available to poor people?
2. Apart from pottery what objects in our homes would be found in the home of 3000 years ago?
3. What features of pottery have given it such a long shelf life - though we do use plastic plates etc
pottery is still a major item in our lives?
4. If cast adrift on a desert island what other object of modern life, apart from a mug, could the
majority of us have a stab at making? In the modern world we are surrounded by objects which
many of us have no idea what they are made of, how they are made or how they work. I am
typing this now but I have no idea how my tappings on the key board will end up on a screen in
your house. I do know what a plate is made of and how it is made. William Morris lives on!
(WM wrote 'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or to be beautiful')
5. Is a Willow Pattern plate as much a work of art as a Grayson Perry one-off pot?
6. Are there any other art forms in daily use?
7. Re-visiting Les's photo (at the final session 2016) of the Neolithic earthenware pottery work from
the Banshan period, C2,600 > 2,300BC. - any comments on this now in the light of the above
discussion? Participants (including those reading this from afar) are invited to bring or send
their own selected images of pottery and ceramics. Those present in *The Churchill Room* will
award points: (*Nul points* > 10) on use and design values...
8. These main-stream TV programmes broadcast within the last month are interesting and relevant
to our themes?
 - a) **Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney** BBC 4/OU Programmes with Neil
Oliver
 - b) **Ceramics - How they work**, BBC 4/OU with Mark Miodowick.
 - c) **The Great Pottery Throw Down** New Series, BBC 2, Feb 2nd 8.00pm
Featuring *Middleport* SoT, 'Britain's oldest surviving Pottery'Participants who have seen these will comment and quote on relevant big issues ...
9. Do you agree that Duchamp's *Urinal* would fit into William Morris's requirements of what we
should have in our homes? (EB)!