



October 15-21, 2015

Transferware Collectors Club

# 2015 Meeting & Tour to London & the Staffordshire Region, England

## Our Tour Began In London

Thursday, October 15  
LONDON

TRANSFERWARE COLLECTORS CLUB  
ANNUAL MEETING & TOUR  
ENGLAND, OCTOBER 15-21, 2015



*The Staffordshire Pottery*

Members arrived in London and checked-in to our first hotel, The Rembrandt, located in Knightsbridge across the street from the V&A. Our tour officially began in the early afternoon with a special visit to **Dennis Severs' House**, the meticulously preserved world of a family of Huguenot silk weavers. Curator David Milne welcomed us and related its story and reviewed the collections including pottery as it would have been displayed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We also visited the antiques market at nearby Spitalfield. The group then returned to the hotel to enjoy an opening reception and dinner in the hotel's Palette Restaurant.



The Dennis Severs' House

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Spitalfield Antiques Market



## Visit to the Victoria & Albert Museum

Friday, October 16, LONDON

We began the day in the Ceramics Study Room, Gallery 139, where we were welcomed by Curator Rebecca (Becky) Wallis and were divided into three groups to enjoy a full morning of activities that included a tour of the **Printed in Blue and White Exhibit** with Becky, a handling session with Pat Halfpenny, and free time to view printed pottery in the Ceramic Galleries.



Becky Wallis with the Blue & White Exhibit



Pat Halfpenny leads handling session





## The Parkes' Collection of Blue and White

Friday Afternoon Oct. 16  
**CHORLEYWOOD**

In the afternoon, we were bused to the **home of Colin and Patricia Parkes** in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, to view one of the largest collections of blue-and-white transferware in private hands. The visit also included an enter-

taining Q&A contest to guess the use of 10 items that Colin had selected from their collection. The Parkes were lovely hosts and everyone was delighted to meet them and view their vast collection of blue and white printed wares.



Colin Parkes leads the Q&A contest.



*A handsome Bee Master garden seat*



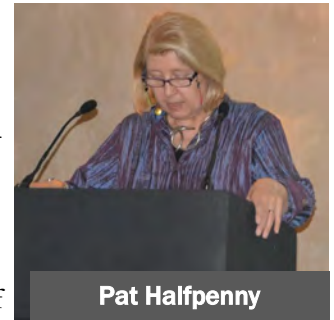
Long-standing TCC members, Colin and Patricia Parkes have dedicated many years to collecting, researching and publishing blue & white printed wares with a special focus on British Themes and Chinoiserie.



## Portobello Antiques Market & Visit to The Rodwells to View Their Collection

**Saturday, October 17, LONDON & STAFFORDSHIRE**

We had a free morning to shop at the famous Portobello Antiques Market, visit other places of interest, or just catch up on sleep. At noon we departed for the Staffordshire region with a planned visit to the home of **Peter and Janis Rodwell**, who graciously showed us their marvelous and expansive collection of predominantly early 19<sup>th</sup> century Spode, Copeland & Garrett, and Copeland period ceramics including porcelain, creamware, drabware, astbury ware, chalcedony, dry-bodied stoneware, and stone china. Refreshments were provided and a sale table was offered as a fund raiser for the Spode Museum Trust. Some very nice purchases were made. That evening we checked into the Manor House Hotel in Alsager, on the Staffordshire-Cheshire border, to begin our four-day visit to the pottery region. After dinner at the hotel, we enjoyed a talk by Pat Halfpenny in which she gave us a great introduction to the famous Potteries region of Stoke-on-Trent and the surrounding towns.



**Pat Halfpenny**





Sunday Morning, Oct. 18  
**KEELE HALL**

We began the day with an excellent lecture by Deborah Skinner-Last, Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University and Committee member of the Raven Mason Collection of Staffordshire Porcelain and Ironstone China.

Next we departed for **Keele Hall**, the ancestral home of the Sneyd family, which houses the Raven Mason Collection. Deborah also served as our tour lecturer providing interesting information about the collection and the plans for the future of the collection at Keele.

We were treated to a delicious lunch in the Great Room of Keele Hall before departing for the **Gladstone Pottery Museum**.

## The Raven Mason Collection at Keele Hall





# Gladstone Pottery Museum

On Sunday afternoon we enjoyed a private visit to the **Gladstone Pottery Museum**, a unique working Victorian pottery factory. The visit included an introductory talk about firing a bottle oven followed by a private tour of the museum and an opportunity to walk inside the huge bottle oven still on site.



Tour Group Photo

Key production steps were demonstrated for members. Pottery produced on the museum grounds is sold in the gift shop.



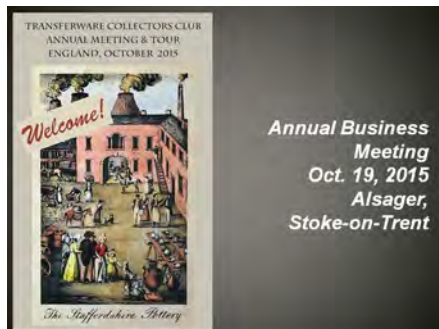




## Annual Business Meeting and Keynote Lecture

### Monday, October 19 STAFFORDSHIRE

This year's Keynote Lecture, *Surprising Discoveries in the Spode Copper Archives*, was given by Richard Halliday, Trustee of Spode Museum Trust. Club officers and com-



mittee chairs reported positive business results for the 2014-2015 year. Board members Pat Halfpenny and Leslie Bouterie were elected to new three-year terms. Leslie Bouterie shared her exciting plans for the 2016 annual meeting to be held on October 23-26 in Charlottesville, Virginia. President Loren Zeller announced the establishment of two scholarships for attendance at the next Annual Meeting to be offered to qualifying young students or collectors of transferware. Details will be published in early 2016.



Richard Halliday





## The Potteries Museum



Following Richard Halliday's fine lecture on his work with the Spode copper plates, we departed for the Potteries Museum, Hanley, for a full program of activities that included special handling sessions, a guided tour in the museum's store rooms, a buffet luncheon, and plenty of time to view the main galleries which included a special exhibit of selected items from the newly acquired Minton Archives.



Ben Miller conducts tour of the store rooms



Miranda Goodby leads handling session







## Annual Transferware Sale

In the late afternoon, UK transferware member dealers were well-prepared for our return to the hotel from the Potteries Museum to enjoy the outstanding selection of printed wares available for purchase. Delighted customers had only one concern regarding their purchases...whether to ship them or take them on the plane for the return flight to the states.





## Minton Library

Tuesday, October 20  
STAFFORDSHIRE

A short stop at the Minton Library to view the many printed tiles used to decorate the walls of the lower level (originally a cafeteria) proved to be a delightful experience. The tiles, discovered behind layers of wallpaper and paint, are being restored by a group of dedicated volunteers.



## The Spode Visitor Center



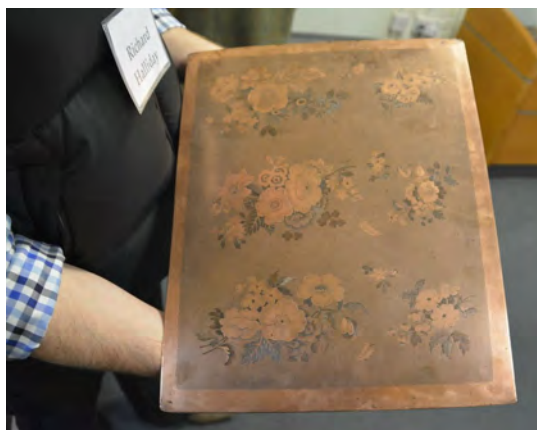
It was only a short drive to our next stop, the **Spode Works Visitor Center** located at the historic 18th century Spode factory site, boasting a selection of the unrivalled collection of factory productions from 1770 to the present. Paul Holdway and fellow trustee Cynny Saddington demonstrated hot-press transfer printing. Nowhere else in England can this process be seen. A selection of copper plates were on display along with a representative display of the company's works spanning more than two centuries. Antique printed pottery was available for sale together with ceramic-related reference books and prints.



Paul Holdway demonstrates transfer-printing



During our visit, Richard Halliday showed the copper engraved plate used for a special large tile. The pattern is from the Botanical pattern series. A tablet or large tile printed from this copper was buried with other objects in a cornerstone time capsule in the Stoke Minster Church.



Below, Museum Trust Chairman, Paul Wood, outlines plans to establish a new museum on the historic factory property. Below right, members were introduced to the space that was once used for the famous Spode Blue Room, and were given a tour of some of the other historic factory buildings that will be renovated and used for the museum.



**Paul Wood reviews museum plans**



Displays of some of Spode's finest blue printed wares at the Spode Visitor Center.





## The Burgess & Leigh-Middleport Pottery

**Tuesday, October 20  
STAFFORDSHIRE**

We began our day at the **Middleport Pottery**, located by the Trent and Mersey Canal, and operated by Burgess Dorling & Leigh (Burleigh for short). A Prince's Regeneration Project, it is now the oldest working pottery in Staffordshire, and it continues a tradition of producing fine quality, pure English earthenware products using traditional processes of the highest standard, decorated with transfer printed patterns.

Following an introductory talk by Jemma Baskeyfield on Burleigh's history and the factory processes, we enjoyed a buffet lunch. Next, we divided into smaller groups for a guided factory tour and demonstration of how workers apply the tissue paper transfer prints of popular patterns on different pottery forms.

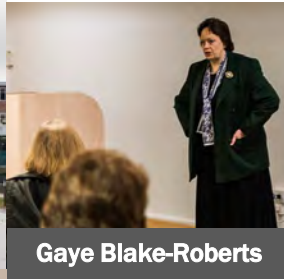




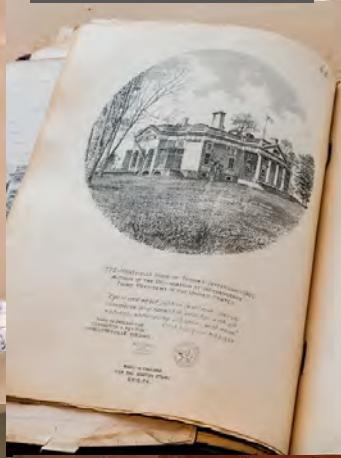
# The Wedgwood Museum

Wednesday, October 21  
STAFFORDSHIRE/LONDON

We spent our last morning together visiting the beautifully renovated **Wedgwood Museum** and showrooms in the village of Barlaston. The day began with an introductory talk by Gaye Blake-Roberts, Director of the Wedgwood Museum, and was followed by a self-guided tour of the museum and a special visit to the Reserve Collection to view the museum's manuscripts, pattern books and other historical materials.



Gaye Blake-Roberts





## Farewell Dinner at Pecks Restaurant

Our Farewell Dinner was held at Pecks Restaurant on Tuesday evening. We enjoyed a five-course meal and time to recall the wonderful experiences we shared together on the tour.



During the dinner, Lois Boyer recorded some of the memorable experiences shared by the members at her table. She offered to share them with us:

*Shard hunting in Tunstall in the shadow of what was the Newfields Pottery where Joseph Heath potted 'The Residence of the Late Richard Jordan'.*  
[Randy Boyer]

*Meeting ordinary, dedicated employees like the ones who worked at Burleigh.*

*Visits to the residences of Colin and Patricia Parkees and Peter and Janis Rodwell; seeing their collections on full display for everyone's enjoyment was wonderful.*

*The exuberance shown by Danny at the Minton Library and his quest to raise money to preserve the tiles.*

*The young children at Spode making ornaments to commemorate Armistice Day with each ornament marked with a '5608' to represent the number of soldiers from Staffordshire killed in WWI.*

*The very dark and unusual Dennis Severs home.*

## Returning to London & the Trip Home

With a boxed lunch in hand, members boarded the coach that would return them to London and to end the tour with a melancholy farewell to new and old friends. Some were taken to Heathrow airport and others were returned to the Rembrandt Hotel to enjoy a few more days on their own in London and the surrounding area.



### CREDITS

Tour & Meeting Planners: Pat Halfpenny & Loren Zeller

Tour Leader: Pat Halfpenny

Tour Managers: Meg MacDonald & Cy Britt of Travel Muse

Report Design and Copy: Loren Zeller

Photography: Larry Bouterie and Loren Zeller