



# The Barnet Collection Of Ceramics & Art

<http://www.thebarnetcollection.org>

Issue 13, July 2016



## Raku Rendezvous in West Sussex

For a few days in June last month, a group of wonderful potters came together in the village of Angmering, West Sussex, to attend [John Evans' Alternative Raku](#) Workshop. I first came across John Evans when I read an article by him in Ceramic Review called, Naked Raku: The Secrets Exposed (Mar/Apr 2008). I had been struggling with this particular technique, and was not able to achieve the right results. John's article unravelled the precise nature of the process and gave details of the glazes used and the firing temperatures. So, when the workshop was announced, I jumped at the opportunity. Although my primary interest in the workshop was naked raku, I came away with a lifetime of knowledge and understanding.

The facility, where the workshop was held, belongs to Anne Lovejoy, a potter and horticulturist. Amongst Anne's beautiful gardens, interspersed with life size sculptures and a beautiful pond, was a large pit where Anne organizes a yearly pit firing.

For the workshop we were told to bring about 15–20 burnished and fired pots. John had two raku kilns running at all times, managed by the ever patient Tom Peterson. Surface finishes ranged from Indian smoke technique, fuming with stannous chloride, naked raku, and Ferrink, just to name a few. My favourite process was the paper saggar technique which produced some amazing results similar to clay saggar effects, but softer. By the time we got to Indian smoke technique I had run out of pots to decorate and hence had to admire the results achieved by my fellow potters. Ferrink, demonstrated by [Athena van Dongen](#), a technique combining Ferric Chloride and India Ink, was something totally new to me.

All in all, it was a truly wonderful experience - one I shall remember for a long time. John was non-committal about running the course next year, but if he does decide to do it, it's worth being a part of it!

-Salma Shakir

