

Potters Camp 2025

Final update

Dear campers

It's only just over a week until camp starts, so here are some final reminders and things to bear in mind as you prepare and arrive on site. Please make sure you read **all** of this, as its all important information for your enjoyment and safety at Camp.

Arrival. Camp will start on Wednesday 30th July. Please arrive on Wednesday morning, in time for the camp briefing at 1pm. **Please don't come before 10am**, as we will be getting things ready for you. The plan for access to the site is on the AP website Potters Camp 2025 page. <https://www.anglianpotters.org.uk/potters-camp-2025/> The postcode for Stoke Farm is IP24 2NA. There will be signs at the entry to the farm track off the main road, and through the site. **Access to the site is via a shared road with a strict speed limit of 10mph maximum.** It is used by walkers, pets, children and residents, so please take care and don't speed. If it's dry, it can be very dusty

Please make sure you arrive in plenty of time for the introduction and briefing meeting which will be at **1pm** in the main marquee. If you haven't managed to pitch your tent or site your camper by then, please leave it for a bit and come to the meeting, as this will be the chance to find out more about what is happening, and to sign up for various activities. It's important to be there for the briefing, as that will give you all the information you need for camp, and the opportunity to sign up for activities. **If you are on your way, broken down, got stuck under a bridge etc or know that you can't be there by 1pm, please phone so that we know and can arrange for an alternative briefing and reception is not left waiting for you. John 07875 341900, Nicki 07791 880038 or Stephen 07803 744998.**

What to bring. If you are a first time camper and unsure what to bring with you, please have a look at the list provided by two newcomers last year. Again, it's available via the website Potters Camp 2025 page. <https://www.anglianpotters.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Anglian-Potters-Camp-2024-Kit-list-V1.pdf> It may well be very hot, so make sure you bring sunscreen, light clothes etc. It might also pour with rain, so water-proofs as well!

If you are camping, please bring **a bucket** that can be filled with water and left by your tent or camper. It has been very dry, so there is a fire risk. Please leave at least 2 metres between tents, and don't use gas cookers in the orchard area. No barbecues!

If you are bringing pots for the various firings, please remember **no Earthenware**, and 20-30 small to medium sized pieces. There's no guarantee of them all being fired, it depends on the mix of work and our ability to pack them into the various firings.

Food. We will be providing communal evening meals, prepared by volunteers. The menus (at the moment) will be:

Wednesday. Pasta, Pesto and roasted vegetables

Thursday. Peta's fabulous Paella, chicken and veg versions.

Friday. Pizza night. Wood fired in the outdoor ovens. Meat and Veg versions.

Saturday. Feast. A buffet style meal with a mixture of all sorts of nice things.

We have notes of various allergies and intolerances that some of you have provided, and are trying to make sure we can support you.

Breakfast and Lunch each day is your own responsibility.

Activities

There will be lots to do, as well as glazing and firing your pots. Glazing will start on Wednesday afternoon, then follow on Thursday morning and afternoon. Kilns will be packed on Thursday, with the main firing day on Friday. We may fire the small gas kilns twice - Thursday evening and Saturday morning, depending on the number of pots and the availability of help. Saturday will be the 'smoky' day, with bin firings and Raku.

We always have a challenge, a sort of camp throwdown for all the happy campers to have a go at, whether you are a hand builder or thrower. This year's challenge is slightly different in that we are giving you the subject of the challenge before camp so that you have time to get inspired, dream up your design and even make templates ready for it if required.

The Challenge

1. We ask you to make a piece of pottery based on a Children's toy or game,
2. It must be made at camp.
3. No size restrictions apply but a full-size model of the Star Ship Enterprise might be over the top. Please leave some clay for others to play with!
4. It can be hand built or thrown. A decorated pot is acceptable.
5. All of the works are to be displayed on a table on Saturday night. For the nervous or worried, no names are attached to the pieces.
6. Please, please, please have a go It's not serious, it's not life or deathIt's simply a bit of fun.....enjoy it for what it is....a bit of a challenge.

Note: this is about children's toys and games not adult toys or games, thank you.

There are workshops and demonstrations planned throughout camp. The timetable is still being worked out, but they will include:

Making Staffordshire flatbacks using the handbuilding challenge theme.

Evening throwing games

Talk by Hayley about the Throwdown experience

Handbuilding figurative sculpture with textured slabs

Kintsugi demo and help

Making and trying simple Raku glazes

Sketching in the orchard and painting slabs using slips, sgraffito, pencils etc.

Throwing demos - large bowls, two piece pots, throwing with a whole bag of clay

One-one throwing tuition.

Making simple homemade pottery tools from scrap - turning tools, sieves etc.

Building and firing the dragon kiln.

A few notes, mainly Health and Safety related.

Potters camp is a busy and active event. All attendees are reminded that they are each responsible for their own safety and the safety of others around them.

Traffic. There will generally be no car/van movements allowed in the camp area once you have been allocated your parking space in the orchard or on the field. Participants staying off site will be allocated spaces that they can access. It is essential that access to the area enclosed by the marquees, glaze shed, kilns, static caravan, woodpile, gas bottles and green shed is kept clear for emergency vehicles. Parking space is a bit tight, so if you are offsite and can share travel, please do.

Stings. Camping is in the orchard and the whole area is surrounded by fruit trees so bees and wasps are likely to be present. We suggest you wear insect repellent and carry with you suitable medicine if you have a known reaction to stings.

Hot weather. In hot weather there is little natural shade, use sun protection, hats and keep hydrated. Drinking water, coffee, tea are provided.

Glazes. Most glazes are toxic when wet and present an inhalation risk when dry. Use suitable protection when glazing and handling unfired glaze pots.

Kilns. No open toed footwear in any of the kiln areas. A working area will be cordoned off around the kilns to provide the firing teams with a safe working space that will also keep all observers safe. Do not enter this area unless requested by the firing leader. If asked to leave the watching area you must do so immediately.

Throwing/Hand building. Avoid clay dust inhalation. Clean up after yourself using damp cleaning methods. Recycle your clay keeping throwing clay and hand-build clay separate.

Tools Tools are not to be used by anyone unless under direct instructions from Stephen or John.

Electrics. All electrics on site have been P.A.T tested

Trip Hazards Be aware of guy ropes around marquees and tents. At night carry a torch to avoid guy ropes, tent pegs, branches, roots and fallen fruit. There are steps into the static caravan, showers and toilets to which hand rails have been provided.

Toilets/Showers. Read instructions for the toilet in the caravan. The water in the showers is hot and needs to be controlled by hot and cold taps. Follow the instructions for the use of the hired toilets. There are two earth toilets, please use soil after each use to help keep insects away.

Footpath. There is a footpath that goes through the orchard at Stoke Farm which the general public and dog walkers have a statutory right to use.

Neighbours. The camp site is in close proximity to housing and access to the camp site is along a common access unsurfaced road. Please respect the other residents. We only allow acoustic music at camp in consideration of our neighbours.

Risk assessments. We have performed risk assessments for the various camp activities. Copies of these are kept in the static caravan, if you need to read the detailed assessment.

IF IN DOUBT ASK.

IF IN DOUBT ENJOY!