

## The Blue Duck Gallery May Newsletter

### Exhibition of the Month

**You are invited to an exhibition of glass by  
Will Shakspeare  
Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>**

Will is hoping to join us in the gallery from 2pm and will be available to chat with anyone who is curious about how he creates his fabulous work

Although our Will may not be a legendary playwright, widely considered to be the greatest English writer of all time, he is a legendary artist, widely regarded as one of the country's foremost glass blowers and he is also a fine drinker of Sambucca. He and his work have been featured in various TV programmes and in the national press. Most notable was his recent appearance on Kirstie Allsop's *Homemade Home* where he taught Kirstie to blow a glass tumbler and in *Kirstie's Homemade Christmas* where she made one of Will's famous baubles.

Will is based in Somerset surrounded by the most idyllic countryside, chickens, Great Crested Newts, badgers and a ferocious cat and as if that isn't inspiration enough, has travelled the world collecting ideas. His work has echoes of rock pools, fireworks, nougat, Guatemalan textiles... For more information see our [Events](#) web page which has a link to Will's exhibition page.



**Multi-Coloured Nougat Glass by Will Shakspeare**

#### **Bags, Jewellery, Slate, Pottery...**

As fast as I can bring Bill Brown canvas bags into the shop they fly out again but rest assured I will keep stocking them over the summer and the colours are so diverse there is something for everyone. I have more Linda MacDonald jewellery including that beautiful tangle bangle with little flowers on it that you all dashed in to buy last time I featured it on my newsletter. The slate coasters, cheeseboards and handled serving trays have been going down very well so there is an extended range in the gallery for you to feast your eyes on. Our new candlesticks are finally here and we have just had a delivery of Rupert Blamire olive oil decanters and olive & stone bowls which make such fabulous presents.

#### **Spring Picture Sale**

Our big picture sale is going fantastically well which isn't altogether surprising when you look at ridiculously great prices we are offering. It really is worth popping in if you have a space

that you need to fill but are operating on a tight budget. We've got a really diverse selection and our customers are loving it.



**Gold "Ice" Cone Vase by Will Shakspeare**

#### **Children's Charity Campaign**

In our January newsletter we pledged to donate 50p from all sales of children's clothes and toys to a local children's charity. Our donation of £103 for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2011 went to Daisy's Dream. Thank you to Lucille Perkins who has recommended the charity Home-Start Reading for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year. Home-Start offers friendship, support and practical help to young families who are going through difficult times and we were delighted to hear about the great work they do. If anyone else has a suggestion for a local children's charity that we can donate money to we'd be delighted to hear from you.



**Mono-Chrome Nougat Glass by Will Shakspeare**

#### **And the winner is....**

Thank you so much to all of you for taking part in our survey. Your thoughts and ideas were incredibly helpful and have led us to bring in children's party toys for under £10. You have encouraged us to look for some new prints to exhibit in the gallery. Because of your feedback we have started stocking more textiles, such as scarves and handbags and in the autumn will hopefully be bringing in some gorgeous jumpers. We are holding regular exhibitions to keep you interested and to keep the gallery really fresh and engaging. And finally in August we are planning to hold a local artists' exhibition rather like the RG20 exhibition we held back in February 2007. We promised to put all entrants into a prize draw and I am delighted to announce that the winner of the £50 Blue Duck Gallery voucher is Charlotte Eimer. Congratulations Charlotte and please do pop in soon to pick up your prize.



**Zephyr Blues Vase by Will Shakspeare**