

The Blue Duck Gallery September Newsletter

“My neighbour asked if he could borrow my lawnmower and I told him of course as long as he didn’t take it out of my garden.”

Autumn

We’re getting to the time of year when it doesn’t matter if the lawnmower finally falls apart. Every time we cut the grass it could be the last time, until... well, the next time, and I have to start thinking about Christmas. I won’t dwell on it too much – suffice it to say that I have been busily acquiring blisters on the soles of my feet, dashing around trade fairs finding and ordering lots of lovely stock. New bits will be rolling in between now and November.

Framing

I thought I might take a moment to go through some framing tips for you so that you know more about the process I use to advise you on the best ways to make your picture look as fabulous as it possibly can.

Did you know:

- **We can frame –**
Paintings
Prints
Photos
Rugby & football shirts
Medals
Textiles, needlework, tapestries
Stretch canvases...
- **We recommend glass with a mount if your picture is a:**
Watercolour, Pastel, Acrylic on paper
Charcoal or pencil drawing, etching
Limited Edition Print
Glossy photo
This is to ensure that the work is protected from dirt & moisture and to stop it sticking to the glass
- **We wouldn’t recommend glass if your picture is:**
Oil on canvas
This is to allow the work to breathe and ensure the drying process can be completed



- **Glass may not be necessary if you have:**
Acrylic on canvas or board.
A large tapestry such as those brought back from India/Africa
- **We can help you decide –**
Glass or no glass
Mount colour
Mount size
Border size
Suitable moulding (in addition to the samples in the shop we have catalogues filled with ideas for you to choose from)

All our frames come strung so they can hang straight up on the wall. Do pop in to see what we can offer and for a no-obligation quote. Have a look at our [Framing Page](#) on the web for more info.

Clare

It recently occurred to me that I haven’t told you much about me and why I decided to open a gallery in the first place and I wondered whether you might be interested to learn. Well I’m taking a calculated risk and hoping that some of you may be interested...

For those newer customers who don’t know, my name is Clare Grashoff and I opened The Blue Duck Gallery in February 2005 (yes that’s 6 & ½ years ago for those of you who feel like it was only yesterday).



Originally I come from the Yorkshire Dales, more specifically Sedbergh, through which the Tour of Britain was to have passed this week had it not been for the rain and 50mph winds (which pretty much sums up Sedbergh and the Yorkshire Dales).

Upon leaving school I went to Exeter University to study German and Russian which is where I met Sam (my better half) who, employing a large degree of charm and possibly a few half truths, managed to persuade me to move away from Devon and follow him up to Caversham in 2002. For 2 & ½ years I commuted into The City every day, working as a client trainer for Reuters, based in Merrill Lynch.

I got a taste for collecting artwork and interesting pieces of pottery during various travels around Eastern Europe and developed a dream to one day own my own shop through which I could supply people with gorgeous things. Having lived in such beautiful, if wet, places for so many years it was a culture shock to move up to Reading and find that there weren’t any independent shops doing just that. I hadn’t appreciated how lucky I was to have been surrounded by galleries and unique gift shops throughout my life. I got fed up of slogging backwards and forwards into London everyday and so, taking inspiration from the shops around which I had grown up, I decided to open my own place, with Sam and his family’s unfailing help and support. In 2007 I took on the picture framing. And here we are in 2011 still going strong, having a super time and working hard to bring you the quality and loveliness you have come to expect from The Blue Duck Gallery. Long may it continue.

Car Raffle

The car raffle will be drawn at 11.30am on Saturday 24th September. Don’t miss it if you’ve bought a ticket for our fabulous pedal car (and if you haven’t, make sure you do before next week).

Next month

I am planning to go to Brighton to visit Lara Aldridge and get to grips with glass fusion. Will let you know how I get on...

October Holidays

Sat 15 th	Sun 16 th	Mon 17 th	Tues 18 th	Wed 19 th	Thurs 20 th	Fri 21 st
Sat 22 nd	Sun 23 rd	Mon 24 th	Tues 25 th	Wed 26 th	Thurs 27 th	Fri 28 th
Sat 29 th	Sun 30 th	Mon 31 st	Tues 1 st	Wed 2 nd	Thurs 3 rd	Fri 4 th

We will be closed from Sat 15th until Mon 31st October and we will reopen on Tuesday 1st November, with an exhibition of ceramics by Robert Goldsmith.