

# APPG *for* CRAFT

## Speakers for the Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Craft

Wednesday, 26th February 2025, 5pm–6.30pm; Room P, Portcullis House, and online

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### **Professor Neil Brownsword**

Professor Neil Brownsword is an artist, researcher and educator. His research into the legacy of deindustrialisation in relation to North Staffordshire's ceramic industry, has had national and international cultural impact, through reactivating associated post-industrial spaces and endangered industrial crafts. Neil Brownsword's career in ceramics began as an apprentice at the Wedgwood factory in the mid 1980s as a modeller and designer before he entered Higher Education. Since graduating from the Royal College of Art in 1995, his work has gained national and international acclaim.



### **Emily Johnson, 1882 Ltd and Andy Henshall**

1882 Ltd is design-driven and embraces an innovative ethos where no structural, sculptural, or finishing challenge is impossible. Rooted in heritage craftsmanship, the brand fuses innovative artistry with centuries-old skills to redefine contemporary ceramics. Emily Johnson is the 5th generation of the Johnson Brothers ceramic family, founded 1882 Ltd. Over the last 14 years, she has built a business that not only manufactures beautiful, ambitious contemporary ceramics but also champions the innovative skills and expertise that lies within the Stoke-on-Trent industry and local community.



### **Andy Henshall and Saskia Rigby**

Andy has been in the industry since 1977. Initially trained at Wedgwood, he went on to work at Josiah Spode and Royal Doulton before setting up on his own in 1987 and has continued to work with all pottery factories in Stoke-on-Trent. Heritage Crafts placed Andy on its endangered craft list and is one of only 6 model makers still operating within the industry in Stoke-on-Trent. Since 2022 Andy has run his studio from within 1882 Ltd. where he is training an apprentice, Saskia Rigby.



**Daniel Carpenter** has worked in the arts, crafts and heritage sectors for the past 18 years. He was one of the founders of Heritage Crafts in 2009 whilst working for Creative Lives, the national charity promoting active participation in everyday creativity. He led Heritage Crafts' Pre-Apprenticeship project in West Somerset in 2017, and commissioned in 2018 to lead the research on the 2nd edition of the Red List of Endangered Crafts, before being recruited on to the staff team in 2019 as Executive Director. Also he is a Trustee of Arts&Heritage, an Ambassador of The Fathom Trust, a judge for the Global Eco Artisan Awards, and a Committee of Recommendation Member for the Ambacht in Beeld Festival in the Netherlands.



### **Tony and Catherine Spink**

Tony and Catherine set up Bolton based Neon Creations in July 2005. Tony has been a neon glass bender for over 35 years, learning his craft at Pearce Signs in London, before moving to Manchester in 2001. Neon Creations have worked with many high street brands, high profile music, sports, and TV stars, and their work can often be seen on the TV. They are one of the most respected neon sign companies in the UK, and are leading a campaign to protect their endangered craft.