

The Shelley Group Annual Weekend
Celebrating our 40th Anniversary
24th – 26th April 2026
Programme for Delegates

Throughout the Weekend

We are celebrating 40 years since The Shelley Group's founding in 1986 with a display of photographs depicting Group events and members over the years, including past Exhibitions. The early non-digitised newsletters, other paper materials from the Group's archives, and also the Pattern/Scrapbooks owned by the Group will be removed from the Museum Archives for delegates to browse, throughout the weekend. We will also have notebooks from the Shelley factory and other artefacts from the manufacturing process. Please feel free to bring your own paper ephemera and photographs to share too

The Reynolds Suite

Friday

9.30 AM

OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO MIDDLEPORT FACTORY ("BURLEIGH")– TRANSPORT BY CAR SHARING AND AT OWN COST. Tours of the factory have to be booked in advance (cost £12) and the last tour on Friday is 10.30. Charlotte Rhead did a lot of work for the factory, and no doubt some of her designs will be featured in their small museum. There is lots to see including the nearby workshop studio of Alex Allday, who received a bursary from The Shelley Group, and the Burslem Pottery producing bird grotesques with more than a nod of inspiration from the Martin brothers.

This is not included in the annual weekend booking and you need to let Ruth know ASAP if you want to go on the Pottery tour and need or can help with transport.

2:00 pm onwards Check in at Hotel reception

3:00 pm onwards Items for display to The Reynolds Suite and/or Pritchard Suite

6:00 - 6:30 pm **REGISTRATION AND OFFICIAL START OF THE WEEKEND** **The Reynolds foyer**

6:30 - 7:45 pm **Dinner** **Olive Tree Restaurant**

8:00 - 10:00 pm **Social Event** **The Reynolds Suite**

Olwen's Quiz

Saturday

Breakfast

Olive Tree Restaurant

10.00 am

Chairman's Welcome

The Reynolds Suite

10.15 am

TALKS

Specials Patterns for Retailers

John Barter

Collecting by Color: Ruby

Carolyn Keating

11.00 am

Tea and Biscuits

The Reynolds Foyer

Opportunity to view Displays

The Reynolds Suite

11.30 am

TALKS

The Reynolds Suite

The History of the Shelley Pottery

Gerry Pearce

Powder Bowls

Olwen Dudgeon

12.30– 2 pm

Saturday Lunch

The Olive Tree Restaurant

Opportunity to view the Displays

The Reynolds Suite

2.30

TALK

The Reynolds Suite

GUEST SPEAKER: MARK HILL

Curves, Colours & Cool: An Introduction to Mid-Century Modern

Focusing on Scandinavia, Italy, America and Great Britain, this practical and inspirational lecture looks at furniture, ceramics, glass, lighting and metalware, identifies key designs and designers, and examines the revolutionary design movements they began.

3:30 pm

Tea and Anniversary Cake

The Reynolds Foyer

Opportunity to view Displays

The Reynolds Suite

4 pm

TALK

The Reynolds Suite

Show and Tell: a Guide to the Shelley Pottery exhibits

Chris Davenport

We have to vacate The Reynolds Suite promptly at 5 pm so that hotel staff can set up for the Gala Dinner

6.30 – 7.30 pm **Pre-dinner Drinks and**
Silent Auction **The Reynolds Foyer**

7:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Buyers settle up with Sellers

7:15 p.m. – 7:25 p.m. Sellers settle up with The Shelley Group

7:30 PM **Gala Dinner** **The Reynolds Suite**

Drawing the raffle for the Ray Reynolds Painted Vase

Lucky Dip – and a surprise

Sunday

Breakfast **Olive Tree Restaurant**

9.00 am Set Up for the Shelley Marketplace **The Pritchard Suite**

Opportunity to view Displays **The Reynolds Suite**

10.00 am **TALKS** **The Reynolds Suite**

The Shelley Snake - The Piece that Means the Most to You John Barter

Garden Scenes, a series of patterns designed by Eric Slater
Linda Ellis

Miniatures Paul Graetz

Drawing the raffle for Warren Leenert's Painting

11.00 am Tea and Biscuits **The Reynolds Foyer**

Opportunity to view Displays **The Reynolds Suite**

11:30 am **TALK** **The Reynolds Suite**

Frederick Rhead: the influences and inspiration that shaped him
and his impact on Shelley and the wider pottery industry

Chris Davenport

12.00 **THE SHELLEY MARKET** and opportunity to sell and buy OR
swap and gift **The Pritchard Suite**

Final Opportunity to view Displays **The Reynolds Suite**

1:00 – 2.15 pm **Sunday Lunch** **The Olive Tree Restaurant**

2.15 onwards

Display dismount

The Reynolds Suite

For those booked in overnight on Sunday

Optional excursions may be arranged if there is any interest from delegates, by car sharing and at own cost. Please note that attractions which charge admission fees generally close at 4 p.m. on Sundays, but it will be possible to wander around Ironbridge.

6.30 pm

Drinks in the foyer bar

7.30 pm

Dinner

The Olive Tree Restaurant

Monday

Breakfast and check out

Delegates are invited to give feedback on the Annual Weekend and suggestions for next year to any committee member or to events@shelley.co.uk

Instructions for setting up times for various activities

The Shelley Group Annual Weekend 2026

Additional Timetable Items

Please note set up times for the various activities

Friday, 24th April 2026

02:00 p.m. onwards	Room check-in at hotel reception
03:00 p.m. onwards	Display items to The Reynolds Suite Co-Ordinators:

Saturday, 25th April 2026

06:15 pm	Silent Auction items to the Reynolds Foyer Co-ordinators – Chris Davenport & Linda Ellis
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Sunday, 26th April 2026

9 am	Set Up for The Shelley Market Place Items to The Pritchard Suite Co-ordinator
9.45– 10.00 am	Set up for <i>The Shelley Snake</i> – Items to The Reynolds Suite Co-ordinators – John Barter and Linda Ellis
02:15 pm onwards	Display Demount – The Reynolds Suite Co-ordinators – John Barter and ??