

Spirit of Sutterby

Kiln day 2

Sunday 8th November, we gathered at Beth's House, Dalby, The Sutterby Horde and Andrew the Potter. Our aim was to build an "updraught kiln" and fire the pots and Objets d'art that we had made on the last Kiln Day. The Pots etc. had the last spent 2 week sin Andrews kiln room drying out so as to be ready to be fired.



Using old household bricks and quarry tiles we built a round construction with a opening at the front. As it was built we loaded it with the pots and objets d'art. There was a column in the centre to try to raise the pots etc of the ground and allow the hot air to flow around and through the kiln.

We carried on building the kiln and tried to taper it towards the top so we could top it off with a roof tile, which we hoped would contain the heat in the kiln but allow some air out thus creating an “updraught”



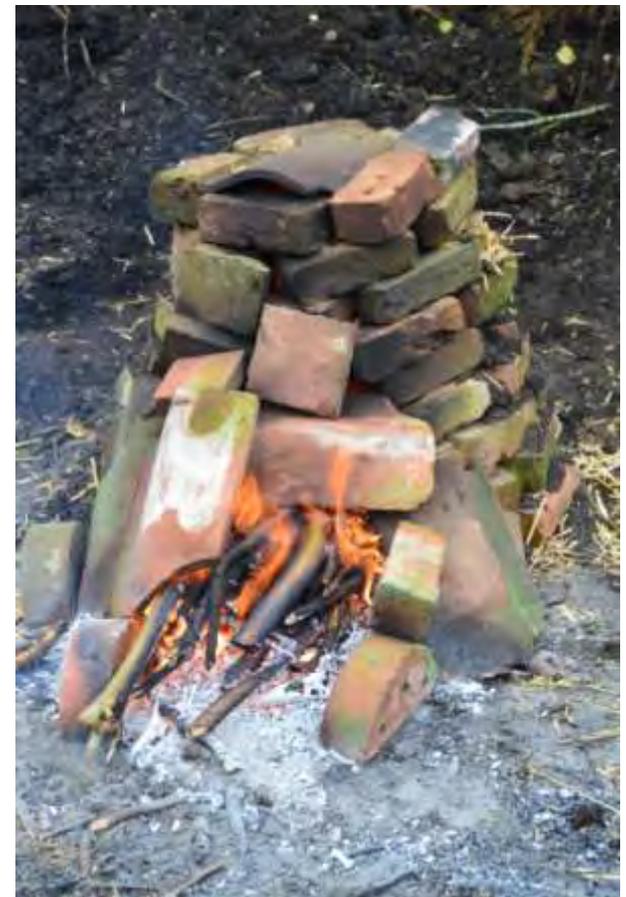
Having finished construction we lit a fire in front on the kiln and tried to get a good heap of hot glowing embers and ash.



Once we had a heap of hot embers and ashes we tried to push some into the opening of the kiln and get the fire to create a draught through the kiln. As this was not all that successful we tried to construct a better opening.



We did manage to a certain extent get the heat and flames to go through the kiln. We will see the results when we let the fire burn out and open the kiln.



After lunch, at about 1400 hrs we opened the kiln, it had by then cooled down quite a bit. You could see some of the items had changed colour in the kiln.



Unfortunately the further we got into the kiln, the more we could see that there was not an even heat throughout, and the items at the back of the kiln were much the same as when we put them in.



This item “Pam’s Pot” appeared to fired totally and rang like a bell when flicked, must be the first piece of Sutterby pottery.



The kiln finally emptied.



Conclusions.

- Once again hindsight is a wonderful thing.
- Once again constricted by only one day to it all.
- Maybe the whole kiln needed to be a lot bigger, and a smaller column in the middle, so the hot air could get to more of the kiln and achieve a more even temperature through out.
- Maybe pack the kiln differently, again to allow the hot air to circulate better.
- Maybe dig a hole for the fire in front of the kiln so more of the heat can enter the kiln.
- Once again a good time was had by all who took part.
- Thanks again to Andrew MacDonald for keeping us under control.
- Many thanks to Beth, again for letting us use her land and another fine lunch.