

# MONEY TODAY

## Artist to sell trade range of ceramics

Julia set to move into retail market from city studio

By DEBORAH ANDERSON

A DISTINGUISHED Glasgow ceramics artist is venturing into the retail market with her unique designs.

Julia Smith has become embedded in Govan after opening a pottery studio.

And now she is about to embark on a series of beginners' workshops to introduce people to the world of pottery, while turning her sights to creating a new range.

**“The new range has been inspired by everything around me**

After graduating with a degree in ceramics from Glasgow School of Art in 1991, Julia has largely been involved in community projects as well as running her own studio.

Now she is about to launch a range exclusively for retail.

She makes functional ceramics such as clocks, bathroom basins, tiles and mirrors.

Julia, 35, said: “I have developed a trade range which I hope to sell in key locations, perhaps exclusively with just one outlet in different cities.



Julia Smith is expanding from her Govan-based studio

“The new range has been inspired by everything around me and has a feel of nature incorporated into it. They might be hand-made ceramics, but there is no reason why they can't be used every day.”

Julia set up in at the Govan Portal after becoming involved in local community

arts projects and an opportunity came up in 2007 to open her own Deepfired Ceramic Studio.

The Portal, at the corner of Howat Street and Govan Road, is a gateway into Central Govan.

It was a project led by Govan Housing Association, which upgraded and refurb-

ished three derelict shop units which had been empty for 20 years.

Two of the first three units provide space for local arts organisations – Roots in the Community and Plantation Productions, while Julia took up the third unit.

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Picture: Nick Ponty

## LAYING DOWN THE LAW

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### Why can't I get a refund for ugly jumper present?

**Q** I GOT a jumper as a Christmas present but obviously I don't have the receipt. It is the wrong size (and kind of horrible), but when I tried to return it the sales assistant said I couldn't. I said it was a gift but she would not give me a refund.

**A** She is legally correct. If the goods are not faulty, they have no obligation to take them back – even with a receipt. Although I get the feeling it is the receipt that is causing the problem here, and the shop, like most, may choose to have a returns policy, but with or without evidence they cannot be forced to take back or give refunds for goods. And as for horrible, the law has no opinions on taste.

### How do I make a will?

**Q** I AM thinking of making a will. How do I start? I don't want to go to a lawyer without working out some ideas first, and I don't want to be bamboozled or appear stupid.

**A** No decent solicitor will think you stupid. They will first give you some general pointers on what goes in a will and some of the legal rules applying. You will be asked what family you have, what money and assets you own. You will also be asked your wishes. The will is then drafted and sent to you to consider. You go through the will and make sure you understand what it says and that it means what you want. A will has three main components: 1) the name of the executor you want to appoint to look after the winding up of the estate when you die; 2) any specific bequests – amounts of money or identified items to particular people; and 3) the shares of the remainder of the estate among family and/or friends, charities etc. If you work these out beforehand, you will hit the ground running at the lawyer's.

### I want to change lawyer

**Q** I WAS injured in an accident when another car went into mine. I reported it to my insurer, and they put me on to their selected lawyer. I don't think he is doing the job I want in pushing the claim – everything takes ages – and I want to change.

**A** You can choose any lawyer to act – but unless provided for in the insurance policy, your insurance company won't be obliged to pay for any lawyer not on their list. This is still OK for you as long as you win, and the other side pays your legal costs, but unless you get the agreement of a new solicitor to work on a no-win-no-fee basis, you might have to pay up front and add these fees to the compensation claimed from the other driver's insurance. If you are unhappy with the service you are getting, seek a meeting with the firm's senior partner to talk through the work first. Legal claims do take a lot of time, even when carried out efficiently.

### Can I avoid jury duty?

**Q** I HAVE been called for jury service, but I was on a jury three years ago and don't want to be away from work for a number of days or even weeks if I can avoid it.

**A** You might have the right to be excused from jury service as you have served on a jury in the last five years. You can also be exempted if you are, for example, a politician, doctor, or in the armed forces. The court might agree to let you be excused because of work commitments but for that alone it doesn't have to excuse you.

### Firm wins dental work contract with NHS

WORKPLACE design specialist Space Solutions is celebrating the success of an innovative service aimed at helping dentists create specialist sterile units at their surgeries.

The firm has secured a contract with NHS Lanarkshire to manage the design and implementation of Local Decontamination Units at 12 health centres.

The deal follows a successful two-week project at the Victoria Dental Practice in Glasgow.

### Women rule in the Scottish workforce

WOMEN account for 51% of the Scottish workforce, according to a new report.

However, 32% of the Scottish workforce is employed part-time, with women accounting for three-quarters of this figure.

The report, by the Alliance of Sector Skills Councils, Scotland, gives a clear view on how Scottish industry is performing.

### Funding on offer for new career courses

PEOPLE looking for a change of career in the New Year can access funding from ILA (Individual Learning Accounts) Scotland.

The scheme helps people over 16 who earn less than £22,000 a year with up to £500 of funding towards learning.

Courses available include theatre management to public speaking practice, as well as HNCs, HNDs and degree-level courses.

Visit [www.ilascotland.org.uk](http://www.ilascotland.org.uk)

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