

Joss Hibbs

Running a pottery workshop and craft shop at Powdermills.

So Joss, you're a potter working here at Powdermills, can you tell me a little bit about why you're here at Powdermills?

I'm here because I make useful pots using materials that I gather from Dartmoor, so I'm here for the materials.

So being here on Dartmoor at Powdermills is an important part of your work?

Yes, its very important, if I moved I'd have to start all over again on the materials front, because my interest is making from found material so if I moved area I'd have to adjust to the new materials.

What do you have here for the public to come and see?

The shop here at Powdermills sells not only the pots that I make on site, I sell the work of 30 people, most of whom are living and working on the moor, some are on the edge of the moor, and some used to be here and have now moved, but the majority of the work that I sell is made on the moor, and I sell work that's made in lots of different media, so there's basketry and there's wood and there's clay and there's willow and there's wool and its all useful stuff.

And do you have any sense, as a business here, of the industrial past at Powdermills?

Yes, I'm very aware that I live in a cottage that would have once been two cottages, so you're very aware that you're caretaking really, for a building that's going to be here longer than you, and its been here previous to you, and I also find it, when I walk the dog and I go round the ruins of the gunpowder factory and you look at the mills and the waterwheel spaces and you think about how they would have worked and then you come back and surf the net, you think its only 100 and odd years, its not long, its quite an amazing difference in how we are, so you're very aware of that as well.