



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

## SPEAKERS



**Kate Cadman**

### **‘Fired Up’**

#### **Collections Curator at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust**

Following completion of a BA degree in three-dimensional design, I began working for the Ironbridge Gorge Museums in costume at Blists Hill Victorian Town, then as a demonstrator of ceramic processes at Coalport China Museum. This led to a post as a curatorial assistant, then on to becoming Curatorial Officer for the Coalport China Museum, Jackfield Tile Museum, and Broseley Clay Tobacco Pipe Museum.

Since 2022 I have been Collections Curator for the whole of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums, which hold a wide range of Designated collections, including decorative tiles, cast iron, steam engines, porcelain, costume, and fine art. Not forgetting the National Collection of Slag!

I am still a practising ceramicist, training and encouraging the practice of traditional skills which are in danger of dying out in the modern ceramics industries.

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum was one of the first to focus on industrial history, and to tell this story through original buildings, artefacts, live demonstration, and an open-air site. In this presentation I will be looking at the setting up of the Museum and introducing the different sites. The common theme is the use of coal as an energy source to ‘fire up’ processes as diverse as casting iron, firing porcelain, making decorative tiles and bricks, and even clay tobacco pipes. Hopefully, there will be something to interest everyone.



**Dan Snaith**

**‘Behind the fireworks’**

***Sound Designer / Audio Producer and Creative Director – On The Sly Audio Production***

My first taste of working in music and the media was DJing at Telford Ice Rink at the age of about 14 or 15, using my brother’s CD collection. Then working my way from tea boy to producing audio at (what was) BRMB in Birmingham, honing my skills in sound design and music composition.

As someone making radio jingles you’re known as an ‘Imaging Producer’. In this role I worked for a host of radio stations, ending up at my dream job at BBC Radio 1. It was clear to me that radio wasn’t going to be enough for me to be creatively fulfilled so started looking at other mediums to make use of the audio skills I’d learnt.

Teaming up with some amazing colleagues I’d met over years, we set about building our business - On The Sly Audio Production. We still make music, jingles and advertising for radio and TV but have created a niche in audio production for live events. Amplifying live experiences through the power of sound for events such as Coldplay’s world tour, the FA Cup final and Tour De France.

But it’s our work on the soundtrack for London’s New Years eve fireworks display which we’ll be looking at in this talk. Exploring the creative process, techniques and discussing the challenges of creating audio for such a complicated, politicised and world-renowned event.