

# ИКОНОБОРЕЦ



СВЯТОЙ СТЕПАН ИЗ ЧЕЛСИ



# The 10 Condiments.,

Rhymes in Thyme,  
Humours of the Kitchen,  
Life and Creation

Steve Handley 2005  
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Cover icon by Honey Read Photography,  
Nottingham

Russian reads: *Top: ICONOCLAST*  
*Bottom: SAINT STEFAN OF CHELSEA*

## *Foreword*

My cupboards and later lettered rhymes and sayings, like all the best things in life began by chance. I made a cupboard for my wife's birthday 11 years ago from some old kitchen bits I had. Lots of people wanted one and I began to work full time in an old stable the following year. I've made about 1500 cupboards to date and 3 dressers in what I call the 'pastry board style'. For two years they were simply decorated with old rolling pins and pastry tins and moulds, then I found some letter punches in an army surplus shop and bought a few to initial and date my work. I liked the result and bought 200 or so. I began with simple phrases and puns – "Thyme to cook". I loved the lettering and its odd type faces and so began my sayings and humours.

The cupboards made a strong connection with my love of food, cooking and the recorded passages of time on old boards and utensils, and not least they had a use. They became more whimsical and quirky and the lettering/statements more and more important. Mrs Beeton was an inspiration, the poetry of certain dishes ('Oxford John' for mutton), combined with my lifelong interest in regional cooking, growing vegetables and agricultural history which has inspired many pieces of my 'large' furniture. Having trained formally as a sculptor combined with ceramics, where I never quite fitted, I began to explore new bits of my equation without the notion of making 'art'. Slowly I began to tune in to all the threads of my interests and creativity which fed out to larger, quite different work.

Working full time now in my first farm workshop (1994), I began to find a new strength, focus and confidence in following my intuition and creative freedom rather than being conscious of making Art.

In 1988 I had spent a month travelling in Bohemia and Moravia, and shortly after, Southern Poland. These were my first ventures abroad at 40! I made strong connection with folk art and visited Zalipie near Tarnow in Southern Poland where the women paint their homes inside and out, and in one case even the trunks of the trees in the orchard. From my insular English world I discovered another which was instantly an inspiration and connected for want of a better description with my creative heart. The combinations of function, decoration, life and ritual, made by ordinary people, gave me a warm heart and also made connections to the 'make do and mend' postwar culture I'd grown up in. I realised how much my father had given me in his bodging and cobbling and in a way, lateral thinking: how do you make this when you only have these? Recycling was a necessity then, and the rag and bone man's cart often useful.

As a boy I was a magpie and had my treasure table of fossils found in clay pits, bits of pottery found on spoil heaps (known as shawdrucks in Stoke). Those fragments were always magical to me with a significance and presence beyond their obvious. This also connected to my High Anglican upbringing in power of image and symbol, word and narrative.

Giving a new life and function to abandoned objects and timbers is in many ways my vocabulary. I still glean junk stalls and car boots with relish. My ideas express themselves in a variety of processes, from the rough nailed and painted to quite finished carpentry. I have many facets and influences and enjoy my mercurial nature. The recent 'icon' image [on the front cover] has opened up another channel and I intend to develop a series called *12 Saints and the Devil* next year with the possibility of a calendar.

I hope you enjoy my rhymes and thoughts, light hearted and more serious. They are just another slice of me and laughter is good for the sole!

*Steve Handley 2005.  
Artman; Craftist*

You are welcome to visit my workshop (studios aren't for me) by arrangement:

The Old Farrier's Shop  
Tan Gallop  
Welbeck Estate  
Nr Worksop  
Notts  
S80 3LW

Mobile: 0793 219 7237

also look at: [info@harley-welbeck.co.uk](mailto:info@harley-welbeck.co.uk)  
& [www.harleygallery.org.uk](http://www.harleygallery.org.uk)

## Mainly about food

*Shakespeare's Omelette*

Act one. The Kitchen.

'Beat thine eggs  
to frothy heights  
They are preferred  
by men in tights.

---

Colcannon, Champ and Boxy  
Will make you plump and foxy

---

### FOUR EAST MIDLANDS CHEESES

*A Lincolnshire Poacher*  
loved a *Sage Derby* maid  
her lips were red as *Leicester*  
her eyes all *Stilton Blue*  
her cheeks the colour of Buttermilk  
and sweet morning dew.

---

I'm upside down  
in love with your cake  
So I must be a Gooseberry fool.

---

UP  
CAKE  
SIDE  
CAKE  
DOWN

Tripe and Chitterling  
are not much eaten  
but like skirt and Brawn  
they cannot be beaten

(Skirt is the diaphragm of beef cattle much loved  
by Gypsies and Tinkers).

---

You'll make me bubble  
I'll make you squeak

---

She made me bubble  
I made her squeak  
now we've six children  
and live week to week

---

Any Port in a Stilton Blue

---

*P*ort  
*O*ut  
*S*tilton  
*H*ome

---

My stomach just Grumbles  
at Nouvelle Cuisine  
Its food for the thin and arty  
Give me bangers and mash  
and no aesthetic trash  
made for the skinny  
who've just never farted

Rhubarb Rhubarb Rhubarb  
Rhubarb and Custard.

---

You're the apple of my Pies  
and the Strawberry in my jam

---

Give me Skate wings to fly  
and herring pie  
I'm down on my eels and  
only sprats to fry.

---

Pheasant is pleasant  
Partridge is better  
but woodcock on toast  
is something to boast.

---

Hare today jam tomorrow

---

Sweet Syllabub  
and cakes a plenty  
not for the poor  
just for the gentry

---

I knead you  
You knead me  
oh so happy we will be

Cluck Cluck  
And Marmite Soldiers  
Left right Left  
Left right Le  
Left righ  
Left  
Le

---

Thyme and trifles  
wait for no woman

---

Bread from heaven  
but  
Cheese from  
Colston Bassett

(I live in Stilton country and think this is the  
best one)

---

The Devil's on Horseback  
now the toad's in the hole  
so make me a dish with  
your beautiful sole.

---

English food  
and good fat bacon  
that bed of Rocket  
must be forsaken.

Boiled Eggs

Whilst skating on a  
Sussex Pond pudding  
I dreamt of stargazey pie  
The fish in a ring did merrily sing  
of the oceans and acres of sky

(Stargazey pie: whole herrings placed on a dish at compass-point form covered with pasty but for the heads) Cornish

Charlotte stole my apples  
and then she stole my heart  
and now we are together  
we never more shall ~~F~~Part!

A fisherman dreams of Stargazey Pie  
The Hunter of his moon  
but I just dream of your dumpling dear  
and the cherries I love to chew

Martin's pies were full of Rooks  
his arms were full of Stilton  
so Colston Bassett dreamt of food  
and slept on home-cured bacon.

(The Martin's Arms is a pub in Colston Bassett (famous for Stilton) which has a rookery next to it.)

Herrings are Red  
Stewkies are blue  
Samphire's Sweet  
and so are you.

(Stewkie blues are the famous cockles from Stiffkey in north Norfolk)

Leicester is Red  
Stilton is Blue  
Gingerbread Sweet

and so are you

---

Victoria Sponge  
and Sally Lunn  
went to Bath  
to buy some Buns  

---

Wishes and Kisses  
won't do  
the dishes

---

Lettuce pray  
said the parson's nose  
to the curate's egg  
Blessing his "sole pie  
with oysters".

---

Oh for the wings  
for the wings of a Skate

---

I lost my sole in Dover:  
any information tel. 0115  
9820427

---

Don't talk tripe  
if you don't know  
Your onions

---

## DORSET PIE

### Ingredients

Take Yew, fern leaf, wit and gall  
mix with road kill feet and all  
add some thyme and tousled hair  
Cover with cider then drink your share  
Cook for 3 hours then sprinkle with dill  
Now watch the pixies dancing on your  
window sill.

---

If cockles had muscles  
and rabbits made pies  
would angels make wings  
so skates could fly

---

If you've cooked your goose  
and your herrings are red  
it's definitely time  
to go to bed.

---

Empires may crumble  
but this we must toast  
the cook in the kitchen  
our veritable host.

---

Oh Sally Lunn  
I love bath buns  
and the chaps  
ain't half tasty.

(Bath Chap – roast pigs cheek scored for crackling – eat on  
unbuttered bread with mustard (English and powdered love)

Apples may Crumble  
Soufflés may fall  
but you in the kitchen  
is best of all.

---

Apples may Crumble  
But I'll always love you  
So lets make Lovage  
And mutton stew (with capers)

### LOVE PIE

Take two hearts  
1 lb love  
some wine  
a pinch of passion  
and stir in a nice  
warm bed

---

A cook in Thyme saves wine

---

Sauce for Bruce  
is sauce for Miranda

---

Old MacDonald did no harm  
his hens were all free range  
they had no need of batteries  
and never lived in factories  
just scratched about all day

With a cluck cluck here  
and a cluck cluck there  
here a cluck, there a cluck  
everywhere a cluck cluck

I've eaten tripe  
I've eaten udder  
it's the thought of MacDonalds  
that makes me shudder

---

This little piggy went to market

This little piggy stayed to roam  
This little piggy had apples for tea  
and this little piggy had one  
but this little piggy spotted  
Gloucester on the map and  
Trotted all the way home

---

Judging by the thyme  
it must be a pot boiler

---

“TALLY WHO?” said foxy  
I love these Chelsea chicks  
I wash them down with lager  
and then I lick my vulpine lips

---

Know thy plaice, for cod is grate  
food for the soul.

---

If Cuckoos cooked  
and wagtails pied  
I'd love you till' the  
day I'm fried

---

Onward great Scot  
and slay the Leviathan  
with your Pentland Javelin  
flying Tender and True  
Victory is assured with  
the Ulster chieftains

So raise the Dunbar Standard  
and Eclipse King Edward  
with his hollow crown.

(Rhyme using old vegetable  
Varieties: Potatoes: Great Scot, Pentland  
Pentland Javelin, Victory, Ulster Chieftain,  
Dunbar Standard, Eclipse, King Edward, Tender  
and True; Pea: Onward; Parsnip, Hollow  
Crown)

---

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Tinker     | Lady     |
| Tailor     | Maybe    |
| Soldier    | Tipsy    |
| Sailor     | Queen    |
| Rich man   | Elephant |
| Poor man   | Monkey   |
| Beggar man | Quite    |
| Thief      | Obscene  |

Rhymes for counting fruit stones on your plate.  
The one on the right is my version of the  
following original (which may be West  
Midland, I've not met anyone else who knows  
it):  
Lady, baby, gypsy, queen, elephant, monkey,  
tangerine.

---

Take a well-hung huntsman.  
cook till' he's pink  
you won't need to season  
he's already full of drink.

MORE CHELSEA THAN FOOD

I  
I D  
E G O  
S E L F  
F I R S T  
P E R S O N  
P E R F E C T  
A R T I S T  
M A K E R  
I C O N  
N O W  
A M  
I

---

I offered the devil  
a Chelsea bun  
Thank god he never  
Said "What fun?"!

---

May Duncan  
Grant us  
eternal decoration - amen

---

Claire is an island  
off the coast of Man  
(‘Claire’ = Grayson Perry’s alter ego)

---

The Craft is dead  
Long live the Craft

---

**FIRST PRIZE**

CRAFT  
WORK

**CHELSEA 2005**

CC Approved

*Highly commended -The spectator*

---

Is this Chelsea.  
or just a dream.  
a place to be cool  
a place to be seen  
Serious punters  
and gallery sharks.  
inspecting my carcass  
curating my wares  
with distant knowing  
and curious stares

---

KFCU  
BABY  
COOL  
CRAF  
TART

## CHELSEA - ISH

Oh woe is craft  
the poor relation  
Know thy place  
and know thy station

---

Yawn follows function

---

If only I could  
Turner penny  
make my craft art  
like sweet Claire Perry  
May he frockin' hell  
and only sip sherry.

---

Craft is sweet  
and never political  
Craft is pure  
and never satirical  
If craft can be a cushion  
why not a bed of nails

---

Potters make pots  
The ceramicist's argument  
Doesn't hold water.

---

'Elle' for leather  
with decoration  
Chelsea Chelsea!  
my 6-0 sensation

---

I go to work  
in my workshop  
'studios' are a couch  
for flash makers.

---

---

### MAKER'S PIE

Ingredients  
1 gallon of hope  
1/2 a stone Grit  
2 pints skill  
5 lbs obsession (compulsive)  
A pinch of Luck  
One large Overdraft  
4 spoons of creation  
1 pint of penury (chilled)  
1 large heart(stuffed with  
passion)  
2 drops of profit (if available)  
Bring to the boil  
Simmer for 10 years  
it could taste bitter sweet  
or even intoxicating  
if its not been worth the effort  
find a part time job  
it's better paid.

---

## Chelsea

May the lord deliver us.  
from  
Those 'Craft Fairs'  
Wood turners with pipes  
What's 'in' or 'out'  
The word "traditional"  
Those who only see craft in art  
and no art in craft  
Empty virtuosity  
and soulless tat  
The 'you must have  
So much fun people'  
oh and hairy potters  
Amen.

---

At Chelsea's craft chapel  
I made my pitch  
with hopes of fame  
and becoming rich!  
or maybe anointed by  
The inner sanctum  
of critics and prophets  
and profit ad infinitum

---

What doth it profit a man.  
to spend his life making  
to fund the overdraft  
of his endless making.

---

Grayson Perry makes  
Cracking pots  
perfect for flowers

and great door stops.  
but in the end  
they are only crocks  
his real art  
is in 'Claire's frocks'  
Signed Ms. Tate Carrot  
(anagram of Terracotta)

---

Turner Victory  
Turner Victorious  
Turner Victoria  
Turn her Regina  
into a crown and anchor

---

Critics Kant  
about pure reason  
to question them can be  
just treason.

---

I'm in the red  
but so want  
Pink.

---

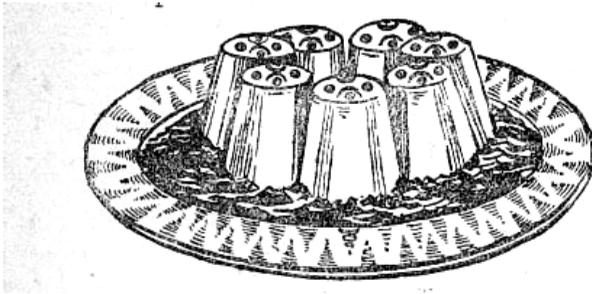
**IDEA!**

Draw, measure, saw  
nail, glue, screw  
Letter wax, polish  
hinge latch and bracket  
a few hours work  
But 40 years of.  
Looking, seeing, absorbing  
feeling, knowing, understanding  
sensing, intuition.  
that's the real price  
So a toast to my  
Two hands and eyes  
to serve me well  
until I die.

---

### **Thinking out loud**

Steve Handley?  
He's new – so different um  
not seen anything like it before  
quirky, odd ball,  
great wit and humour  
a refreshing change too –  
and I can use it, not just look at it  
would look good in our kitchen,  
a focal point,  
a real conversation piece  
He'll be sought after I'm sure  
and considering his age  
I'd better buy one  
Blast she's just bought THAT one  
I'd better get this one.



#### 1756. Chelsea Pudding

|                                 |                         |                             |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. flour.        | $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. suet. | $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. currants. |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. bread-crumbs. |                         | 1 tea-sp. baking powder.    |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. raisins.      |                         | 1 tea-cupful treacle.       |
| A pinch of salt.                |                         | 1 cupful milk.              |

Chop the suet finely and mix it in a basin with the bread-crumbs, flour, salt, and baking powder. Mix well together with the tips of the fingers, and add the currants and raisins carefully prepared. Make a well in the centre, add the treacle slightly warmed, and then the milk by degrees. Beat all together and then pour into a well-greased mould. Cover with greased paper and steam steadily the required time. When ready, turn out and serve with sauce.

Time to steam, 3 hours. Sufficient for 5 or 6 persons. Probable cost, 9d.







QUARRE MADE ME SUBTLE  
I MADE HER MAD  
NOW WE'VE 3 CHILDREN  
AND LIVE MUCH & DEER

W



MULLAHAW  
LEPRECHAUN PIE  
DUBES CRODLE  
SACCHIA CHRADE



YOU MAY TRAVEL SAFE  
RICHARD - OLIVER - JAMES  
1800  
KENNEDY

IT'S  
O'LENDRAID  
SO YOU'LL HAVE YOU  
TRUMP AND FOXY

THE DEER PRESENTS  
AND THE MAN HINDLE  
DUBELLA  
1800  
SUTANNE PRELAD

IT'S  
O'LENDRAID  
SO YOU'LL HAVE YOU  
TRUMP AND FOXY