

NEWSLETTER

April/May 2013

www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/

Email : info@southernceramicgroup.co.uk

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Editorial

Its been a long winter and the first green shoots of Spring nicely coincide with the first of this years Southern Ceramic Group Newsletters which has been in hibernation for some time. It also comes at a point where a newly formed committee (see Letter From the Committee below) has injected a much needed sense of optimism into the SCG. The Newsletter has also gone through a makeover and includes new sections as well as favourites from the past. We would love to hear your views on the content you would like to see in future editions.

Keith Menear

Letter From The Committee

We're delighted to have the bi-monthly newsletter back and so full of interesting information and tips. The newsletter has always been pivotal to the Group and Keith has done a wonderful job with an upbeat modern, attractive layout and content that we can all be proud of. Your comments and contributions will be most welcome!

Bearing in mind the large geographical area we cover we are trying to create a greater sense of 'belonging' to the Group. A membership list will be sent out shortly to those of you who haven't opted out so that you can identify potters who live close to you. Zyg is working on arranging smaller local half day workshops as well as more demonstrations. The recent Sally McDonnell demo organised by Tony was a great success and the follow up workshops hosted by Jan at her studio in Boarhunt were another opportunity for us to get together.

We do hope you are inspired by the news and information in this newsletter and we all look forward to your input and meeting up again soon.

Anne Smith

What's On

2013 Summer Exhibition at the Bishop's Kitchen

Saturday 27 July – Sunday 11 August

Venue – The Old Kitchen, Bishops Palace, Chichester, PO19 1PY.

Important Dates for Exhibitors

The online system to enter details of your exhibits, preferred stewarding dates, and other exhibitor information will be open from 24 June to 10pm on 7 July. No exhibit information will be accepted after 7 July. You will also need to provide 4 preferred stewarding dates

7 July 2013 Last Date for entry forms of your exhibits

25 July 2013 11am - 2pm Deliver work to The Palace, Chichester,

25/26 July Set up show

26 July 6-8pm Private View

27 July – 11 Aug (10am – 5pm) Exhibition open to public

11/12 August Take Down Show – Collect unsold work



2012 Bishops Kitchen Exhibition



2013 Pitfiring & Raku at Anne Lovejoy's in Angemeing Sunday 1st September 2013

You can see photo's from last years event at;
http://www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/Events/Pitfiring_2012/index.html

2012 Pitfiring & Raku Angemering

Geoffrey Swindell - Potter 13 to 28 April exhibition at www.Oxfordceramics.com 13 April- talk and demonstration at The Ashmolean Museum (part of Clay Live series) as advertised in Ceramic Review. Details for entry: <http://www.oxforduniversitystores.co.uk/browse/> and enter Swindell in the Search Box.

Martin Eastabrook

Henley Arts Trail

4th - 6th May 2013 are the dates for the Henley Arts Trail. The town and surrounding villages opens its doors to Open studios, village halls and an array of venues for local crafts people and artists to exhibit. Details are on www.henleyartstrail.com. West Forest Potters <http://www.westforestpotters.org.uk> holds a selling exhibition of a wide range of ceramics at the Henley Rugby Club during the event.

Martin Eastabrook

Art on the Street at Maidenhead will be held on Saturday 8th June from 10am to 5pm

See details on <http://www.maidenheadartmarket.org/>

Martin Eastabrook

Ceramic Art London 2013 is the major selling fair for contemporary studio ceramics at the Royal College of Art on 12 April to 14 April 2013 <http://www.ceramics.org.uk/home.php>

What's On

openstudios 4 May to 27 May West Berkshire and North Hampshire Open Studios was set up in 1987 and **2013** has been running alongside the Newbury Spring Festival in the month of May each year. They are a non-profit making organisation and are indebted to the support received from Greenham Common Trust, New Greenham Arts, The Corn Exchange, West Berkshire Council and their other supporters who help them to provide a diverse and interesting programme of visual arts events each year.

As well as artists opening their own studios either on their own or in conjunction with other artists, exhibitions at The Watermill Theatre, Arlington Arts, Benchmark and the INSIGHT exhibition at New Greenham Park showcase a diverse range of visual arts from sculpture, paintings, drawings, textiles, glass art, jewellery, metalwork, furniture making to name but a few. <http://www.open-studios.org.uk/>

Martin Eastabrook



Art in the Garden

25 May to 2 June, 10am to 5pm

Sculptural Ceramics by Jan Griffiths plus selected members of the Southern Ceramic Group. Also, Dee McNamara - contemporary fused glass and Andy Stevenson - metalwork.

Free entry/parking/tea/coffee.

Venue : The Studio, Evergreen, Trampers Lane, North Boarhunt, Fareham, Hampshire, PO17 6BU
tel: 01329 833124

Directions: From M27 J11 travel north following signs to North Boarhunt turning right into Trampers Lane. From Wickham follow the B2177 east turning left into Trampers Lane. Evergreen is 1 mile along on the left look out for the pink Hampshire Open Studio arrow on the telegraph pole and follow that along the track.

e-mail: griffiths.jan@btinternet.com

Jan Griffiths

Steyning Arts is a co-operative of local artists and was launched in May 2011 with our first Art Trail and Events programme. This years Summer 2013 show will be 25/26/27May - Bank Holiday weekend and 1/2 & 8/9 June. <http://www.steyningarts.co.uk>

Keith Menear

Craft in Focus RHS Wisley Gardens, 2nd-6th May 2013. Craft in Focus events have earned an enviable reputation for selecting only the very best professional designers, artists and craftsmen for their individuality and innovation in contemporary design. Included are a number of ceramic artists. Entry FREE to RHS members. http://www.craftinfocus.com/wisley_may_13.html

Keith Menear

Maydaysartstrail. An open studio event will be held on Hayling Island (11 & 12 May 2013), Havant, Waterlooville and Leigh Park (18 & 19 May 2013), and Emsworth (27 & 28 April and 4, 5 & 6 May).

All welcome. For full details please see www.Maydaysartstrail.co.uk

Zyg Kruk

Sculpting Course. Luke Shepherd is running a series of figurative sculpture and casting courses in Devon. A bit off our patch but if you are interested please see www.luke.shepherd.com

Zyg Kruk

Demonstrations

“Making a living out of bonfires”.

A SCG demonstration day with Sally MacDonell

About 20 SCG members and guests gathered on 3 March at the Above the Blue Gallery, Port Solent for an entertaining talk and demonstration by Sally MacDonell. Originally from Lincolnshire, Sally lives and builds her iconic female figures at her home and studio in Bath. While completing her degree in ceramics in Bath, she was told she could not make human forms for her final year project (someone else in the year had chosen that theme) so she built tissue thin porcelain hangings, and stuck some in boxes a la Joseph Cornell.

She then turned to smoke and pit firing of animal and human forms, and developed her current repertoire of small and large female heads, torsos and whole body pieces. She has an interest in medieval wood carving, and her stylised work, especially the head dresses and neck ornaments owe not a little to tribal art.

Sally presented a slide show of her work and work place, and entertained us with a commentary which included many anecdotes of her journey to the present day, including a quote from her father: ‘I never knew that you could make a living out of bonfires’.

After the slide show and questions, Sally got down to the demonstration – she was going to build one of her female forms, about 600mm high. She uses Scarva handbuild, straight from the bag, a slab is rolled out, and allowed it to dry for 30-60min. All of her work is hollow, and she first made two thighs (legs) which she stood on a slab, re enforced at the base with coils. The base would later have holes drilled under the hollow legs to allow for air movement during drying and firing. As the clay was still moist, she did not need to score or wet the chamfered joints. All joining was made from inside, leaving the slab joints as defined features.

She cut sections with a scalpel, as if working to a dress making pattern – offering the next piece to existing build, cutting again if needed, and then joining the new piece, working from the inside, leaving the external joins as features of the modelling.

Here are some images of how the build proceeded.



Demonstrations cont.

The figure was allowed to dry during the american lunch – and jolly good it was too – after which we watched Sally build arms, hands and the head.

All of these were hollow, arms built from tapered slabs, joined (from the inside) and pinched to shape. Hands were built hollow, with upper and lower wrist slabs and solid two knuckled fingers; with thumbs attached, joined to the arm.

The head was built from two semispherical pinched cups, one a bit wider than the other, so spare clay from the wider could be pulled down to blend over the narrower one to make an airtight hollow sphere.

The faces are an abstracted mix of African, Oriental and medieval– they look straight ahead with widely spaced almond shaped eyes; the long slim nose sweeps into arched eyebrows, and the mouth has a Mona Lisa smile (or has it?). We watched as these features, and the high hairline were modelled. A round hole for the neck was cut, and forehead and cheeks gently filled by pushing from the inside. Add a chin, blend in, and head was united with neck, supported by extra coils at the join. The headpiece was press moulded using a car air filter, and the rear of the headpiece from a clay slab press moulded on a patterned doily. The neck was dried with a hot air source to stiffen, et voila.

After bisc firing the figure will be decorated by brushing on either plain or coloured or oxide bearing engobe (you need to attend the demonstrations if you want to know secrets like the engobe formula), and then firing at 1186. A fascinating day and enjoyable day– thank you

Go to the website to view a gallery of Sally’s work (www.macdonell-ceramics.co.uk) or contact her by email if you wish to visit her studio: sally@macdonell-ceramics.co.uk.

Zyg Kruk



Other photographs of the event can be found on;

<http://www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/Events/SallyMacDonellDemo/>

courtesy of *Tony Thompson*

Demonstrations

There is a wealth of experience and talent within SCG, and meeting with potters to see their work, and how they make is always rewarding. So in addition to the large all day demonstrations, we would like to start a series of workshops run by members, for members, throughout the year.

As our membership stretches over 100 miles east to west, and up to 50 mile north to south, it might be possible to organise things on a 'regional' basis. Please let me know if you would be willing to run an open studio session or workshop, please either put a notice into the newsletter, or let me (or any committee member) know, and we will organise publicity.

Jan Griffiths opens her studio for building, glazing and firing sessions (raku and/or pit). Her studio is near Boarhunt (South Hampshire). Please contact her for further details (griffiths.jan@btinternet.com)

We are planning to hold two full day demonstrations in the next year, one in October/November 2013, and then in February/March 2014. These will be on Sundays. We are approaching ceramicists who I/we believe would make for an informative and entertaining day.

If you would like us to organise a demonstration by a particular ceramicist or on a specific technique, please contact me (zyg@kruk.co.uk) and we will do our best to meet demand.

Zyg Kruk

Technical Questions & Cries For Help

We would like to make the Newsletter available to provide an opportunity to ask questions which (we hope) members/readers may be able to answer. There is a breadth of knowledge within the group, why not use it?

Please forward your questions to keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk

For Sale/Wanted

Wanted. Kiln shelves, even damaged or broken, and kiln furniture to help in my kiln building project.

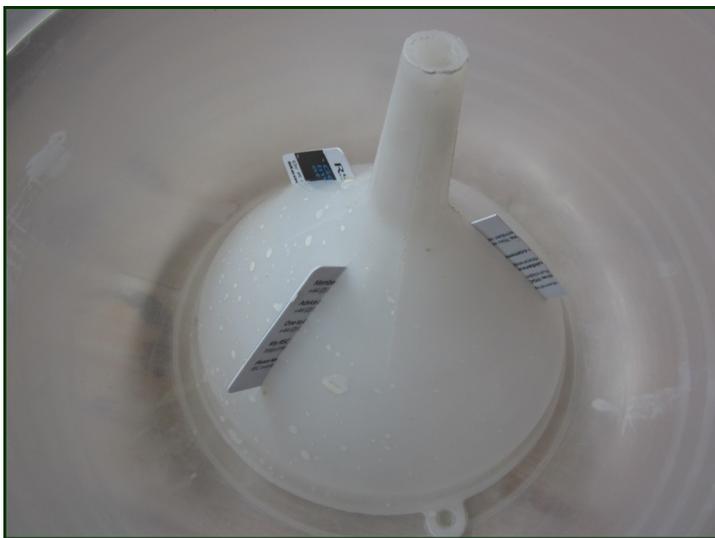
John Howell
email: xxhowell@talk21.com

Tips and Tricks

One useful tip for glazing larger objects is from the excellent book “250 Tips, Techniques and Trade Secrets for Potters” by Jacqui Atkin. This involves putting the pot on a conical funnel which is used as a chuck and pouring the glaze over the top. Excess glaze is caught in the bowl and can be recycled.

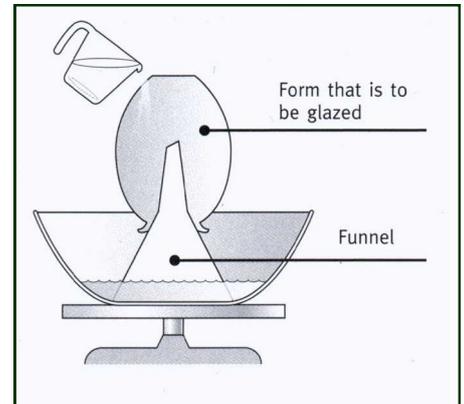
The system works well but still involves considerable clean up where the pot and funnel touch and the glaze pools.

One modification to help prevent this is to cut three equidistant cuts into a plastic funnel (with CARE) using a sharp knife. A credit card, also cut in three equal sections along its length can then be pushed in the slot (it can be glued but friction should hold it tight). The work is placed on the funnel



which is supported by the edges of the credit card thus

minimizing the contact area for the glaze to pool. The system has been tried mainly on large vases where only minimum cleanup on the rim is required.



Keith Menear

Figure showing plastic funnel with credit cards inserted into three cut slots, all of which is sitting in a plastic bowl

What's On the Web?

- **The Design Trust website.** The Design Trust helps professional designers & craftspeople to create and run better businesses. There are numerous free resources and articles as well as a useful newsletter. <http://www.thedesigntrust.co.uk/>
- **The Best of YouTube :** Throwing on roofing felt bats : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmtaUiDRrOo>
- **Folksy**, which launched in 2008 focuses exclusively on UK designers and makers as a UK alternative to Etsy. Very easy to set up a web shop, well managed and growing in popularity. <http://folksy.com/>

Glaze Group Meeting

The Glaze group meets on the second Tuesday of alternate months. This month eight members met at Marigo Harries' house in Colden Common: Marigo, John Howell, Mike Bush, Marion Stewart, Anne Smith, Di Wren, Tony Thompson and Charles Stileman.

The first task was to enjoy a slice of John's delicious home-made chocolate cake with a coffee.



John had been to a course at West Dean run by Sandy Brown and he showed us a pot that he had thrown off the hump.

Charles showed a sample of the slip he has created containing iron oxide to use over white clay to simulate a chun effect from the later glazing.

Mike had had problems with glaze pooling and creating a black area at the bottom of a bowl. Several solutions were suggested and Mike will try these. Mike showed us some glaze tests which had produced some interesting new colours. He also showed us a sample using drawings with rutile and cobalt under an iron rich crystalline glaze (pictured). This was much admired.

Di showed some pieces using Charles' artificial ash glaze over a blue and green slip fired to 1100. The colours were attractive but there was no chun effect. John asked if anyone had any spare pieces of kiln shelf to help him in building his new kiln.

The meeting was followed by lunch (pictured).

The next meeting of the glaze group will take place on Tuesday 14th May at 11 a.m. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining the group, contact: Charles Stileman. charles@charlesstileman.plus.com

Diana Wren



Members Profile

DIANA WREN

When I was at art college, we only used clay to make maquettes, as work in clay was regarded as craft not art. Times have changed, maybe thanks to Grayson Perry, but probably also to all those ceramic artists who have made such an impression on the art scene.

I see myself as an artist not a potter and only make decorative domestic ware, such as vases and sometimes quirky pots and containers. What I really like to make is sculpture. I often use simple moulds to start work off and then use a variety of techniques to complete the work: coiling, modelling, pinching and carving. I love carving, especially in stone, and have applied that technique to clay as well. My very derivative reclining figures are completely carved. I use a small electric kiln but am also very keen on raku and naked raku firing to obtain exciting finishes to my work.



Reclining figure



Dancer

My ideas come from the natural world: I love birds, fish and have made sculptures of them and of other sometimes surreal creatures. The human form is a big challenge and I am working to improve my skills in representing it. Sometimes my work is literal, sometimes more abstract. I am influenced by twentieth century artists like Matisse and Nikke de Saint Phalle for colour and Picasso, Moore and Hepworth for form.

I use a small electric kiln but am also very keen on raku and naked raku firing to obtain exciting finishes to my work.

Diana Wren



Puffin



Surreal creatures

Members News

Cloud Hopper Gallery

I thought the group might be interested in the Cloud Hopper Gallery that Community Arts Bognor Regis is opening in Bognor Regis. I am Chair of CABR, the gallery is a social enterprise, not for profit, Community Interest Company, set up for local artist to be able to exhibit, sell and share their talents with the community.

There will be an exhibition/display area and a workshop/demonstration area, also room for talks, seminars.

Anyone who is interested in exhibiting, running a workshop/demonstration, please, get in contact spcloud@btinternet.com for more details.

Su Cloud

New Members

A very warm welcome to new members:

- Tamar Rose from Steyning, West Sussex
- Cat Brown from Henfield
- John Butler from Havant
- Niki Jones from Blandford Forum, Dorset
- Lindsay Parson from Romsey
- Lisa Parson from Romsey (Associate)
- Mary Turvil from Rake, Liss
- Valerie Agar, Portchester



'Lotus Blossom' Dinnerware Cat Brown

Interested in becoming a member of the Southern Ceramic Group?

Application forms can be found on the group website at:

<http://www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/Information/SCGMemberApp.pdf>

Next Committee Meeting. The committee meets every few months or so and our next meeting will be on Thursday June 6th. If you have anything you would like to bring to our attention please contact me, or any other member of the committee.

Anne Smith has been our temporary chairperson for the last few months, during which time she has completely revitalised the committee to the extent that we have the comprehensive programme of events and support to offer to the membership that you have read about in this newsletter. So we have much to thank her for, but she was always only going to see us through this set up period and she has now stepped down as chairperson. Needless to say, this means that there is a vacancy here for any of you who would like to come and join us!

Sandie Dixon

Averil Hill

Sadly Averil Hill passed away on Monday 18th March. She had been a member of the SCG for many years even after she returned from Hampshire to her much loved Devon. She will be missed.

Jan Griffiths

SOUTHERN CERAMIC GROUP COMMITTEE**Chair**

Anne Smith **Tel** : 02380 453092 **Email** : anne@meercatworkboats.com

Vice Chair & Marketing

Jan Griffiths **Tel** : 01329 833124 **Email** : griffiths.jan@btinternet.com

Hon Sec

Sandie Dixon **Tel** : 02380 550064 **Email** : 2sandie@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer

Liz Gale **Tel** : 02392 632686 **Email** : lizgale@interalpha.co.uk

Membership

John Howell **Tel** : 02380 618165 **Email** : xxhowell@talk21.com

Website

Tony Thompson **Tel** : 01489 572115 **Email** : apttony@aol.com

Demonstrations

Zyg Kruk **Tel** : 02392 469104 **Email** : zyg@kruk.co.uk

News Sheet

Keith Menear **Tel** : 07788908182 **Email** : keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk

Rolf Hawkins **Tel** : 01962 869117 **Email** : rolf.hawkins@winchester.anglican.org

Bishops Kitchen Exhibition

John Evans (not on the committee) **Tel** : 01903 204407 **Email** : jev@jevceramics.co.uk

NEXT COPY DEADLINE : 25th May 2013

Please send contributions to : keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk

Next Newsletter due : 1st June 2013

Would you like to advertise in the Southern Ceramic Group Newsletter?

If so please contact Rolf Hawkins

email: rolf.hawkins@winchester.anglican.org

The rates for advertising are:

SCG Members : FREE

Commercial Advertising Rates: B&W Colour

Full Page £20

Half Page £10

Quarter Page £5

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