

NEWSLETTER

December/January 2013/14

www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/

Email : info@southernceramicgroup.co.uk

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Editorial

As we draw ever closer to the end of the year I'm pleased to say we have another full edition of the Newsletter.

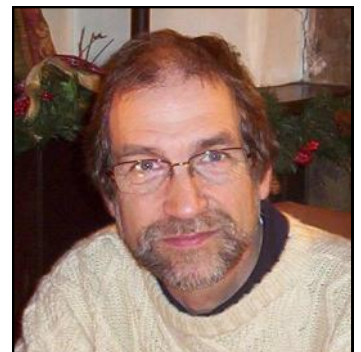
Firstly, the Committee is very pleased to formally recognize Rolf Hawkins to the Chair and we all wish him well in the stewardship of the group. This edition also illustrates the strong programme of demonstrations that the SCG organise with excellent reports on previous and upcoming events.

So as we all look forward to what 2014 will bring to our craft can I thank all members for their continued support for the SCG this year.

Keith Menear

Message from the Chair

Dear fellow SCG members.....At the last SCG committee meeting I accepted the role of Chair for the remaining period of my tenure having been voted on with the other members at the 2013 AGM. As a non-professional ceramists introduced to the craft at ILEA night classes in London prior to their demise I have benefited greatly from being an SCG member since moving to Hampshire some 20 years ago. I decided it was time to give something back to the group as it provides a valuable forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences of all those involved with or interested in ceramics.



As we approach the 2014 AGM in January I would like to thank the committee members for their work over the past 12 months which has provided a reinvigorated newsletter, website and series of demonstrations and events. In particular I would like to thank Jan Griffiths for acting as chair over this period as we have greatly benefited from her knowledge of the group over many years.

As you will see from the AGM announcement whilst the Committee are all willing to continue in their respective roles we would welcome additional support. As you will have read in the last newsletter we are looking for new volunteers to join the exhibition team and in particular for someone who might coordinate the work of those members who help to arrange this important event in our calendar.

What's On

Making Merry in North Boarhunt

At: Evergreen, Trampers Lane, North Boarhunt, PO17 6BU

Jan Griffiths will be holding a Christmas selling event at her studio from Saturday 30th November to Sunday 8th December from 10am to 5pm daily.

Jan Griffiths - Ceramics

Dee McNamara – Contemporary Fused Glass

Plus Guests: Jenny Shutler – jeweller: Lucille Scott – blacksmith

Angela Read – textile bags and purses: Jane`s homemade preserves and hampers

Gifts available from £2 to £200

On-site parking – seasonal refreshments



M27 J11 following signs to North Boarhunt turning right into Trampers Lane. From Wickham, east along B2177 turning left into Trampers Lane. Evergreen is one mile along on the left. For further information call Jan on 01329 833124 or griffiths.jan@btinternet.com

Jan Griffiths

Cloudhopper Gallery, 69 High Street, Bognor Regis

Community Arts Bognor Regis CIC has been working in the community for the past four years, running creative art events. In July we opened Cloudhopper Gallery and Creative Spaces in an empty shop, working in partnership with Arun District Council.

Everyone involved with this social enterprise (not for profit) are volunteers, our aim is to showcase the talent in our area, sell artists work, run professional and community workshops.

If you are interested in sale or return or hiring a space or doing a group exhibition, get in contact our email is cloudhopper.gallery@yahoo.com to take a look at what's happening at Cloudhopper go to our web site www.cloudhoppergallery.co.uk

Su Cloud (Chair of CABR and Director of Cloudhopper Gallery)

318 Ceramics at Farnham

318 Ceramics is a creative organisation which promotes excellence in ceramics by providing education and support to all makers from complete beginners through to professional designer makers. For the latest events and courses. For updates <http://www.318ceramics.co.uk/>

Mallams Auction

11December Auction including Studio Pottery Oxford Saleroom, Bocardo House, St. Michael's Street, Oxford, OX1 2EB Thursday 12th December - Oxford 20th Century Decorative Arts, Design & Studio Pottery www.Mallams.co.uk

The Gallery upstairs

Winter exhibition Henley on Arden 26 Nov -14 December <http://www.thegalleryupstairsstorquil.co.uk/>

What's On continued

Anglian Potters

All Saints, Jesus Lane, Cambridge

This selling exhibition runs from Saturday, 16th November (mulled wine and mince pies between 12 noon and 2 p.m.) and closes on Sunday, 15th December. Opening times: Mondays to Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays 12.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.anglianpotters.org.uk

Craft in Focus, RHS Wisley Gardens, Woking, GU23 6QB November 27th-30th & 1st December 2013 http://www.craftinfocus.com/wisley_november_13.html

Chichester Christmas Craft Market, December 7th-15th www.woodlandcrafts.co.uk

Bettles gallery Ringwood

Bettles Gallery are moving to new premises at 7 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 1DG on the 27th November for the Christmas period with a new exhibition Twelve Artists for Christmas 23 Nov 24 December www.bettles.net

“From the kiln”

pop up shop 6 November to 22 December. Nicholson shopping centre Maidenhead
15 potters manipulate clay in more than 15 styles.

Oxfordshire Crafts Guild

A series of Christmas exhibitions. See the web site fore details www.oxfordshirecraftguild.co.uk/

West Forest Potters

Ruthanne Tudball Potters Day. 18th January 2014.
Ruthanne was a founder member of West Forest Potters, and invite her back as part of their 30th anniversary celebrations. Details <http://www.westforestpotters.org.uk/joomla/>

See also links to their video from their firing day. Raku/ smoke and Pit firing <http://www.westforestpotters.org.uk/joomla/index.php/events>

With thanks to *Martin Eastabrook* for contributions to this section.



Demonstrations Report

A Demonstration by David and Margaret Frith Sunday 6th October 2013

Soberton Village Hall School Hill Soberton SO32 3PF

50 Years of Potting in Harmony.



On 6 October 2013, David and Margaret Frith gave 24 members and guests of SCG a masterclass demonstration of throwing and building at Soberton Village Hall. They met 50 years ago, and since then have become studio potters of world renown.

They worked side by side on two wheels, we were treated to a potting double act. David works with stoneware and he made large plates, bowls and pots. Margaret throws pots using porcelain, which David makes in one ton lots – about 6 tons a year. While David's work tends to be large and substantial, Margaret's tends to be smaller.

With little apparent effort, chargers and bowls appeared. Large pots were made in two parts. The joining parts of the two sections were carefully measured and adjusted so that the two parts became seamlessly joined on the wheel. Margaret

made a series of jugs, bottles, ginger pots with lids, some plain, some faceted using a variety of tools.

As pots, plates and bowls were made, they were placed aside to dry.

Bottles were made from thrown pots which were beaten into multifaceted shapes with plain or patterned paddles – it was quite a production line. To make a square bottle, the sides were gently paddled and allowed to dry before further shaping.



Demonstrations Report

As they worked David and Margaret maintained a dialogue. If one was silent, then the other took over – describing the job in hand, telling tales of potting derring-do, answering questions from the audience, and providing an unending stream of hints and tips:

- Margaret makes her bowls with wide bases – this adds support while the item is soft, and the excess is then turned.
- David makes large platters (up to 1 metre wide and weighing over 100lb) by throwing the base, and then adding 2 inch coils to the rim, and turning to get the final shape.
- Foot rings are added separately as one or two coils and well attached prior to turning
- Clean off slip from the outside of a thrown pot before removing it from the wheel
- Leave a dimple at the centre of a turned base – it stops the bottom from sagging
- Use a cheese cutter (or loose bladed potato peeler) for faceting pots and bowls
- Stack plates on edge in the kiln for bisc firing – this allows even heating

And many more – *if you want to know you need to attend the show!*



After lunch, the pots which had been made in the morning and left to dry were turned, joined, had spouts, feet and handles fitted. It all seemed effortless, but that's because we were watching enthusiastic masters at work.

David and Margaret run three two week schools each year – anyone wishing to improve their throwing skills could only benefit from attending one of these courses. In addition to making and teaching, the Friths run 5 shows and exhibitions each year. Details can be found by googling their names on www.

Towards the end of the day, David and Margaret talked about glazing of their work. They had brought a number of their pots, with different glaze finishes which were on display, and they described how they obtained these results.

I have not described any of the work we saw in detail. See Tony Thompson's gallery of photos taken on the day on the SCG website, which complement this account.

A fascinating, informative and enjoyable day.

Many thanks

Zyg Kruk

Demonstrations

A Demonstration by Ian Gregory

Petersfield Community Centre 2014. Love Lane, Petersfield, GU31 4BW

Sunday 2nd March 2014 9.30 for a 10.00 start to finish at 4.30

Ian Gregory is internationally known for his figurative and sculptural ceramics as well as being an expert on building of all manner of kilns, both innovative and traditional.. This is an opportunity not to be missed to watch and hear him at work.

Quote “ Ian Gregory’s work is built on a solid foundation of technical knowledge and intellectual rigor. It has carved out a unique standing and continues to challenge the status and perception of ceramic sculpture and it’s relation to fine art.”

Ashley Howard



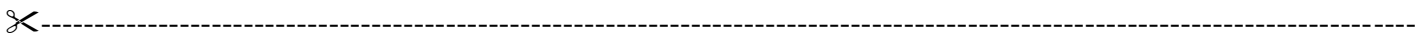
During the afternoon there will be the opportunity for a short hands on session. For those wishing to take part in this, please bring a small quantity of clay and a board to work on.

Bring a contribution for an “American Supper” type of lunch, a cup, plate and knife and fork, etc. Coffee and Tea will be provided

For directions to Petersfield Community Centre please email Liz Gale at lizgale@interalpha.co.uk

Nearer the time, there will be directions on the SCG web site.

Please note that this demonstration will also be open to non- members



Please complete and send with a cheque for £ 20.00 per person, (£25.00 non- members) made payable to Southern Ceramic Group, to Liz Gale, Taplands Farm Cottage, Webbs Green, Soberton, Southampton, SO32 3PY

Name.....Membership Number.....

Signature E Mail.....Date.....

Members Profile

Geraldine Maynard-Hoare

Having had an interest in art since childhood, and knowing evening classes were a good way of meeting other people, I started a pottery course in 1980, not realising it would be such an important part of my life.

After progressing fairly well with wheelwork, I decided to have a change, and sculpture became my second interest. However, over time, this reversed, and the latter became the former! Although, I eventually turned some rather nice bowls, small jugs and storage jars, I was never going to be a thrower of great ability, as many of my vases whittled down to pot-pourri dishes! We have a few examples dispersed around our house!

I joined the local art & craft society (PACS) in 1996, and soon after, joined the small group of 20 members called PACS Potters. Some time later, I became a member of the Southern Ceramic Group.



Some awards came my way, including one for the “Best Piece on Show” at the annual Southern Ceramic Exhibition in 2007, and I learnt to never underestimate my work, as this figurine was entered as an afterthought!

I am an observer of people, and posture can reflect the mood or character of an individual. Examples of these are the strong maternal bond between mother and daughter, or two sisters in deep conversation. A love of detail is reflected in the costumes of some of these figurines, with their customary headdresses. Egyptology, and garments from other countries and periods, leads to more exploration, and my semi-abstract work is another way of focusing my imagination to create a diverse range of sculptures.

Expressing emotions in the form of sculpture requires a sensitive nature. It gives me pleasure to channel these feelings in concepts to which others can relate, without the need to include detailed facial expressions. Although, I can create a quite reasonable human face, if I think it's desirable.



Members Profile

The inspiration for many of my figurines comes from themed television programmes, and images from fashion magazines. Like many potters, I have my favourite tools, and these include patterned rollers. A further dimension is created with the use of iron oxide and an application of porcelain slip in a particular manner, which accentuates detail, allowing me to mimic delicate or heavier woven materials. This is mainly done before the bisque firing, but extra oxide is sometimes applied before the final firing, which brings out all the features beautifully, and the completed figurines can be fully appreciated on close inspection.

For a considerable time I smoke-fired my figurines, and although I continue to produce them occasionally, they are now predominantly high fired at 1230oC. I have discovered another way to create the three-toned effect, which is so popular, producing pieces that are more durable and are less likely to fade in bright sunlight.

When time allows, a good raku firing with friends provides opportunity for a change to more colourful sculptures, with many figurines in conjoined pairs. I love the variety of colour from mixing additives with the white crackle, and although expensive, it provides another form of expression; these sculptures sell really well.

Some of my work is finished with small amounts of gold leaf (not real gold!!). I apply this right at the end of the production process, in order to accentuate particular features or parts of the patterning. I only ever apply small, subtle amounts, if I feel the sculpture would benefit from a little decorative enhancement.

Ceramics continue to give me great pleasure, and I enjoy learning new facts and techniques from fellow potters.

Geraldine Maynard-Hoare



Glaze Group Meeting

The Glaze group meets on the second Tuesday of alternate months.

The Glaze Group met at Marigo Harries house. Those present were: Charles Stileman, Marion Stewart, Mike Bush, John Howell, Tony Thompson, Marigo Harries, Diana Carter, Tim Thornton, Tom Paine and Di Wren.

Analysis of ceramics:

John brought two pots by Lara Scobie (pictured). The group examined them and decided they were made of slip cast porcelain with a band of blue in vertical stripes. The decoration was very fine and we felt was probably achieved with sgraffito.

Charles described a visit to Tim Andrews' exhibition in Devon. He also showed a Lisa Hammond pot which had been gas fired and then wood fired with salt. It was highly textured with a rich variety of colours.

Tom showed some wonderful examples of copper red glaze which he had achieved by firing to 1280 and then reducing at 900.

Charles described the Chinese pottery collected by Sir David Percival, the British ambassador to China, which is now in the British Museum.

Diana and Di showed some experimental firings of chun glazes, some of which had peeled away. It was the view of the group that the glaze used had been contaminated.

There was a discussion about double glazing. John recommended putting either a tenmoku glaze over an existing glaze or a pale tin glaze. Both needed to have the addition of a sticking agent, such as wallpaper paste, to ensure adhesion.

The meeting concluded with lunch.

New members are always welcome at the Glaze Group. Contact Charles Stileman charles@charlesstileman.plus.com



Diana Wren

Members News

New Members

A very warm welcome to new members:

Mary Marmery of London
Tom Paine of Andover
Sue Thomas of Emsworth
Carol Pavey of Hamble
Richard Hollingbery of Petersfield
Hilary Bowen of Braemore, Hants
Ane Swatton of Hillhead, Fareham
Neil & Suzanne Rampton of Mottisfont, Romsey
Josephine Hindle of Chichester

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 6th March 2014. If you have anything you would like to bring to our attention please contact me, or any other member of the committee.

Local Groups

At the last SCG Committee Meeting on the 7th November, it was recognised that there are now quite a few people from the east of Chichester area enquiring if there are any `local` groups who meet up like the group who meet up in the Hamble area. Allison Bevis Cronk has agreed that she is willing to coordinate a small group of local SCG members

The Hamble group meet up fairly regularly at various SCG members houses or studios, discuss and try our different approaches to pottery, making things with the occasional raku firing, even having a small pit firing and bringing their own lunch. It's as much about getting like minded people together within our overall SCG group, learning from each other, and having a good natter as well!

Allison now lives in Barnham, West Sussex, PO22 0DE, and her studio is still in Walberton, but once she knows who is interested in meeting up, she'll work out a suitable venue

If you are interested, Email her at allison@bus-stop-studios.co.uk or call her on 01243 555022

On behalf of *Allison Bevis Cronk*



Southern Ceramic Group AGM

AGM . Sunday 26th January 2014. Portchester Community Centre.

All members are warmly invited to come to the AGM, which will be held on Sunday 26th January 2014 at Portchester Community Centre. The doors will be open at 10.00 a.m. so that there will be time for a cup of coffee before the meeting starts at 10.30.

The business of the meeting is similar to that of other groups and consists of election of any new committee members, reports on last year's finances, membership, newsletters, exhibitions, website, demonstrations and marketing as well as plans for the future.

Business usually takes a couple of hours after which we will have an "American supper" type of lunch. So if you intend to join us for lunch please bring some food to add to the buffet. Please also bring a plate and cutlery. No need to bring chairs though as the Centre is a brand new building and is well equipped.

Rolf Hawkins has agreed to be our chairman and the rest of committee have also agreed to continue to serve their 3 year terms. However, if you would like to be on the committee please let us know as more help is always welcome. If there is an item which you would like to be added to the agenda please let me know by 2nd January, so that we can send out the final agenda well before the meeting.

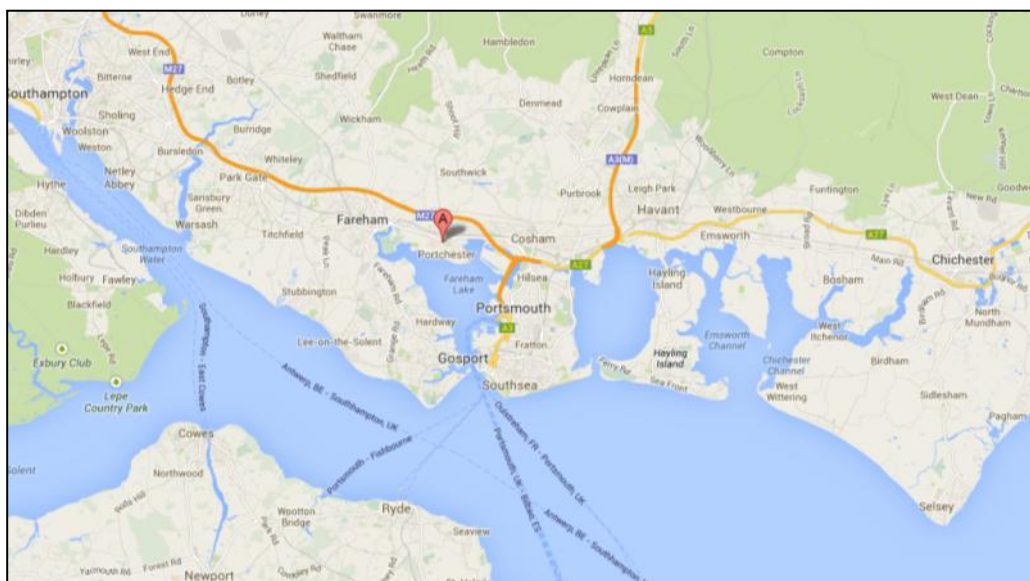
We very much hope that you will consider coming. For new members it will be a chance to get to know us and for others it's a chance to meet old friends. If you are a new member and don't know anyone else in the group please don't feel shy about turning up. You will be well looked after.

Portchester Community Centre is a lovely new building situated just a couple of hundred yards from the A27 and less than 3 miles from the M27.

The address is Westlands Grove, Fareham, PO16 9AD, or go to: www.portchestercommunitycentre.co.uk/

More details will follow. We hope to see you there email 2sandie@tiscali.co.uk

Sandie Dixon. Hon Sec.



SOUTHERN CERAMIC GROUP COMMITTEE**Chair**

Rolf Hawkins **Tel** : 01962 869117

Email : rolf.hawkins@winchester.anglican.org

**Vice Chair & Marketing**

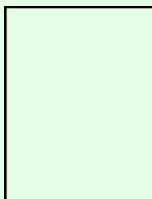
Jan Griffiths **Tel** : 01329 833124

Email : griffiths.jan@btinternet.com

**Hon Sec**

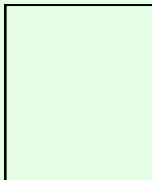
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Email : 2sandie@tiscali.co.uk

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**Website**

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Email : aptony@aol.com

**News letter**

Keith Menear **Tel** : 07788908182

Email : keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk

NEXT COPY DEADLINE : 17th January 2014

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

Next Newsletter due : 1st December 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

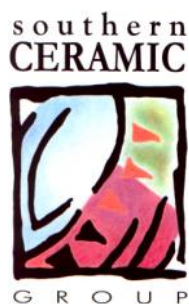
Commercial Advertising Rates: B&W Colour

Full Page £20

Half Page £10

Acknowledgments

Thanks goes to regular contributors to the Newsletter; *Diana Wren, Martin Eastabrook* and for editorial assistance *Marigo Harries*



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