

# NEWSLETTER

February/March 2015

[www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/](http://www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/)

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## Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of the Southern Ceramic Group Newsletter for 2015. After a busy Christmas period doing various sales events I was struck by the number of ceramic exhibitors presenting at these shows. Although the number was impressive it was from a rather narrow demographic with fewer younger exhibitors. This is perhaps not surprising against the backdrop of college and university ceramic course closures and the move away from pottery teaching in our schools. Despite this it appears some young ceramicists are bucking the trend and following a career with clay, indeed its good to see younger members participating in SCG events and this edition of the newsletter .

*Keith Menear*

## AGM Report

**Thanks to those members who found time to come to the AGM in Portchester on Sunday 25th January as always it was an opportunity to catch up with members new and old and enjoy the usual delights of the bring and share lunch followed by a couple of short films of well-known potters at work.** My thanks go to the Committee members all of whom are willing to serve for another year. Whilst Kevin Akhurst could not be with us he has kindly agreed to co-ordinate BK2015 and was formally voted on to the committee who also repeated their appeal to the membership to consider joining the committee over the 12 months.

It was noted that the SCG has become an affiliated organisation to the Heritage Crafts Association. This will help to promote the profile of the group to stimulate membership as well as providing opportunities to advertise events. The plans for 2 demos per year are proving successful and have more than covered costs. Similarly the Annual Exhibition had another successful year at the Bishop's Kitchen. Members noted another positive financial outturn and the year on year increase in membership which currently stands at 125 members distributed as follows: Hants and IOW 70, West Sussex 37, East Sussex 5, Dorset 6, Berkshire 2, Surrey 2, London 1, further afield 2.

The members showed their appreciation for the interesting and varied newsletter and the regular contributors were thanked for their input. The Website remains an important tool for the group and members were reminded that gallery pages currently show the work of only 56 members of the group out of a total membership of 125. If you are not included and wish to be send in (6-9) images of your work, together with an overview and contact details. It was also announced that the 40th Anniversary Celebration, mentioned in the last new letter will take place on the 27th September 2015 at Chichester University. Please book this in your diary.

Unfortunately the AGM was not quorate and the Committee took the decision to proceed on the basis that the minutes will be circulated to all members by email asking them to accept the decisions made on their behalf by those present thus avoiding the need to reconvene the AGM on another date.

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## What's On

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### **PACS Potters Group Presents a Demonstration by Roger Lewis**

Petersfield Community Centre on Sunday 12th  
April 2015  
9.30am-4pm

Fee £18  
Non-PACS £20

Bookings to Geraldine Maynard-Hoare  
01730-231880

Bring a plate of food for lunch contribution. You  
will need your own plate, cutlery & mug



**Roger Lewis** trained at Shrewsbury, High Wycombe, Cardiff, and Goldsmiths and was Senior lecturer of ceramics for over 20 years up to 1997. 'My main working method has evolved over 30 years of continuous development exploring the possibilities derived by inventive manipulation of thin slabs of clay. Ideas for forms come from this exploration of the material. I try to develop interesting and, sometimes unusual, ways of making objects out of clay and then spend a period of time exploring the possibilities. My search with clay can lead me to spin-off in new directions unexpectedly. The work is balanced between the initial excitement and motivation gained from experimental discovery and the subsequent satisfaction of perfecting and developing ideas through limited production.'

*Geraldine Maynard-Hoare*



## What's On

### International Ceramics Festival Aberystwyth Arts Centre, 3rd-5th July 2015

Tickets for the 2015 festival will be on sale from 1st November 2014

Weekend tickets will give you free admission to all demonstrations, lectures, slide-shows, seminars and exhibitions, a souvenir programme and the Saturday evening entertainment with live music. A limited number of day tickets are also available for Saturday and Sunday <http://www.internationalceramicsfestival.org/>

### Creative Gallery Wareham

St John's Hill, Wareham, BH20 4NB

01929 551700

[www.creativegallerywareham.co.uk](http://www.creativegallerywareham.co.uk)

Open Monday-Saturday 10-5

During 2015 we are putting on all CERAMIC guest exhibitors to celebrate the 40 years since I started potting at Goldsmiths' College, London evening classes!

2nd March-1st April

Jan Griffiths and Margaret Newton

"Out of the Smoke"

The Creative Gallery Wareham hosts the first of our Southern Ceramic Group members who are exhibiting with us in 2015 - there's a warm welcome awaiting all who pay us a visit to support them and enjoy a day out in Wareham - a lovely town with many independent shops, cafes, 10 pubs, museum, the river, the quay and great countryside all around.

2nd April-1st May

Russell Coates

"Out of the Blue"

Russell was one of my first evening class tutors at Goldsmiths'. He now works in Somerset making pots inspired by the work he produced while a student in Japan. He paints his decorative outlines in cobalt blue which are later infilled with rich enamels to build up elaborate images of animals, sea creatures and pattern.

We're easy to find if you come by car, just follow the signs for Motability, they are our neighbours in St John's Hill. Wareham has its own train station - unfortunately we are at the other end of town, but on a nice day it's a pleasant 15 minute walk away which takes you along the main road (North Street and South Street) down towards the Quay. If you can't visit check out our Facebook page via the website - all "likes" gratefully received.

*Fiona Kelly*

**The Red House Museum**, Christchurch has foyer gallery space available for an artist interested in exhibiting or promoting HOS generally. Also, they have an open exhibition 21 March to 18 April.

The Red House Museum is housed in a former Georgian workhouse, displays a variety of fascinating social history and archaeological items from the Christchurch area <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/redhouse>



*Jan Griffiths*

## What's On

### Amberley Museum Pottery Festival Sat & Sun 4-5 th July 2015

#### A Celebration of 30 Years at the Pottery Barn

We are pleased to bring you details of the Amberley Museum Pottery Festival in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Pottery Barn.

The pottery festival is the first of its kind for Amberley Museum and brings those passionate about working with clay together for a weekend of celebration. We hope to provide a ceramic spectacle for the general public with stalls offering sales and active demonstrations of working with clay, together with a great networking opportunity for potters.

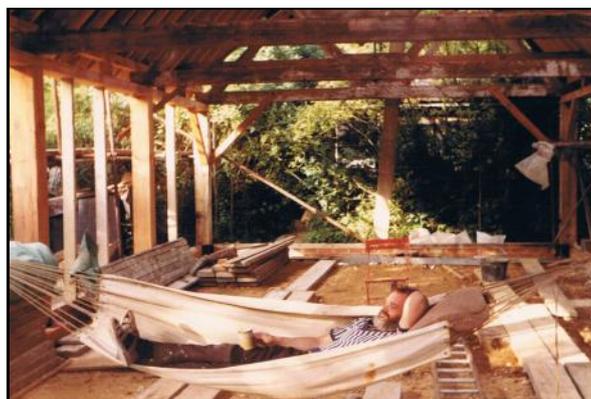


The Pottery Barn is in the heart of the beautiful 35 acre heritage centre at Amberley Museum, and is surrounded by a broad range of fascinating historic exhibits. Exhibitors will typically be allocated a space of approximately 6', however please contact the organisers ([menear@live.com](mailto:menear@live.com), tel. 07788908182) if additional room is needed or if you have special requirements. Potters able to provide demonstrations (throwing, making or firing) will be especially welcome and will be able to exhibit FREE. Dates: Saturday, Sunday 4-5th July 10:00am until 5:00pm daily Pitches: either outside in gazebos (provided by the exhibitor) or inside one of the historic buildings on site. Please indicate your preference on the booking form.

Pitches are free if you demonstrate, if you would like a stall purely to trade, this would be subject to a fee of £25.00 for the complete weekend. Location: Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre is in the heart of the South Downs National Park (Map Venue BN18 9LT). The site is accessible by major roads and is adjacent to British Rail Amberley Station.

**To Enter** please apply for an application form from the **Museum office**; e-mail [office@amberleymuseum.co.uk](mailto:office@amberleymuseum.co.uk) or telephone on 01798 831370

*Keith & Debbie Menear*  
Event Organisers



*Tim Stampton taking a break during the construction of the pottery barn  
Photo courtesy of Maggie West*

## Demonstrations

The next SCG demonstration will be with **Felicity Lloyd Coombes** on Sunday, 22 February 2015 from 10am to 4pm at The Friend's Centre, Amberly Open Air Museum, Houghton Bridge, Station Rd, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9LT

Felicity is an independent animal ceramic artist, specialising in work that celebrates animals in their various magnificent forms. She started Lloyd Coombes Ceramics after completing a degree in 3D Design Ceramics at Loughborough University. She has spent four years building a reputation as an accomplished artist in her chosen genre. Felicity sculpts a range of animal ceramics for exhibitions, galleries and commissions. She also teaches at her studio, and runs courses at West Dean College.



For further details please see [www.lloydcoombesceramics.co.uk](http://www.lloydcoombesceramics.co.uk), or you can contact her by email [flickoombes@hotmail.com](mailto:flickoombes@hotmail.com)

The demonstration is open to SCG members and their guests, and non members. Please register using the form below. "We will have an American Supper type lunch, so please bring a plate/ bowl of food which we can all share – starter, or main, or dessert.. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be provided. You may wish to bring your own cup/ mug, as well as a plate and cutlery for lunch." If you have any questions please contact me at [zyg@kruk.co.uk](mailto:zyg@kruk.co.uk)

*Zyg Kruk*  
Demonstrations co ordinator

### Registration Form

Please complete the form and send it by either email ([zyg@kruk.co.uk](mailto:zyg@kruk.co.uk)) or post to Zyg Kruk, 30 Wittering Rd, Hayling Is. Hants, PO11 9SP

Please pay by BACS (details below), or send a cheque for £ 20.00 per person, (£25.00 non-members) made payable to Southern Ceramic Group, to me at the above address.

I wish to register for the SCG Felicity Lloyd Coombes demonstration on 22 February 2015.

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

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

I am paying by cheque .....or BACS..... (please indicate)  
If paying by BACS please write your payment reference here : SCGFLC + your initials

#### BACS Payment Details

SCG account name: Southern Ceramic Group

Bank: Lloyds

Acc No: 26954360

Sort code: 30-90-34

Payment Reference: SCGFLC + your initials

## Members Profile : Heather Muir

As a child growing up, there was always a bin of clay or a lump of plasticene to play with. My father was a sculptor and I loved watching him model clay with his fingers and his array of wooden tools. I enjoyed helping to mix up the plaster when it came to the process of mould making and casting his figures. It was always exciting when he sold a finished piece and it was his gentle influence that drew me to ceramics.

In the late 1970's I studied 3D Design: Ceramics at Bath Academy of Art. The brilliant and inspiring John Colbeck was my tutor and guiding light. After graduating, I had a studio in London until family life took over and I went into teaching primary education. In 2008 I moved to Chichester, joined Southern Ceramics Group and re-kindled my passion for making. I now teach part-time which allows me some time to work in my garden studio.



I love using porcelain for its white body, smooth texture and translucent qualities. I throw the porcelain as thinly as possible, leaving a thick base to support the pot, which I turn when leather hard on my ancient electric wheel.

Form and surface pattern that is integral to the form is my aim and I try to develop this either through carving or fluting.

For my tea-lights I use a resist technique for the surface decoration. I brush decorative marks in an acrylic matt medium to the bone-dry clay. When that is dry I reduce the thickness of the wall by sponging away the clay with water. This leaves the resist pattern as a raised texture on a thin translucent wall.

I either leave parts of the pot unglazed and polished, or use coloured glazes. I use a Peter Lane barium matt recipe for colours and after being inspired by the 'Landscape' work of Pippin Drysdale, I've experimented with inlaying coloured glazes. I fire work to 1260 with a 40 minute soak in my electric kiln.

The joy of making just one beautiful pot out of the many that get consigned to the bin is what keeps me at the wheel and I still have a long way to go!

*Heather Muir*



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## Web Site Gallery Pages

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### Gallery Pages on the Southern Ceramic Group Website.

The SCG website Gallery pages currently show the work of only 56 members of the Group, out of a total membership of 124 !

In 2014, there were 5,974 unique visitors to the website. Some visits are extremely brief - we've all searched the Internet for something and found what we are not interested in - but around 14% or 836 visitors have spent between 2 minutes and over an hour looking at the website.

Every member is entitled to be included in the Gallery, and have dedicated Pages to you and your work.

Obviously some members may not wish to be included, but if you do, forward to me some relevant information about yourself, contact info, and high resolution photos of your work, and I will create your pages as soon as I can.

*Tony Thompson*  
SCG Website Manager

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## Southern Ceramic Group 40th Anniversary

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2015 marks the 40th anniversary of Southern Ceramic Group. To celebrate this occasion we are planning a 1 day Ceramic Fest on Sunday, 27 September 2015 at Chichester University.

The program for the day is being developed, but it will include

- A keynote talk by Jack Doherty
- Recollections by founder members of SCG
- A display of member's work

Catering will be provided

More details in future newsletters.

*Zyg Kruk*  
Demonstrations co coordinator



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## Group & Members News

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### New Members

A very warm welcome to new members:

Yvonne Haigh, Medstead, Alton  
Bruce Thomas, Lee on the Solent  
Abby Ducharme, Midhurst  
Vidya Thirunaraya, Southsea  
This gives a total of 125 current members

*John Howell*

### 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 the 7th May 2015. If you have anything you would like to bring to our attention please contact Sandie Dixon [2sandie@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:2sandie@tiscali.co.uk) or any other member of the committee.

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## 2015 Summer Exhibition at the Bishop's Kitchen

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Please put the dates for the 2015 Summer Exhibition in your diaries. The event will run from Saturday 25th July to Sunday 9th August and the members evening will be from 6 to 8 pm on Friday 24th July. After some doubt earlier this year I am pleased to confirm that we have again booked the Bishop's Kitchen at Chichester Cathedral.

John Evans' magnificent management of this event in previous years will be a hard act to follow but it is my intention, with the support of the rest of the team, to maintain the high standards and ensure that we have another marvellous show this year.

Entry details will be issued within the next week or so, so for all of you intending to exhibit please look out for these and also have your Portfolio details ready to update or enter.

*Kevin Akhurst*

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## Courses

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**A number of Southern Ceramic Members offer pottery courses across a range of abilities and ceramic disciplines.** These include, amongst other things, tuition on wheel throwing, sculpting, hand-building and raku firing.

You can now find a list of course providers on the Southern Ceramic Group website where they can be contacted directly. Any members providing courses who would like to be included on the list should contact Tony Thompson. <http://www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/Information/training.htm>

*Keith Menear*

## 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**Membership**John Howell **Tel** : 02380 618165**Email** : john.f.howell@talktalk.net**Hon Sec**Sandie Dixon **Tel** : 02380 550064**Email** : 2sandie@tiscali.co.uk**Website**Tony Thompson **Tel** : 01489 572115**Email** : aptony@aol.com**Treasurer**Liz Gale **Tel** : 02392 632686**Email** : lizgale@interalpha.co.uk**News letter**Keith Menear **Tel** : 07788908182**Email** : keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk**Demonstrations**Zyg Kruk **Tel** : 02392 469104**Email** : zyg@kruk.co.uk**SCG Summer Exhibition**

Kevin Akhurst

**Email** : kevinakhurst@btinternet.com

**NEXT COPY DEADLINE : 17th March 2015**

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

**Next Newsletter due : 1st April 20145**

**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**

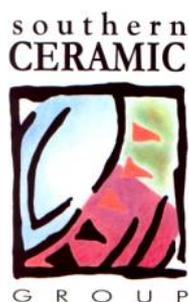
**Commercial Advertising Rates: B&W Colour**

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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