

NEWSLETTER

October-December 2017

www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/

Email : info@southernceramicgroup.co.uk

Contents

- SCG Summer Exhibition
- What's On
- Group & Members News
- Glaze Group Meeting Notes
- Members Profile
- Demonstrations
- SCG Committee

Editorial

Welcome to the October/December edition of the SCG Newsletter. The newsletter is published electronically quarterly to members of the Southern Ceramic Group and is more widely distributed to associated pottery groups.

We always welcome your contributions to the newsletter from events to technical articles to profiles. This edition is a great example of the varied interests of the group, we hope you enjoy the newsletter and will consider contributing in the future.

Keith Menear

SCG Summer Exhibition Bishops Kitchen Chichester



This year we again had many approving comments from visitors to our Summer Exhibition at the Bishop's Kitchen in Chichester. The display was greatly enhanced by our new lighting system which was designed and constructed by Neil Rampton and Tom Paine. It was a real challenge to find an effective way of improving the lighting of the central displays which looks good and doesn't get in the way of visitors viewing the exhibits. Neil and Tom rose to this challenge magnificently and many of our exhibitors told us how much they liked it.

We welcomed just under 3000 visitors to the exhibition over the two weeks that it was open and our sales broke recent records with 300 exhibits sold (8% higher than last year) and income

from those sales which was 15% up on last year's figure, itself a record. We had 54 exhibitors, which is almost 40% of our membership, including several who had not exhibited at the Bishop's Kitchen before.

This was my last year in charge of our Summer Exhibition. After three years of fun and hard work I think it is time to hand over to a new team with fresh ideas. The exhibition will be in very good hands, with Vasu Reddy looking after the overall organisation, Helen Scribbans as treasurer and Sue Thomas responsible for producing the catalogue, labels, etc. Vidya Thirunarayan and Tom Paine led on publicity and display respectively this year and they will continue in these roles in 2018.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the exhibitors over the past three years who pitched in and, in so many ways, helped to make our Summer Exhibition such a success. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Kevin Akhurst

What's On

Petersfield Potters have arranged a demonstration with Shozo Michikawa, the celebrated Japanese artist, on Saturday 7 October 2017 at Herne Leisure Centre in Petersfield. Shozo is running a course at West Dean the week before our demonstration. Cost £25. Further details nearer the time but please keep the date free.

Richard Hollingbery
1 Lower Wardown
Petersfield
Hampshire
GU31 4NY
telephone: 01730 267 262
mobile: 078 089 54 693

Making Merry at Evergreen, 2 - 10 December: Trampers Lane, North Boarhunt, Hants PO17 6BU
Open daily 10am to 5pm. A selling event geared towards Christmas gifts. Ceramics, glass, textiles and metalwork. griffiths.jan@btinternet.com - www.facebook.com/jangriffithsceramics

Jan Griffiths

PACS POTTERS CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION Six members of Southern Ceramic Group will be exhibiting their work, along with other members of PACS Potters. Come and buy some special Christmas presents!

Festive opening on Saturday 18th November from 11am, and open until 4pm.
Then open daily from 10am - 4pm until Sunday 26th November.

Entry is free. At the Physic Garden Meeting Room, off the High Street, Petersfield; GU32 3JJ

Visit website: <http://gart.atspace.org/>

MADE - London, Marylebone at Made London Oct 19, 2017 - Oct 22, 2017 MADE LONDON will be showing for the 6th time this October. An enjoyable event showcasing some of the best and most original makers.

Farnham Festival of Crafts - with ceramics at Farnham Maltings Oct 28, 2017 - Oct 29, 2017 Includes ceramics from Rose Dickinson.

Oxford Ceramics Fair 2017 at CPA Autumn Fair Oct 28, 2017 - Oct 29, 2017 More than 60 of the UK's leading potters will be exhibiting and selling their ceramics at the Oxford Ceramics Fair 2017.

Art in Clay at Farnham 2017 at Art in Clay - Farnham Nov 18, 2017 - Nov 19, 2017 The 21th Art in Clay Farnham takes place in November. There will be a range of work from newly qualified artists working in clay to potters with many years of creative work behind them.

Sussex Guild - with ceramics (Midhurst) at Midhurst Rother College Dec 02, 2017 - Dec 03, 2017 mixed show with ceramics.

SCULPT AT KEW at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Sep 18, 2017 - Oct 15, 2017 A new outdoor sculpture trail at Kew Gardens

British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke on Trent at Stoke on Trent Sep 23, 2017 - Nov 05, 2017 Running for 6 weeks with 20 exhibitions, national and international ceramic artists.

Sussex Guild show with ceramic art at De La Warr Pavillion Sep 30, 2017 - Oct 01, 2017 Mixed show at this interesting location.

What's On

The Contemporary

Craft & Design Fair



Purchase direct from the very best artists and craftmakers in the UK

Sevenoaks School
SEVENOAKS
20 - 22 October 2017



11am to 5pm Friday
10am to 5pm Weekend
Admission £4.00

www.craftinfocus.com T: 01622 747325

Craft & Design Fair, 20th-22nd October Sevenoaks School, Sevenoaks TN13 1HU

Craft & Design Fair, 17th-19th November Winchester Guildhall SO23 9GH

2 Events • 1 Ticket • 4 Halls

9th Year	New for 2017
Jewellery & Silversmithing Fair	Craft & Design Fair




www.desirefair.com

www.craftinfocus.com

Purchase direct from the UK's leading designer makers

The Guildhall WINCHESTER

17-19 November

Admission £5.00 • Friday 12.30-6.30pm • Weekend 10am-5pm

Christmas Contemporary

Craft & Design Fair



RHS Garden
WISLEY
22 - 26 November

Purchase direct from the very best makers in the UK



www.craftinfocus.com

Craft & Design Fair, 22nd-26th November Craft in Focus RHS Gardens Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

Christmas Craft Market, 2nd-10th Chichester Christmas Market, Chichester City Centre



Raku & Copper Fuming with Abby & Suzanne

Are you interested in trying out alternative firings? If so, come and join us on our one-off Raku & Copper Fuming workshop.

We will take you through the process of how to Raku your clay creations, as well as showing you more specialist methods like Copper Fuming. We'll teach you how to decorate your pieces using resists to create variation in your glazes and cover all the necessary Health and Safety involved in managing your own Raku firing. We can even show you how to build your very own Raku kiln!

Workshops are limited to small numbers which allows us to give one to one tuition, making sure you get the most out of your time with us.

Cost: £75 - includes light lunch, all materials & firing.



Hilton House Studio
Denmead, Waterlooville.
Sunday 15th October 10.00 - 16.30

For more information -

Contact us:
Email: suzanne@rampton.org.uk / abbyducharme@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 0239 225 2309
Mob: 07905 474662

Pit Firing and Raku Day

A great Pit Firing and Raku Day held at Ann Lovejoy's home in September was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all (despite the weather). It was lovely to meet so many friends old and new and particularly some new members of the SCG. So many pots and as usual an amazing banquet of a lunch contributed by the participants.

Anne was also presented with a gift and a voucher from the Southern Ceramic Group committee for kindly storing the exhibition equipment in her barn for many years. This has all now been found a new home.

Thank you Anne

Jan Griffiths

griffiths.jan@btinternet.com
www.facebook.com/jangriffithsceramics



Group & Members News

New Members

A very warm welcome to new members:

Caroline Piggott from Southampton

Rachel Rankin-Hayward of Brighton

Pamela Chipperton from Ferring

Cliff Free, Poole

Melanie Russell of Chichester

Katie Hudson from Gosport

Gael Emmett also from Chichester

The membership currently stands at 148

Next Committee Meeting. The committee meets every few months or so and our next meeting will be on Next meeting. Monday 16th October 2017. 7.15 pm at Neil's house.

"Hilston House" Hambleton Road, Denmead, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 6HB

If you have anything you would like to bring to our attention please contact Sandie Dixon 2sandie@tiscali.co.uk or any other member of the committee.

Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Notes from the Glaze Group Meeting – 12th July 2017

Present: Kevin Akhurst, Mike Bush, Jan Griffiths, Nadia Hopkins, John Howell, Barbie Plastow, Charles Stileman and Tim Thornton.

This meeting was kindly hosted once again by Barbie Plastow in Awbridge.

Kevin brought along a Japanese late 18th century serving dish with a horse-eye iron oxide decoration in the style of Mingei folk art.



There was some discussion on Shino glazes using a David Frith recipe. Kevin is currently testing using a mixture of 3 different clays as the base and we will hopefully get to see the results of these at some point. Carbon trap shino uses up to 17% soda ash and it might be interesting to pursue tests on this too. There was some talk on how the raw ingredients change over time and the importance of testing new batches. Kevin also produced some new work:

Jan recently attended the ICF in Aberystwith and met a Japanese Potter who now lives in Barcelona and uses a well known cleaning product as one of her base ingredients for shino! When she looked it up on-line it is in fact 70%+ nepheline syenite – worth some experimentation.

Mike Bush has a recipe for a 'fake' shino style glaze which gives good results in an electric kiln and he kindly shares this with us:

Potash Feldspar 24
China Clay 17
Dolomite 18
Quartz 32
Tin Oxide 8
Yellow Ochre 2
: Fired to Cone 8 oxidation

Charles brought along some ceramic birds he had made at Morley College many years ago – rather Picassoesque we thought!



Glaze Group Meeting Notes

He also showed us some samples of wood-ash glazes.



Mike Bush has been experimenting using a layering technique of glaze and re-glazing and noting how the glazes react over each other. He has a glaze slop bucket of mainly a titanium blue chun and has used this with a speckle green chun with 2% iron oxide on top. Also working on a shino with more iron, all fired in an electric kiln. Especially successful was a shiny blue chun with more of a matt glaze on top for the second firing – this produces lovely movement on the surface. Mike uses wall paper paste mixed into the glaze so he can easily hand paint onto the pots.



Tim recommends a visit to Bristol Museum who have a large collection of Chinese ceramics – he particularly likes the black glazed pots with a leaf design and we looked at some images of these on his smart phone – spectacular. Also, he mentioned that Swindon had a small museum with a good collection of British contemporary ceramics.

Barbie showed us her pots made in Seto in 1994 with a wood ash glaze

There was also a discussion on commissions/recreating glazes to match/wadding and silica sand – such fun!

Next Glaze Group meeting 13th September 11am at Barbies.



Jan Griffiths

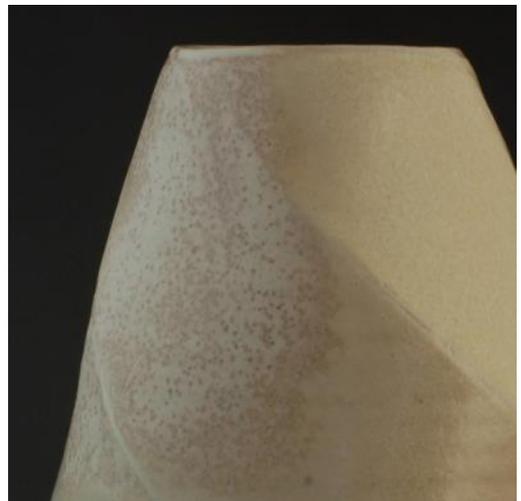
Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Glaze Group Meeting – 13th September 2017 Present: Mike Bush, Diana Carter, Jenny Ellis, Jan Griffiths, Nadia Hopkins, John Howell, Tom Paine, Barbie Plastow, Charles Stileman, Kevin Akhurst. The group welcomed new member, Jenny Ellis.

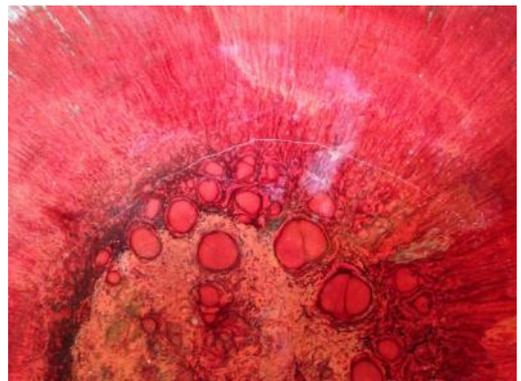
Kevin started the discussion by passing around a bowl made by Nigel Lambert, which Kevin had purchased during a recent CPA visit to Nigel's studio. This showed Nigel's current standard decorative mix of underglaze cobalt brushwork with yellow, green and clear lead glazes. Kevin explained that Nigel's underglaze brushwork was done using a pre-mixed mixture of cobalt oxide, iron oxide, manganese oxide and rutile powders, mixed on a plate with different quantities of water to achieve different intensities of blue. Nigel uses lead sesquiosilicate in preference to bisilicate as it gives a more fluid and 'juicy' glaze.



Kevin then showed the group a vase from a recent wood/salt firing of his, which has areas of purple/pink spots and blotches surrounded by a very pale green celadon crackle glaze. He referred to a test tile showing the results of glaze tests from 2013, showing that in gas firing to cone 10 without salt this composition gives a plain satin celadon, but that the same composition with slightly less silica gave a matt mottled purplish appearance. By referring to the lime/silica/alumina phase diagram Kevin had concluded that the purple/pink areas are caused by the formation of the mineral anorthite ($\text{CaOAl}_2\text{O}_3\cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$). The inside of the vase had a plain appearance so he concluded that the anorthite formation on the outside was stimulated by the salt.



Tom produced a large bowl with copper red glaze, which had a crack in the glaze. He explained that he sometimes had problems with this glaze crawling, which he successfully resolved by applying more glaze to the crawled areas and refiring. Unfortunately the glaze often cracked around the bottom of the bowl about a week after the second firing. Tom did not want to reduce the glaze thickness as he wants to retain the attractive features caused by the flow of the thick glaze. Members of the group suggested that Tom tries an alternative flux, such as lithium, which would reduce the expansion coefficient of the glaze, or possibly try slowing down the cooling – for example by firing down, or opening the kiln later.



Tom also showed the group a stoneware dish which had been decorated by swirling porcelain slip and blue stained clay to create a marbled effect.



Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Mike reported that he had been doing trials of glazes with the 'float blue' composition, but with the cobalt oxide substituted by nickel, iron or copper oxide. He found the copper-based glazes particularly attractive and brought two bowls using this glaze at different thicknesses.



Mike also told the group about some trials he had carried out on titanium chun glazes with different amounts of iron. Frustratingly, when he tried to repeat one of the glazes it came out completely different (a muddy brown colour instead of blue-green). In an attempt to track down the cause of this problem he fired each of the glaze ingredients separately and noticed that the zinc oxide melted to a green colour, which indicated that it was not actually zinc oxide, but had been mislabelled. When he replaced this with new zinc oxide in the glaze the original colouration returned.

Mike also brought to the group two coffee cups which he had fired with a shino glaze. The trial mug fired to an attractive uniform oatmeal colour, but when he made a larger batch of glaze and fired twenty mugs with this glaze they came out a blotchy deep orange red. Mike concluded that the glaze in the larger batch had gone on too thinly, though it is not clear why this had happened.



Jan passed round a teabowl made with black clay and then wood-fired with a shino glaze, which produce an attractive matt glaze appearance. Jan also reported that, following an earlier glaze group discussion, she has been experimenting with using cleaning products for glazing. In particular she noted that Vim is around 50% nepheline syenite. Using Vim on a small pot with a shino glaze she found that it didn't adhere to the inside of the pot, but on top of the shino on the exterior it produced a runny green transparent glaze.



Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Jan also showed the group a small vessel which had been glazed first with celadon and then with shino on top. This produced a dense network of small bubbles and blisters.

Barbie produced a number of pots where she has been trying various glazes over a black slip. She has had some difficulty with bubbling and with the slip flaking and the group suggested that she should try applying the slip more thinly. Despite these problems, some of the resultant effects were attractive.

Barbie also showed the group a pot where she had problems with pin-holing of the glaze, despite paying great attention to ensuring a clean surface at the biscuit stage. The group suggested that she should explore a longer soak period in the firing, which would give more time for the body gases to bubble off and for the glaze to heal over.



Charles passed around a charming carved celadon teapot and mug made by Derek Emms. He also circulated a tiny earthenware pot which he had purchased in Egypt, where he had been told it was intended to collect tears!

Finally, Nadia explained how she had been experimenting with various of her standard glazes on top of a temmoku. She showed the group a bowl which, with this technique, had produced an attractive speckled effect.

Kevin Akhurst



Members Profile : Lola Claeys Bouuaert

Trained as an architect in Belgium, I worked in London for 6 years then spent 22 years in Lebanon where I learned ceramics at Nathalie Khayat's studio in Beirut, about 10 years ago. We did raku and smoke firing in the beautiful mountains, surrounded by olive, fig and pomegranate trees and wild orchids, overlooking the Mediterranean sea.

When I returned to the UK, I spent 2 years in Brighton, working from time to time at Roberto Gagliano's very welcoming studio.

I now live in the Milland Valley, in the South Downs National Park. The ground is made of clay and I find my inspiration in nature: the forest, its trees, ferns and wild flowers. By combining clay, plants and fire, through a simple transformation I aim to show the beauty of nature through my ceramics.

I work from home and I build and burnish most of my ceramics by hand. The burnishing is the most labour intensive part of the process. I start when the clay is leather hard, using a lamp bulb and a polishing stone, repeating the process at least 3 times. This leaves a very tactile and smooth finish, and a feeling that part of my energy is transferred into each piece!

After bisque firing, I place the pieces in a bin of sawdust and other natural materials (leaves, flowers, ferns, etc.) which slowly burn overnight. The smoke prints the plants onto the burnished surfaces of the ceramics. Opening the bin in the morning is a very exciting moment and I am surprised by the results every time. After cleaning, the pieces are polished with a protective wax. Each piece is unique, tactile, retaining the scent and patina of wood smoke.

Being part of the Southern Ceramic Group has given me a great opportunity to meet likeminded people, receive plenty of useful information and take part in a well-organized exhibition in Chichester.

Some of my work can be viewed on my website: www.lola-claeys-bouuaert.com



Demonstrations

Southern Ceramics Group. Demonstration 22 October 2017

Dylan Bowen Will be demonstrating building and decorating slipware pottery to SCG members and their guests on Sunday, 22 October 2017 at Denmead Community Centre, Hampshire PO7 6LU

Dylan Bowen trained at Shebbear Pottery then Camberwell school of Art, graduating in 1991. He, in partnership with potter Jane Bowen, set up their present workshop in 2002.

Dylan makes individual pieces in slip decorated earthenware, the work is wheel thrown and altered or handbuilt. Slips are poured, trailed or brushed on, mainly black and white slips with some green, it is then fired to around 1080 C in an electric kiln usually with a clear or honey glaze.

He is currently working on large platters, bottle shapes and taller forms, aiming to combine making and decorating methods to capture some of the spontaneity and energy of the creative process.

He is a fellow of the Craft Potters Association

His work is available to view and for sale at the following sites:

The Art Shop, 8 Cross Street, Abergavenny. Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh. www.openeyegallery.co.uk Contemporary Applied Arts, London. www.caa.org.uk The Oxford Ceramics Gallery. 29 Walton St, Oxford, OX26AA Contemporary Ceramics Centre, 63 Great Russell St, London New Craftsman Gallery, St Ives Online Ceramics. www.onlineceramics.com



Demonstrations

Registration: SCG Demonstration : Dylan Bowen

10am to 4pm, 22 October 2017.

Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, Denmead, Hants. PO7 9LU

Registration Document

Name:

Address:

Contact phone no:

Email address:

SCG membership no:

Name of guest:

This document can be completed on line and sent by email to: zyg@kruk.co.uk

The registration fee is £20 for members, £25 for their guest.

Payment (please indicate): BACS..... or Cheque.....

BACS

Account: Southern Ceramic Group

Bank: Lloyds

A/c no: 26954360

Sort code: 30 90 34

Reference: DBDemoYourName

Cheques should be made payable to Southern Ceramic Group and posted (with a printed copy of the completed registration form) to:

Zyg Kruk

30 Wittering Rd

Hayling Is

Hants PO11 9SP

zyg@kruk.co.uk: 02392469104 07864995843

Catering arrangements

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available on the day.

Please bring a contribution to an American Supper style lunch, as well as your own crockery and cutlery

Demonstrations

Kay Aplin SCG Demonstration, 21st January 2018 at

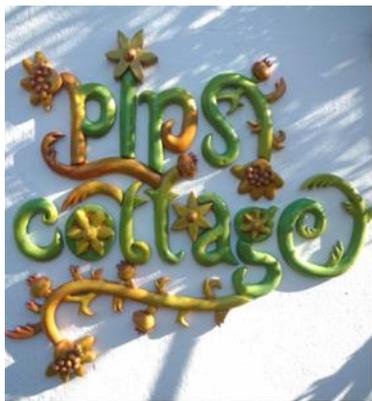
Porchester Community Centre, Westlands Grove, Portchester, Fareham PO16 9AD

A quote from www.kayaplin.com

For 22 years Kay Aplin has been forging a successful career in architectural ceramics. During this time she has had many commissions around the UK and internationally, producing a distinct range of public realm art works that have stood the tests of weather and time. Kay also creates large-scale ceramic installations for galleries and commissions for interiors and gardens.

Since 2011, with the creation of The Ceramic House, Kay has been establishing herself as a curator of contemporary ceramics with annual international exhibitions.

“Kay Aplin is rapidly establishing herself as one of the most energetic and active ceramic artists in the UK. She is becoming more and more known for her innovative Ceramic House, and her current work is expanding into areas of curation and initiation of new ceramic events and exhibitions in the wider visual arts world. This is feeding into her own work which has always been dynamic, totally original, full of colour, ambitious and delightfully idiosyncratic.” Sandy Brown



Kay will give illustrated talks of her work, and then demonstrate tile making by press moulding and using slip. There may be an opportunity for SCG members to try their hand at these techniques.

For more examples of her work please visit

www.kayaplin.com

www.theceramichouse.co.uk

www.incameragallery.uk

Please note

The SCG AGM 2018 will take place during the lunch break at this event. As space is limited at this venue, it may be necessary to restrict numbers attending the demonstration, but this will not prevent SCG members attending the AGM only (but they may be requested to leave after the AGM). To encourage attendance at the AGM, the registration fee to members is waived. Early registration is advised, first come, first served.



Future Demonstrations

The following two demonstrations have been arranged: **James Ort**: at Soberton Community Centre, 22 April 2018. Bookings from January 2018

Demonstrations

Registration: SCG Demonstration: Kay Aplin and SCG AGM .

10am to 4pm, 21st January 2018

Porchester Community Centre, Westlands Grove, Portchester, Fareham PO16 9AD

Registration Document

Name:

Address:

Contact phone no:

Email address:

SCG membership no:

Name of guest:

This document can be completed on line and sent by email to: zyg@kruk.co.uk

The registration fee is £20 for members, £25 for their guest.

Payment (please indicate): BACS..... or Cheque.....

BACS

Account: Southern Ceramic Group

Bank: Lloyds

A/c no: 26954360

Sort code: 30 90 34

Reference: KADemoYourName

Cheques should be made payable to Southern Ceramic Group and posted (with a printed copy of the completed registration form) to:

Zyg Kruk

30 Wittering Rd

Hayling Is

Hants PO11 9SP

zyg@kruk.co.uk: 02392469104 07864995843

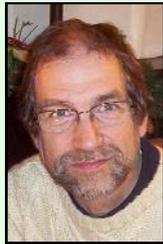
Catering arrangements

Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available on the day.

Please bring a contribution to an American Supper style lunch, as well as your own crockery and cutlery

The SCG AGM will take place during the Lunch break at this meeting.

SOUTHERN CERAMIC GROUP COMMITTEE

**Chair**Rolf Hawkins **Tel** : 01962 869117**Email** : rolf.hawkins@winchester.anglican.org**Marketing**Vidya Thirunarayan **Tel** :**Email** : vidyathiru@hotmail.com**Membership**John Howell **Tel** : 02380 618165**Email** : john.howell400@gmail.com**Hon Sec**Sandie Dixon **Tel** : 02380 550064**Email** : 2sandie@tiscali.co.uk**News letter**Keith Menear **Tel** : 07788908182**Email** : keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk**Treasurer**Liz Gale **Tel** : 02392 632686**Email** : lizgale@interalpha.co.uk**SCG Summer Exhibition**

Kevin Akhurst

Email : kevinakhurst@btinternet.com**Demonstrations**Zyg Kruk **Tel** : 02392 469104**Email** : zyg@kruk.co.uk**Website**

Neil Rampton

Email:

neil.rampton359@southernceramicgroup.org.uk

NEXT COPY DEADLINE : 17th December 2017

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

Next Newsletter due : 1st January 2018

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

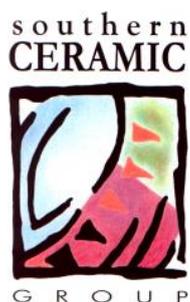
Interested in becoming a member of the Southern Ceramic Group?

Application forms can be found on the group website at:

<http://www.southern Ceramic Group.co.uk/Information/SCGMemberApp.pdf>

Acknowledgments

Thanks goes to regular contributors to the Newsletter and *Marigo Harries* for editorial assistance



The **Southern Ceramic Group** grants permission for the browsing of this material as part of the World Wide Web and for the printing of one copy per person for personal reference only. The express permission of the Southern Ceramic Group and the originating artist must be obtained for any other use of this material.