

# NEWSLETTER

February/March 2014

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

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## Editorial

A Happy New year and welcome to the first edition of the Southern Ceramic Group Newsletter for 2014. Once again despite the excesses of eggnog we have some excellent contributions to the issue. Two new ventures for the Group are highlighted with the initiation of the SCG Facebook page and a report from the new Chichester & East-Local sub-group.

The beginning of the year can be difficult to start the creative process again with cold studio's and even colder clay but it's a time to reassess and plan for the year ahead. Hopefully we will see the outcome in future editions of the Newsletter.

*Keith Menear*

## AGM Report

It was great to welcome some 30 people to the Southern Ceramic Group 2014 AGM on the 26th January especially considering the wet and windy conditions. Thanks go to the Committee members for their reports. Liz the treasurer noted the positive outturn last year and a reasonable balance in the account not least as a result of the successful Bishop's Kitchen Exhibition. Jan confirmed that it is proposed to repeat this in 2014 over a similar period subject to confirmation that the venue is available and on the basis that members volunteer to take on some of the duties which are entailed in running the show.

It was encouraging to hear from John that there has been an increase in the membership in the last 12 months; he also reminded the membership that the move to a common renewal date would take place this year. The members thanked Keith for the revitalised e-newsletter and he reminded members that articles were always sought and that members were welcome to advertise their events and activities. Zyg reported on the demonstrations and confirmed there will still places on the Ian Gregory event in Petersfield on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The members also welcomed Tony's work on keeping the Website up to date and he appealed for members to submit their pictures & profiles to him for the gallery pages. There was discussion regarding the use of the Facebook page which has been set up and how it could best be utilised, your ideas would be welcome.

After a splendid bring and share lunch Jan provided a fascinating overview of her experience of the culture and ceramics of Japan from her 3 week visit last year. Those present thanked the committee for their work over the past year and as always we look forward to the support and assistance of the members in helping to make the coming year a success for the Group.

## What's On



### Parallax Art Fair

21-22 February Chelsea Town Hall, London

I shall be at the Art Fair Feb. 20, 21 and 22nd so if any of the members are in the exhibition area, it would be nice to meet them.

<http://www.barlowfinedrawings.com/index.html>

*Rosemary Metz*

### Cloudhopper Gallery, 69 High Street, Bognor Regis

Cloudhopper Gallery have planned three mixed exhibitions.

- January-Affordable Art
- February-From the Heart
- March-Recycled And wearable art.

If any of our members are interested in submitting work they can download application forms and full details from our web site at [cloudhopper.gallery@yahoo.com](mailto:cloudhopper.gallery@yahoo.com)

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

### Fred Gatley (12 February 2014)

Wednesday 12 February, 2014 at 7:45pm at Polehampton Junior School

Fred's work is a unique approach to ceramics. Firstly he scours the banks of the Thames in London for reclaimed items to include within his works. Secondly he works the fired product in the same way stone sculptors do, giving a finish that has the appearance of stone.

More information at [www.fredgatley.co.uk](http://www.fredgatley.co.uk)



### Ceramics in the Spring Oxmarket Gallery, Chichester 1st to 13th April

A number of SCG members have got together to organise a selling exhibition along with 4 artists including Ron Moody's harbour scenes and Dee McNamara's glass wall panels at the Oxmarket in Chichester from 1 to 13 April. Open 10am to 4pm except Sundays and Mondays. See [www.oxmarket.com](http://www.oxmarket.com).

## What's On continued

### **Gin Durham (12 March 2014)**

Wednesday 12 March, 2014 at 7:45pm at Polehampton Junior School

My work is based on observations of aspects of childhood experiences from a personal narrative and from a wider perspective, in order to explore a myriad of emotions and behaviours that manifest in adulthood.

Childhood is a stage in personal and cultural development that we can all relate to in one way or another: from stories, associations and places that have anchored in our memories from distant times.

My original ceramic based body of work incorporated toy-like sculptural forms and imagery. The inspiration for my new body of work stems from oral traditions of folklore, fairy stories and nursery rhymes.



More information at [www.gindurhamart.co.uk](http://www.gindurhamart.co.uk)

### **Ceramics Exhibition in Aid of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 11am to 4 pm

St Joseph's Parish Centre

Coochham Rd

Maidenhead

SL6 7EG

Details of entry from *Les Parrott* 01895 255027

### **Ceramic Art London, 4-6 April, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Royal College of Art**

Ceramic Art London 2014 is the major selling fair for contemporary studio ceramics at the Royal College of Art and provides a unique showcase for contemporary studio ceramics featuring work from leading national and international makers. [www.ceramics.org.uk](http://www.ceramics.org.uk)

### **Mo Jupp Figures and Helmets 20 Feb -22 March Contemporary Ceramic Centre**

Fresh and vibrant new work from the internationally acclaimed artist Mo Jupp, who has been an inspiration in the field of sculptural ceramics since the 1960's. Celebratory, sensual female figures juxtaposed with the more dark and sinister helmets – visual observations of the differing sides of human nature. [www.cpaceramics.com](http://www.cpaceramics.com)

### **Courses events and activities at 318 Ceramics**

Quennells Hill, Wrecclesham

Farnham, Surrey GU10 4QT

United Kingdom

For more information [www.318ceramics.co.uk/programmes-and-events/](http://www.318ceramics.co.uk/programmes-and-events/)

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

## What's On continued



### PACS Potters presents a demonstration by Annabel Munn

To be held at Petersfield Community Centre on Sunday 30th March 2014. 9.30am-4pm

Annabel Munn is a widely collected and multi-talented artist who uses a broad range of innovative techniques in handbuilding & decorating ceramics.

‘Ceramics has been my mainstay for the last 20 years. My main love is sculptural ceramics. A lot of my work is made in series i.e. a collection for exhibition. I also work to commission.

My sculptures are generally hand built using coils or slabs. A recent project involved working from the original clay model through to the finished bronze piece.’ [www.annabelmunn.com/portfolio/ceramics](http://www.annabelmunn.com/portfolio/ceramics)

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



elspeth owen

15 FEB-9 MARCH 2014

See Elspeth Owen Live at the  
Ashmolean Saturday 15 Feb

For more information click here

ClayLive ASHMOLEAN 

<http://www.oxfordceramics.com/exhibitions/elspeth-owen-february-2014>

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## SCG Facebook Page

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**The idea of the SCG Facebook Page is to help promote the SCG and its members**, but those of you who already use Facebook will know that their own 'home' page can get cluttered with endless messages from 'friends' and 'friends of friends', which, in the case of the SCG, would not promote a very professional image.

For that reason, the 'Southern Ceramic Group' Facebook Page has been created as in its own right, within a Timeline page that I have set up specifically for the SCG.

"Facebook Pages look similar to personal Timelines, but they offer unique tools for connecting people to a topic they care about, like a business, brand, organization or celebrity. Pages are managed by administrators (that's me) who have personal Timelines. Pages are not separate Facebook accounts and do not have separate login information from your Timeline. You can [like](#) a Page to see updates in News Feed."



Only SCG members, with a few exceptions that will increase our audience, are being accepted as friends, thereby generating a certain amount of control.

So far, I have added photos and SCG members names, etc, from photographs already available via either the SCG website or from the 2013 Bishop's Kitchen exhibition. But if you want new work displayed on the SCG Facebook page, it's up to you to post them.

So far, people who have been viewing and liking the SCG Page are from the UK, Poland, Netherlands, Morocco, New Zealand, France, Greece, Canada, South Africa, USA, Australia and India!

So, come on all you SCG members, join in, and have your work seen.

### **So how do you connect?**

Log on to your own Facebook page, and using the very top 'search' line, enter 'Southern Ceramic Group' and search.

When the page SCG comes up, use the 'Post' window, on the left hand side, just under the header picture, to upload a photo of your work, write something about it and then post it. It then comes up on the SCG page as a 'recent post.'

I can then 'share' any 'recent posts' that are eye catching and put them onto the SCG page itself, similar to those that you can already see.

If you are selling your work at a forthcoming event, do the same, stating where-and-when, and it can be promoted on the page, and if you can provide a 'banner' for the event, so much the better.

Hopefully this will generate a steady display of the Group member's work.

*Tony Thompson*

**Demonstrations**

**Suggestions for demonstrations** by ceramicists/ potters are welcome – please send an email with your suggestion(s) to [zyg@kruk.co.uk](mailto:zyg@kruk.co.uk)

**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*

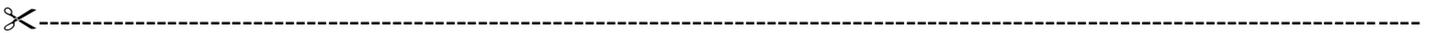


Ian Gregory has agreed to give us some ‘hands on’ experience/teaching with building using his methods’. All materials will be supplied but bring an apron/ tea towel.’

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](mailto: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.....

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## Members Profile

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### Sandra Pightling



My interest in sculpting with clay didn't actually begin until 2004 when I treated myself to a course at West Dean College and, after a week of sighing and struggle completed my first little sculpture - Charlie the pony. I was absolutely fascinated by the process and so began my passion for working with clay.

Soon after, I bought a bag of terracotta and started work on more horses in the kitchen. I think all of these suffered broken legs when fired at Clayman, but nothing daunted I embarked on a second course with Ian Gregory using paper clay and asked his advice about acquiring a kiln "just make your own out of a supermarket trolley" he replied. So I did!

I had no idea just how difficult biscuit firing would be in such a contraption, and managed to blow up half of everything I made. But by then I was well and truly bitten by the bug.

After several more courses at West Dean I settled on a making technique that suited me and eventually I was able to set up a

little studio in my conservatory and invested in the biggest electric kiln I could afford. The experimenting didn't end though, and the trolley carried on for another year as a raku kiln whilst I tried to find the best way to glaze animal sculptures. As it turned out glazing didn't look right to me at all, so after spoiling a lot more pieces with glaze I eventually settled on using mainly oxides and slips.



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## Members Profile

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My love of nature has always been my inspiration and my aim is to show the character of an animal without creating a lifelike model with every hair detailed. Getting the right texture and colouring of a piece is something I am constantly experimenting with but at the moment I find adding soft clay to the leatherhard piece to give a feeling of movement and direction works for me. I build up the hollow form with rough slabs and do a lot of pushing from the inside using my hands or various bits of wood. The finishing touch with an animal is always the ears. I love doing the ears and hares, which have always fascinated me, have fabulous ears.

The last two years have been very exciting. I never expected my work to appear in a gallery, let alone people to actually buy it! But its all been great fun and a huge learning curve.

Never a dull moment, but what next? Well, I have had several enquiries about classes/workshops so my challenge for 2014 is to try some classes or workshops at home.

*Sandra Pightling*



## Glaze Group Meeting

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

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

### Analysis of ceramics:

Tom showed some results from his new gas kiln. He had used Charles' artificial ash glaze over the black slip, using school buff and Spencroft super white clay, but was disappointed with the results as no chun effect appeared. It was thought that the slip was too thick and Mike suggested adding some titanium.

Tom also had a large platter using his copper reduction glaze. Its rich colour was much admired.

Mike showed a dish he had made with titanium chun, layered with Canary Island volcanic ash. The ash had moved downwards during firing with some interesting effects which Mike did not like. However, others in the group thought it produced an attractive effect. Mike also showed some bowls using 3 coats of dark blue chun layered with 2 coats of Mike Bailey's T12. These were very beautiful and universally admired.

There was a discussion about metal marks on domestic ware and it was suggested that using zinc instead of tin to produce white might help to avoid this.



Members brought some examples of other potters' work to analyse, including a large John Lomas jug, some mocha ware by Roger Irving Little and a salt fired vessel by an unknown French potter.

The meeting concluded with lunch.

New members are always welcome at the Glaze Group. Contact Charles Stileman [charles@charlesstileman.plus.com](mailto:charles@charlesstileman.plus.com)

*Diana Wren*

## Members News

### New Members

A very warm welcome to new members:

John Townsend from Portsmouth  
 Anton Page from Romsey  
 Stephanie Powell of Goring by Sea  
 Barbie Plastow from Awbridge, Hants  
 Liza Hughes of Itchen Abbas  
 Karen Machin from Billingshurst

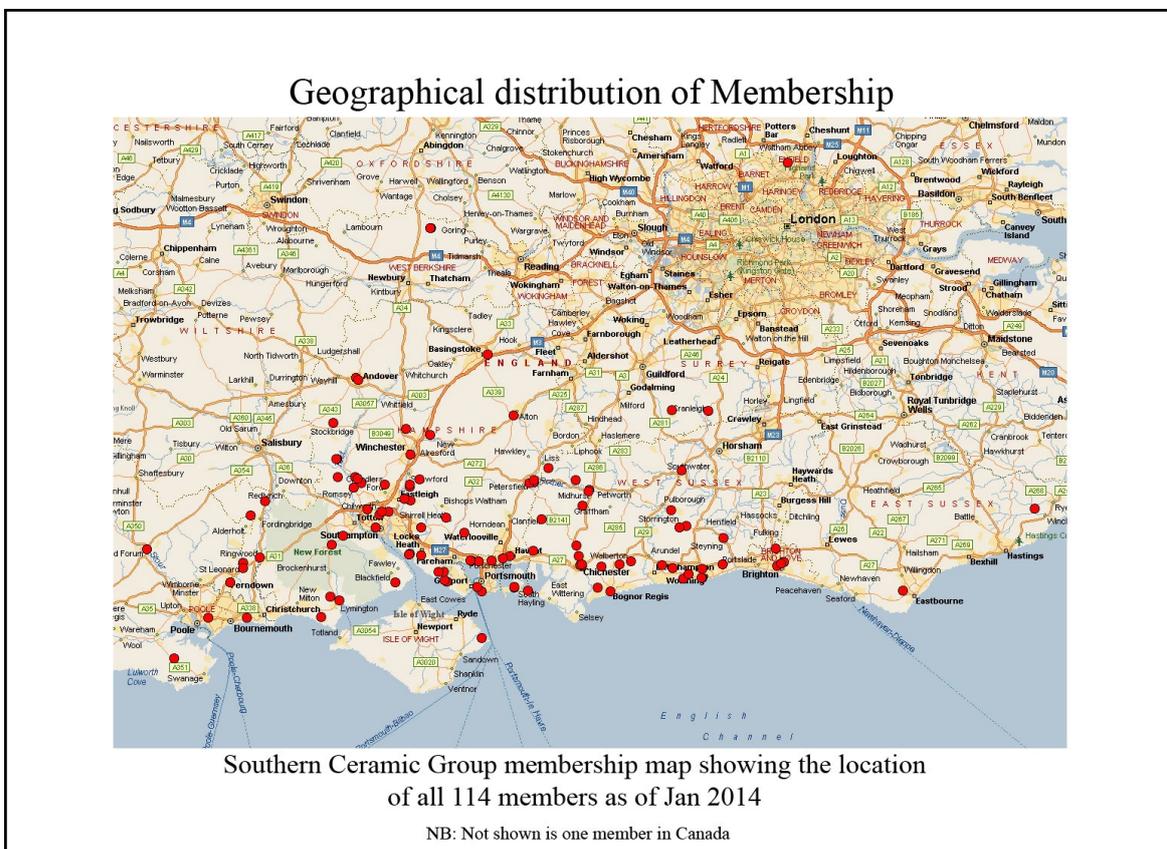
### Interested in becoming a member of the Southern Ceramic Group?

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.

*Tony Thompson* has kindly generated a map showing the distribution of the SCG membership, which can now be found via the 'About' page on the website.



## Obituary

### ERIC JAMES MELLON

30-11-25---14-01-2014.

**It is with sadness that we bring you the news that Eric James Mellon, has died.**

Many members will have known Eric as a unique and gifted potter, an inspiring and generous teacher. In the pottery and ceramic world he was clearly a one off, loved and widely respected. We would like to invite members to send in short tributes and their memories of Eric for the next newsletter. The following obituary has been sent to us by Eric's Family.



Anyone who would like to send donations in memory of Eric, please see the details below.

**Donations:** To make a donation to one of Eric's charities below, please send a cheque to F.A. Hollands & Son, 3 Jubilee Road, Chichester, PO19 7XB for:-

Unicef (cheque made payable to 'Unicef UK')

The Lisa Hammond 'Adopt A Potter' Apprenticeship Scheme for student studio potters (cheque made payable to 'Adopt A Potter Charitable Trust')

Please send your tributes and any photos to Alison Sandeman by email [nutwood@waitrose.com](mailto:nutwood@waitrose.com)

Or 2, School Lane, Compton, Chichester, PO18 9EZ.

If you would like details of Eric's Funeral please contact Alison, preferably by email. Or tel: 02392 631598.

*Alison Sandeman*

### Eric James Mellon

Potter & Honorary Fellow of The Craft Potters Association

1925 - 2014

Eric James Mellon was one of the finest British studio potters of the 20th century, although he originally wanted to be a painter. He was a ceramist with international standing, the foremost figurative ceramist working in Britain with stoneware. In decorating three-dimensional pots Eric was using his knowledge and feeling for composition that was intrinsic in his painting to cover the curved spaces on the pots. It was his study of composition that gave his finished work so much vitality.

He made a unique contribution through his research into the function of wood ashes as fluxes in the glazes he used. The flux controls the melting point of the glaze. Through his use of ashes from single sources he deduced that most shrubs and herbaceous plants produced ash with a high proportion of potassium, which raised the melting point of the glaze mix. At these higher temperatures the metal oxides with which he made his drawings maintained their clarity in the firing. The development of his ideas was manifest in several series of bowls and plates showing chosen themes, such as the theme of tenderness. He would draw portraits from live models directly onto the biscuit pot. These decorations would cover the entire surface of the vessel. A study of his vast knowledge of Ash glazes, 'Decorating Stoneware', was published in 2007.

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## Obituary

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At 13 he won a place at Watford School of Art and began a traditional art education based on the study of drawing and aesthetics. When he was 16 he cycled each weekend for two years from his home in Watford to the School of Art in Harrow, a distance of seven miles: on Saturday it was pottery, and on Sunday it was Life Drawing. He went on to study painting and printmaking at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, London.

As a painter he observed the appearance of what he was seeing in a contemplative not an expressionistic manner. He found this time visually refreshing and was inspired by the beauty of things.

In the early 1950s he set up an artistic community at Hillesden, Buckinghamshire, with fellow artists Derek Davis and John Clarke, and in 1951 he began working increasingly as a potter. He married Martina Thomas in 1956 who was one of the community (as well as Mary Clarke and Ruth Davis). Martina was a gifted and talented artist and she exhibited at the Royal Academy. They had two children Martin and Tessa.

In 1958 he set up a pottery at his home in West Sussex where he worked for 56 years. To visit Eric's studio and home was to be exposed to a lifetime of artistic endeavour, and a treasure trove of pottery, paintings and prints. Memories of him decorating pots or operating his flat bed press would stay with you for ever. He would say "When I get up in the morning, I want, by the end of the day, to have created something new".

His ceramics, as well as his paintings and prints, have been exhibited widely across Great Britain (from Chichester to Cumbria, from London to Liverpool) as well as in Ireland (Cork and Dublin), on the Continent - Dornbirn (Austria), Cologne (Germany), Paris and Montsalvy (France), Holland, Boston (USA) and in Tokyo. His final exhibition was at Musée Ariana, Geneva in 2012.

Overseas Collections include:

Museum für Angewandte Kunst - Museum of Applied Art, Cologne

David Glick private collection, Tel Aviv

Frank Nievergelt Collection, Zurich

Museo Nacional de Ceramica Valencia

Print-making had a special charm for Eric. The whole procedure could be slowed down and the journey enjoyed that much more, for the slower the journey the greater the intimacy of his creation. In 2010 he published '65 Years of Printmaking', a book full of his Wood Engravings, Etchings & Aquatints and Lithographs.

Eric was a committed teacher. He was generous with his time and knowledge and enjoyed especially the company and enthusiasm of students and, in fact, anyone who was interested in the art of ceramics, painting and printing.

He recently recorded an interview with the National Life Stories Collection of the British Library Sound Archive. He was an honorary fellow of the Crafts Potters Association.

Eric Mellon, potter, was born on 30th November 1925. He died on 14th January 2014, aged 88.

## Southern Ceramic Group Chichester and East Local Group

I'd like to thank everyone for coming along to the first SCG 'Chichester and East' meeting and for making it such a huge success. Fourteen of us were there in total!! It was a thoroughly inspiring few hours and I am really looking forward to future meetings as are the rest of you it seems.

### Attendees:

Ally Bevis Cronk, Karen Machin, Liz Gladwell, Alison Milner-Gulland, Max Balme, Nancy Thompson, Su Cloud, Tamar Rose, Cat Brown, Margaret Newton, Sandra Bidmead, Brian Tew, Anne Lovejoy and last but not least...Roni Frears!



It couldn't be decided whether people would prefer monthly meetings or two monthly meetings so initially two meetings have been arranged, one for February and one for March so that the people wanting regular monthly meetings were catered for but people only able to come to fewer meetings could still attend some of them.

On that subject, the two dates that have been arranged are as follows: The first is to be held at Su Cloud's new gallery and workshop space in Bognor 'The Cloudbopper gallery'. (Fabulous name). Su is clearly very passionate about this venture that she has set up. It has only been running since last July. It is a gallery space in Bognor with space for a variety of workshops as well. She is looking for more artists to sell their work in her gallery and/or to run workshops so do please check other website or get in touch with her directly if you are at all interested. This is being held on Sunday 16th February at 10 am and members are asked to contribute an American style lunch.

e-mail: [cloudbopper.gallery@yahoo.com](mailto:cloudbopper.gallery@yahoo.com)

69 High St

Bognor Regis.

West Sussex

PO21 1RY

tel: 01243 867603

The **second meeting** is to be held at Anne Lovejoy's who has again kindly offered her space in Angmering for a raku/pit firing day to start at 10am and again, people need to bring a lunch to share. Please get in touch with Anne for any further details on this. She has also asked people to bring along some raku glaze themselves where possible. As with all meetings, please do try to make the hosts life easier by letting them know if you are (or are not) able to come as having an idea of numbers is extremely helpful.

Lastly, Ali Sandeman couldn't attend the first meeting but got in touch to say that she has also very kindly offered her space for meetings/workshops for future events. Thanks Ali! I hope I have remembered everything. Looking forward to many more group meetings, workshops and events and being part of a friendly 'arty' community of like minded people. What more could us 'potty' people ask for?! Once again, thank you all so much for coming along and not only contributing with your presence, but with cake and biscuits too :-)

See you at Su's in February."Su, I now hand the 'host' baton on to you" :-)

*Ally Bevis-Cronk*

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

**NEXT COPY DEADLINE : 17th March 2014**

**Please send contributions to : [keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Next Newsletter due : 1st April 2014**

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

If so please contact Rolf Hawkins

email: [rolf.hawkins@winchester.anglican.org](mailto:rolf.hawkins@winchester.anglican.org)

The rates for advertising are:

**SCG Members : FREE**

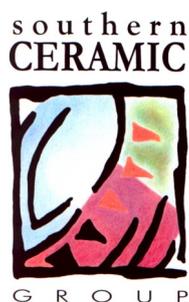
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Half Page £10

### **Acknowledgments**

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



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