

# NEWSLETTER

## October/November 2015

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

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### Editorial

Welcome to the October/November edition of the SCG Newsletter. As we go to press the SCG are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the formation of the group. This is by any measure a wonderful achievement made possible by the members who have lent their time and passion over the years to support the SCG. The occasion was marked by an event at Chichester University with a full programme of talks and demonstrations from Jack Doherty. Committee member Zyg Kruk took on the lions share to organise this very special day and our thanks go to him for his efforts. We hope to bring you a full account of the event in the next edition.

*Keith Menear*

### Summer Exhibition Bishops Kitchen



**The dust has now settled, the finances sorted, everyone has been paid and we can now look back with satisfaction at another successful summer exhibition at the Bishops Kitchen, Chichester.** We had around 2500 visitors (similar to last year's figure) and our sales were almost at the record levels of two years ago.

This was only possible because of the active support of many members, who undertook a wide range of essential tasks before and during the show. On behalf of the committee I thank

everyone who contributed to making this event such a success.

We are also grateful for the continuing generous financial support of Tooveys Auction House.

We are hoping to use the Bishops Kitchen again next year but we don't yet have this confirmed. I will let you know as soon as I have firm dates.

*Kevin Akhurst*  
Exhibition Coordinator

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## What's On

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**Abingdon Contemporary Crafts at Christmas Show** at Medieval Abbey Buildings Oct 15th - 18th. Now in its 44th year. [Abingdon Contemporary Crafts for Christmas Show](#)

**Farnham Festival of Crafts - with ceramics** at Farnham Maltings Oct 17th - 18th. Includes ceramics from Rose Dickinson. [Farnham Festival of Crafts - with ceramics](#)

**Art Unequaled, with ceramics** at Maltings, Oct 17th - 18th. A range of handmade works of Art and Craft includes ceramics by Katie Pruden [Art Unequaled, with ceramics](#)

**Made London** at Made London Oct 22nd - 25th. MADE LONDON will be showing for the 4th time this October. An enjoyable event showcasing the very best and most original makers in this country and beyond. [Made London](#)

**Contemporary Craft & Design Show at Sevenoaks** at Sevenoaks School Oct 23rd - 25th. Mixed show with ceramics from Chris Hawkins, Menear Ceramics and others [Contemporary Craft & Design Show at Sevenoaks](#)

**Oxford Ceramics Fair 2015** at CPA Autumn Fair Oct 25th - 26th. More than 60 of the UK's leading potters will be exhibiting and selling their ceramics at the Oxford Ceramics Fair 2015. [Oxford Ceramics Fair 2015](#)

**Celebrating the Natural World** - with ceramic art at Highcliffe Castle Oct 13th - Nov 15th. Tiffany Scull decorative ceramics and prints and Kate Wyatt paintings and prints [Celebrating the Natural World - with ceramic art](#) at

**Sussex Guild - mixed with ceramics** at Hurstpierpoint College Nov 7th - 8th. Mixed, good quality, show from members of this excellent guild. [Sussex Guild - mixed with ceramics](#)

**Art in Clay at Farnham 2015** at Art in Clay - Farnham. Nov 14th - 15th. The 19th 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. [Art in Clay at Farnham 2015](#)

**Made 14, Brighton with ceramic art** at Corn Exchange. Nov 19th - 22nd. A high quality contemporary craft and design fair showcasing over 120 designer, makers across all media from ceramics to glass, leather to jewellery. [Made 14, Brighton with ceramic art](#)

**Contemporary Craft and Design Christmas Show** at Royal Horticultural Society Gardens. Nov 25th - 29th. Well liked Christmas show - Chris Hawkins and Menear Ceramics will be showing [Contemporary Craft and Design Christmas Show](#)

**Christmas Show in London** at Contemporary Ceramics Centre Nov 26th - Dec 31th. Our Christmas show offers a broad selection of contemporary studio ceramics at an affordable price [Christmas Show in London](#)

**Christmas Exhibition at Zimmer Stewart Gallery** Nov 27th - Dec 24th. Mixed show. [Christmas Exhibition](#)

**Sussex Guild - with ceramics (Midhurst)** at Midhurst Rother College. Nov 28th - 29th. Mixed show with ceramics from John Evans and others [Sussex Guild - with ceramics \(Midhurst\)](#)

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## What's On

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### The Creative Gallery

St John's Hill, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4NB  
01929 551700 [www.creativegallerywareham.co.uk](http://www.creativegallerywareham.co.uk)

The Creative Gallery are delighted to be hosting some of the biggest names in the world of British ceramics over the next few months as our guest makers.

2<sup>nd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October, 2015 - Tessa Wolfe Murray "Storm, Calm and Smoke"



### First Saturday of the Month Classes

Zyg's hand building ceramic classes on the first Saturday of each month. You can book in for morning and/or afternoon sessions. Many aspects of modeling are covered, including plaster/ modroc casting, press moulding, building using paper clay with wire armature. Emphasis is on modeling animals and portrait sculpting.

Next class dates are 3 October, 7 November, 5 December.  
For details please contact Zyg Kruk at [zyg@kruk.co.uk](mailto:zyg@kruk.co.uk)

### Su Cloud Ceramics

I will be running a 6 wk Hand Building course, Nature Inspired Seedhead workshops, also Raku and Tile making starting from September. These will be held at my newly purpose built studio in Bognor Regis. Small, friendly groups for all abilities, so limited spaces available.

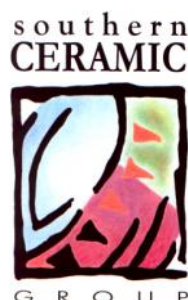
I have courses running in October and November. All courses are run on a Wednesday and Thursday in the morning and evening. If your interested or need more information, please contact me at :-  
[spcloud@btinternet.com](mailto:spcloud@btinternet.com). Website [www.sucloudceramics.com](http://www.sucloudceramics.com)

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## SCG Newsletter 1977

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The Southern Ceramic Group celebrated its 40th anniversary in September. To mark this milestone the group held a special anniversary event on the 27th September at the University of Chichester. A full report of the day will be included in the December/January edition of the Newsletter however by way of an acknowledgement of this significant landmark we are reprinting the very first edition of the newsletter sent out to members in 1977.



## SCG Newsletter 1977

THE SOUTHERN CERAMIC GROUP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - NUMBER 1

Dear Member,

As this is the very first newsletter of the S.C.G. we would like to take this opportunity to explain our aims for future issues.

Firstly, we want to make the newsletter interesting, full of news, views and information, which will be of use to everyone concerned. We, therefore, feel the need for contributions from yourselves concerning all aspects of pottery. It is hoped that we will be able to cover the following:

- News of forthcoming Exhibitions
- Advertisements, e.g. equipment for sale or wanted
- Useful tips, personal advice gained from experience, concerning glazing, firing, etc.
- Notes for teachers
- A problem page

Your contributions will be gratefully received. Please send your letters to Janice Fry, 4 River Walk, Townhill Park, Southampton. We will try to include as much information gleaned from members as space permits.

Another A.G.M. has come and gone (the third). We are pleased to welcome Sue Bryer and Janice Fry to the Committee.

The Southampton Arts Council have very kindly granted us the sum of £30 towards the cost of Exhibition Furniture.

Mary Davies has held a very successful exhibition at the Nuffield Centre in Southampton.

Our own exhibition which was held in the Southampton College of Art was extremely well supported by members: The Selection Committee were: Mary Davis, Anthony Howarth and Peter Simpson. They had an incredibly difficult task in making their final selection, as the standard of work submitted this year was extremely high. From talking to people at the private view it would seem that many preferred the layout to previous years, although some people thought that more pots could have been exhibited considering the space allotted. Several people said that there did not seem to be much earthenware pottery on show, indeed very little earthenware was brought for selection. The trend does seem to be with stoneware and with porcelain becoming more popular with local potters, very few people bother with earthenware, maybe because the glazes are a little more complicated. Perhaps we could have your views?

We have made a good start this year with what must be 95% of renewal of S.C.G. membership and a good proportion of new members. Thanks to you all for prompt payment of your subscriptions.

A completely new venture for 1978 is to be a 'Pottery Market'. This will be held on Saturday 25th March 1978 in the Avenue Hall, Southampton, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is open to all members of the Southern Ceramic Group. You may bring along as many pots as you are able to carry. There will be a commission charge of 10% on sales as usual, and a submission fee which will depend on the number of people wishing to bring pots for sale. Obviously the more members there are the less the submission fee will be. To enable us to reach a figure it will be necessary to compile a list of members who will be bringing pots to sell. Therefore, if you would like to join in this venture please write to Janice Fry

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## SCG Newsletter 1977

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before March 1st 1978. We will then be able to send you further details.

You may be interested to know that there is an illustrated directory of the work of full members of the Craftsmen Potters Association, obtainable from William Blake House, Marshall Street, London, W.1. There are useful address for travelling abroad, as well as a special section devoted to pottery training in Britain and a new feature is the listing of local pottery societies in the U.K. The cost of the directory is £1.50 plus 25p p. & p.

As this newsletter is read by potters, teachers and students in the Southern area, we thought that some of our members may like to correspond with one another, so if you would like a 'pen-pal' who is interested in pottery, either professionally or as a hobby please write to Janice Fry giving details of yourself and your particular interest in pottery and enclose a stamped addressed envelope, and we will gladly put you in touch with someone on your wave-length.

KILN SPACE

Chris Tuppen would like to know if anyone is willing to rent out Kiln space, please phone West End 4258 if interested.

LAMP BASES

Margaret Baxter makes silk and batik lampshades and is interested in combining with someone making lampbases. Her phone number is Southampton 552624.

BONSAI BOWLS

Eric Ponaro grows Bonsai trees, he would like to buy Bonsai bowls to plant them in. He can be contacted at 19 Pentire Avenue, Upper Shirley, Southampton, telephone number 772614.

To conclude this first of many newsletters, we wish you pleasant potting, and look forward to hearing from you, in the hope that our next issue in March 1978 will be a bumper one.

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## Group & Members News

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### New Members

A very warm welcome to new members:

Vasu Reddy from Curdridge, Southampton  
Alyson Nikiteas of Brighton  
Lesley Williams from Pulborough  
Mick & Lesley Dixon from North Warnborough, Hook  
Kate Reynolds of Hove  
Penny Ritson, Burgess Hill  
Andrew Tolliday, Lewes  
Jenny Ellis, West Wellow, Romsey  
Nadia Reddy from Hursley, Winchester

Bringing the current membership total to a brilliant 129

### 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 29th October 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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## The Great British Pottery Throw Down BBC2

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The BBC2 hopes viewers will roll up their sleeves and get dirty with a new challenge to find Britain's best potter. The Great British Pottery Throw Down, created by Love Productions the company behind The Great British Bake Off, is searching for Britain's leading amateur potter. The programme will be hosted by Radio 2 DJ Sara Cox and assisted by potters Keith Brymer-Jones and Kate Malone.

You can watch a trailer for the programme which starts as part of BBC2's new season at;

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rt\\_9G\\_c9bZY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rt_9G_c9bZY)

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## Members Profile : Tony Thompson

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**My initiation to clay came when I was quite young.** We lived a few hundred yards from the River Mersey, and at the bottom of our road there was a small sandy beach, with beautiful views of the then very busy river, and in the distance looking down the river, Cammell Laird's Shipyard, and on the opposite side, Liverpool Pier Head. That was when the tide was in! At low tide, there was mud, (soft clay) and it was possible to walk along the beach to where there was a cliff of clay, (hard clay) . . . . to be climbed. Needless to say, taking any of this home, either on hands, knees or clothes, or in a bag, was not appreciated!

During my school days and into my late teens and early 20's, drawing and painting, in oils, watercolour, and pen & ink featured a lot, a talent passed down from my father. At school in the Wirral, instead of being put forward for GCE 'O' level Art, I successfully took the 'A' Level instead. My heart, though, was more into the making of mechanical things and how they worked; things like flying balsa wood model aeroplanes, where the pilot was ejected if it took a nosedive, and train sets converted to rocket-fired test sledges, with a little pilot on them. This led me into mechanical and production engineering in the car industry, but in 1984, being in the right place and right time, I sidestepped into computing and software, still within engineering, until I retired in 2009.

The first actual dabble into pottery came when we lived in Chester in the late '70s, where, in evening classes, I threw some pots on a wheel and hand-made a full coffee set. Ha! The coffee pot dribbled, the handles fell off the cups, but the sugar bowl still survives, now resides in the garage as the rightful place for fuses and the like. Plus we still have a couple of wheel formed bowls stuffed with potpourri around the house.

The year before retiring I decided to take up sculpture and did the 1st year under ex-SCG member Caron O'Rourke at South Downs College, but the following year's course was cancelled, allegedly due to poor interest, but I suspect it was more to do with staffing and Caron having moved to set up her studio in Spain. One thing I had learned from the little experience I had of ceramics, was that creating an object in clay and covering it in glaze, for somebody else to fire, was only part of the fun.

I was reluctant to work with a potters wheel. As I said, I had tried it years ago, and knowing it would take a while to even master the basics, I felt that there was more to learn though hand building.



To get started I built a small gas fired kiln, gas being supplied by two 19 Kg cylinders with an automatic swap-over valve. and started exploring slip casting, hand building, glazing, and Raku, allowing me to work through the whole process, discovering not only the shapes, forms and textures that can be achieved with clay, but also the wonders of glazes and the colours that can be generated through varying the firing process.

Then I realised how little I knew !

## Members Profile : Tony Thompson



My initial gas kiln, having been constructed from a foldaway dog crate, rescued from the local council recycling centre, and insulated with 2" of ceramic fibre, was limited by the need to run it in fair weather, and also the life of the ceramic fibre. It consumed a lot of gas if I only wanted to test fire one or two small pieces, so then I built a 'dust-bin' kiln, also rescued from the local re-cycling centre!

I also acquired a lot of high temperature insulation bricks that I could easily build very small but odd shaped mini kilns for the one-off tests I wanted to try out.

Since then I have recently acquired a second hand top-loader electric kiln, now installed in my garage, and allowing me the benefit of having firings no matter what the weather, and, with it's attached controller, more freedom to let it run it's own course without constant tweaking.

There are so many techniques and glazes, its impractical to try and work them all. So, to a certain degree, you have to explore what you can with what you've got. At the moment, its a lot of Asraf Hanna clay, white crackle glaze, with and without the addition of Copper Oxide.

I find it difficult to label what exactly inspires me - there are so many inspiring designs and objects out there, not only in the natural world, but in trends like Art Nouveau and Art Deco. I think that the combination of shape, texture and colour can produce so much variation, that slightly changing one of those parameters can make the difference between a completed piece of work being seen as attractive or not. After all, it all comes down to personal choice - "one man's meat is another man's poison".



For those of you that have read my article "Reduction Firing and Saving Fuel" in the Aug/Sept 2014 SCG Newsletter, you will realise that my interest also lies in the making and efficiency of the equipment I'm working with. A typical Engineer!

Whilst a lot of my work has been Raku (it's cheaper on propane gas, not having to go too high), I have been exploring higher temperatures and a dip into Chinese Copper Red glazing. I've also made a few attempts at changing direction back towards sculpture; a life-size female torso, which while in the last stages of drying out in my well-used multi-purpose garage, got nudged and took a nose dive; a small female maquette, flattened by a falling container from a crowded shelf above; another female frontal torso made entirely of clay leaves, that, whilst built with supporting frame, was not strong enough when I lifted it badly, and collapsed onto the garage floor, leaving the right breast still in my hand - that piece actually got bisque fired. I feel as though I'm being told something! But undaunted, further plans are afoot!

By the time of the next AGM in January 2016, I will have been on the Committee for 4 years, so it is now the time for me to stand down, and let somebody else pick up the various roles that I've been looking after. I also feel that maybe it's time to divide the work up into two separate functions - the website and email; Facebook and Twitter. So come on folks, start lining up, help to get started will be at hand.



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**Demonstrations : Patia Davis**

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**Southern Ceramic Group Demonstration  
Slipware, Patia Davis.**

10.00 to 16.00. 8th November 2015

Petersfield Community Centre, Love Lane, Petersfield GU31 4BW

Wobage has been my workshop for some 24 years, the creative home of Mick Casson and his wife Sheila and family. I graduated in 1990, completing the Harrow BTEC and a degree from Cardiff. I make domestic ware in both porcelain and earthenware. The most interesting aspect about working with both materials is that each material feeds different facets of what I love about clay and one informs something of the other when I am working, enriching both I hope.

I shall be demonstrating in earthenware...using slips. Decorating on both thrown and slabbed forms, highlighting the differences and challenges of using wet slip onto wet. The 'tin can' technique I employ allows for a great sense of freedom, with each movement needing to be thought through but then executed with spontaneity. Watch a video of my work.

*Patia Davis*

[www.studiopottery.co.uk/profile/Patia/Davis](http://www.studiopottery.co.uk/profile/Patia/Davis)

Patia Davis  
Wobage Workshops  
Upton Bishop, Ross-on-Wye  
Herefordshire HR9 7QP  
Tel: 07400 611 072

[patiapots.blogspot.co.uk](http://patiapots.blogspot.co.uk) [patia.contact@gmail.com](mailto:patia.contact@gmail.com) [workshops-at-wobage.co.uk](http://workshops-at-wobage.co.uk)

**Catering**

Please bring a dish as a contribution to an American Lunch (and your own crockery and cutlery (optional)).

**Location.**

For a map showing location of the demonstration please visit [www.petersfieldcommunitycentre.org.uk](http://www.petersfieldcommunitycentre.org.uk)

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## Demonstrations

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**Patia Davis****Registration form: Patia Davis Demonstration 10.00 8 November 2015**

Petersfield Community Centre, Love Lane, GU31 4BW.

Name:

Address:

Contact phone no:

Email address:

SCG membership no:

Name of guest:

Date:

This registration document can be completed on line and sent by email to: [zyg@kruk.co.uk](mailto: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: PatiaYourName

**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 or 07864995843

*Zyg Kruk*  
Demonstrations co ordinator



## 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 November 2015**

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

**Next Newsletter due : 1st December 2015**

**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**

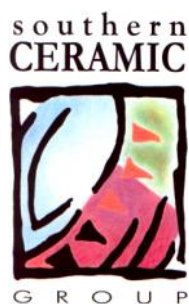
**Commercial Advertising Rates: B&W Colour**

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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