

NEWSLETTER

July/September 2017

www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/

Email : info@southernceramicgroup.co.uk

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Editorial

Welcome to the July/September 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

SOUTHERN CERAMIC GROUP
SUMMER
EXHIBITION
29 JULY - 13 AUGUST 2017
OPEN DAILY 10am TO 5pm ENTRY FREE

THE BISHOP'S KITCHEN
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL
WEST SUSSEX PO19 1PX
CREDIT / DEBIT CARDS ACCEPTED
www.southernceramicgroup.org.uk

Members and Friends Evening at the Bishop's Kitchen – Friday 28th July

This year we again have a record number of exhibitors at the Bishop's Kitchen at Chichester Cathedral. Fifty five members will be exhibiting, including several who have not exhibited there before, so there should be lots of interesting new work to see. Please do come along between 6 pm and 8 pm on Friday 28th July for our special Members and Friends evening, and bring your family and friends as well. If you come, you will see the exhibition in all its glory before the public does and you will have the opportunity to buy an exhibit yourself if anything takes your fancy. There will be drinks and nibbles and hopefully a very sociable time.

The Bishop's Kitchen is accessed from a door in a corner of the outer wall of the Cathedral cloisters. The door will be open, but we won't be putting out many signs as we don't want to entice curious members of the public in for our private event. If you need wheelchair access or would like more detailed directions please contact me at kevin.akhurst@btinternet.com.

If you can't make it on the 28th, we will be open to the public between 10 am and 5 pm every day from Saturday 29th July to Sunday 13th August.

What's On

The International Ceramics Festival The ICF is Europe's premier ceramics festival which is held at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on the campus of Aberystwyth University on the mid-Wales coast. Since it began in 1987, the three-day festival has grown to become the UK's leading ceramics event. It offers teachers, students, ceramic artists, collectors, working potters and amateurs and lovers of craft, the chance to meet and study the work of distinguished, internationally known potters and ceramicists from Wales, the UK and around the world. The next International Ceramics Festival will take place 30th June- 2nd July 2017. Tickets for ICF 2017 will be on sale on 1st November 2016. <http://www.internationalceramicsfestival.org/>

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



World renowned potter Shozo Michikawa was born in 1953 in Hokkaido in Northern Japan. He graduated from Aoyama Gakuin University in 1975. After an initial career in business he took up evening classes in art where he discovered his talent and passion for pottery. A few years later, Michikawa made the decision to entirely focus on creating ceramics.

In July 2005, he was given the rare honour of being the first Japanese artist to have a solo exhibition of his art in The Forbidden City in Beijing. Michikawa has widely exhibited in Japan and around the world, including the Philippines, Mongolia, France, China, New York and London.

See more information and examples of Shozo's work at

www.shozo-michikawa.com

<https://www.facebook.com/shozo.michikawa>

What's On

The following studio visits have been arranged by the CPA

Nigel Lambert Ceramics. Saturday 15th July
Contact - Michael Jones.
E-mail: mike.a.jonze@gmail.com
Clive Bowen-Shebbear Pottery. Saturday 7th Oct.
Contact-Kay Waite
E-mail kaywaiteceramics@hotmail.co.uk

Kevin Akhurst

[Made in the Middle 2017](#) at National Centre for Craft & Design May 13, 2017 - Jul 08, 2017 touring show.
PV: 12 May from 6.00pm

[St. Ives Summer Show](#) at Porthminster Gallery Jun 17, 2017 - Sep 03, 2017 Includes new work from Geoff Swindle and John Pollex

[Potfest in the Park 2017](#) at Potfest in the Park Jul 28, 2017 - Jul 30, 2017 Over 100 exhibitors invited from all over Europe and beyond....all with very distinctive individual stylesall passionate about working with clay.

[Summer Show - Celia Allen ceramics](#) at Rye Art Gallery Aug 01, 2017 - Aug 31, 2017 Mixed summer show with ceramics from Celia Allen

[Sussex Guild Craft Show - includes Ceramics](#) at Michelham Priory Aug 03, 2017 - Aug 06, 2017 The Sussex Guild has held a show at historic Michelham Priory for forty five years. Mixed show with the best of Sussex Art and craft.

[Potfest in the Pens](#) at Potfest in the Pens - Penrith Aug 04, 2017 - Aug 06, 2017 The only unselected show in the UK giving an opportunity to see the work of the well established alongside the next generation.

[Sussex Guild Craft Show - includes Ceramics](#) at Pashley Manor Gardens Aug 26, 2017 - Aug 28, 2017 This will be The Sussex Guild's 14th year at Pashley and the craft show will be situated in a large marquee in front of the Manor House. The show will feature about fifty exhibitors including ceramics

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

[London Design Fair](#) at Old Truman Brewery, The Sep 21, 2017 - Sep 24, 2017 A wide range (450) of designers including ceramics - more info later

[Sheffield Ceramics Festival](#) at Sheffield Ceramics Festival Sep 23, 2017 - Sep 24, 2017 Forty leading and up and coming potter/ceramic artists

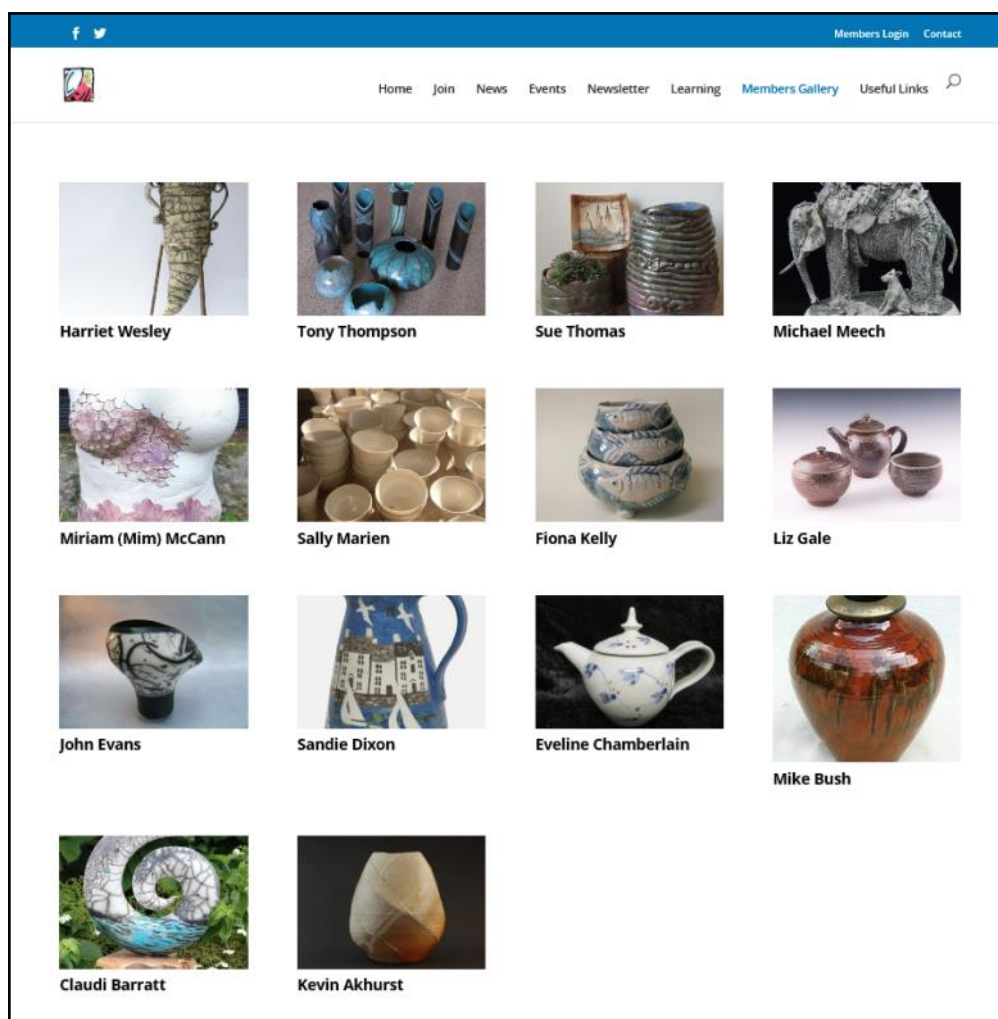
[British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke on Trent](#) at Stoke on Trent Sep 23, 2017 - Nov 05, 2017 Running for 6 weeks with 20 exhibitions, national and international ceramic artists.

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

SCG Website

The new Southern Ceramic Website is now live and fully functioning, after a month or so of initial technical problems which meant that we temporarily lost both old and new websites. Please can everyone make sure that they amend any references to the website to use the new website address, which is:- www.southernceramicgroup.org.uk

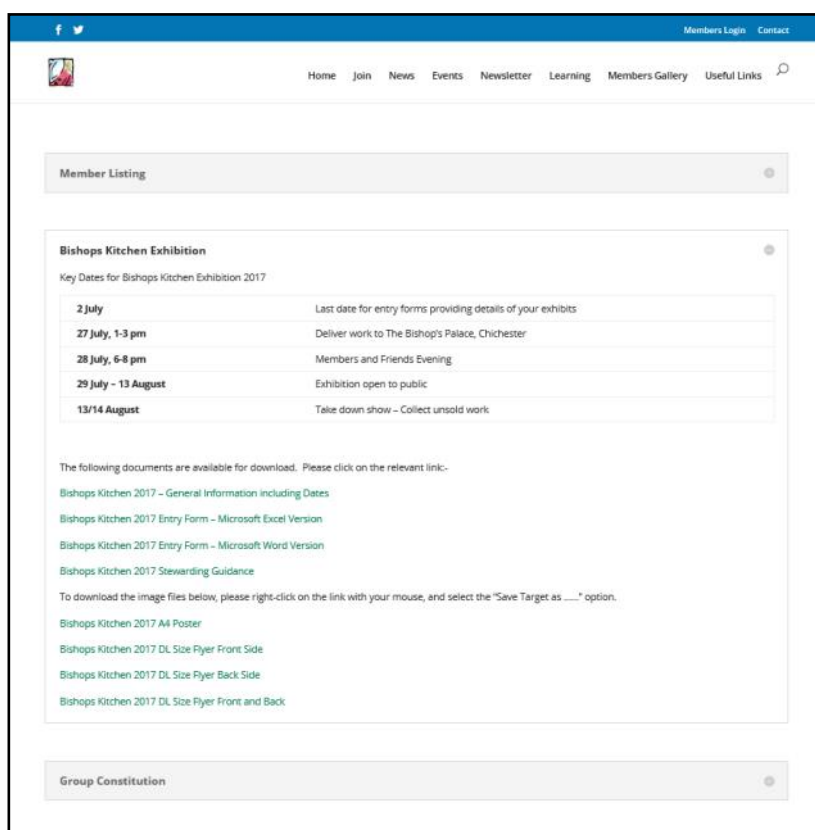
Users trying to access the old website (.co.uk) will be presented with a “redirection page” which tells them that the website has moved, and gives them a link to the new website. However, if you have a link on your own website, or are putting our details out on any publicity, please make sure that you use the new website details.



Content for the Members Gallery is gradually flowing in, and we now have 14 potters with profiles and images on the website. Anyone who has not yet supplied information is encouraged to do so, especially those members who will be exhibiting at Bishops Kitchen. It would be great if everyone at the exhibition was live on the members gallery. If you had an entry on the old website members gallery and would just like the information transferred across, then please let me know (contact details at the end of this article). The old members gallery can be accessed temporarily using the link <http://www.scg400.org.uk/> and clicking on the “Gallery” Menu Button.

We have also been trying to use the Members Login page to hold useful internal information, such as information on the Bishops Kitchen exhibition. You are reminded that the code to login on this page is “1975”.

SCG Website



We have also added some minor improvements to other functionality, such as the Contact page. People trying to send contact messages to committee members can now add an attachment file to the message. In addition however, protection has been added against "Robots" sending automated messages which might include Viruses or Trojans. We have not yet added this functionality on the contact forms on the Members Gallery. If you find that you are being "spammed" using these contact forms, then please let me know and I will consider how to better manage the situation. Hopefully the use of contact forms will help to minimise this problem.

The screenshot shows a contact form titled 'Message'. It has a large text area for the message. Below this is a section titled 'Add File Attachment to Message (optional)' with a 'Browse...' button. Further down is a reCAPTCHA widget with the text 'I'm not a robot' and a checkbox. To the right of the checkbox is the reCAPTCHA logo and links for 'Privacy' and 'Terms'. At the bottom of the form is a blue 'Send' button.

Finally, if you have any suggestions for change or improvement on the website, then please let me know on webmaster.359@southernceramicgroup.org.uk.

Neil Rampton

Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Notes from the Glaze Group Meeting 8th March 2017

Those Present: Barbie Plastow, Charles Stilman, Diana Carter, Tony Thompson, Jan Griffiths, Kevin Akhurst, Mike Bush, Tim Thornton and John Howell.

Although currently in a nursing home it was good to see Charles back again at the meeting and he was welcomed by every one.

Kevin brought a vase form he had made based on the work of Nishibata; thrown stoneware, ribbed into a twisted form when slightly dried. The application of slip to selected areas coupled with the salt-firing gave spectacular results.

Mike brought along an ancient pot his uncle had brought back from the Mediterranean during the war. No one really knew exactly what it was but consensus seemed to be from around 1000-500 BC, thrown in two parts and maybe from Mesopotamia.-Maybe someone reading this can shed better light on it from the attached photo?

Mike had been experimenting with dry glazes and produced a “pictorial” vase using freely brushed glazes on a flat surface.



Tim described his latest work on oil spot glazes in an electric kiln based on the ferric iron reducing self-reducing above 1250 degs. and the released oxygen then bubbling through the glaze causing the oil spot bubbles to heal over after a few hours soaking.

Nadia had experienced bloating problems when glaze firing Spencroft stoneware on a second firing. There was no over-firing temperature-wise and no one really had an answer to this problem. Nadia said she will have a word with Spencroft.

Nadia brought along a large panel of interlocking tiles she had made at a 5 day workshop by Boris Aldridge . These were white glazed stoneware tiles treated with a resist paint and lustre glazed in elaborate designs (Normal resists do not work with lustre ware.)



Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Barbie had found the underside of her bowls blotchy (but attractively so) –whereas the upper surfaces were fine. The general view was that it might have been better to wait until the top surface application had dried more thoroughly or maybe that the under sides were so near horizontal the glaze hung in drips rather than flowing across the surface.

Kevin had a sherd of an ancient Chinese tea bowl (hare's fur glazed) that was fired in a stack of saggers in which each had a carinated bowl form to allow efficient stacking. Each tea bowl was supported in it's sagger by a lump of clay on the bottom of the sagger.

Following on from previous Glaze Group investigations on “floaty Blue” glazes; Mike found that using his formulation without added cobalt gave a typical borate type chun glaze. Adding a red stain to this produced a plum colour with blue speckles from the chun effect.

During the meeting there were various discussions on spraying techniques, on throwing tall pots, and on the pros and cons of various proprietary clays for this. Jan said that she has found a mix of 50/50 Raku (crank) with virtually any stoneware works really well!

Next meeting 2 nd Wed. in May at Barbie's.

Mike Bush



Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Glaze Group Meeting 10th May 2017

Present: Kevin Akhurst, Jan Griffiths, Nadia Hopkins, John Howell, Tom Paine, Barbie Plastow, Charles Stileman, Tim Thornton.

Kevin started the meeting off by passing round one of his salt glazed wood fired pots (Fig 1). This had a slip of ball clay with 10% copper. It showed a large variety of colours: black, blue, red, green and tan in different areas, depending on the exposure to the flames and salt. There was also some flashing to adjacent pots, giving them a pink flush. He then produced a black burnished Etruscan pitcher or wine jug from 600 BC (Fig 2). It was thought that this was fired in a saggar. There was discussion on how much of the black came from the effects of reduction in firing, and how much came from a carbon coating. (This link –and others - suggests that it is due to reduction firing of burnished clay <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/etruscan/a/bucchero>). This led to a discussion of Cycladic inspired work in studio pottery, and Charles Stileman produced a bowl and pot by Michael Cardew to demonstrate this influence (Fig. 3).

Tom Paine then showed his latest bowl with John Britt's Float Blue glaze (Fig. 4) –a topic for the last few meetings –and it was apparent how dependent this glaze is on getting the thickness right. He then brought out his latest experiments in copper reds. First there was a flambé red fired to around Cone 6 (~1220°C), which was very runny (Fig. 5). Then a Selsor red Fig. 6), again fired at Cone 6. Though this recipe came from John Britt's *The Complete Guide to Mid-Range Glazes*, a very similar glaze is also found in Michael Bailey's *Oriental Glazes*. The effect of the clay body on the red was discussed, with the consensus being that using a porcelain body or slip would give a brighter red. Tom's last piece was some blue and white agate ware, with a clear glaze on top, that had small black spots appearing. On examining the sample, the consensus was that it was probably iron in the clay (Spencroft SP Porcelain), and not in the glaze. Tom said he used this porcelain because it is much cheaper than others, such as Audrey Blackman. Nadia's first piece was a small pot that was green on one side and more purple on the other. People thought a thicker glaze had caused the purple colour. She then passed round a French butter pot (Fig. 7), designed to keep butter cool in the summer. The butter goes into the inner bowl, and some water into the outer one. The inner bowl is then put in upside down, and the butter kept cool by evaporation.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



8

Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Although this piece was in stoneware, some were wondering if the cooling would be more effective with an earthenware outer pot. Jan passed round one of her bowls with melted glass on top (Fig. 8). She'd recently read that some other potters had had problems with glass popping off, but she had never had a problem. Opinions were that it was less likely in stoneware, due to greater bonding between the glass and the clay, and if the glass crazed that would probably also relieve some of the stresses. Jan's glass comes from broken up bottles, and she commented on the differences between bottles that appeared to be the same colour. Tim Thornton passed round two pieces with wood ash (Fig. 9): the large piece was inspired by a Shozo Michikawa workshop, and had an iron oxide wash together with a thick, stiff wood ash glaze. The small thumb pot was a test piece using the same wood ash glaze with a layer of 50/50 Cryolite and Nepheline Syenite on top. He then showed some plates that had cracked on cooling (Fig. 10).

Because of the oil spot glaze these had been fired to 1290°C and had a 2 hour soak followed by a slow cool, and Tim thought too much cristabolite had formed in the clay (Valentine Special Fleck) due to the high, slow firing, and the hand building technique hadn't compressed the clay. A suggestion was to put the plate on aluminium oxide powder, so it was freer to move as it expanded and contracted. Finally, he showed a bowl made by Paul Wearing, using coloured slips (Fig. 11)



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

Floating Blue Glaze : Comment

Further to Tom Paine's work on Floating Blues I've also been playing with it. In the photo attached I've used the basic "Floating" formulation and substituted Titanium Dioxide for the Rutile and Tin Oxide for the Cobalt Carbonate thus :

Potash' Feld 16
Flint 18.5
China Clay 26
Strontium Carbonate 4
Frit 3134 37
Tin Oxide 2.5
Titanium dioxide 4
Bentonite 2

This was splashed over the standard blue to obtain a classic glaze over glaze effect. There appeared to be very little movement/run of the white but then again I was being very careful not to go above 1240 C . Fired in gas kiln in oxidising for 12 hours.

PS I've also noticed the Floating blue can come out thin at times. Refiring with another coat (thick glaze brushed on) sometimes saves a pot. Sometimes.....

Martin Eastabrook



Members Profile : Max Balme

I live in Storrington in a single track lane leading into the downs. The pottery is a double garage, with 3 electric wheels a kick wheel and the electric kiln; the gas kiln is in the garden.

I learnt to make pots at school, then I had a forty year break while I trained and practised medicine in the NHS mainly as a GP in Billingshurst. I took up pottery when I retired. I spent about half my career teaching medicine and teaching doctors how to teach, having gained a degree in education in Guildford mid career. The love of teaching came from those days teaching my peers in the pottery at school. I find I really only learn something when I teach it, and I learn a lot from those I teach. Now days I teach throwing, mainly in winter. October to March I am a full time potter, teaching four days a week 1-3 people at a time. In summer I stop teaching, make more pots and go to craft fairs.

I have made earthenware, stoneware, porcelain and raku. I mainly make stoneware tableware fired to 1280c in reduction from 1000c. I make all my own glazes and I enjoy manipulating the kiln atmosphere to enhance the glazes. I have about 6 different blues and copper reds, 3 tenmokus and ash and rutile neutral glazes. I am experimenting with throwing porcelain at the moment. Many of my pots are decorated by mixing glazes on the pots.



My job in medicine was a very sociable one, when I first started potting on my own in the garage I found it slightly isolated; so it was a delight to find so many people were keen to have a go at throwing. 8 people were potting with me last term, 2 now have bought their own wheels. One of my potters thanked me and said he had enjoyed potting had learnt a lot and was pleased with his creations, but he would have come just for the conversation. I value these new friendships, potters are a nice bunch.



What do I see as an ambition: I love throwing, I will continue teaching as that's great. I would like to throw bigger (at the moment seldom throw more than 5kg), I would like to experiment with soda firing, also want to use more slips. I find selling pots a bit difficult. Hoping to buy a pugmill this year, then a new kiln!

if any one wants throwing lessons the next term starts last week July for 6 weeks, then again at end of October. Keep on practising!!

Max Balme



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



Future Demonstrations

Some dates for your SCG Diary.....

The following two demonstrations have been arranged

Kay Aplin: at Porchester Community Centre, 27 January 2018. AGM during this event. Bookings from September 2017

James Ort: at Soberton Community Centre, 22 April 2018. Bookings from January 2018

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

For Sale

I am considering changing from a front loading to a top loading kiln, Because as I get older I am finding it harder to reach in to the chamber without damaging the work. Usually delicate parts at the top. This also applies to Kiln shelves.

The kiln is a Kilns & Furnaces L4 HT

chamber size is 18" W x 22" H x 24" D Shelves included.

Offers please. Byer collects

Email mike@mjpeacock.co.uk Visit www.mjpeacock.co.uk to see a map of my location.

Mike Peacock



Group & Members News

New Members

A very warm welcome to new members:

- Mike Peacock from Hayling Island
- Jane Ogden-Swift of Bishops Waltham
- Linda Maunsell from Lymington
- Johanna Tricklebank from Tangmere
- Ben Wainwright from Bishops Waltham
- James Palmer of Hayling Island

The membership currently stands at 144

Next Committee Meeting. The committee meets every few months or so and our next meeting will be on Next meeting. Tuesday 3rd July 2017. 7.15 pm at Neil's house.

"Hilston House" Hambledon 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.

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 September 2017

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

Next Newsletter due : 1st October 2017

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

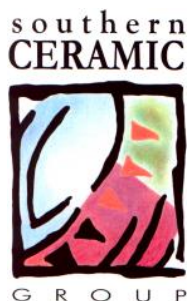
Interested in becoming a member of the Southern Ceramic Group?

Application forms can be found on the group website at:

<http://www.southernceramicgroup.co.uk/Information/SCGMemberApp.pdf>

Acknowledgments

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