

# NEWSLETTER

April-June 2019

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

Email : [info@southernceramicgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@southernceramicgroup.co.uk)

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## Editorial

Welcome to the April-June 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*

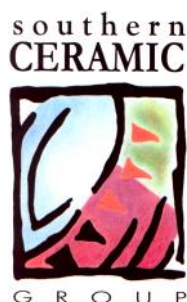
## Group & Members News

**Next Committee Meeting.** The committee meets every few months or so and our next meeting will be : Saturday 3rd July 2019 at 7.30pm, at Vasu's house. "Tanglewood" Outlands Lane, Curdridge, SO30 2HD

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.

### A welcome to new members.....

Jack Allum  
 John Bailey  
 Derek Potts  
 Grainne Saunders  
 Richard Brockman  
 Allison Bevis  
 Neal Griffin  
 Eugenie Smit  
 Jessica Jordan  
 Rebecca Gardiner  
 Nick Bennett  
 Richard Hollingbery



## What's On

Evening event - **Chris Keenan and Vanguard Court Ceramicists** at Vanguard Court Studios, Southwark, London May 9th 2019 the ceramicists on Vanguard Court will be holding an evening event as part of this year's London Craft Week. It'll be led by Corinne Julius and is a free, but ticketed, event and there are only 40 places.

**London Craft Week** talk - Kate Malone at BELLENDEN ROAD STUDIO May 10th 2019 Kiln Rooms talk for London Craft Week by Kate Malone

**Diessen International Ceramics Market** at Diessen Potters Market May 30, 2019 - Jun 02, 2019 With around 150 potters from Europe. ( Peter Beard, Chris Barnes, Eddie and Margaret Curtis and David Wright will be members showing from Britain)

**Potfest Scotland** - 23rd year at Scone Palace, Scotland Jun 07, 2019 - Jun 09, 2019 Marquee event at Scone Palace, Perth with many well known and some yet to be well known potters showing.

**Earth and Fire 2019** at Harley Gallery Jun 21, 2019 - Jun 23, 2019 Earth and Fire International Ceramic Fair is one of the country's premier ceramic events taking place every year at the end of June in North Nottinghamshire. The fair takes place on the Welbeck Estate, which houses The Harley Gallery, The Portland Collection and an array of artist studios. <http://www.earthandfire.co.uk/>

### HANDMADE OXFORD – THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ARTS FESTIVAL

Following the success of our events in Edinburgh, Kew and Chelsea, we are excited to present Handmade Oxford – The International Contemporary Arts Festival from Thursday 27 – Sunday 30 June 2019 at Waterperry Gardens.

**HANDMADE Oxford**

THE INTERNATIONAL  
CONTEMPORARY ARTS FESTIVAL  
Meet | Shop | Learn | Engage | Eat | Drink | Explore

27 – 30 June 2019  
Waterperry Gardens, Oxford

BOOK YOUR FESTIVAL TICKETS  
[handmadeinbritain.co.uk/oxford](http://handmadeinbritain.co.uk/oxford)

Organised by:  
**HANDMADE**  
in Britain

Event partners:  
**ASHMOLEAN** Waterperry  
Gardens

## What's On

**Hay Clay!** My name is Nick Kidd and I am the new Learning Coordinator at the Crafts Council. In January we will begin recruiting venues for Hey Clay! 2019, our annual celebration of clay which gives everyone the chance to unleash their inner potter at venues across the UK through free workshops and taster sessions.

Hey Clay! 2019 will run from **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May** as part of the [Get Creative Festival](#). In the New Year applications will open and we will also send out a new guidance pack with all the information you need.

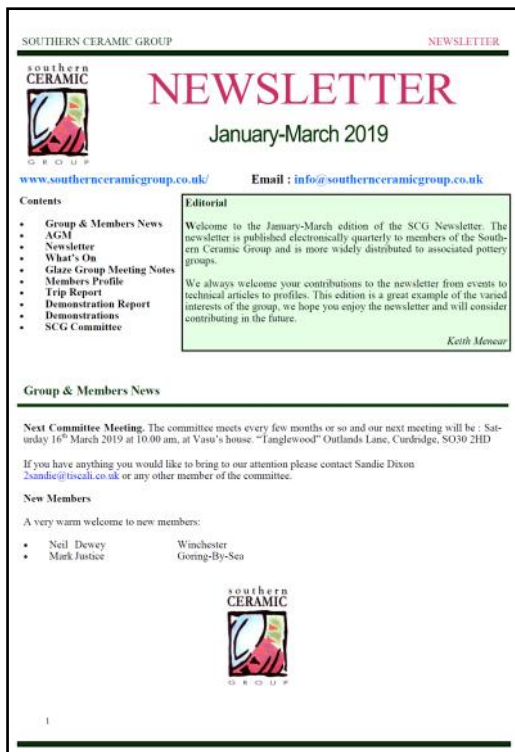
If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to get in touch.

Many thanks,  
Nick

Nick Kidd  
Learning Coordinator  
Direct line +44 (0)207 806 2522



## Southern Ceramic Group Newsletter



The Southern Ceramic Group newsletter is distributed to members quarterly and hopefully provides a vehicle to link members and keep everyone informed of events.

I have been editing the newsletter now for a number of years and am standing down at the end of the 2019. This offers the group the opportunity to give the newsletter a fresh look and re-energise what is a very important part of our activity.

So if you have any wanted to channel your inner Woodward and Bernstein now's your chance!

I am very happy to discuss what is involved with anyone interested or please contact the Committee.

*Keith Menear*

## Exhibitions 2019

### Bishops Kitchen: 27 July – 11 August 2019

We have a full house again for our summer exhibition at the Bishops Kitchen in Chichester Cathedral this year, with a few people on standby. Do note the dates down (if you are not already an exhibitor) and do tell your friends and family about them and perhaps invite them to the opening event. The Members and Friends Evening is from 6 pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July and the show is open to the public from Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August.

Whether you are exhibiting at BK or not, do make sure you have an entry on our **Members' Gallery**.

If you *are* exhibiting – please note that we will be using the text and pictures from there to build a portfolio for the exhibition, so do update your pictures to suit your current mood.



### Winchester City Space: 23 Nov 2019 - 5 Jan 2020

**New exhibition opportunity.** You might remember that this year we have been lucky enough to get an opportunity for a second exhibition – right in the centre of Winchester in the Discovery Centre .

The space is smaller there than in BK, so we will have to have fewer exhibitors/ pieces and the selection process, involving the Hampshire Cultural Trust, is likely to be different. But still, this is a great chance to show our wares. We will very soon be beginning the process – and will keep you posted.

### Still looking for volunteers to help with exhibitions

We've got a marvellous exhibitions team already, but still looking to fill a few more roles. Any offers of help and any queries, please contact me at [vasureddyceramics@gmail.com](mailto:vasureddyceramics@gmail.com)

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## Glaze Group Meeting Notes

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### Minutes of Glaze Group Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Attending: Tom Paine, Diana Carter, Charles Stileman, John Howell, Tim Thornton, Barbie Plastow, Kevin Akhurst

The meeting started by congratulating Charles, who was celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday later that week.

Tom showed the group a recently fired dish and bowl using developments of his float bronze glaze (itself a development of the Britt float blue glaze). The dish used a glaze made from his float bronze glaze to which 6% of red stain had been added (GS26 stoneware compatible stain). As would be expected, this had imparted an attractive red tone to the bronze glaze. The bowl had a two-layer glaze; the first was the standard float bronze glaze and agar gum was used on the surface of this glaze to encourage adhesion of the second layer, which was the glaze with red stain used for the dish. This glaze combination flowed in firing, producing a very attractive red-toned glaze with a bluish opalescence in the well and near the rim.



Kevin produced two small test vessels which had been fired in his wood/salt/soda kiln. The vessels had two different red glazes from Britt's cone 10 book – Val's tomato red (and iron red glaze) and Pete's super red (a copper red glaze). As can be seen from the photo, neither of these turned out red. The copper red glaze had a faint pink blush – the group agreed that it was likely that much of the copper had volatilised in the kiln, or possibly the firing conditions weren't right to develop the red. The iron red glaze produced an attractive mottled green. Kevin noted that the compositions of iron red and tea dust glazes are quite similar and possibly the slow cooling (48h) of his kiln may have cause the pyroxene crystallisation characteristic of a green tea dust glaze. Kevin said he would be using this glaze again, which was not only attractive to look at but was also very appealing to the touch.



## Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Kevin also talked about a process he had been experimenting with, which involved carving narrow lines in a surface slip and then inlaying a contrasting glaze into those lines. One problem he had encountered is that glazes which produce strong colours as surface coatings seem to fade out when fired as fine lines – possibly due to the increased ratio of surface area to volume in the lines of glaze, causing faster volatilisation of copper and more rapid uptake of sodium vapour in the kiln. He showed two examples of this – one in which a strontium blue glaze inlaid into a black slip had almost completely disappeared and another in which Britt's purple haze glaze (a copper red glaze with titanium dioxide added) had also lost much of its colour, albeit in an attractive way.



Barbie showed the group several bowls and asked why some of them, particularly those which were thinly potted, were going out of shape during the firing. The group had no simple answer to this, but asked whether they were fired close to the kiln elements. Some of Barbie's pots had been fired using a cone 6 glaze from Britt's book called Arrowmont blue, which produced a striking transition from green to blue at the mid-level of the bowl. It was suggested that streaking of the glaze may have been caused by the high lithium content of the recipe. Another glaze, temmoku gold, had produced an attractive green spotting in the lower part of the bowl. Barbie said she has been using Potclays Artemis white stoneware clay, which she found very appealing to work with.



The group discussed the possible benefits of firing down (i.e. holding temperature or slowing cooling during the cooling period of the kiln). This could be done to encourage crystallisation effects but Tom also said that it had proved very valuable for him in eliminating pinholing in float blue glazes.

Tim has been experimenting with keraflex – a very thin porcelain sheet from Germany. He fired some unglazed and also some with a stoneware glaze. He also tried firing transfers onto the sheet. The main problem seems to be that it is extremely fragile after firing – he showed us his collection of shards! Tim also brought some candle stands which he has been making for a local bee keeper.

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## Glaze Group Meeting Notes

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The upper surfaces of these have been glazed with a variety of glazes – a temmoku, a temmoku with added cobalt and an oilspot glaze with vanadium added (the vanadium seems to promote crystallisation at the oil-spots).



Charles produced two small bowls with stem feet, which had been fired with his synthetic wood ash glaze. On the exterior of the cup section this was underlaid by a black slip, which resulted in a very attractive mottled streaking when fired to stoneware temperatures in an electric kiln.

The group had a brief discussion of glaze software. Kevin and Tim both use Digitalfire Insight and Tim recommended [glazy.org](http://glazy.org). Tim also mentioned that he has done an on-line glaze course by Matt Katz.

*Kevin Akhurst*



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**Demonstrations**

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**Our next Southern Ceramics Group Demonstration : Katie Smith**

Soberton Community Hall, School Lane, Soton S032 9PF

19 May 2019 10.00am to 3.30pm



Our next demonstration will be by Katie Smith, who writes:

The continually changing landscape fascinates me and has become the main influence behind my drawings and sculptural pieces. I am obsessed with how human touch has always had a huge impact on the world around us. Now, in urban life, we are surrounded by a new landscape where streetlights and signposts, chimneys and aerials have replaced the trees and rock forms of a more natural setting.

I use ceramic structures to create my own landscape of forms.

Shying away from heavy glazing use oxides and stains to colour my work. I love the raw, urban look that these give to my pieces. They highlight the textural and linear nature of the relief and celebrate the earthy properties of the material.

Please visit her web site [www.katiesmithceramics.com](http://www.katiesmithceramics.com)

**Please register using the form attached**





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## Demonstrations

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**Registration Document:****SCG Demonstration: Katie Smith****10.00am to 3.30pm, 19 May 2019****Soberton Community Hall, Soberton Village, Soton SO34 9PF**

Name:

Address:

Contact phone no:

Email address:

SCG membership no:

Name of guest:

Registration fee. £20 for members, £25 for their guest.

This document can be completed on line and sent by email to: [zyg@kruk.co.uk](mailto:zyg@kruk.co.uk)**Payment** for guests only (please indicate): BACS..... or Cheque.....**BACS**

Account: Southern Ceramic Group

Bank: Lloyds

A/c no: 26954360

Sort code: 30 90 34

**Reference: Katie Smith YourName****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

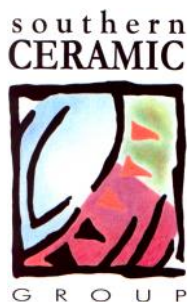
Hayling Is

Hants PO11 9SP

[zyg@kruk.co.uk](mailto: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



**SOUTHERN CERAMIC GROUP COMMITTEE**



**Chair**

Rolf Hawkins **Tel** : 01962 869117

**Email** : rolf.hawkins@winchester.anglican.org



**Hon Sec**

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**Email** : 2sandie@tiscali.co.uk



**Treasurer**

John Howell **Tel** : 02380 618165

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**Demonstrations**

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**Email** : zyg@kruk.co.uk



**News letter**

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**Email** : keith.menear@hotmail.co.uk



**Exhibitions Coordinator**

Vasu Reddy

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**Website**

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**Email:**

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**Membership Secretary**

Debbie Page

**Email** : debbly61@hotmail.com

**NEXT COPY DEADLINE : 17th May 2019**

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

**Next Newsletter due : 1st June 2019**

**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**

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

Full Page £20

Half Page £10

Quarter Page £5

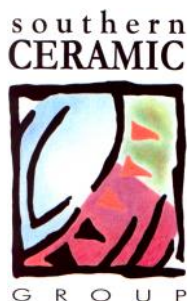
**Interested in becoming a member of the Southern Ceramic Group?**

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



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