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Editorial

Welcome to the new look October - December edition of the SCG Newsletter. It is published quarterly in digital form to members of the Southern Ceramic Group and more widely to other pottery groups.

Please consider contributing your news of events, technical articles and profiles. This edition continues to showcase the varied interests of the group.

I hope you enjoy the new style and I would like to thank Keith Menear and numerous Committee members for all their help and support in getting this edition off the ground

Neil Dewey

Group and Members News

Keith Menear - Thank you Keith. It was a fortunate day in 2013 when Keith Menear took on the job of producing the SCG newsletter. At that time we had sadly been without a newsletter for many months but thanks to Keith the group has had a lively, colourful and informative publication ever since.

Sandie Dixon

Next Committee Meeting. - The committee meets every few months or so and our next meeting will be: Monday 25 November at 7.30 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 or any other member of the committee.

A welcome to our new members...

Nick Elwin
David Barrett
Alison Wear
David Burns
Gill Robinson
Linda Chew
Vicky Turk
Lynn Nicholls
Nicholas Taylor
Suzanne Robbins

Group and Members News cont.

Advance Notice: AGM and January Demonstration.

This will take place at Portchester Community Centre on 19 Jan 2020 from 10.00 until 4.00.
For details see pages 14-16.

New Membership Secretary required. Unfortunately Debbie Page has had to tender her resignation due to a change in her employment. Should you be interested in the role she would be happy to answer your queries.

The main workload is at membership renewal stage in March/April, otherwise it is processing new members, generally a few per month. Cheques received will need to be banked. If possible a handover would be ideal around November to December to give the new secretary time to get used to the role before the renewals.

Please contact Debbie on either scgmembersecretary@yahoo.com or on 07786 444433

What's On

First and foremost, our exciting new exhibition and collaborative venture with Hampshire Cultural Trust at the Winchester Discovery Centre, commencing 23 November. All the details are on page 5.

British Ceramics Biennial at 6 locations in Stoke-on-Trent. Until 13 Oct.

300 artists in exhibitions, installations and events.

britishceramicsbiennial.com

Watts Ceramics 2019 at the Watts Contemporary Gallery, Compton, Surrey, GU3 1DQ. Until 20 Oct.

Inspired by the legacy of Mary Watts the founder of the Compton Pottery, 9 leading female ceramic artists.

Free admission, works for sale.

wattsgallery.org.uk

27th Forde Abbey Exhibition, Chard, Dorset, TA20 4LU. Until 25 Oct

400 pieces of stoneware, porcelain and raku from the Eeles Family of Potters,

eelespottery.co.uk info@fordeabbey.co.uk

CPA - Contemporary Ceramics Centre at 63 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3BF

Peter Beard - 'New Work' until 12 Oct

Martin Pearce - 'Allusive Forms' 17 Oct - 9 Nov

'Gifted - A Christmas Show' 25 Nov - 31 Dec

info@cpaceramics.com

Sussex Makers 2019 at the Studio Gallery, Worthing Museum and Art Gallery, BN11 1HP. Until 21 Dec

Ceramicists Bob Kershaw and Jessica Jordan exhibit with 11 other artists and makers in a selling exhibition.

worthingmuseum.co.uk

Oxford Ceramics Fair 2019 at St Edwards School, Woodstock Rd, Oxford OX2 7NN. 26 and 27 Oct

63 national and international makers, demonstrations.

oxfordceramicfair.com

Art in Clay at Farnham Maltings, GU9 7QR. 16 and 17 Nov

70 makers, demonstrations

artinclayfarnham.co.uk

Social Media

I've taken on running the SCG social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Whilst these will be useful in helping to promote events such as Bishop's Kitchen, I'll aim to keep them active all year round, partly to build up a following for the events, and also to spread information round to members of the group (this will be in addition to existing channels like Tony's emails and the newsletter).

Please email me at this address with anything you'd like posted – it could be a nice pot you've made, some spare kit you want to sell off, an exhibition you attended or you have coming up, or anything else that may be relevant. Also, images! Preferably at least 1024 pixels square resolution (don't worry about them being too large), and if they can have nice wide borders it makes it easier for me to crop them to the different image sizes Instagram and Facebook use. If you have video, then even better. But without images it won't get posted on Instagram, and you'll need to persuade me that it is worth posting on the other accounts.

Our accounts are below – please follow them, so SCG posts appear in your feed.

Also, if you would like SCG members to see what you are posting on your social media account(s), please use the following link to let us know your account details:

<http://www.southern Ceramic Group.org.uk/members-page/social-media/>

Southern Ceramic Group Social Media

Instagram: [@southern Ceramic Group](https://www.instagram.com/southern Ceramic Group)

Facebook: [@southern Ceramic Group](https://www.facebook.com/southern Ceramic Group)

Twitter: [@southern Ceramic](https://twitter.com/southern Ceramic)

Tim Thornton, scg_social@southern Ceramic Group.org.uk

Newsletter

Next Copy Deadline - Please note that for obvious reasons (I hope) contributions would be appreciated on 10 Dec a week earlier than the usual timetable for a distribution date of 2 Jan 2020.

Keep me posted, please, at any time before the deadline with news of your own exhibitions that will take place during the course of the next newsletter edition, and any other news or technical matters that might be shared.

Neil Dewey, neilhdewey@gmail.com

Exhibitions - Bishops Kitchen 2019



From setting-up to curating the display and the private viewing

A huge thanks to everyone for a very successful event at the Bishop's Kitchen this year. Not entirely sure why - perhaps due to the broader advertising that Vidya achieved this year - but we had three and a half thousand visitors (nearly a thousand more than last year) and although we sold about the same number of items (280 this year and 271 last year) we grossed about a thousand pounds more. The comments from the various visitors – and indeed from members when they came in to steward or brought friends to see the show – was that the display was particularly wonderful.

Thank you, display team – Brian, Jan, Debbie and Vidya!! And thanks to Vidya for all her PR work – this is her last year as Publicity person for SCG – and for the work of Tony and Tim in support and for all the help from the many members who distributed flyers. A big thank you to the Setting Up team – Neil R, Neil D, Neal G and Margaret (aka Neil M) – couldn't do without them; thanks to the tireless servers of drinks at the Private Viewing – Margaret, Lola and Nigel; thanks to all the wonderful stewards who sustained the display, entertained guests (thanks Gordon!), did physical labour in putting out the stands and all in all kept the ball rolling; and thanks to all the workers behind the scenes – Sue T (and Alan!), Sue G, Helen, Sandie, Annie, Rolf, John, Tim, Diana, Marigo, the checkers in and checkers out of work, and many others. Above all, thank you to the super makers – as always we all felt awed by the quality and individual creativity of the work of members. The Palace was going through considerable changes this year and we are enormously grateful to them – and to the Bishop whose space we invade - for nonetheless welcoming us and allowing us to exhibit in that wonderful space: thank you!

Those who exhibited this year will know that we realised late in the day that not only did we have several exceptional last-minute health-related withdrawals, but also had fewer pieces submitted on the day and fewer large pieces of work. We had an urgent scramble to get in more work just in case. For next year, we plan to ask all full exhibitors to submit details of up to 15 pieces, getting the background work (labels etc) done for all of these, but only asking for the 10 or 12 to be actually submitted. Our lack of storage space at BK makes these decisions quite tricky to manage.

Here's to looking forward to a successful show next year, but in the meantime – we have the work already underway for the Winchester exhibition – it promises to be wonderful.

Vasu Reddy

Exhibitions - Winchester 2019 - The New SCG Exhibition



CITY SPACE

SOUTHERN CERAMIC GROUP

Over 500 pieces by 50 potters on display and for sale!

23 NOVEMBER 2019 - 19 JANUARY 2020

Kath Mansur-Rau-Battle

HAMPSHIRE CULTURAL TRUST
 Location: Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry St, Winchester SO23 8SB
 Opening times: Mon-Fri 10am-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-3pm
 hampshireculture.org.uk 01962 873610

Winchester Just the Way We Like It Hampshire City Space

City Space is operated and funded by Hampshire Cultural Trust. We are a registered charity (no. 1108883) and company (no. 08986225) in England and Wales.

FREE admission

We are all very excited to have this new exhibition at a fantastic venue in Winchester. The City Space has already hosted some notable – and very popular – exhibitions this year. The SCG exhibition will run from the 23 November 2019 to 19 January 2020. There are over 50 potters and over 500 pieces being exhibited from a wide range of SCG members – and the display promises to be beautiful with a variety of free standing and hanging exhibits.

You will already have received an email about the **Private Viewing** on 22 November from 6 to 8 pm. Don't forget to invite friends and family if you can. We will have wine and nibbles for all.

For the first time we are now planning to run **Workshops and Demonstrations** during the exhibition period and we are very grateful to a number of our members and exhibitors who have offered to provide these. For your information, these workshops are open to ANYONE who is interested in going – whether members, non-members, young children, old children, anyone!! Some of the workshops are not free – but they are not expensive – and some of them include firing and glazing.

The workshops include activities for children such as making angels, masks and a treasure island, and activities for adults such as hand-building and carving tea bowls and so on, with opportunities to watch experienced throwers. The people doing workshops and demos include: Nadia Hopkins, Annie Flitcroft, Suna Imre, Gill Waller, Lesley Dixon, Neil Rampton and Mick Dixon.

Closer to the time you will find detailed information about the workshops on our SCG web pages as well as the City Space web page which is:-

<https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/southern-ceramic-group-exhibition>

For booking a place you will need to go through the Discovery Centre - either call the **Box Office** on **01962 873610** or go to their website for online booking. Additionally there will be tickets available to purchase at the Discovery Centre, at the desk sited at the cafe end of the building.

Exhibitions Team

For further details contact Vasu Reddy at vasureddyceramics@gmail.com

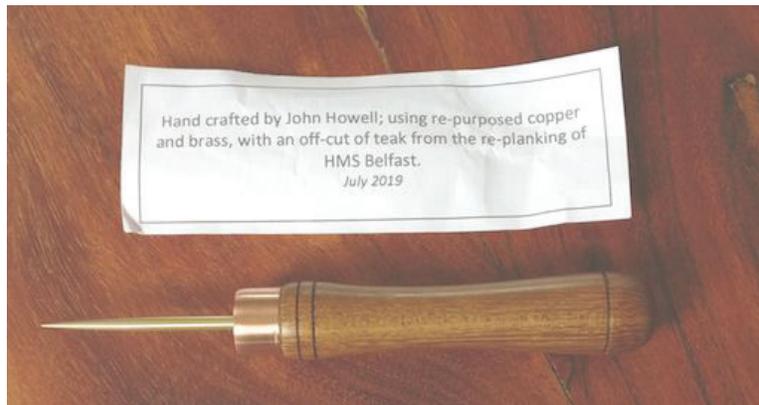
Glaze Group Meeting Notes

Minutes: 10 July 19, held at Barbie Plastow's home

Present: Kevin Akhurst, John Howell, Tom Paine, Barbie Plastow, Keith Sloan, Charles Stileman, Tim Thornton

John Howell

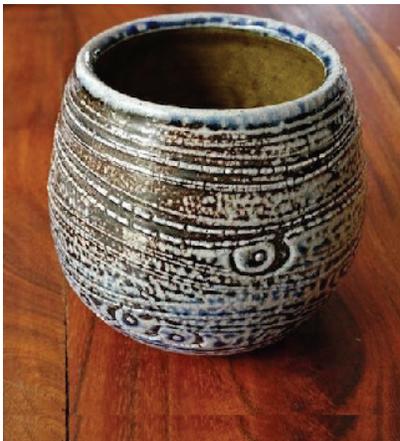
John began the meeting by giving Barbie a handmade needle, with a teak handle, brass needle and copper ferrule. Others were envious!



Kevin Akhurst

Kevin produced an 18th Century earthenware jug from Donyatt Pottery (near Chard, in Somerset; closed around 1945). The jug has bands of white slip on it, and a lead glaze on the inside and around the mouth.

He then produced two pieces of his own, both glazed with "van Gilder Ash" from John Britt's High Fired Glazes book. The glaze was blue (and ran) when fired to C11 in an area with plenty of salt, but grey in an area with less salt that just reached C9.



Finally, he showed a blue soda fired pot by Kirsteen Holuj. To make it she uses a porcelain slip with cobalt that is brushed on to the stoneware pot when the pot is still soft, and this is then carved. The surface is then dried with a heat gun, and sodium silicate brushed on, and again dried. Back on the wheel the pot is then pushed out from the inside so it cracks, and then finally it is soda fired..

Glaze Group Meeting Notes cont.



Tim Thornton

Tim first produced a couple of wood ash glazed bowls. The glaze had iron freckles in, probably from iron in soil that was on the wood. He uses unwashed wood ash, just adding silica and china clay to make the glaze. This is because washing wood ash is a real pain, and it removes the sodium and potassium fluxes which you then have to add back in with some feldspar.

He then showed three slab built bottles with a lead/uranium glaze on white earthenware. All had a bright orange/red colour on the yellow/red scale of uranium lead glazes. Because none of the glazes contained any clay, they were very hard to apply.

The first application was too thin, so he tried reglazing using the glaze thickened with glycerine, CMC gum or gum Arabic and then refiring. This didn't really work, and copious amounts of smoke were given off between 200 and 400°C as the organic material burnt out. Very much work in progress!



Tom Paine



Tom is currently working on a dinner service for his daughter, and is having problems with the plates cracking. The clay is Spencroft SP1, glazed with John Britt's "Sapphire blue" though with manganese and a red stain instead of cobalt. The crack runs radially in from the rim, and then propagates in a circular way. It has sharp edges, indicating the crack occurred on cooling.

There was no single obvious cause for the crack, though it may be that the top of the rim is too thin, causing the crack to start, and then the radial crack stops and the circular one starts where there is a change in thickness of the base of the plate.

Glaze Group Meeting Notes cont.

Charles Stileman



Charles produced a large pot that he had glazed using the following recipe: Whiting 45w/w, Kaolin 45, Potash Feldspar 10, Bentonite 2, plus some copper oxide and cobalt oxide as colourants. Unfortunately, he couldn't repeat the glaze, even though he used the same materials, and the same firing cycle in the same kiln (as shown in the test bowls).

He also gave away his copy of the book "Clay – Contemporary Ceramic Artists" that he liked but didn't want to keep. And there was also some discussion about Gladstone Pottery in Stoke on Trent.



Next meeting

This is probably the last glaze group meeting to be held at this address, due to Barbie's imminent move to her new house. Barbie will probably host it there, but details will go out in the notice for the next group meeting.

Members Profile

Neal Griffin

From an early age I displayed a passion for drawing and painting and with encouragement from my GCSE art teacher Mr Clegg I began to develop my skills. I continued on to A-Levels and then to a foundation course at Portsmouth College of Art & Design. In 1992 I enrolled at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge for a degree in Graphic Arts & Illustration, specialising in printmaking. I graduated in 1995 with a 2:1 BA Hons degree.



Since graduating much of my inspiration has come from my love of the natural world, concentrating mainly on studies of animals with a particular interest in wildlife. I try to capture the essence of the animal, concentrating on light form and movement to produce a piece of work with the feeling of depth and life.



For many years most of the work I produced was mostly paintings and drawings but a few years ago a friend introduced me to soapstone. I loved working with this new media and began creating many new pieces in 3D. It was challenging at times and I began to learn many new skills. I really enjoyed working in 3D and a few years later I started experimenting with using chicken wire and plaster of Paris bandage to create sculptures.



Members Profile cont.

During this time I was working full time with art as my main hobby. In 2015 I was able to make the decision to turn professional and pursue my dream full time. Around this time I joined Romsey Art Group and the following year a space became available for the pottery group that meet each week at the group's gallery in Lee, near Romsey. I hadn't worked with clay since school and I was really keen to work with it again. The group is run by Janice Fry, who is a founder member of the Southern Ceramic Group, and she is there to offer advice and help. It didn't take me long to fall in love with working with clay and learn skills in hand building and also throwing.



I love working with clay with much of the work I create being detailed sculptures of animals and birds. I try to create a sense of movement and realism in my work. At first I experimented with underglazes to decorate the work which wasn't always successful so I would often paint them using acrylics, once fired, to produce the right colours. I have now however started using velvet underglazes which gives me the matt look I want and I can mix them to create the colours I need. I am constantly learning and continue to experiment with the clay and the effects I can produce.



As well as my sculptures I also create a variety of hand built items such as clocks, wall plaques and tea light holders. I also enjoy using the wheel to throw bowls, pots, jugs and variety of other items. I love to experiment with various tools and stamps to create different patterns and designs on my work, and to try out different glazes, underglazes and oxides.

Neal Griffin

Demonstrations

Next Southern Ceramics Group Demonstration:

Roger Cockram

Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, Denmead,
Waterlooville PO7 6LU

20 October 2019, 10.00 to 3.30



Please register using the form on page 13

Ceramicist's statement:

Although my work is mostly thrown on the wheel, it is distinctive in the way it seeks to explore fundamental features of nature. My particular interest lies in my observations of the sea and coastline near my home in Devon – and many of the pieces act as 'caught moments' of movement, colour and rhythm.

The colours and sense of depth in the surfaces, along with the rhythms in the altered forms hopefully suggest timeless qualities observable in the natural world. Following my observations from these surroundings, ideas are 'resolved', to catch their essence and to make the piece accessible as a piece of ceramic.

My work is mostly thrown in high temperature fine porcelain - and the work results in various vessel forms, sometimes quite large. Often the work on the wheel is altered in some way – be it by partially folding to make a bowl oval – or inserting spirals into the piece whilst wet to enhance a feeling of rhythm. Recent work is sometimes made using slab clay and handbuilding.

I often use several layers of brushed dry and running glazes, which interact during the long firing process to give a strong sense of fluidity, movement and depth. All my work is once-fired to Cone 11 in a reduction kiln.



Demonstrations cont.



Please register using the form on the next page

Demonstrations cont.

Registration Document: SCG Demonstration: Roger Cockram

Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, Denmead, Waterlooville PO7 6LU
20 October 2019, 10.00 to 3.30.

This form may be printed and scanned after completion for return by email to: zyg@kruk.co.uk

Name:

Address:

Contact phone no:

Email address:

SCG membership no:

Name of guest:

Registration 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: R Cockram 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: 023 9246 9104 or 07864 995843

Catering arrangements

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

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

Demonstrations cont.

SCG AGM and January Demonstration

Mike Flynn

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

19 Jan 2020, 10.00 to 4.00

Ceramicist's statement:

Mike was born in Germany, and spent some of his early childhood on a farm in Ireland. He initially studied fine art (painting) but turned to ceramics at Cardiff College of Art (1975-78) under Alan Barrett-Danes. His highly distinctive figurative ceramics draw inspiration from such diverse sources as Meissen figurines, expressionist art and the gestural ceramics of Peter Voulkos.



Using a variety of ceramic techniques and materials including raku, terracotta and porcelain, his sculptures explore the dangerous nature of male/female relationships with suggestions of lust, violence, joy and ecstasy.



Michael Flynn is a storyteller. One of those born hoarders of tales from the collective memories of all the cultures in time and space, and the characters that inhabit them. He has rubbed shoulders with real artists and fictional characters through voracious reading; these have been absorbed, mixed and combined through his imagination.

He is a compulsive communicator, inventor, and embroiderer of tales that take us out of the ordinary by reshaping and transforming them into fable. Ceramics is the language in which he constructs and articulates his stories.

Please register using the form on page 16

Demonstrations cont.



Mike has a studio in Cardiff, and spends parts of the year in Poland, Germany or Austria, where he works in artist residencies, teaching and running workshops.

His work is exhibited (and sold) world wide.

He is author of "Ceramic Figures: A Directory of Artists", A & C Black, 2002. He received a Creative Wales Award in 2008.

For more images:

www.flickr.com/photos/mchaelflynnceramics



Please register using the form on the next page

Demonstrations cont.

Registration Document: SCG Annual General Meeting and Demonstration

Portchester Community Centre, Westland Grove, Portchester, Fareham PO16 9AD
19 January 2020, 10.00 to 4.00.

This form may be printed and scanned after completion for return by email to: zyg@kruk.co.uk

Name:

Address:

Contact phone no:

Email address:

SCG membership no:

Name of guest:

Registration is **Free for members**, £25 for their guest.

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: Mike Flynn 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: 023 9246 9104 or 07864 995843

The SCG AGM will take place during the lunch break (agenda to follow)

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

Committee



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Honorary Secretary Sandie Dixon
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Membership Secretary Debbie Page
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01635 580592
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Next Copy Deadline: 10 December 2019

Please send contributions to: neilhdewey@gmail.com
Next Newsletter due: 2 January 2020

Advertisements

Interested in advertising in the Southern Ceramic Group Newsletter?
If so please contact Rolf Hawkins: rolf.hawkins@winchesteranglican.org

The rates for advertising are:

SCG Members: Free
Commercial B&W/Colour:
Full Page £20
Half Page £10
Quarter Page £5

New Members

Interested in becoming a member of the Southern Ceramic Group?
Application forms can be found on the Group's website at:
<http://www.southernceramicgroup.org.uk/join/>

Acknowledgments

Thanks go to regular contributors to the Newsletter and all those who have helped dot the 'i's and cross the 't's of the numerous changes required for the new look.



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