



Newsletter

July - September 22

www.southern Ceramic Group.org.uk

CONTENTS

p1-2	Group Update
p3-4	Demonstrations
p5	Social Media
p6	Events
p7-8	Member's Profile
p9	SCG Committee Members
p10	Contact Us

EDITORIAL

Such a busy time of year for our members. Finishing pieces for Bishops Kitchen, anxious opening of kilns, maybe preparing Studios and work for Hampshire Open Studios or similar events, perhaps getting in a much needed vacation after the worst of Covid and before the frantic school holidays. Potters always seem to have more than enough in their diaries.

But please don't forget your newsletter needs news to survive.

Neil Dewey

Group Update

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Southern Ceramic Group set up a beautiful exhibition in April this year with twenty two ceramicists - called Twenty Two 22 - at the JackHouse Gallery in Portsmouth. Many thanks to Rebecca Crow (the gallery owner) for helping us set it up. And thanks to Lynn Nicholls for leading this initiative and to several exhibitors who helped curate and man the show.

We are of course now in the throes of the SCG's annual biggie - the summer exhibition at the Bishop's (old!) Kitchen in the Bishop's Palace in Chichester. Let's hope this summer also brings the enthusiasm and interest in visitors that we saw in many exhibitions last year.

The SCG committee has been slowly digesting (and acting upon) the responses to the survey we completed among the membership. One of the issues we have been thinking about is something that many members expressed a wish for: a return to a raku firing day that is open to all members. For many years Anne Lovejoy used to host a raku and pit firing day at her place. Memories of the camaraderie and learning and sharing of food at those events still linger. The good news is that we are planning to set up these once a year events again, at my place north of Southampton. The idea is to have a few raku kilns as well as some smoke firing. We are aiming for something like the second half of October for the first event. More details after August.

I hope everyone is thriving in this frequently beautiful weather and making wonderful new things.

Vasu Reddy

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Our next meeting will be in September/October although the exact date has not yet been finalised.

If you have anything you would like to bring to our attention please contact Joanna Wakefield, Hon. Sec., scg_secretary@southern Ceramic Group.org.uk, 07899 948019 or any other member of the committee.



BISHOP'S KITCHEN 22 - Gill Waller writes:-

"Pictures at an Exhibition" is Mussorgsky's 1874 piano suite later orchestrated. Our members are busy preparing pots for an exhibition -our annual summer exhibition. No orchestra but there will be plenty of inspiration from more than one hundred and seventy enthusiastic ceramicists - potters! - who live and work in the south of England. Our members are as diverse as their creations. Some have spent a lifetime perfecting their craft while others have just begun, after wide ranging careers.

This year seventy-three members are exhibiting, five for the first time. The exhibition is a wonderful collaborative enterprise - everyone has a part to play. Most exhibitors spend at least a day acting as stewards during the two weeks as well as helping with other aspects of setting up the exhibition such as checking work in and out, painting plinths, arranging the displays, and organising publicity.

The whole enterprise is one of teamwork, collaboration, and shared artistic values. There is a deep unity of purpose and community as it comes together.

Bishop's Kitchen is easy to find, right in the city centre - history on the doorstep - not to mention the shops and carparks within easy reach. Enter it in your diary!

Member's Quotes:

'I've exhibited (and sold) twice now through the Southern Ceramic Group - the exhibitions are so well organised and everyone, regardless of experience, is treated with equal respect. It's so rewarding to exhibit and sell to visitors, outside my friendship circle; it's not a sympathy purchase!' Katharine Schaffli

'It's a real thrill to have my work sold at the SCG Exhibition.I have been exhibiting there for the past five years and I always like to come up with new work to display.' Gill Waller



NEW MEMBERS - since Dec 21

Abigail Jonas	Petersfield	Katerina Sedlackov	
Hilary Iveson	Midhurst	Tina Bowbrick	Pulborough
Vikki Fox	Isle of Wight	Tim Bartell	Bognor
Jasper Smith	Bognor Regis	Steve Restall	Havant
Sally Ovendon	Lymington	Michael Hartz	Alton
Mary Marmery	Chichester	Linda Maunsell	Lymington
Gerald Bate	Chichester	Richard Boreham	Worthing
Dorota Lawrie	Littlehampton	Pauline Bradbury	Southampton
Tim Trebble	Hove	Janisha Patel	Southampton
Karen Townsend	Hillhead	Pippa Honess	West Chilmington
Paul Rapson	Fawley	Diane Henshaw	Chichester
Laura Day	Portsmouth	Debbie Cathcart	
Elaine King	Wimbourne Minster	Matthew Bugeja	Southsea
Marija Bichan	Ditchling	Sara Wilde	
Janet Toesland	Chichester	Lyndsey Stride	Lyndhurst
		Gary Kramer	Bognor Regis

A warm welcome to all these new members and apologies for the omission of some from our last newsletter.



Demonstrations

SHARON GRIFFIN



Our first live demonstration since the pandemic started, we were delighted to welcome Sharon Griffin to an audience of 30 members and guests at the Porchester Community Centre on 30th April



Sharon is a figurative sculptor and uses an unusual slab based technique to build her emotive figures. The figure to the right is typical of her work and was raffled.

She generously shared her ceramic journey to date, the reasons behind her art and the experiences she has lived through which informs and influences her work. Combined with a digital presentation, her amazing sketchbooks, and sharing small pieces of clay for members to have a 'play', her demonstration was fast paced and informative.

Working on two busts she showed how she works from the inside of the figure to push out and develop the features and form that produces some emotive, characterful pieces. It was a totally absorbing presentation which the members seemed to thoroughly enjoy and hopefully were inspired by the event.



Sharon kindly donated a beautiful figure for the raffle which was held for the people of Ukraine. The group raised over £220! And the lucky winner was Hilary Ivison (left).

It was fabulous to get together in person and we look forward to many more in person demonstrations to come.

Cabby Luxford



Demonstrations - cont.

GARETH MASON - Upcoming in-person demonstration

We are delighted to advise that our next in-person presentation and demonstration in the autumn will be the amazing Gareth Mason.

Originally planned to happen before the pandemic, this event has had to be postponed several times, obviously due to Covid but also due to some unfortunate events including Gareth breaking a bone in his left hand!

Gareth specialises in dramatic clay and porcelain pots and exhibits in solo and group exhibitions internationally. He is a Fellow of the Craft Potters Association and Brother of the Art Workers Guild, London. He lives and works in Hampshire and residences have included China and USA.

Gareth is very much looking forward to meeting the group and demonstrating his unique methods. He will impart his desire to use the potters wheel as a tool to 'make things dance' - with a relaxed approach and lots of tips!

We will give more details nearer the time including times and location, the event will be in early October.

In the meantime, and to whet your appetite, please see his website <https://www.garethmason.net>

Cabby Luxford



'Secret Keeper', Gareth Mason, stoneware, porcelain, glazes, oxides, and lustre. Height 76cm, 2011.

JOE FROWEN - Zoom demonstration 16 June 22

Members were treated to a fascinating demonstration from Joe Frowen, a talented potter who uses a variety of techniques including throwing with coils and using slip trailing and lustres to produce his science fiction inspired pieces. Joe won the Art in Clay Potclays Award for best newcomer in 2018 alongside other awards for his work. He combines many old techniques with contemporary and exciting adaptations resulting in dynamic and intriguing pieces.



Joe demonstrated how he uses coils on a thrown base which he then pulls to create height and form. He showed how he transfers an image to a piece prior to slip trailing and gave some tips for making slips ideal to use for detailed work.



Social Media



NEW TWITTER ACCOUNT - please follow!

We now have a fully functioning [twitter](#) account. [Click this link](#) or search [@SCG_Ceramics](#) to view the page, follow and get chatting with fellow SCG members and fans of ceramics around the world. Remember to include [@SCG_Ceramics](#) on your posts.

SCG member and volunteer, Jessica Jordan, has gone to a lot of trouble to get this sorted out in time to promote the Summer Exhibition, but she will also be featuring members work and posting information about opportunities within the gouger and further afield. Please support Jessica; we'd love you to follow the account and Direct Message the account if you have ideas or questions.



NEW ON INSTAGRAM - STORIES

Not content with beautiful and informative posts, our [SCG Instagram account](#) is now getting more and more active. You will be seeing more eye-popping posts about member's work on the hugely popular Instagram Stories function. Thanks to the great work by SCG member and volunteer, Libby Daniels, who is creating animated posts to music and will be building up momentum ahead of the summer exhibition. Please [@SouthernCeramicGroup](#) on your own Instagram stories so that Libby can re-post your stories for even greater exposure.

Don't forget to follow [@SouthernCeramicGroup](#) & [#SouthernCeramicGroup](#) when posting your amazing pictures of your ideas, work in progress, hacks etc.



NEW ON FACEBOOK

The SCG Summer Exhibition campaign is now LIVE on our [Facebook Page](#) so please follow, comment, like and generally get involved. Remember that every interaction counts and tells the metaverse that this is an exhibition not to be missed.

If you have not already done to, please follow [@southernceramicsgroup](#) on Facebook - also a great place to see posts from fellow members and find out about local opportunities too.

The [Members Chat room](#) is a great place to share ideas, get advice and offer up unwanted equipment etc. If you are a SCG member and have not got access simply use the Facebook messenger function, with your name and membership number.



HELP NEEDED

Please try and use the SCG social media tools available to you to help keep the feeds active and engaging for fellow members. It really helps us get the word out to the broader community about the great work everyone is doing - and will help footfall at the summer exhibition - and that means better sales!!

Thanks everyone,
Katharine Schafli
scg_social@southernceramicgroup.org.uk



JOANNA WAKEFIELD - at Spudworks, Sway

Joanna Wakefield will undertake a residency with SPUD at the end of August. At their studios she will be giving demonstrations and talks about her work. SPUD is an arts and education charity that creates opportunities for people to engage with art, architecture, design and the environment, producing new work as a catalyst for exploration, debate and public understanding. Their stated purpose is: "Enabling the well-being of communities through collaboration in arts, architecture and education."



Joanna produces ceramic sculptures that are figurative and zoomorphic in style. These pieces are either raku fired or sawdust fired and are hand built, usually covered in slip. Recent work is fired in a sawdust kiln, which gives a soft smoky effect. Horses are a frequent subject in her work, albeit in a primitive or abstract form.

In her submission for the residency Joanna said, "I wish to have a suitable workspace whereby I can produce some larger ceramic sculptures. I currently do not have studio space. I would like to have somewhere quiet whereby I can work relatively undisturbed, focus and connect to nature. I would use this connection to inspire me for my next large body of work. I frequently make ceramic horse forms and, being close to New Forest ponies would enable me to study their anatomy, expressions and habits in more detail. I also wish to experiment and explore more decorating techniques for my work as well as possibly undertake a sawdust firing. I hope to achieve making a body of work for an exhibition. I would also like to talk about my work to the public."



Joanna will be in residency from 19 August to 3 September

Spudworks, Station Road, Sway, Hampshire, SO41 6BA
www.spud.org.uk



JO TRICKLEBANK

At a particularly difficult time in my life my daughter reminded me of a part time Diploma course in ceramics at the City Lit Institute in London that I had once found but dismissed. I had always been interested in ceramics so I applied thinking there was nothing to lose. To my genuine surprise I was offered one of the 16 places, I was thrilled, things were looking up.

The course was like finding a very deep Aladdins cave, I was taught the various ways of working with clay and the intricacies of the different steps along with glaze technology, building a kiln, the firing process as well as some art history. The challenge of pushing both yourself and the materials was wholeheartedly encouraged. That was 23 years ago and I have been playing with clay ever since.



I soon realised that hand building was my preferred method of working ,tactile, meditative and so rewarding. Best of all, if I didn't like the final form as long as it hadn't been fired I could recycle it and start again, what a bonus!



My work is mainly non-functional and decorative. I am fascinated by surface qualities and clay and the wide variety of ceramic materials lend themselves perfectly to this. I use stoneware clays and porcelain that I sometimes make into paperclay which allows for a different way of working. I use Silicon carbide, sodium silicate to help create different surface textures and effects. Organic materials are also added to the body or surface of the pieces that then leave ever changing footprints when they burn away in the kiln.

My kiln is electric but I sometimes use pit or Raku firing to produce the subtle and unique effects that are associated with these methods.





The phrase "strength and fragility" comes to mind when I think about my work. I love the incredible fragility that layers of porcelain paperclay can produce juxtaposed with the strong stoneware forms that are influenced by nature - and the most delicate beautiful and strong things are all made from tiny cells and atoms.

Like lots of artists, my inspiration comes predominantly from the natural world and in particular rocks in all forms. When I am not in the studio I travel in my campervan. The coast and its rocky shores are frequent destinations for me. For me, rocks of any kind are worth exploring, bringing inspiration or simply somewhere to be content and wonder at the amazing force of nature. The Pembrokeshire coast is a favourite destination as well as the Joshua Tree national park in California when visiting my son with the amazing variety of natural wonders to be found there.





Committee



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Newsletter Matters

Please send contributions to: scg_newsletter@southernceramicgroup.org.uk
 NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE: 1 October 2022
 NEXT COPY DEADLINE: 15 September 2022

Keep me posted, please, at any time before the deadline with your news of galleries and exhibitions showing your work, studio tips, memories, and especially images that might be shared.

Photos and other images. Please send these as separate .jpg files. If your document contains embedded photos that is not a problem as it shows me where they should be placed but I always need them as separate files as well with descriptive file name please, (e.g. Freda blue pot). And please remember the reproduction limitations of the newsletter if viewing your technical or aesthetic detail clearly is paramount.

Neil Dewey



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Interested in advertising in the Southern Ceramic Group Newsletter?
 If so please contact Neil Dewey : scg_newsletter@southernceramicgroup.org.uk

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:
<https://www.southernceramicgroup.org.uk/join/>



Acknowledgments

Thanks go to regular contributors to the Newsletter and all the new ones prepared to have a go and submit something.



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