

NEWSLETTER

November/December 2011



Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of our E-Newsletter and my last as Editor. As you know the Group has been 'reviewing its options'; please see below the results of the questionnaire recently sent out to all Members. No analysis has yet been done on the results but we are extremely encouraged to have received a kind undertaking for the position of Treasurer. We will keep you informed.

Best wishes.

Suzanne

SCG Questionnaire Results.

These are responses received by Thursday 27th October, the closing date for replies is 1st November but we've published these now to catch the Newsletter copy date. Should any more be received after this date and before Tuesday 1st Nov 2011 they will be added to the spreadsheet and the final emailed to the group. Total responses were 46 from a membership of 115.

Question (1)

A previous questionnaire indicated that members want demonstrations, exhibitions, and a means of communicating with other potters in the area.

Members were asked to rank the following according to their interests, using this key:

0 = totally disinterested – I have no interest in participation in this activity.

1 = This is a minor activity- Drop it if no-one is available to run it.

2 = This should be the secondary activity of the group. Drop it if no-one is available to run it.

3 = This should be the main activity of the group

	<u>No answer/disinterested</u>	<u>Minor activity</u>	<u>Secondary activity</u>	<u>Main activity</u>
Demos	8	4	16	18
Exhibitions	4	2	12	28
Communication with fellow Potters	4	10	9	23
Website/ portfolios	4	5	17	20

Question (2)

Would you be prepared to take on a voluntary role or, if your time is limited, contribute to one of the tasks, so members' wishes can be met?

Results yes/possibly 16 (nb this is not 16 people opting onto the Committee!)

Question (3)

Would you be prepared to do, take on a position for an honorarium payment?

Results yes 1 no 43 maybe 2



Question (4)

Would you be in favour of the Group moving to communicating mainly using web technology?

Results yes 34 no 8 maybe 4

Question (5)

Would you be in favour of the Group spending money to provide a more sophisticated website facilitating Membership Subscriptions an electronic Forum for members to 'talk' to one another, Member Portfolios (photos of your work and text about you)?

Results yes 30 no 12 maybe 4

Question (6)

Do you consider that now is the time for the Group to fold?

Results yes 0 no 32 maybe 6 evolve 8

SCG Trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum

Walking into the ceramics galleries on the sixth floor of the V & A, I felt like a child in an enormous sweet shop. Row upon row of tall glass cases packed full of pots, figures, plates and bowls in every imaginable style.

Seventeen members went on the trip in the end, which was not as many as we would have liked, but we all enjoyed it immensely. The coach had pick up points at Chichester, Port Solent and Petersfield and our coach driver, Adam did a splendid job and made good time on the way to London. We arrived with plenty of time to go for a coffee and then a brief look around before our tour started at 2pm. Our guide was Mrs Anne Haworth (pictured below), ceramics expert, and she certainly knew her stuff.



We started by looking at early Asian ceramics on the ground floor and gradually made our way up to the galleries on the sixth floor, ending up, some 90 minutes later viewing European contemporary pieces.

A few of us also had a chance encounter in the lift with Lars Tharp the ceramics expert from the Antiques Road show (amongst other things), and he had a short chat before disappearing to a meeting. It was then off for a cuppa and back to whatever had grabbed us most for a last browse before meeting the coach at 5pm. Rob had brought a DVD of an Anagama firing which we played on the way back and that coupled with a huge amount of enthusiastic chatter, helped the journey home to fly by despite getting caught up in the rush hour traffic as, what seemed like, the whole of London was making it's way south.

A fantastic trip and, I think I speak for all of us there, I can't wait to go back and see more!

Marion Stewart

ANNUAL PIT FIRING AT ANGMERING -

kindly hosted once again by Anne and Rob Lovejoy

An indifferent weather forecast was the impetus to prepare the pit early this year, 7.30am in fact, on, and this was made possible by Anne and Rob inviting Margaret, Dee and myself to stay the night



before and get up early. On the day, 4th September, Margaret drew the short straw to be the first in the pit and we started by emptying a wheelbarrow load of dried eucalyptus leaves over the base of the pit where she spread them evenly, the oily nature of them being an ideal foundation for ignition. This was followed by loosely rolled scrolls of newspaper around the edges and bottom before thinner kindling wood was arranged on top and trampled down fairly firmly. Finally a good supply



of sawdust was added ready for the pots to be handed to Brian Tew who by now, had replaced Margaret in the pit, where he carefully placed each piece on top of the sawdust. A tricky job when trying not to tread on precious work of all shapes, sizes and subjects! This done, buckets of copper and iron sulphate and salt were liberally thrown on and around the pots with more sawdust on top. By this time, the sky had considerably darkened and the job of piling kindling and larger pieces of wood was helped by everyone until a



dome of heavy logs appeared to be a good three feet higher than the pit.

Precisely at 9.45am it was lit and as the corrugated sheets were drawn across a few minutes later, a fine drizzle was blowing in the wind. The timing couldn't have been better.

Raku firing was already underway in the yard, with three kilns under shelter, un-affected by the now very heavy rain. Anne's studio became the glaze room for all of us with a variety of work being prepared for firing. This created a great cosy, studios atmosphere. A place to share findings, recipes and tips. Jan had prepared several glazes, a very attractive copper with added ash, a clear with large crackle and a good red was available which I had

bought from CTM (Exeter). Anne also had a good blues and greens.

For the second time only in many years of Angmering's pit firing day, lunch was eaten in the pool-house, where the usual generous 'potters- lunch' was set out with Richard and Rob Lovejoy overseeing the fabulous sausages from the local butcher. The under-cover BBQ glowing in the garden, incongruous with the weather conditions. During lunch, a tombola was held for Chestnut Tree House, the local children's hospice and the sum of £80 was raised for Anne to deliver the next day.



Despite the weather, successful Raku pieces were coming out of the three kilns constantly. Rob, Jan and two stalwart ladies working non-stop to enable all the waiting pots to get fired. Not least a beautiful Egyptian head sculpted by Valerie Sheppard which she had brushed with Jan's copper

glaze. Rob and Jan together, later lowered the fired work into an empty dustbin for oxygenation to take place. Finally at 5pm with clearing skies, David in safety harness with John acting as 'safety officer'! the slow procedure of removing each piece and placing them on the surrounding grass began. By working from the edges towards the centre, thermal shock was avoided in nearly all cases. This year, the colours were quite spectacular, amazingly several hours of torrential rain, having no detrimental effect at all on the firing.

Special thanks of course go to Anne and Rob for hosting such a wonderful event, their generosity and tolerance of 30 plus excited potters and enthusiasts in the vicinity, Margaret, Dee and Brian for preparing and loading the pit and David for unloading it. Rob, Jan and the aforementioned two ladies for manning the Raku kilns for many hours which is extremely hot, hard and tiring work (I know having been there myself) and of course we all want perfect results coming out of those kilns! Even more pressure. However, many of the pieces really did have that 'wow factor', and so, until next time, great potting.

NB – there were two white dinner plates and a large glass bowl left behind after lunch, a quick ring to Anne to claim ownership would be appreciated.

Rose Bates



WHAT'S ON?

Making Merry - Open Studio Event
Evergreen, Trampers Lane, North Boarhunt, Hants, PO17 6BU

Open: 12/13 and 18/19/20th November 2011
10am to 5pm (Other times by appointment)

Ceramic and glass gifts for the home and garden made by **Jan Griffiths** and **Dee McNamara**
Plus guest Jeweller – **Laura Sitch**
Florist – **Philippa Selby**
Jane`s homemade Christmas preserves
Prices range from £2 to £200

Seasonal refreshments - on-site parking

For further information call Jan on 01329 833124 or griffiths.jan@btinternet.com
Directions: From M27 J11 follow signs to North Boarhunt, turn right into Trampers Lane. From Wickham travel east along B2177 for 2 miles, turn left into Trampers Lane. Evergreen is 1 mile on left (follow arrows)

COMMITTEE

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*Standing down at the Annual General Meeting

