

NEWSLETTER

September/October 2011



Recent work by
Rosemarie James

Editorial

Welcome to this first issue of our e-Newsletter. As you know we had hoped to have some volunteers to form a Newsletter Team to take the hardcopy version forward. Sadly we've had only one offer of help so, as promised, I will produce an electronic newsletter for my final two editions.

This edition has been emailed to you all by our Chairman, Marion. I have copied and posted hardcopies to those who don't use email and would very much value an offer from one person from this group to undertake this task next time. Do get in touch.

As you will see from Veronique's article entitled 'The End of the Road' on page 4, we also now have three more vacancies to fill on the Committee.

Perhaps you could help?

Suzanne



SOCIAL EVENTS:

I have just finished hosting the last of three Southern Ceramic Group Social Events which ended in a 'smokey day' with a mini-pit, raku and smoke firing. It has been a lovely way to get to know other group members and a special thanks for coming along to those new to the group. It was all very easy-going with between six and ten people



on each occasion all bringing a contribution to the usual banquet lunch we have come to enjoy! If anyone would like to host other social events, please let either myself or any committee member know. It would be lovely to do again. Jan Griffiths 01329 833124 or griffiths.jan@btinternet.com.

GLAZE GROUP NOTES FROM MARION



**Glaze Group Meeting –
June 14/2011**

Mike gave a short talk about some Chun glazes he had been experimenting with and described some of the background on the formation of glazes in this group, where the colour comes from and what recipe conditions are likely to produce them.

Although historically, all chun glazes seem to have acquired their necessary traces of iron from the underlying clay bodies, Mike has tested a number of titanium dioxide based chuns in oxidising conditions with the iron introduced in the glaze recipe itself.

Particularly interesting is the variety of colours obtained by very small changes in concentration of red iron oxide—from opalescent pale blue, through darker

blues and strong green/blues. Moreover 1% changes in titanium and zinc oxides also have a dramatic colour response—as shown in the lower photo.

The bronze effect Di has achieved on her sculpture was from Jo Connell's book *The Potters' Guide to Ceramic Surfaces* and consisted of:
Manganese Dioxide 80
Copper Oxide 20.



Figure Sculpture by Di Wren.

Tiles Showing progressive changes in concentrations of red iron oxide

The **SCG Glaze Group** meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month. It's a friendly, informal occasion and members bring contributions to a picnic lunch. Please contact Charles Stileman for further details on 01794 340193.

WHAT'S ON?

Gill and Roger Bettle of Bettles Gallery in Ringwood are organising another Hungry Bowl Lunch on 5th November, 2011, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Ringwood, with the same format as in 2008.

The proceeds of the lunch will include the Mashiko Potteries, Japan (Leach Pottery Appeal), Shelter Box UK, Tools for Self Reliance and other Rotary local Charities.

Any bowls donated should be suitable for a generous helping of pasta lunch, this will be augmented with side salad and bread, followed by coffee and cookies.

It is hoped that the bowls (one or more) will be special for the occasion. This is an opportunity for imagination, originality and fine making. More bowls mean more funds for the charities. Of course materials must be suitable for containing food. The lunch guests will take home their allotted bowl.

A written note about each maker and the design/production of the bowl (up to 50 words) can accompany the bowl for inclusion in publicity and the programme. Many internationally acclaimed makers donate bowls for the occasion, and all donated bowls will be displayed on their website with a maker's credit if received in good time (22nd October, 2011 is the final deadline). Please send or deliver your bowl/s to Bettles Gallery, 63 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 1DR.

If bowls are not your 'forte', any other ceramic item suitable for auction or raffle would be most acceptable!!

Fiona Kelly

above the blue



Art Gallery at Port Solent



Sasha Wardell



Annabel Owens



Suzie Marsh



Adriana Brinsmead-Stockham

above the blue

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Wednesday - Saturday: 10.30am-7pm ...quite often later on a warm, sunny evening Sunday: 11am-5pm

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THE END OF A LONG ROAD

by **Veronique Cowan**, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Website, Exhibitions East.

I have finally come to the end of a long road with my active involvement in the running of the SCG. After ten years as treasurer, eight years as website administrator and after organising seven exhibitions in the last five years, I am completely burnt out and have decided to step down.

When I first took over the position of treasurer, my life was already very full with two young children aged three and five, but I decided I would make the time to get involved. Then, as jobs became vacant and nobody came forward to fill them, they were slowly added to my portfolio of roles within the group. Then, on top of this growing SCG workload, in the last five years I have also become increasingly involved in coaching cricket and charity work with Cricket Without Boundaries and Street Child Africa, to the point where I am now finding it very difficult to juggle everything on top of being a mum.

It is a great source of pride to me that one of the key exhibitions that I have organised with Adrienne in recent years, the Bishop's Kitchen exhibition, has gone from success to success

with another year of record sales just recorded. In fact, in my eyes it is of similar standard to some exhibitions that I have displayed at in London, a fact probably also reflected in the number of sales we've had over the years. As a marketing person would say, the quality of the display has to match the quality of the pieces and the sales would not be as good if it looked like a jumble sale.

But organising the Bishop Kitchen exhibition over the years has not been without some considerable costs and many late evenings. So as I sign off from the SCG it seems an opportune moment to raise a number of pertinent issues which have increasingly bothered me.

When organising the exhibition, Adrienne and I have constantly tried to be fair with the number of pieces on display. Once the selection has been made, by an external professional potter, we have always endeavoured to display as many of the pieces that person selected as a "yes" as the space will permit. Those marked "maybe" are then put in the cupboard to be used as replacements for pieces sold and those marked "no" packed away not to be displayed at all.

I have also tried to be scrupulously fair with the allocation of stewarding days. Not only have

I made a list over the years of how many days people have stewarded, and tried to spread the number of days each exhibitor has to give up as widely as possible, but I also try to take into account geographical locations, although bearing in mind that just because someone lives in Chichester and surrounding areas this does not mean they should have to do two days of stewarding every year.

But the bottom line is that to share the load, we make agreeing to steward part of the conditions of entry and we expect people to accept this. While there will always be problems with sorting out a timetable, and unexpected emergencies which throw the odd spanner in the works, unfortunately the problem of organising the stewarding roster has progressively become harder and a task I have found soul destroying. Instead, it seems to reflect an attitude and inflexibility amongst some members about going slightly out of their way, or in fact being willing to give up any time to the collective cause, from which they ultimately benefit.

Perhaps more disturbingly, this also points to a deeper problem within the SCG. The reality is that over the 11 years I have been a member, there has

been only a handful of people volunteering. When help is needed, it always is the same nucleus of people coming forward, people who quite often have already worked on the committee for some years. Over the years I have had to deal with members complaining about various issues, usually delays in payment for sales or the way exhibitions have been organised. While some of these might be valid, the majority are not, and rankle all the more

when they come from people who never help, or have freely given up their time for the SCG, or do not seem to have thought about the fact that all positions held at the SCG are voluntary before launching into their “ungrateful tirade”. Sadly, this year the Bishop’s Kitchen was no exception.

My husband will not miss the anguish and soul searching I have been through about treating everyone quickly and

equally that has arisen in my various roles at the SCG over the years, and frankly, neither will I. But I shall miss all the friends I have made and the people I’ve worked with. Finally, I wish you all the best for the future and remind those stepping into my shoes that unfortunately a thick skin is a pre requisite, something I wish I had fully appreciated ten years ago.

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THE COMMITTEE

Chairman: **Marion Stewart**

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*Standing down at the Annual General Meeting

WHAT'S ON?

Jan Griffiths will be having an Open Studio Event 12/13 and 19/20 November from 10am to 5pm at Evergreen, Trampers Lane, North Boarhunt Hants, PO17 6BU. Do pop in!
01329 833124 griffiths.jan@binternet.com

KILN REQUIRED

SCG Member seeks an electric top loader kiln. Internal diameter 21-24 inches and height 18 -21 inches max. Max power load 9 KW.
Please contact the Chairman in first instance, details above.

