



Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society

Newsletter, March 2020

Hi members.

What a jolly time we had at Adam's demo and the bird making workshop. Life has become a lot more challenging since. At least we have pottery which can be a wonderful distraction. I hope the pottery suppliers are having an increase in sales with potters making more, whether it's for future exhibiting, for our

homes, presents, or just because we love doing it.

The next newsletter will focus on what we're up to at home. See inside for more details.

Richard has also come up with a great idea of a 'making' challenge via email. There will be various themes and it will be voted on by members. More info to be sent out soon. Happy reading, Yvonne.

31 January DEMO REVIEW

Adam Hoyle

Yvonne Cornes

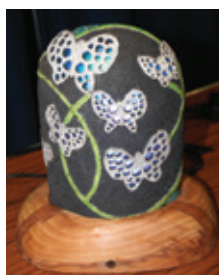
Bucks Potter Adam gave us a fascinating account of his working life and his ceramic endeavours, using a slideshow to take us through his development. He encouraged questions and interaction from the members which made for a fun and lively evening.

Adam has been working with clay on and off since he was a young child. He nearly specialised in ceramics while on a foundation course at Wimbledon College of Arts but was so fascinated by the potential of the nascent internet that he decided on a career as a computer programmer and technology consultant. He won many awards along the way, culminating in two Baftas for Interactive Videos. To our surprise Adam brought and displayed one of these Baftas in the meeting (top, centre). He played us these Bafta winning videos which were ground breaking at the time and are still great to watch now.

He has recently returned his attention back to ceramics and has been combining technology and clay into a series of reactive-sensitive lamps, some of which he brought along (bottom left and centre). He uses Potclays white stoneware.

Adam enjoys experimenting with different firing techniques for the lamps including Raku, Obvara and Saggar firings. He has also been involved with the Oxford Anagama Kiln Project.

He has always enjoyed throwing on the wheel and he demonstrated 'ventilating' one of his bowls which is what he specialises in, as he explained: basically he loves putting holes in ceramics! (top right). His method involves drawing lines using a compass and he cuts holes where the circles overlap. For this he uses Bath Potters' brass hole cutting tools.



Lately Adam has been making coasters from the left over circles. While he was doing his hole cutting demo he asked members of the audience to have a go at throwing on the pedal powered wheel which he had brought along. This looked very difficult but several throwers had a go, including Max (bottom right).

Adam lives at Town Farm, Princes Risborough where he has a large studio. He has a list of things he would like to try:

- Mastering thrown porcelain
- Double walled and lidded forms
- Moulds and slip casting
- 3D clay printing

We'd love to see the results of these experiments in the next installment. Thanks Adam for a really enjoyable evening.

Bucks County Museum Resource Centre

Jane Ostler



Back in January I was lucky enough to be part of a group visit (not BPSS) to the Bucks County Museum Resource Centre in Halton. I had not been before.

Mel Czapski is the curator of Art and Studio Ceramics and took us on a tour of the exhibits unlocking the cupboards and allowing us to touch, feel and photograph the exhibits. Some fascinating pieces from well known names such as: Lucie Rie; Ruth Duckworth; John Ward; Deborah Hopson and many more. Such inspiration for us all to keep making and trying new techniques.

To arrange your own visit, contact Mel Czapski by email at: mczapski@buckscountymuseum.org

28 February WORKSHOP

RICHARD BALLANTYNE & CAROL READ Bird Making Workshop

Due to illness of the booked speaker, Richard Ballantyne and Carol Read stepped in once again to save the night, turning the evening into a workshop. At very short notice, they brought in ready thrown 'bodies' and then we all set about making birds with their help and guidance. They also brought in reference books to remind us what various birds look like which was a great help! They displayed some of their mounted finished pieces for inspiration.

Richard used Scarva Ashraf Hanna clay. It is expensive but worth every penny he says. It has enough grog to make it very stable yet malleable. It's particularly good for some delicate details e.g. wing feathers. The thrown bodies were initially bashed into different bird shapes using a paddle. Richard



took us through the various stages, making it look easy! There were so many lovely and varied birds produced. Fortunately the attendance was very good and it was a creative and enjoyable evening. I saw an unfamiliar face and found out later that he was a non-potter – a man from the village who decided to pop in and take part. He produced a lovely owl. (see 3rd from left, central row). Hopefully he'll spread the word around the village!

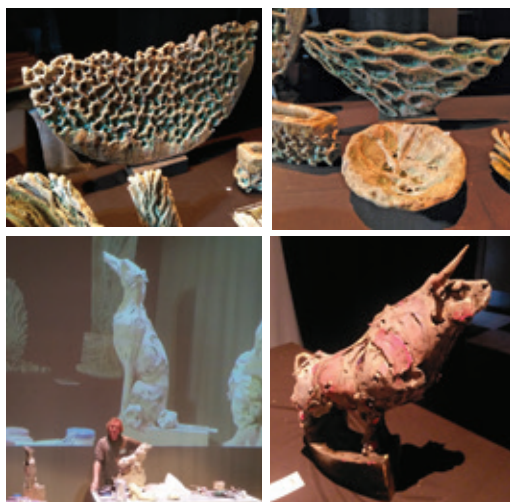
Great fun and diversity. Thank you Richard and Carol for a wonderful workshop.

Right, top to bottom: Richard demonstrates bashing the form – wearing one of his fine aprons (see more on back page); his wing construction; Carol creates a bird; R&B Ceramics' finished mounted pieces.

Photography: Chris Inder, Jane Ostler and Carol Read.



This photo was sent in by Pam Cawley from the 'Picasso and Paper' exhibition at the Royal Academy.



The above pics were taken at the DCPG Potters Open Day – one of the last events to still go ahead. Top: Wendy Lawrence, Bottom: Brendan Hesmondhalgh. Professor Stephen Dixon did a great live video link due to being in quarantine, having just returned from Italy.

2020 Pottery/Sculpture COMPETITION

The theme for this year's 'Peter Stocker Ceramic Award' will be:

Performance

£75 for First Prize

It's open to all artists, not just members and must contain a ceramic element. There are no other specifications.

The competition will be judged at the November meeting.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

A very warm welcome to Diane Wilson and Maggie Jablonska who joined Bucks Potters in the last quarter.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings once things are back to normal and hope you will enjoy being involved in the society.

Committee Update

As you know some of our long serving committee members are stepping down this year and four members have offered to come on to the committee.

Holly Inglis will be our new Chairperson, Bronwen Corral our new Treasurer, Adam Hoyle – Exhibition Co-ordinator and Debs Taylor general committee member.

They will of course be officially appointed at the AGM, when we are able to hold that. In the meantime they are working alongside your current committee to look at future events and ways for us to keep creative over the coming months.

Best wishes, Chris.

Membership – Jane Ostler

Although it is officially membership renewal time, due to the circumstances this year the committee are deciding how to proceed. So everyone's membership remains valid and further information will be sent out.

We will update Facebook also with any other changes and if anyone wants to add anything on the page please do.

Thanks, Jane.

Message from Yvonne Cornes

With all the changes to life as we know it, this is a good opportunity for us to communicate via the newsletter.

Due to cancellations, there may be no demos or other events to report on so it would be great to fill the newsletter with info from members.

Please send in photos of works in progress or finished pieces, and/or your stories about the process. If you'd like to share a technique or if you have a particular video to recommend it would be great to include it. Or writing an article would be excellent too.

As a result we'll feel less isolated and more inspired! Hopefully there will be enough to fill the newsletter! Thanks, I look forward to hearing from you.

Please email: y.cornes@talktalk.net



BUCKS POTTERS MEETINGS

at Little Kingshill Village Hall, HP16 0DZ

Given the current situation and advice regarding Covid-19, I am sure it will come as no surprise that your committee have taken the decision to postpone our March and April meetings. This also means that our AGM will be postponed.

Richard talked to Lucinda Brown and Peter Keegan, the March/April speakers and they were okay for May & June, although with more recent developments these appear also not to be happening. We'll keep you informed as and when we know more.

Message from Holly Inglis

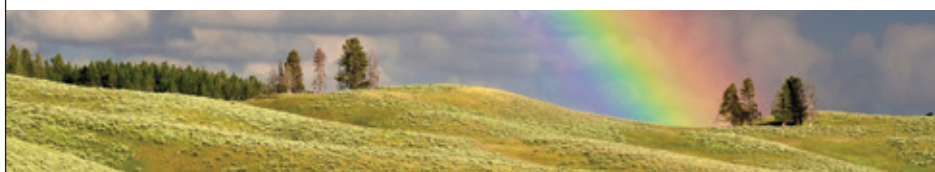
I have started getting into a Netflix series called 'explained'. Is a series of 15 minute episodes each going through a different topic; cults, diamonds, cricket, coding, pirates etc.

One episode was on 'beauty', focusing on aesthetics. It had a quote I found intriguing enough to write down, it follows:

'Art is an individual creative experience. The greater the knowledge one possesses, the greater will be the experience.'

I thought about this for a bit.

I thought about the sheer wondrous experience of new things like a child first witnessing a rainbow as a potential contradiction, but then as a following thought that the emotional reasoning of understanding how stories derive and explain rainbows and obscure locations to find rainbows by science does add further value to witnessing one – creating a new joy. This further knowledge extends to sharing experiences too.



I bought this because...

... It caught my eye for it's lovely decoration and shape but I bought it for it's attention to detail. The base has been treated with as much care as the front and back and the design also extends to the inside. It's also lovely to drink from. It is made in earthenware by Irena Sibrijns. I bought it at the Oxford Ceramics Fair. *Yvonne Cornes*



Interesting reading:



These Grayson Perry plates (priced at £30) have sold out at the Holburne Museum gift shop in Bath. They accompanied 'The Pre-Therapy Years' exhibition which is still advertised as running until May 25.

It will surely be cancelled soon like so many others. Hopefully there will be another chance to see it.

At least for now the plate is an interesting read!



Artworks seen during a tour of the Lake Taupo/Rotorua region of New Zealand.

This space usually advertises up and coming events. With the uncertainty on these, here is a filler, continuing from an insight into Richard's apron collection on page two.



May 2011 demo



Art in Clay, 2012

BPSS website

MEMBERS GALLERY

Are you aware of the Members Gallery section on the BPSS website?

You can add your profile with an image of your work in this section. It would be fantastic if we could have more of the membership represented there. So, if you like to contribute please send an image and a few words (anything up to about 50 words) to:

chris.inder@gmail.com

About the society

The Society was formed in 1963 and welcomes all artists working in 3D. Membership costs £20, £30 for a family and £12 for full-time students. Membership provides access to monthly demonstrations, several hands-on workshops, and a quarterly newsletter.

We are on facebook and members can put an image and contact details on the Society's web page:

www.buckspotters.com

The Committee

The Committee meets regularly to develop the programme, organise the Annual Exhibition and review costs. If you find a good speaker who could demonstrate to the Society, please tell us. Also, if you have ideas you would like to raise with us, please do so at the monthly meeting or email:

chris.inder@gmail.com [f](https://www.facebook.com/bpss)

GDPR information

The information which you provide to us on your membership form will be used solely for the purpose of processing your membership and dealing with you as a member of BPSS. The data will not be shared with any third party for marketing or commercial purposes without obtaining your explicit consent.

Our GDPR policy is available to read on the BPSS website.

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